

# Editorial Page

PAGE TWO THE CLARION December 11, 1970

## Today's Version Of Christmas Is Lacking Something—Meaning

In just two short weeks from today, Christmas 1970 will be here. As the years go by, it seems, Christmas gradually becomes less a celebration of Christ's birth and more a commercialized ritual of little real meaning.

And indeed, in today's society, it is easy to see that many of the world's inhabitants have little reason to celebrate anyway. Of course, this has always been true, while perhaps not so prevalent as in recent years. However, perhaps if we backtrack out thinking somewhat, and return to a more realistic idea of what Christmas is supposed to be, as it was in earlier years, perhaps we will find we do indeed have much reason to be happy around this time of year, as well as the rest of the year.

While many of the traditions that revolve around Christmas, particularly some of the older ones, do serve to enhance the Christmas spirit, something is lacking unless we remember that many years ago, a child was born; a child who was in his short life to change sharply the course of human existence.

## Will Next Christmas Find Us Still In Vietnam?

For many American young men and their families, this Christmas is not going to be a particularly happy one. Our men in Vietnam, particularly those who are prisoners of war, will find that Christmas in Vietnam leaves much to be desired. It is interesting to ask the question, will our men be spending next Christmas in Vietnam as well?

Since the escalation of the war began in the mid 1960's, spending Christmas in Vietnam has been very much a reality for many American young men and their families. However, with the withdrawal program now underway, it is quite possible that the American role in this seemingly useless war will soon be terminated. Also, however, the way things are now scheduled, it will be several years, perhaps, until all of our men are brought home. So it would appear, unfortunately, that come next Christmas once again our men in Vietnam will be having their Christmas dinner on the other side of the world.

But with the evidence becoming even more clear that the Communists, as seen in Cambodia recently, will continue to nullify a great deal of what the U. S. has accomplished, the value of staying on in Southeast Asia seems doubtful. It seems doubtful that getting out of Vietnam earlier than scheduled, perhaps by late 1971, would make the situation any worse than it is. The South Vietnamese army will probably be no stronger in a couple of years than it is right now. Also, it would be a great boost to American morale should the withdrawal come soon. And American morale definitely could use some boosting.

## The CLARION

### The VOICE of Brevard College

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## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

For many of us, the Christmas holiday will not be a vacation. The ecstatic holiday season of 1970 will be even more intense than what we remember of last year. 1970 will undoubtedly bring more travel and more highway deaths, more wine and merriment and more drunks, more expensive gifts and more materialism. Inevitably this exhausting Christmas will squeeze in all the possibilities of a "vacation," leaving students with only the energy to stumble back to begin another semester, not rested, not inspired, and not the least bit eager.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Why not rest a minute and re-define Christmas. We all know the commercialism and the tragedies that can accompany the eve of 1971. Why not make this year the start of something else? What it used to be? A feeling of love, peace, content and goodwill - Christmas. A month of rest, thought and warm exchanges just might send us all back to a fresh start, next (spring) semester, with a holiday season that contributed just the simple things, and a greater capacity to give-1971.

Sincerely,  
Susan Harrell

Dear Editor,

The students at Brevard, have a favorite monthly activi-

ty — Convocation; the student body attends not because of the benefits acquired there but because they are made compulsory.

Convocation basically has an emphasis on religion and it incurs that the college students and the administration "hear the word" together.

Many students wonder what is the college's purpose of having compulsory Convocations, when the goal of a college education has to do with determining for oneself, what is right and moral for that individual. I understand that Brevard is a Methodist College but that does not necessarily give the school the ultimate authority to demand everyone's presence to a "church service." Religion is something that belongs to the individual and "where one person's religion stops, another's begins."

The monthly "gatherings" we have had this semester have not satisfied my anticipated expectations of what has been labeled convocation. I leave these convocations more bewildered and befuddled than when I entered, wondering even more what was that pertinent inspiration I must have missed.

Brevard has definitely measured up to WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY definition: "a cere-

monial assembly of members of a college or university"; they surely have been the ceremonial assembly, but the importance and the essence of these have been perfunctory. Because the real values of convocation are not properly presented, the students think they are superficial and are disinterested and apathetic to attend.

I am not saying that I am against convocations, but if the quality of convocations were such that it would attract the interest of the students, the college would not have to make them compulsory. It is the contradicting attitude of the college which is the problem. The students would appreciate, having made the choice of attending convocation. The students would like to evaluate for themselves whether the convocation would be beneficial to their lives, rather than be told that their graduation would be jeopardized unless they attend. There should be a motivating interest for attending, not just fulfillment of a requirement. It is part of our education to determine and judge situations; likewise the college should not neglect its responsibility to determine and judge situations similarly.

Sincerely,  
Kent Deardorff

## Life Holds Many Surprises For Those Who Don't Expect It

By Milton Rankin

Sometimes, when least expected, we stumble across someone that, if for no other reason but curiosity, we become attracted to and we attach ourselves to one another. At first glance we are never really sure of what characteristics attracted us. Perhaps it could have been fondness of sports, similar outlooks on life, interests in writing, or simply a feeling of insecurity that both may realize is present. Whatever the reason may be for such a relationship as this, most always one of the two parties involved will be left hurt.

Of course most sophomores at Brevard College should be able to relate from their own personal involvements to this problem. For those of you that cannot, sit quietly and await your turn with those freshmen who may encounter this while at Brevard. Perhaps some might

argue that being hurt is simply a part of growing up, and learning from experience what life's all about. If this be the case, many of us may have already lived "9 lives" and be starting a tenth one. This is not to say at some time or another who wanted to be close to us, that we haven't hurt someone. Rather, it is to say that sometimes the harder you try not

to hurt someone, the more disappointments or letdowns you yourself encounter.

In conclusion, as this semester draws to a close, no one knows who or what may knock offering him a second cup of at his door tomorrow. Avoid tea if he drinks a little differently than you. Leading men on may prove disastrous for the both of you.

## OUTLOOK

By Mark Todd  
EDITOR

Believe it or not, another semester is coming to an end. With exams in the forefront of everyone's mind now, the Christmas vacation is just a matter of days away for most of us. Since this is the last **Clarion** of this semester, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Clarion** staff, as well as everyone else involved in making this a successful semester, and of course, our advisor, Mrs. Ena K. Sigmon.

Through their help, my job has been much easier, and believe me, this means a lot. I feel the **Clarion** has been very successful in certain areas this semester, and I am hopeful that it will continue to improve next semester towards strengthening its weak spots. Although the student participation was almost a complete disappointment, Brevard is fortunate in having a nucleus of interest and involved students. Hopefully in the future more of our students will become interested in what's going on around this place.

For as some may find out when their semester grades arrive soon, our time here is all too short. But not wishing to end on a sour note, let me wish one and all a great Christmas season, and of course, a happy New Year.

## Brevard Student

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the center in which they wish to work. Hamp works at the Whitmire Community Center. Other community centers are Ross Road, Glade Creek, Rosewald, and Quebec. Hamp states that the best thing which this program offers is that "One begins to see an identity between the worker and the family. It is such a great thing when one feels he has reached one of those children."