

When it absolutely, positively has to get there in one piece

As you prepare to mail your Christmas packages, you'll want to make sure they are acceptable at the post office window.

According to a Postul Service study, most of the packages that are lost or damaged each year are the result of inadequate wrapp-ing, not postal handling.

To avoid having your package turned away, here are some pack-age wrapping dos and don'ts that conform to recent postal regula-



Mail_early is the reminder message that Alicia Bennett, carries on her baloons.

Don't use masking tape or cellophane tape to seal parcels. They are not made for package wrapping.
Do use a nylon filament tape to hand packages and special pressure-sensitive tape for the closures.
Don't use twine or cord if at all possible. While they are still acceptable at the post office window, packages wrapped with them stand great risks of being caught and mangled in post of being caught and mangled in post of being caught and mangled in post of being caught. being caught and mangled in post off-

being caught and mangled in post office sorting machinery.

Don't use paper around the box if the container is strong enough by itself.

Don use wrapping paper equivalent to the strength of the average large grocery bag — technically speaking, that 's 60-pound basis — if wrapping is necessary.

smudge to indicate name address, city, state and Zip code.

■ Do use smudgeproof ink and make the letters large enough to be read from a distance of 30 inches. (A handy trick is to cover address infor-mation with strips of clear, transparent

tape.)

Don't use staples — they can cause injury to hundling personnel.

Do use stapping tape to encircle the package at least twice girthwise and lengthwise.

Don't haphazardly put items together in a box for multing.

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• Do cushion objects and prevent lateral shifting by separating them with plastic shredding or excelsior.

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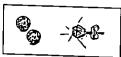
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