

Kingfish

DECEMBER 2001

THE MAGAZINE FOR NEW ORLEANS MEN
AND THEIR PASSIONS

OUT TO PUNCH

New Orleans' female boxers
are coming out swinging

Kingfish of the Month:
Dan Packer

How to
avoid shopping

Plus: Kingfish's guide to the
ultimate New Year's Eve,
Christmas gift ideas and more

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Presents perfect

Santa brings gifts like these only to the very best little boys. by Christine Richard

Practical gifts are a serious downer. This holiday season, not only do I have a few whimsical suggestions that answer our deepest psychological needs, but I've also targeted the upper end of the price range. They vary from relatively inexpensive to an impressive \$100,000-plus category. After all, whether it's Christmas or Hanukkah you'll be celebrating, there's not a thing wrong with wishing.

BIKE MIGHT

With more than 300 horsepower, a 0-to-200 mph of 15 seconds, a top speed of 250 mph, 425 foot-pounds of torque and propelled by a Rolls Royce Allison gas turbine engine, the Y2K Superbike is the world's first street-legal turbine-powered motorcycle. The suckers are the other guys on the block who, come Christmas morning, will be trying out their new bicycles and scooters. They'll be wiping dirt from their eyes when you pass. Other nice touches: carbon-fiber wheels and cameras for rear mirrors. Better buy a helmet, or we'll think you have a death wish, in addition to an inferiority complex. Each bike is hand-crafted and available through Marine Turbine Technologies (337/924-0298) of Franklin for \$150,000.

BOT BUTLER

Here's something that'll turn a few eyes at your next party. Clap your hands, and Cyé, your personal robot, comes rolling with martini tray in hand. He can serve drinks and vacuum carpet, although not simultaneously. Remote controlled by your PC, Cyé looks like a flattened Tonka toy. He navigates reliably and quickly, at a speedy 3 feet per second — much better than some robots that cost upwards of \$15,000.

Unfortunately if you live in a two-story home and your bedroom is on the second level, Cyé can't deliver your morning cup of joe. Not only does the bot not do windows, but he can't climb stairs.

Cyé, a home-base charging unit, a radio pod that attaches to your PC, Map-N-Zap software and an instruction manual are \$995. The vacuum attachment is sold separately. Available from

www.personalrobots.com.



GET THE SKINNY

If in your dream vision of a happy new year there is a television, buy the best: the 50-inch Plasmavision SlimScreen PDS-5002 by Fujitsu. As its name suggests, the television is slim; a mere 3.5 inches from front to back, it can be hung from the wall. It uses plasma technology for superior picture quality and is digital ready. Available at HomeTek in Metairie for \$17,000.





TRAIN OF THOUGHT

You don't have to be 12 years old to want a train set (Remember Arthur, the alcoholic millionaire, owned one), and chances are your parents wouldn't have sprung for this one anyway. If you're looking for trains that require less space, shop Z scale. How about this miniature one — complete with layout, tracks, hand-made buildings, scenery and controls — stored in your attaché case? Märklin is considered one of the finest manufacturers of train sets, and its Bavarian Briefcase layout is \$900. The larger HO steam locomotive, the Big Boy, at nearly 18.5 inches, is \$600. That's only for the train, though; you still need to invest in tracks, throttles, other locomotives and scenery. In other words, to sooth your inner child, you're going to have to shell out some dough.

Available from www.marklin.com or (800) 825-0888.

CONTROL FREAK

If your home seems beyond your control, you might want to outfit it with the Crestron Isys TPS-6000. The home-control system can remotely control (via Internet from anywhere in the world) as many home accessories — lights, security, appliances, music, ventilation, curtains — as you want. Systems start expensive, at about \$20,000, but it's a small price to pay for total control. While it's best to consider such a system when building a new home, older homes can be retrofitted with some minor headaches. Available at HomeTek, which can also install the system. ♣

