

Warped

by Scott McCullar

Today's Almanac

WANT TO GET RID OF ALL THAT HOLIDAY FLAB? WANT TO GET IN SHAPE AND IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD AT THE SAME TIME?

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United Press International Today is Tuesday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 1982 with 31 to follow.

The moon is approaching its full phase.

The morning stars are Saturn and Jupiter.

The evening stars are Mercury, Venus and Mars.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Sagittarius.

American author Mark

Twain (Samuel Clemens) was born Nov. 30, 1853.

On this date in history:

In 1782, preliminary peace articles formally ending the Revolutionary War were signed in Paris.

In 1874, Winston Churchill was born. He was destined to become Britain's prime minister twice and be knighted as Sir Winston. He died in 1965.

In 1939, the Russo-Finnish

War started after the Soviet Union failed to obtain territorial concessions from Finland.

In 1975, Israel pulled forces out of a 93-mile-long corridor along the Gulf of Sidra part of the Sinai interim agreement with Egypt.

A thought for the day: Churchill said, "In war: resolution, defeat: defiance. In peace: magnanimity. In peace: will."

What's Up

Tuesday

**KEATHLY HALL - PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** All Day Mail Call — Christmas Cards for Servicemen. You can send a card and 20 cents for postage to servicemen on Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 at the Commons main desk and the SPO in the MSC.

**MSC TRAVEL/STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** Overseas Day, providing information concerning Texas A&M study and travel abroad to Texas A&M students, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 1, in 205 and 206 MSC.

**COSA (COMMUNITY OF SINGLE ADULTS):** The group will go Country-and-Western dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Texas Hall of Fame. Look for our COSA tables.

**DEBATE SOCIETY:** Aggeland photos will be taken at 7:15 p.m. at the MSC main lobby. Please wear tournament attire.

**MSC CAMAC:** The last meeting of the fall semester will be held at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. Final plans for Spring will be made.

**SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS:** The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the MSC main lounge to have the Aggeland picture taken. Also, Dr. Arthur Hansen, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University

System, will speak on "United States and International Competition" at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Zachry.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT, STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder Tower.

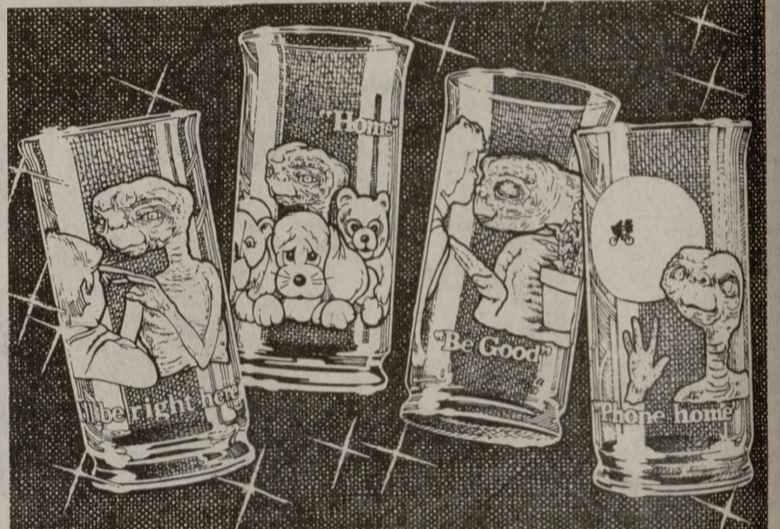
**OASIS:** "Running to Win" — Living the Victorious Christian Life will be featured in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder Tower.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA HOMETOWN CLUB:** A bus charter and rides and riders to the D.C. area for the Christmas holidays will be discussed in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 350 MSC.

**THE ULTRALIGHT FLYING ORGANIZATION:** A decision will be made by club vote on which airplane to purchase in a meeting on Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in 137 MSC.

**WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY:** Gail Dresner will speak on Zoological Parks: Career Diversities and Opportunities in a meeting at 7 p.m. in 104 Nagle Hall. Also, Aggeland pictures will be taken immediately after the meeting.

**TAMU SAILING TEAM:** A general meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.



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Plush Yuletide available in mail

United Press International This year, the rule still holds. Each holiday buying season tops the previous one in what is available for a price, whether you are shopping for jewelry, furs, a trip, a condominium in the South Seas, a mink teddy bear, fitness equipment or a computer.

You can even buy a 24-karat gold credit card. It's impressive to flash. But you can't charge anything with it.

Because of the recession, you may think retailers will cease offering the opulent, and the big business of direct sales will go into a slump.

Instead, sales are on the increase by about 15 percent yearly.

The Direct Mail-Marketing Association, New York, said more than 5 billion catalogs, not all of them for holiday sales, will be mailed in 1982.

The association estimated that the average American household receives 40 catalogs a year, and the wish books generate an estimated \$40 billion in consumer sales.

Not all the sales are by mail. These days, customers make phone orders, and most stores offer a toll-free ordering service.

Many stores this year offer an additional convenience — gifts already wrapped for you.

Right now, they can wrap up a deed for a luxury condominium on the Island of Kauai, in Hawaii. It was the location for some of the filming of "South Pacific" and is called Hanalei Plantation.

Neiman-Marcus, a Dallas-based specialty store, offers the development for \$1.2 million.

Sakowitz, a Houston-based specialty store, has equally elaborate offerings in its "enjoy yourself" section.

Sakowitz offers a limited edition of a gold credit card for \$3,000 each. The gold card, a 24-karat likeness of the American Express regular gold card, is individually engraved, but it is only with the plastic card that you can buy goods and services.

For \$20,000 to \$500,000, the store offers your own computer consultant, who can teach you how to use a computer, and design and program the ultimate computer to your lifestyle.

There also is the custom built roller coaster, up to 2,700 linear feet, for \$2,430,000.

Now you know

United Press International Snow covered Antarctica receives less annual precipitation than the world's most arid deserts. But the pole's extreme cold preserves its snow indefinitely.

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VALENTINO

By LEON BECK  
Sentinel Reporter

Country entertainer Valentino Enrique Hernandez is being touted by his management, Pro Media, and by his label, RCA Records, as country music's first teen idol. The teen market is ripe for a country idol, and it just might be 21-year-old Valentino, who was discovered by Happy Shahan who brought Johnny Rodriguez to country music. Valentino (a name of romance, he says), recently played Gilley's on a Saturday night, the first date on his current tour. He just wrapped up several interviews in New York with a blitz of teen magazines — Teen Magazine, Tiger Beat and Teen Beat. "They told me that they're getting a demand and a push for country artists in their magazines," says the artist who calls himself a "romantic country music singer."

Valentino was born on Feb. 13 and landed his first recording contract with RCA Records on Feb. 13, 1982. His first release, "She Took the Place of You," made a dent on the national charts but failed to fire up his career. His next release, "Somebody's Heaven to Missing An Angel Tonight," is the one that is going to fuel his career, his management says.

He was born in Toledo, Ohio, but his family moved to San Antonio when he was a year old. He recalls his father's car in a trailer parked behind the club. "My father is Spanish and my mother is German and he met her in England. He didn't like the cold weather in Toledo so we moved to San Antonio." His mother named him Valentino, he says, "because she wanted a star in her family."

From the beginning, Valentino seemed destined to be an entertainer. Little Valentino used to stand in front of the mirror with a hairbrush when he was 4 and 5 years old and sing the songs of Elvis and Jim Reeves. "All my life they trained me and pushed and prepared me." And in the last three years, Happy Shahan has held the reins on his career.

Happy Shahan owns Alamo Village, the site where several films, including "The Alamo," "Bandolero," and "Barbarosa" were shot. The village is located in Brackettville, and features a western town, gunfights, a stagecoach and other forms of entertainment. When Valentino was 13 he met Happy. "I auditioned for him and he told me to keep in touch," Valentino says. At the age of 19, after playing the music circuit in San Antonio and chalking up a year of college, Valentino returned to Alamo Village.

He performed in gunfights and live music shows a day for the tourists. "Other work I did was anything from building fences to riding horses, riding the stage, cleaning bathrooms and developing movies." But Valentino and Happy didn't neglect his work and potential as an entertainer.

"Over the last three years he has been working with me, coaching me and getting me ready... We've been taking one step at a time."

Johnny Rodriguez was a happening, Valentino says. "I've been played like a football team. We've made our game plan and we followed it and we're going for a touchdown."

And part of that game plan to make that touchdown was Nashville. The first journey for Valentino and Happy was in



the winter of 1979. "He thought it was time to introduce me to Nashville and to his people." Valentino made demo tapes and contacts on his first trip. Then they returned during the winter of 1980. This time RCA like one of his demos. "She Took the Place of You" and he landed on a recording contract.

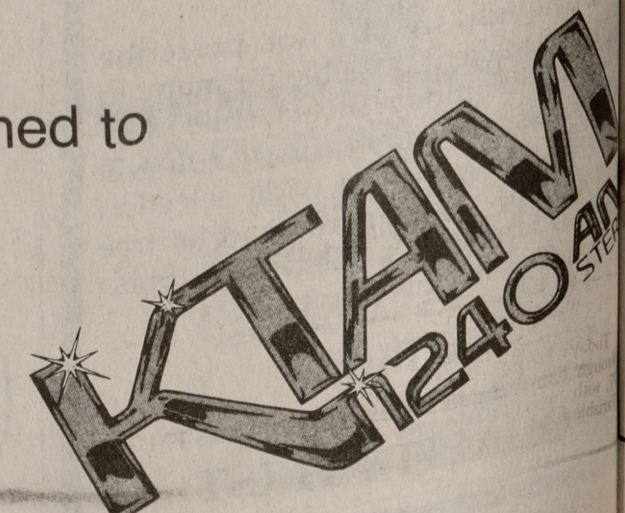
His producer is Norro Wilson, who has produced records for the likes of John Anderson, Jerry Reed and Charley Pride. But Valentino does not have the country edge that those singers do. "He has an entirely different feel with the cuts that we have done compared to some of the people he's worked with," Valentino says.

He defines his music as "Valentino." "For the simple fact," he says, "that I don't do just ballads and I don't do just country. I like to do everything." And that includes an uptempo Mexican song, he says, along with country and rock 'n' roll. His stage show is "high energy and upbeat" and "covers all bases." Valentino's exposure to country music was rather limited during his early years. In 1968, he recalls, he was listening to "50s rock 'n' roll." His knowledge of country music was restricted to Bob Wills and Hank Williams. "I listened to all the rock 'n' roll and then when disco came

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