

# BURNHAMISH

GOTTA READ IT ALL!

*Merri Kurisumasu!* We hope you're having a profitable holiday season, financially, spiritually, and/or otherwise.

We find ourselves charging (in the credit sense) into the new year with amazing technology at our disposal. Experts estimate 150 zillion dollars will be spent purchasing gifts over the internet, up 14 gajillion from a year ago. Believe it or not, I have placed only one order via the world wide web- but it's a gift for myself, and it's on backorder. Figures.

## I got yer Pokémon right here!

Have YOU been able to find a Pokémon Yellow anywhere? Anything Pokémon is the must-have thing to get for Christmas this year. You can't throw an old pong game without hitting some likeness of Pikachu (the most recognizable of the 151 "pocket monsters"). Pikachu kind of looks like a cross between a bunny rabbit and a yellow Volkswagen Bug. You need a strong will and a clear head to keep from being sucked in to the madness. Unfortunately, I neither possess a strong will, nor a clear head.

If you look really hard on these pages you will find two ultra rare pokémons even Nintendo didn't know about- they're *that*

#98.6 LUKINACHU



*Outside of the Burnhamish offices, crews work feverishly to complete brand-new Y2K shelters.*

rare. Now, the closest I've ever gotten to actually playing a video game on a Game Boy is figuring out how to turn it on; suffice it to say I have never played Pokémon. I must confess I like these little pokémons, if not for the moral lessons they impart on our impressionable children, then because they're cartoony.

## Scotty, I need warp speed in three minutes or we're all dead!

I have another confession to make: I really am an engineer. I have been known to be analytical and to perform unit conversions in my head. I think digital watches are a pretty neat idea. I believe the metric system is a better way. I believe in a "Star Trek" future. I know what *Reverse Polish Notation* means. I believe you will find a useful purpose for those extra scraps of wood if you keep them in your garage long enough.

Up until recently, I also believed the year 2000 is the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

"Oh, great," you say, "another

math geek trying to convince us we're celebrating a year too early."

Well, it depends on what you're celebrating. If you're celebrating the end of the 1900's, great! Party on, Garth. The 20<sup>th</sup> century (and the second millennium) really ends December 31, 2000, simply because our current calendar system started at the year One (not zero). Unless you use something other than the Gregorian calendar when you date your checks to the phone company, you have to live with it. You don't want the phone cops ringing your doorbell (assuming it works after December 31).

Okay, enough of that. Turning over from the 1900's to the 2000's is more exciting anyway, kind of like watching your odometer turn over. Do you remember where you were when your odometer turned over from 1,999 to 2,000 miles? I do! You were in your car! And then there's all the fun to be had with the Y2K

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bug, or glitch, or BONEHEAD PLAY BY SHORTSIGHTED PROGRAMMERS. Sorry. Call it what you will, it's just a stupid thing that should have never happened, kind of like Disco and Andrew Dice Clay. Yech. Whatever may happen, I have my shelter well-stocked with cans of beanie-weenies and fruit cocktail.

**They're like little people, only furry.**

We are proud to announce the addition of two more staff members to the Burnhamish family: Buffy and Willow.


Buffy joined us in February after we searched shelter after shelter for a kitten-like animal to serve as a surrogate child. February is not exactly kitten season, which made the search much

more difficult. Buffy comes to us from the Dearborn Animal Shelter and she says she is really glad to be here, just keep the wet food coming. In addition to wet food, Buffy enjoys plastic milk rings, relaxing in empty paper bags, and most recently, collecting glass Christmas ornaments.

Much to Buffy's dismay, we doubled our kitten collection in July. Willow comes to us from an overpass somewhere in Washtenaw County, by way of Dixon Wilde and his bicycle. When she's not being pinned to the floor by Buffy, Willow enjoys just about anything Buffy is playing with at the moment (also much to Buffy's dismay). And tummy rubs.

**I wonder if Jeff would buy his old furniture back?**

In the last issue, I spoke of moving into our new house with our old crappy furniture. We just couldn't take it anymore! We went to North Carolina in search of a great deal on some new living and dining room furniture. We finally found what we were looking for— and ended up buying it in Michigan anyway. But we had never been to North Carolina, and we got to see Andrew Suelzer and occupy otherwise valuable space

in his apartment in Winston-Salem. If you're interested, we have some *Tennessee-built, pine-framed, flat-wooden-arms-you-can-set-your-beer-down-on, sagging-cushion, living-room-set-he-didn't-have-to-schlep-to-New-York-because-I-bought-it-from-him* furniture for sale. Cheap. 



## Fishery biologist quoted in AP article

ANN ARBOR, MI Dr. Mary Burnham-Curtis, a fishery biologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Great Lakes Science Center, was recently quoted in an Associated Press article on the possible existence of a species of fish previously thought extinct.

"She's a fishery biologist?" said John Burnham, "I'll be damned- I always thought she was an e-mail joke distributor." John is an engineer working somewhere in the automotive industry (and coincidentally is Dr. Burnham-Curtis' brother).

Regarding the fish, John said, "I'm sure the fishery biology set is very excited, but here in the automotive industry we have very little

interaction with abundant fish species, let alone extinct ones."

It is common for news services like AP to distribute the spoken word in text format, a practice which accommodates persons who have no radio or telephone, or who just can't hear like they used to. Asked if she had plans for being quoted by any other text-based media outlet, Dr. Burnham-Curtis remarked, "I am considering several high-level offers, including National Geographic, Teen People, and TV Guide. I have often seen people quoted in these publications, and I am very interested in how my words would look."

—Gern Blantzen, field reporter

### CHRISTMAS ALBUM



**1998  
DUAL INCOME, NO KIDS**



**1999  
DUAL INCOME, TWO CATS**

Light Reading from the

**PHI  
BETA  
KAPPA**



#### Recommended Reading List:

*The Erotics of Domination: Male Desire and the Mistress in Latin Love Poetry*

*The Hunting Apes: Meat Eating and the Origins of Human Behavior*

*Cannibalism is an Acquired Taste and Other Notes*

GENERAL SURGEON'S WARNING: Burnhamish has been clinically tested on virtual laboratory mice for Y2K compliance. Do not read this issue if you have a seizure disorder or are taking an MAO inhibitor. Side effects include dry skin, difficulty sleeping, and violent mood swings. Women should notify their doctor if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant while reading Burnhamish. Use caution before driving or operating complex, hazardous household appliances.