# December 2004

hot off the laser

*Merry Christmas!*

## It's A Microsoft Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, except Papa's mouse. The computer was humming, the icons were hopping, As Papa did last minute Internet shopping.

The stockings were hung by the modem with care In hope that St. Nicholas would bring new software. The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of computer games danced in their heads.

PageMaker for Billy, and Quicken for Dan, And Carmen Sandiego for Pamela Ann. The letters to Santa had been sent out by Mom, To santaclaus@toyshop.northpole.com -

Which has now been re-routed to Washington State Because Santa's workshop has been bought by Bill Gates. All the elves and reindeer have had to skedaddle, To flashy new quarters in suburban Seattle.

After centuries of a life that was simple and spare, St. Nicholas is suddenly a new billionaire, With a shiny red Porsche in the place of his sleigh, And a house on Lake Washington that's just down the way,

From where Bill has his mansion. The old fellow preens, In black Gucci boots and red Calvin Klein jeans. The elves have stock options and desks with a view, Where they write computer code for Johnny and Sue.

No more dolls or tin soldiers or little toy drums Will be under the tree, only compact disk ROMS With the Microsoft label. So spin up your drive, From now on Christmas runs only on Win95.

More rapid than eagles the competitors came, And Bill whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.

"Now, ADOBE! Now, CLARIS! Now, INTUIT! too, Now, APPLE! and NETSCAPE! All of you are through,

It is Microsoft's SANTA that the kids can't resist, It's the ultimate software with a traditional twist - Recommended by no less than the jolly old elf, And on the package, a picture of Santa himself.

Get 'em young, keep 'em long, is Microsoft's scheme, And a merger with Santa is a marketer's dream. To the top of the NASDAQ! to the top of the Dow! Now dash away! dash away! dash away - wow!

And Mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap, When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, The whir and the hum of our satellite platter,

As it turned toward that new Christmas star in the sky, The SANTALITE owned by the Microsoft guy. As I sprang from my bed and was turning around, My computer turned on with a Jingle-Bells sound.

And there on the screen was a smiling Bill Gates, Next to jolly old Santa, two arm-in-arm mates. And I heard them exclaim in voice so bright, Have a Microsoft Christmas, and to all a good night.

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## Santa Claus is Coming To Town

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

## Why Santa Can't Be A Man (Written by a Woman)

**1.** Men can't pack a bag. **2.** Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet. **3.** Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described even in jest as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly." **4.** Men aren't interested in stockings unless someone is wearing them.

## More Christmas Humor

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs. "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO... I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR..." His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Gramma is!"

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a $20 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up? Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

A guy bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," he replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?"

## 12 Days of Christmas; For the Scrooge in Thee

**Chorus:** The first thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me is **ONE:** Finding a Christmas tree.

**TWO:** The second thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me is **[Husband]:** Rigging up the lights, **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**THREE:** The third thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Inebriated man]:** Hangovers, **2:** Rigging up the lights, **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**FOUR:** The fourth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Frustrated man]:** Sending Christmas cards, **3:** Hangovers, **2:** Rigging up the lights, **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**FIVE:** The fifth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me: **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Sending Christmas cards, **3:** Hangovers, **2:** Rigging up the lights, **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**SIX:** The sixth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Frustrated wife]:** Facing my in-laws, **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Oh, I hate those Christmas cards, **3:** Hangovers, **2:** Rigging up these lights, **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**SEVEN:** The seventh thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Angry man]:** The Salvation Army, **6:** Facing my in-laws, **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Sending Christmas cards, **3:** Oh, Jeez! **2:** I'm trying to rig up these lights! **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**EIGHT:** The eighth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Loud kid]:** I WANNA TRANSFORMER FOR CHRISTMAS! **7:** Charities **6:** And what do you mean, "your in-Laws"? **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Oh, making out these cards, **3:** Edith, get me a beer, huh?**2:** What? We have no extension cords?!? **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**NINE:** The ninth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Another frustrated man]:** No parking spaces, **8:** DADDY, I WANT SOME CANDY!! **7:** Donations! **6:** Facing my in-laws, **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Writing out those Christmas cards, **3:** Hangovers, **2:** Now why the heck are they blinking?!? **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**TEN:** The tenth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[Toy-commercial voice]:** "Batteries not included", **9:** No parking spaces, **8:** BUY ME SOMETHIN'!!!! **7:** Get a job, ya bum!!! **6: (sobbing)** Oh, facing my in-laws, **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Yo, ho! Sending Christmas cards, **3:** Oh, Jeez, look at this! **2:** One light goes out, they ALL go out!!! **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**ELEVEN:** The eleventh thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[TV Critic]:** Stale TV specials, **10:** "Batteries not included", **9:** No parking spaces, **8:** I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM!!!! **7:** Charities!! **6: (sobbing)** She's a witch! I hate her! **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** Oh, I don't even KNOW half these people! **3:** Oh, who's got the toilet paper? **2:** Get a flashlight!! I blew a fuse!!! **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.

**TWELVE:** The twelfth thing at Christmas that's such a pain to me **[A few guys]:** Singing Christmas Carols, **11:** Stale TV specials, **10:** "Batteries not included", **9:** No parking? **8 :** W A A A A A A H ! ! ! ! WAAAAAAAAAAAH!!! **7:** Charities! **6:** Gotta make 'em dinner! **Chorus:** Five months of bills, **4:** I'm not sending them this year, that's it! **3:** Shut up, you! **2:** FINE!! If you're so smart, YOU RIG UP THE LIGHTS!!!! **Chorus:** And finding a Christmas tree.