

A CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

My appointment list at the Clinic
Is gen'rally totally booked.
But the day after Christmas last year
There was only one name when I looked.

I had to devote the whole day
To one very specialist cause:
The assessment and diagnosis
Of a bloke named Mr. S. Claus.

Instead of coming in through reception
As the others that I am treating,
He arrived with a thump down the chimney,
Odd, when we have central heating.

My notes on his presentation
Told a barely believable tale:
"An overweight, scarlet-suited,
Hairy, Caucasian male."

He was inappropriately cheerful,
With speech interrupted in flow,
By frequent irrational giggles
And fatuous "Ho, ho, ho".

The rest of my notes pointed clearly
To one DSM diagnosis.
(Apart, that is, from obesity,
And post-Christmas Day halitosis).

The telling symptoms included
His grandiose admission
That he was from North Pole
On a very exceptional mission.

His nights of work with lack of sleep,
His claim that he could fly,
His loud and odd attire
All hinted he was "high".

His overactive habits,
His intrusive social style,
His distribution of presies to strangers,
Were recorded in the file.

So I told him flat
That his story conveys
Bipolar disorder,
Manic phase.

At this he went all quiet,
And a tear formed in his eye,
And the belly that had shook with chuckles
Just sank with a sorrowful sigh.

And he shuffled out of my room
Before I could negotiate
A follow-up appointment
On a mutually convenient date.

I didn't even get the facts,
(A criminal omission)
To fill in one of those Stat forms
To satisfy the Commission.

Just recently
I thought I'd see
If they include Santa
In DSM III.

So I looked him up.
He was on the list,
But the DSM entry
Said he didn't exist.

It called him a delusion
And claimed you were funny
If you believed in Santa
Or the Easter Bunny.

So I knew one was wrong
And there'd been some confusion.
Either Santa was pretend
Or DSM a delusion.

To test it out I went down town,
And there in Myers in all his gear
Was Santa, large as life.
Well, The implication's clear!!

GARY BAKKER