

# Glowing gifts

*Shoppers snapping up unique presents, candles, other novelty holiday doo-dads*

**By Dionne Searcey**  
Senior Reporter

When sleigh bells ring and carolers fa la la, the talk among local shoppers is often Wallaballa and squiggle-wiggle when it comes to buying holiday doo-dads.

Lincoln stores are offering plenty of popular selections to holiday shoppers scurrying about to find the perfect gift.

New at The Albino Rhino, 101 N. 14th St., is Wallaballa, a plastic contraption that attaches to the waist, co-owner Kara Kugler said. Baskets on it swing, and customers must jump to try to put the ball into one of several cups.

The squiggle-wiggle writer is battery-operated and vibrates while it writes.

This year, Kugler said, the store is selling picture frames with a device for recording a 10-second message. The frames cost \$19.95.

Another top seller, four-inch-tall Bungee Santas, can swing from the ceiling. Three-dimensional puzzles are popular, too, she said.

Customers are buying old favorites, techno watches and necklaces for gifts, she said.

New dolls called Roomies come with detachable velcro eyes, nose and lips.

Children can create their own books with Illustory, she said. Young authors can write their own story and draw pictures, then send it away to be turned into a hardback book.

Flintstones and Simpson chess sets sell for \$45, she said.

Bernie McGinn, employee at Avant Card, 1323 O St., said glowing candles were the hot item for Christmas time.

The candles, which sell for \$12-\$16, glow from the inside when lit creating a stain-glass-like appearance.

"Those have been selling like crazy," McGinn said.

Items decorated with suns and moons were popular this season, he said.

The store also sells notebooks, journals and trinkets covered with

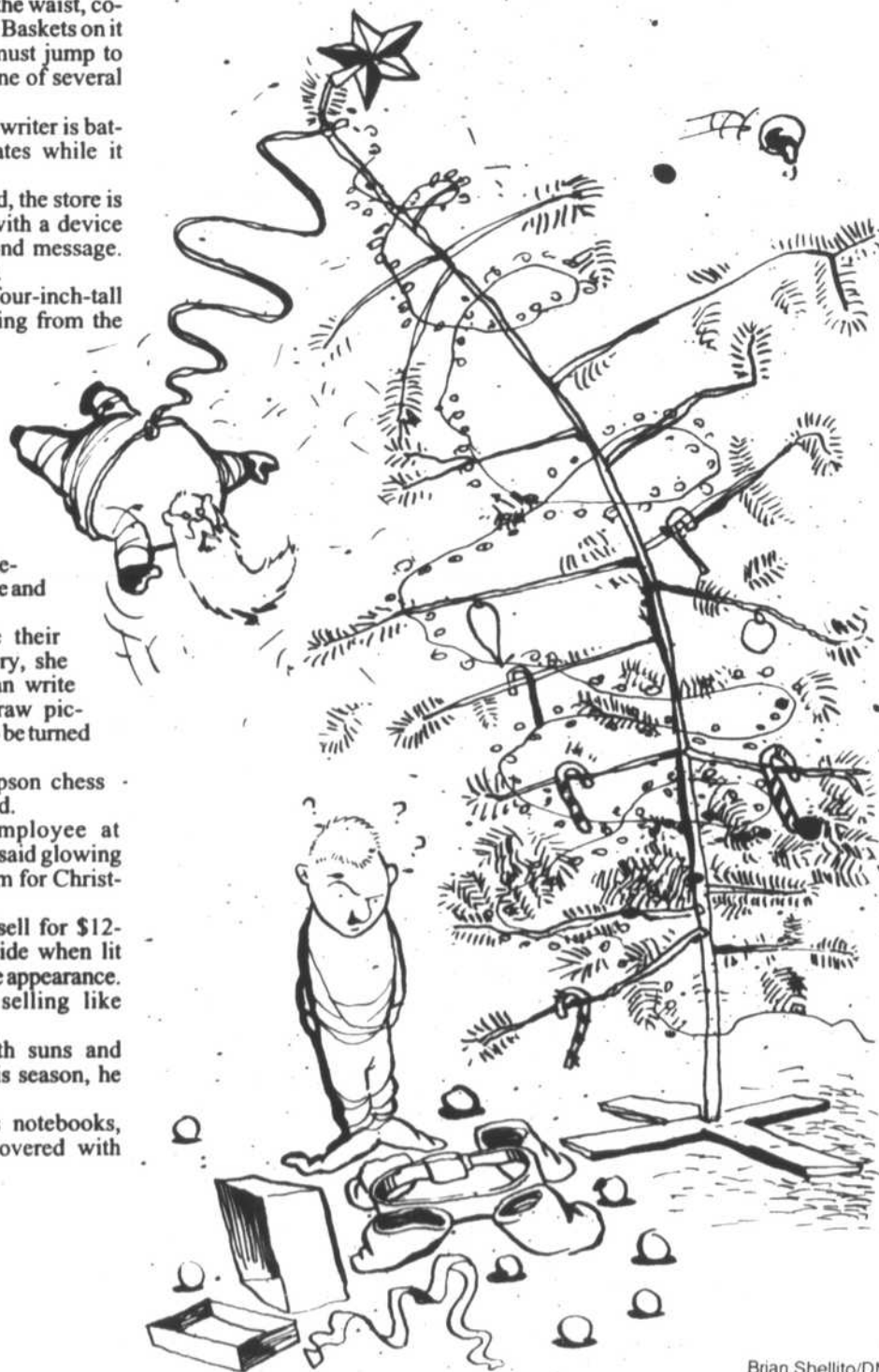
such heavenly bodies.

Kia Hulvershorn, employee at Euphoria, 4139 O St., said all candles were big sellers across town.

Pyramid-shaped candles, colored globes, marble-colored candles and scented ones join the rise in popular-

ity of stained-glass candles.

For customers trying to avoid mainstream gifts, homemade necklaces make unique presents, she said. The store sells beads and charms for customers to create their own jewelry.



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