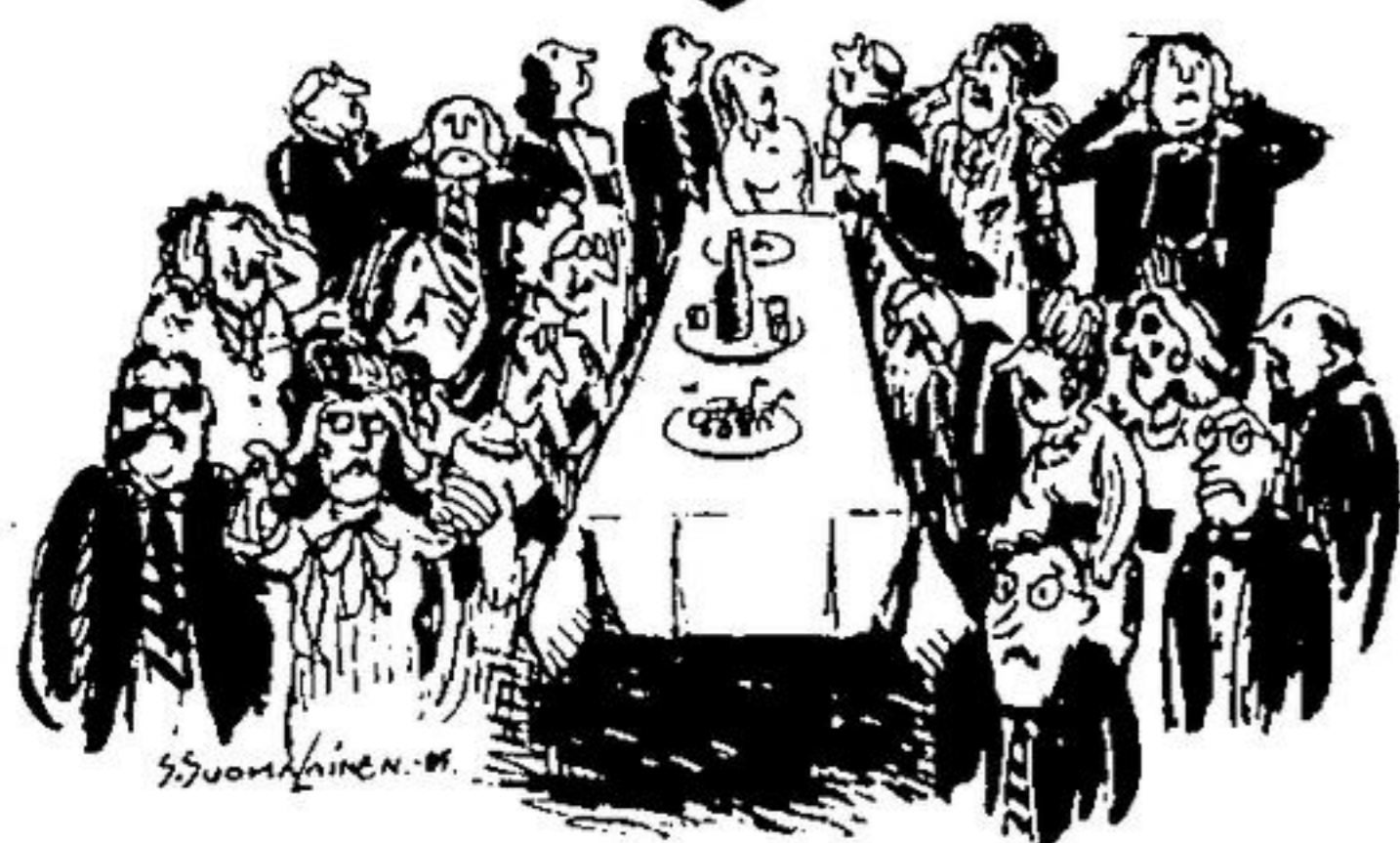


A consumer's Christmas



When arranging a big party, don't choose bands, caterers or other service companies at random from the phone book. Ask friends or acquaintances for recommendations.



You may not want to destroy your credit cards just to avoid Christmas debts, but be sure you know how much you can afford to spend on gifts this year. Too many people use credit indiscriminately at Christmas and end up paying the bills well into April.

Fun for everyone



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Games, puzzles and small activity toys are a good choice for holiday stocking stuffers and grab bag gifts. This assortment from International Games includes Deluxe Skip-Bo, about \$10.00; UNO, about \$4.00; Stun, about \$3.50; Optical Conclusions, about \$3.00; and Stampus, around \$2.00.

Popular Party Treats

Holiday season means entertaining — fine food with friends and family. These special occasions call for hors-d'oeuvres and cheese remains the most popular hors-d'oeuvres in Canada. During this busy time of year the following can make an attractive and quick party tray:

1. Sandwich small rectangular slices of Dofu Danish Cream Cheese with Peach Melba between 2 pecan halves.

2. Halve black pitted olives cross wise. Press together again with a slice of Dofu Danish Cream Cheese with Herbs and Spices.

3. Cut Dofu Danish Cream Cheese with Fruit Flavour into 1/2 inch slices and then cut into 10 equal rectangles. Roll each portion in chopped almonds.



Floral Notes

By Merlin Olsen

Holiday flowers to brighten the season

While flowers are always a great way to brighten any day, they are especially appropriate during the holiday season. Although it may be cold and colorless outdoors, it shouldn't be indoors, especially at this warm and happy time of the year.

Most of the traditional floral decorations for Christmas are made with lush evergreens, such as pine, fir, cedar or juniper. Their distinctive fragrances are as much a part of Christmas as turkeys are of Thanksgiving.

One of the most popular decorations of the season is the wreath. With the variety of trimmings available, any wreath can be made unique and interesting.

An FTD florist can offer a host of decorating alternatives. An evergreen wreath faced with holly and ribbons is an attractive design; however, there are many other choices as well. Ivy wreaths are a traditional look that dates back to colonial America.

For those with more contemporary tastes, a grapevine wreath decorated with an assortment of natural materials, such as dried leaves, berries and acorns, is a popular choice.

When selecting wreaths, one option to

consider is placing them throughout the home in addition to the front door. Wreaths can be hung on interior doors, in windows, or over the mantle. Wherever placed, they should be kept away from excessive heat.

Another consideration for the holiday home is color. While green and red have become the symbolic colors of Christmas, one shouldn't feel limited to just these two.

Other colors of beautiful flowers are available during the holiday season and can brighten the environment. For traditionalists, there is always the lovely, scarlet poinsettia.

One of the most popular holiday decorations is the Christmas tree. All trees need a little tender loving care to ensure that they are still standing tall when Santa arrives.

Be sure to keep Christmas trees away from excessive heat, and keep them healthy by adding water and floral preservatives regularly.

With all Christmas greenery, avoid using lit candles or untested electric lights because of the potential fire hazard. A little care will help ensure that these decorations enhance the holiday spirit.

Delightful recipes for festive season

Simple home-made pleasures create a warm feeling of togetherness. This holiday season give family and friends that extra special care. O'Darby Bon Bons and O'Darby Rice Pudding are two easy to make, delicious creations. The bon bons are an ideal hostess gift, and along with the pudding, are great for home entertaining.

O'Darby Bon Bons are a perfect candy to have on hand throughout the season. The simple, quick to make recipe can be made up in advance and stored in the freezer to be ready for unexpected guests. Serve them

at the end of a meal to your guests or package them, if you are doing the visiting, in decorative Christmas tins for gift giving. The recipe combines wafers, O'Darby Irish Cream and chocolate to make an irresistible treat.

BON BONS O'DARBY

- 1 pkg 250 g vanilla wafers 1 pkg crushed
 - 125 ml O'Darby Irish Cream 1/2 cup
 - 2 sq semi-sweet chocolate 2 sq (60 g / 2 oz)
 - 125 ml toasted coconut 1/2 cup
 - 125 ml chocolate sprinkles 1/2 cup
- Melt chocolate. Meanwhile using a food processor chop

vanilla wafers into very fine crumbs. Add O'Darby Irish Cream and melted chocolate and blend mixture together in the food processor. Form into bite-sized balls. Roll one half in toasted coconut, the other half in chocolate sprinkles. Refrigerate until serving. Makes 2-3 dozen.

O'Darby Rice Pudding is a flavourful variation on an old time favourite dessert which tempers the taste buds. Pretty enough to serve to your guests at dinner parties or let your family enjoy it with tea or coffee as an

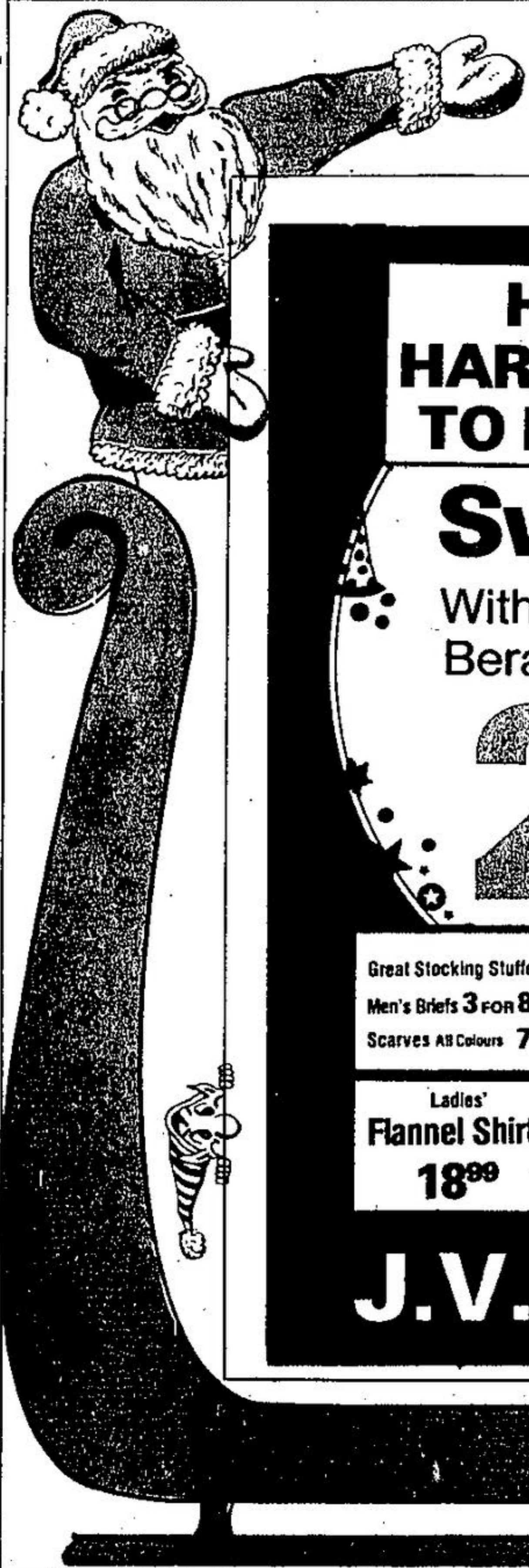
ideal snack or delectable treat.

O'DARBY RICE PUDDING

- 250 ml O'Darby Irish Cream 1 cup
- 125 ml raisins or currants 1/2 cup
- 2 envelopes unflavoured gelatin 2
- 3 eggs 3
- 250 ml milk 1 cup
- 150 ml sugar 2/3 cup
- 5 ml vanilla 1 tsp
- 1.5 L cooked rice 6 cups
- 250 ml whipping cream 1 cup

Combine O'Darby Irish cream, raisins and gelatin; let stand. Beat eggs in top of double boiler, add milk and sugar. Cook over boiling water, stir-

ring constantly until mixture thickens, becomes a smooth custard and coats the spoon. Stir in O'Darby Irish Cream, raisin mixture and vanilla until gelatin dissolves. Stir in rice. Whip cream and fold into rice mixture. Spoon into a rinsed 2 L (8 cup) mold. Chill at least 4 hours. Unmold; garnish with whipping cream. Makes 8-10 servings.



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