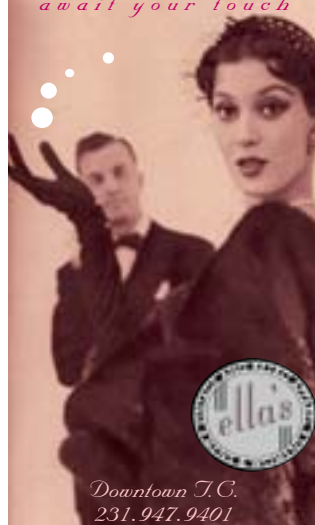


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Technology lite

Here's a little electricity project you can do while waiting for your turn to open a Christmas gift. It's fun, easy and you wind up with a nifty, little flashlight.

Take one of the extra mini-bulbs that accompany each strand of lights used to adorn Christmas trees or house exteriors. Attach the bulb's two copper wires to the end of an AA battery.

The bulb will light up, albeit dimly. That's because the bulb is designed to handle 2.5 volts of electricity. The battery generates only 1.5. You can make the light brighter by wiring together two AA batteries to generate 3 volts, or you can hook up the bulb to a 9-volt battery.

In the case of latter, the bulb will burn extremely bright but won't last very long, an hour at most.

— Copley News Service



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Poinsetting the record straight

Poinsettia plants are indisputably lovely.

They are not indisputably poisonous.

It's a persistent myth that apparently originated in 1919 with the death of a 2-year-old child of an Army officer stationed in Hawaii. The cause of death was incorrectly assumed to be from eating a poinsettia leaf.

In fact, there are no documented cases of death by poinsettia consumption. While the poinsettia belongs to a genus — Euphorbia — that includes several plants that are toxic, it is not. A child weighing 50 pounds would have to eat about 500 to 600 leaves to exceed experimental dosages that, according to the POISINDEX Information Service, produce nothing more injurious than vomiting. Poinsettia leaves are bitter tasting. (CNS)

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