

Making Christmas Count

On several instances I have already heard statements to the effect, "I wish it were over! These next weeks are the most strenuous of any in the year. The stress and strain are unbearable!"

This is the effect that Christmas, its pageantry and pomp, has on too many Americans.

Possibly, there are many, many reasons for the approaches taken by Americans toward Christmas. Regardless of the great diversity of attitudes, there has been something present in the majority's approach to bring about an extensive commercialization of this one-time hallowed celebration.

One thousand nine hundred fifty nine Christmases have passed since that first one; yet, we hurry in crazed frenzy, as last year and the year before, with emphasis upon pleasing someone's taste, purchasing a beneficial elixir for the appearance of a friend, and adding further to the cushioned comfort of those who wait social custom.

It is ironic that we chance the traffic with queerly monstrous gadgets guaranteed to "fit" the recipient, plunging our status' into the red, when the gifts given on he first Noel were not usable by the Christ Child. There was something in those three gifts far more intrinsic than their utility.

If, perhaps, you might be interested in exactly what intrinsic value these first gifts possessed, you need to know a thousand editorials could not publicize their secret. It is captured in the act of giving . . . not the object.

Any real discovery of a gift's esoteric quality must be devoid of our present-day stress and strain so much a part of the American Christmas.

We have three suggestions if you would be interested in lifting the common strain from these next weeks.

First, put Christ back in Xmas. Recall that this is the day from which all of history, even skeptics, have dated their writings.

Secondly, emphasis should be placed upon the expression of a gift rather than its cost or size. The author considers one of his smallest, most useless gifts, one of his greatest and most valuable ever received.

Thirdly, lift the stress and strain from your own holidays by helping to lift the stress and strain from someone else. There will be families and elderly couples observing Christmas this year with the absence of loved-ones. An expression of concern would help lighten the load of loneliness. An overdue letter would help someone, somewhere. And always, a cherry greeting would be envigorating in the hustle.—TR.

Look For New Leaders Now

The close of a semester is at hand and campus politicians and club enthusiasts are looking for potential standard bearers.

At the regular executive board meeting this week, Mike Busby, Day Student representative, suggested that potential board members and government leaders should visit the executive board and observe the student government at work. The suggestion was rendered by Busby in a concern that next year's leaders would have tremendous responsibilities and would have to work within what is becoming a more complex organization of government.

It is true that our present student government has become quite complex in its organization this year. The changes that have been made are good and are necessary for progressive legislation. What the Day Student representative has suggested is very important. The next officers of the cooperative association must be informed about, if not experienced with, the policies and procedures of a campus government.

Executive leaders announced this week that each board member would invite various AC students, who were taking active parts in the role of leadership on campus, to attend the government meetings. In this way, the board hopes that potential leaders will be better informed about the tasks and policies of the executive board.

Such an invitation to interested aspirants is splendid. Newly elected board members will not be installed next year knowing their knowledge of student government is little or nothing. Perhaps board members will be elected on qualifications as well as popularity.

In one of his last editorials, the Co-Editor makes an observation. Invitation to potential leaders may well increase the quality of the executive board as far as members are concerned, but a prediction is made that top offices of student government for next year will be filled by some of this year's executive members. Some are outstanding.

Having worked in, through, and probably, around the executive group for three years, I predict that James VanCamp will become an outstanding chief executive along side other greats.

The shoes of our present leader-in-chief are unprecedented in quality, but there is only one leader seen capable of the effort of filling them.—TR.

Christmas—An Individual Matter

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6

Holidays are here and there is much dancing in the streets, but there is so much gay confusion on the wonderful Christmas carousel that we tend to lose sight of goals and the over-all direction in which the season should take us.

Why do we celebrate Christmas? What's it all about? Is it really worth our time? Does it really have any meaning? Ask these questions to a group of individuals and you will get as many different answers as there are individuals.

Ask people what Christmas means to them. Some of them will answer with meaningless garble, and some will not even know.

For many, Christmas is a time of much joy and good feeling. The spirits — especially the bottled kind — prevail. However, joy and good feeling with no specific purpose or direct motivation wear thin and fade as quickly as the Christmas snow. True, tis the season to be jolly; but why?

What does Christmas mean? We remember the birth of the Saviour proclaimed so long ago, and we can re-dedicate ourselves to that for which he stood. For what did he stand? The message of Christmas: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." This phrase seems to sum up all of man's hopes and aspirations, and everything in life for which man searches seems to start at the Bethlehem manger. Without becoming hopelessly involved in theological disagreements and inevitable arguments, we can see that this babe lived a life which many of us yearn to live. Despite almost insurmountable opposition. He lived a life of peace on earth, good will toward men.

The Saviour Himself showed us what Christmas means and how to celebrate it. Peace on earth, good will toward men is not impossible or a far-fetched dream as so many tend to believe. At the same time, it is not going to be delivered to us in Santa's sack. If we want peace on earth, good will toward men, we must do something to obtain it. Peace can be accomplished, but it starts as an individual matter.

If Christmas is to have significance and meaning for us, it would seem that we should take a vicarious trip from the cradle to the cross.

The little babe was born two-thousand years ago, but one wonders if there can ever be true peace on earth good will toward men until the philosophy of Christ is born in the individual hearts of each of us.—AL

From Where I Sit

Saint Nick Makes Early Yuletide Goodie Deposit With Collegiate

Since Santa's sack is overflowing with goodies, many students and faculty and friends will be happy to learn that Santa has left gifts with THE COLLEGIATE for them.

These are to be taken along with the good will of Christmas!

For Dean Rich from the boys at Hackney Hall, a shower at 11:31. A towel, wash cloth, and soap will be furnished!

For the cafeteria, a box of 1,000 shiny, brand new forks, plus an adding machine that will not total above 75c.

For Irene Harrell, a brand new grammar book called "I Hardly Never Doesn't Speak Good English Now."

For David Peebles, a copy of the hit record "Red River Rock."

For Hackney Hall, a subscription to THE WILSON DAILY TIMES printed especially on stone tablets so it cannot be removed from the lobby.

For the people who cut on the heat (some of the time), a box of matches.

For Mr. Arnold, a box of crayons.

For Miss Ward, a stop watch and a brand new cow bell.

For Mrs. Davis, ear plugs and a bottle of sleeping pills.

For Dean Burt and Dr. Wenger, the 25th hour in a day.

For Buck Poe, a radio tuned to 850 — just for kix!

For Howard Chapel, cushions and a sound system.

For the gym, a new gym.

For Dr. Long, a dog.

For Mr. Sharpe, a book called "Great Truths and Profound Thoughts as Expounded by the Eminent Scholar, Oral Roberts."

For Mr. Featherstone, a magnificent new record of Bizet's "Carmen" with a classic cast: Elvis Presley as Carmen, Bo Diddley's orchestra under the direction of Hank Ballard, with the Midnighters.

Art Contest Still Open

The deadline for the fabulous, star-spangled contest which the Collegiate is having is being extended.

The newspaper staff realizes the tremendous pressure all students have been under in this yuletide segment of the calendar, so the contest deadline has now been set for noon on January 6, 1961.

Entries should be brought to the Collegiate's office in the administration building, placed in the Collegiate mailbox or given to any member of the newspaper staff.

A prize of five dollars for the best entry still stands as well as the undeniable thrill of seeing one's work in beautiful black and white on this page in a future paper. Dale Fillingame classic drawing may also be viewed in the Collegiate office if any would be entrants have since lined their garbage cans with the previous paper.

With Christmas over and bills mounting, a five dollar bill could be awfully useful about mid-January.

The Collegiate reminds those who enter to please limit comments to one hundred words at the most. These may be silly, satiric, or serious comments. Please type entries if it is at all possible.

THE COLLEGIATE

Published Weekly

At

Atlantic Christian College
Wilson, N. C.

To provide the student body and faculty of this institution with a means of communication and a free discussion of the interests of the day.

F. Terrill Riley Jr.

and

H. Alton Lee Jr.

Co-Editors

Dan Shingleton

Business Manager

G. Harry Swain

Business Advisor

MEMBER

North State Conference Press

Association

National Advertising Service,

Incorporated

For Mr. Barber, a box of slightly used Kennedy buttons.

For Carol Colvard, a deck of cards.

For Guy Miller, the use of his Fiat for one whole hour.

For Betty Anne Thomas, a copy of "Georgia on My Mind," plus the new book "The South Will Rise Again."

For Mr. McFarland, an office to keep him out of the faculty lounge.

For Tweetie, a year's supply of black dye, plus more "snafu from Sue!"

For Alton Lee, an active co-

editor (or an active co-ed)!

For the basketball team, a championship.

For Religion majors, some religion.

For Dr. Tucker, a letter in track, and basketball.

For Mrs. Holsworth, a new book called "I Don't Hardly Never Use Double Negatives No More."

For Dr. Hartsock, an English major who comes to class.

For Mr. Harrison, publication in MAD.

For Peggy Bivins, a date with Bob Matthews.

That's No Gag!

Library Wag Says You Can't Snag That Mag

By IRENE B. HARRELL
Assistant Librarian

No nonsense today. Have news to impart for a change. News of a big policy change for you to gripe about? Got your curiosity aroused to blasting off stage? Okay, I'll tell you.

Beginning several days ago you are not able to check out from the library any magazines, bound or otherwise. Just use them here. The unbound ones will be in the magazine stack behind the desk just as heretofore and you'll have to ask for them. The bound variety (daily increasing in number as fast as the budget will allow) will be shelved in alphabetical order by title on the second stack level. As before we will have a list of bound magazines posted at the end of the card catalog. You may go upstairs and help yourself to the particular volumes you need, have them checked out on your card at the desk, use them in the reading room and return them to the desk when you leave.

How many times have you asked for a particular issue of a magazine only to be told that it was lost or out or overdue? (Harry uses them too, you know.) Disappointing, isn't it? And sometimes you have had to change the topic of your term paper because of it. This new system is your insurance that any magazine the library owns will be:

A. Always on the premises unless

1. a faculty member has it out in which case it will probably be available in his office anyway.

2. it is at the bindery — a necessary evil if they are to be preserved at all.

B. Always in readable condition due to not being exposed to damage opportunities available to take-home magazines:

1. puppy dogs
2. mud puddles
3. darling children
4. spaghetti sauce
5. Esquire pin-up cutter outfits (chiefly Harry)

Replacing lost or damaged is-

sues of magazines is not as simple as you might suppose. Sometimes they are just plain not available for any sum. At other times they are so scarce that the price of a replacement copy is sky high. Someone may have to spend hours of very highly paid (comparatively speaking — compared to the amount of work we do, that is) professional time locating the source from which particular back issues may be purchased. The new policy is expected to save so much money that we can begin subscribing to all your favorite comic books and thus promote recreational reading in a big way.

We are making a real effort to increase the number of indexed magazines we can supply to you both by new subscriptions and by filling in missing issues of our incomplete sets. So, believe it or not, this new policy is part of a larger program designed to give you better library service although we may function less effectively as a dating bureau, snack shop and confab quarters.

GRAMMAR LESSON

After what I said last week I don't think there is a whole lot more to say, do you? Except to make a brief apology for making my indictment sound so all-inclusive. You have the best grammar I've ever heard but sometimes people have to go a little overboard to make a point as you may have noticed. Stick with your good grammar and stick your neck out to correct other people's. How else are they going to learn? If you find you need one I'll loan you a specially patented leather collar I invented several years ago to protect necks stuck out in the interest of almost any crusade — particularly good for grammar correctors. Without one, who knows? You may go down in history as the first grammar martyr of the twentieth century. I understand you're going down in history anyhow since that last midterm — it might as well be for a good cause. Merry Christmas!

Entertainment Unlimited

By ALTON LEE, JR.

Note: Since this is a special issue with a Christmas theme, we thought it would be interesting to discuss the meaning of Christmas with a group of people picked strictly at random. Their various interpretations of the holiday follow:

Carol Colvard: Christmas is that time when the world resolves itself to be that which it should be the rest of the year.

Billy Gill: The big things about Christmas for me are seeing old people and children getting gifts. Also, eating

Sylvia Peterson: Christmas means going home and seeing all your friends because you don't have any at school! Ha!

Guy Miller: Christmas is a time when man can help his fellow man, thereby continuing the spirit of help brought to reality

in the original Christmas birth.

A Girl: Hey, Boy! Don't you read the Bible??

Anne Barham: Christmas, I feel, should be a time of forgiving rather than so much giving. It is a time when we should think of Christ and His Christian principles and resolve to follow these principles throughout life.

Dale Williamson: Christmas is a time when Valentine comes, and I put up Halloween decorations because I want a Thanksgiving turkey for Easter.

Norman Russell: Santa Claus comes and I get a good vacation.

Buck Poe: Christmas is the time for me to catch up on the school work I have been behind in since the first day of the semester.

John Todd: Christmas is a time when I can go home and forget all worries for two weeks.