

The gift of sight at Christmas

Operation Eyesight International has created a beautiful way to express seasonal sentiments.

Profits from sales of their full colour Christmas cards are used to bestow the precious gift of sight to someone in the developing world.

Gift givers can send a friend or loved one a Christmas card containing the unusual gift certificate, which indicates that sight has been restored to a blind person in the

name of the gift recipient. The certificate is signed by the attending surgeon authenticating the procedure.

"Imagine the joy someone will have when they open this card to find that someone's life has been so miraculously changed after living a life of darkness and despair," said Operation Eyesight's president Bill Tapuska.

Founded in 1963, the organization

is a Canadian charitable group which has restored sight to more than one million people living in developing nations. Its major support comes from donors across Canada. Additional funding comes from the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

For more information, call Operation Eyesight International at (416) 759-8011.

Spirit of Christmas past

Special events at Bronte Creek Park

Bronte Creek Provincial Park celebrates the magical season of Christmas Past at Spruce Lane Farmhouse beginning this Saturday (Dec. 18) and running through January 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The farm homestead will be decorated in Victorian finery and bustling with Christmas activities. Toys of yesteryear will be displayed around the Christmas tree for all to enjoy.

The sounds of the Playford Players will thrill those in

the kerosene lit parlor on Wednesday, Dec. 22 from 7-9 p.m.

On New Year's Day children are encouraged to take part in our old-fashioned taffy pull from 1-3 p.m.

Spruce Lane Farmhouse is located in the park, which is north of the Queen Elizabeth Way on Burloak Road. Admission to the park is \$6 per vehicle or \$3 per vehicle for seniors and the disabled. Call 827-6911 during office hours for more information.



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WEEK #14

Bali, Indonesia

A weekly series of letters home from Brent Hetherington, an OAC student from Milton currently spending 5 months aboard the S/Y Concordia visiting 20 ports of call on 3 continents.



Dear Milton,

Arriving in Bali was exciting. We were met by the Canadian Embassy and the media. The crew of the Concordia spent the last couple of weeks scrubbing, cleaning, rust picking, and painting, to get everything "ship shape" for our arrival.

The second day in port we went to a market place. This consisted of rows of tiny stores, no bigger than the back of a pick-up truck. There were no doors, and only had plywood walls. The shops were full of Asian clothing, teak sculptures, and fake brand name watches and colognes. As I walked through the market, little ladies would come after me yelling, "Come to my store! I give you good morning price, good morning price. Cheap! Cheap!" Nothing in the market had a fixed price. I quickly learned the art of bartering. For instance, if I wanted to buy a tee shirt, I showed little interest in it. The ladies would give me a price of 15 000 rupees (\$8.50). I then would look shocked, and suggest my own. If you are a good barterer, you should pay no more than half of the suggested price. Once I did buy something, the ladies would take my money and rub the rest of the merchandise in the shop with it for good luck.

Beside the market, there was a forest full of monkeys. I could see them jumping from tree to tree, and hear them chattering back and forth. As I entered the forest, I began to eat an apple from my lunch. As soon as I took one bite, I was charged by a large black monkey. It ran up to my feet, jumped, snatched the apple, and took off into the trees.

An Indonesian Guide took me on a tour of the forest, pointing out different types of monkeys and telling me how they lived. She said the forest is visited so often by tourists, that the monkeys expect to be fed. On occasion the monkeys have attacked visitors when they didn't hand over their food. For the rest of the tour I stayed close to the Guide.

After I got out of the forest, the Guide said in return for the tour she gave, I had to visit her mother's clothing booth at the market. I now know why she was so eager to help and take me on a tour.

From the market we went back to the ship to get dressed for that night. The Canadian Ambassador was hosting a reception in our honour at the Four Seasons Hotel. Our arrival to Bali was marking the fortieth anniversary of Canadian and Indonesian relations. The Ambassador felt this was a perfect opportunity to celebrate the occasion.

We dressed up in our formal uniforms, which had only been worn in Vancouver, prior to our voyage. At 5:00 p.m., three small Grey Coach buses pulled up to the pier and we departed.

We arrived at the hotel, and went through carved stone gates. I expected to see a large fortress of a building, but instead I saw many small bungalows. There's a law in Bali where one can't build anything higher than a palm tree. The bus pulled up to the entrance and a valet opened the door. We got out and entered the lobby.

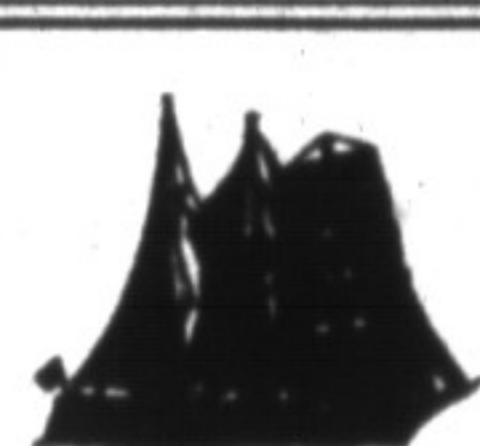
The floor was polished marble, that looked like glass. We were met by an employee who led us outside, past pools and hot tubs, to the reception hall. As we entered we met the Ambassador and his wife. He was a friendly man, and mentioned he had been the Canadian Ambassador in Kuwait during the Gulf War.

The hall had windowed walls with red pillow couches around the edges. There were two food buffets at each end, and a bar in the middle. Waiters scurried from person to person offering them something to drink.

The evening was spent mingling with the Ambassador, the governor of Bali, and Canadian citizens related to the embassy. The night finished with a group photo of the Ambassador and us.

Until Next Week,
Brent Hetherington

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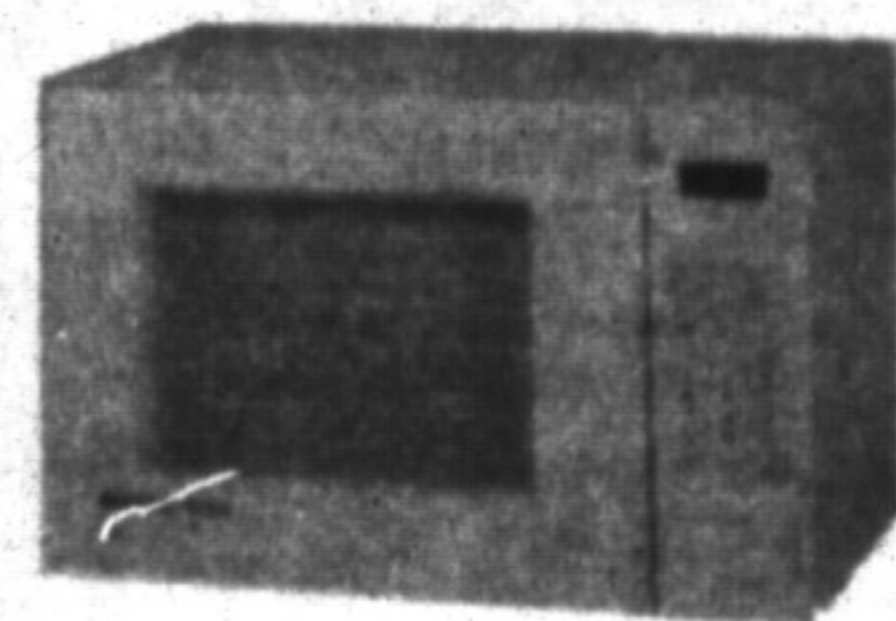
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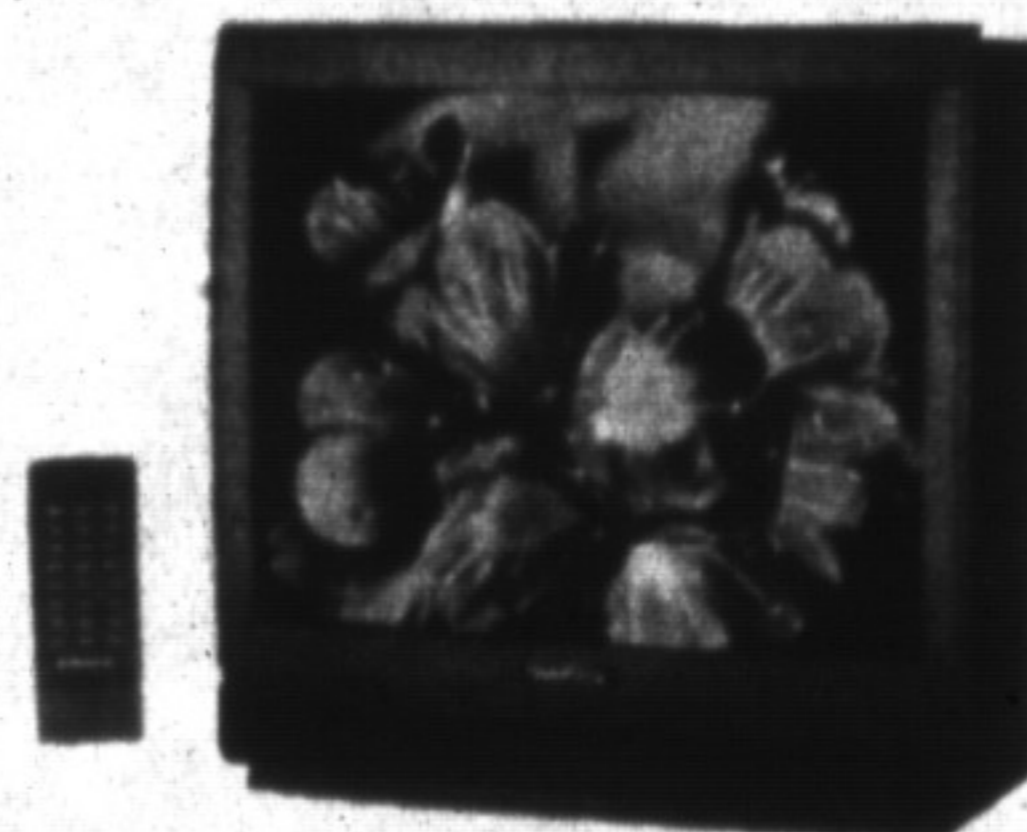


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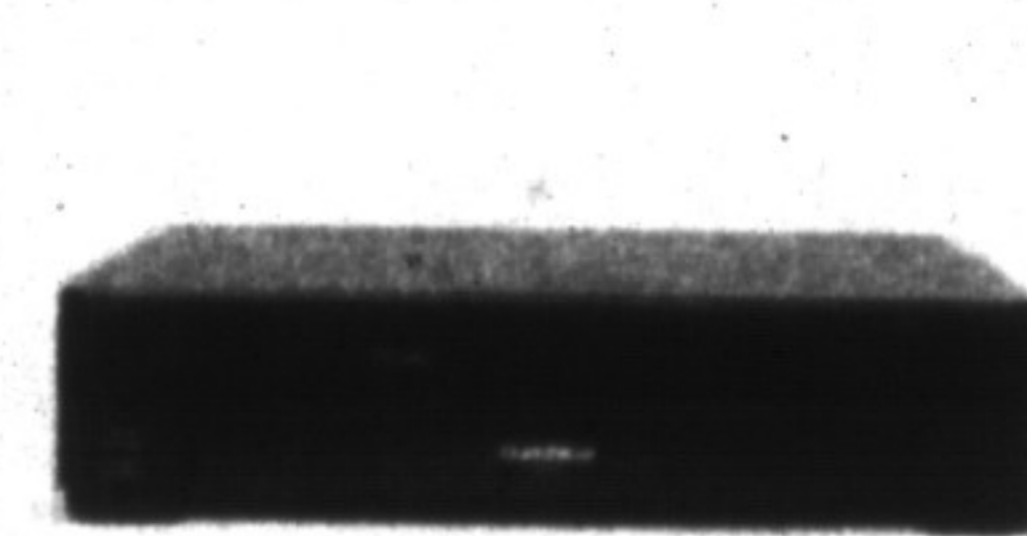


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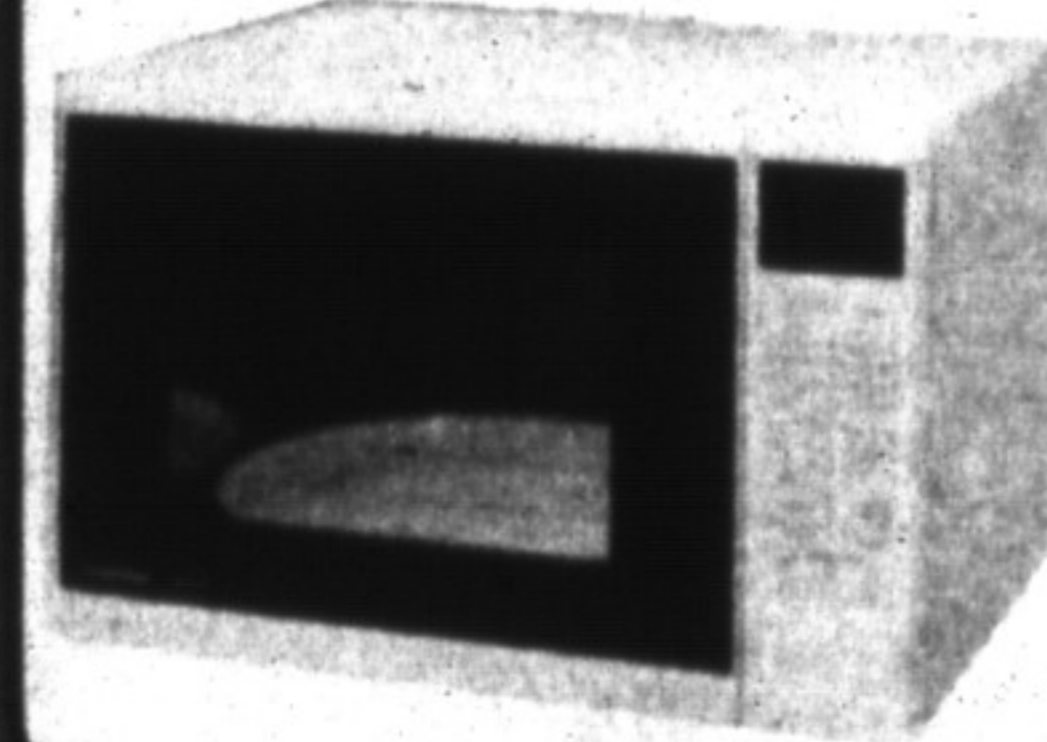


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