



The Best Gift Of All Is Love



BY MARY EMMONS

You've heard it all before. In every Christmas issue of every newspaper, editors say the same thing and you're sick of hearing it. "Peace on Earth." "Love one another!" "Goodwill toward men."

Before you stop reading this editorial because you think you already have it memorized, let me drop the bombshell. I'm not going to tell you to love your brother, because no one can force love. I'm going to ask you to think. Just think.

So it's Christmas. Okay, ignore the Santa Claus who is ringing a bell on the street corner. Ignore your church's joy gift offering. Ignore the "True Meaning of Christmas."

Sit at home on Christmas Day and unwrap your new watch, those new boots you've been wanting, and your new stereo-tape deck.

Now think about all of those people who have less than you, perhaps that poor kid who lives down the street. If he's lucky, he'll eat three meals today. To him, Christmas means shivering in a cold house on winter morning, and remembering times when Christmas was nicer. I can hear you asking, "Well, what can I do for him? He doesn't want my new tape deck."

I wish to make an example of a man whose life has affected

more people than the life of any other man in history. His name was Jesus Christ. He had almost nothing in the way of worldly possessions, but He gave freely of what little He did have: Love.

In case you hadn't noticed, the word Christmas is derived from His name. He gave us life. He died so that we could live. Isn't that great? How many of you would die for a bunch of sinners? If you ask me, that's really love, and love is what Christ is all about.

Christmas is the one day in the year when we celebrate the birth of this wonderful man. On this day, at least, we should

show our gratitude to Him for His generosity. We can do this in no better way than to practice what He preached.

Is it so hard to break down and love somebody? After all,

He loves you. Can't you show your love for Him by loving someone else? It's your decision. And someone else's happiness. Keep the Christ in Christmas.



This Is What We're All About

Albemarle Senior High School Statement of Philosophy

Equal opportunity for all, the long-standing goal of democracy, can be achieved only through education which should be free and available to all. Each individual, regardless of background and status, should be given the opportunity to experience success through achievement.

We seek to provide both curricular and extra-curricular learning experiences for the individual's academic, social, physical, and psychological growth according to his initiative, talents, and capabilities. As students and teachers interact, learning experiences result: minds develop, personalities emerge, and individuals learn to work together; however, education is a continuing process throughout life, and the total development of the student depends, not only on the school, but also on the home, the

church, and the community.

We believe that each student should be given the opportunity to develop skills, attitudes, and values in the school community that will prepare him to perform as an individual and as a group member in a larger, more inclusive community.

What Is 'Winter Wonderland'?

Nothing is as unpredictable as the weather, and probably as you read this article beautiful white flakes of snow will be drifting down onto blanket of soft whiteness. But if we have the traditional Christmas of this area, North Carolina will be viewing nothing but barren trees and muddy brown ground strewn with dead leaves. Have you ever seen a Christmas card of a country scene without snow?

If it is going to snow it ought to snow, but every time the weather turns cold and it begins

The administration-teacher-student relationship is a friendly and mutually respectful one. The administration, in a leadership role, is the center of school policy and direction; teachers are challenged to grow professionally. Flexibility and experimentation in course content are encouraged.

to cloud up either nothing happens, or it just rains. What good does freezing rain do? They don't put that on Christmas cards either.

Of course snow would get in the way when everybody visits grandmother on Christmas day, but for snow not to fall on Christmas just doesn't make sense. All the decorations for Christmas are designed to look pretty in the snow. They don't do very much to enhance the beauty of ugly brown leaves. And Christmas carolers just sound much better when the world is white and cold.

This Christmas will probably end up like all others with everyone in a joyful Christmas spirit and no snow on the ground. The temperature will be in the high 50's and the sky bright and sunny. There's not much anyone can do to change the weather, but maybe it won't matter.

The Forum For 'Em; Assemblies

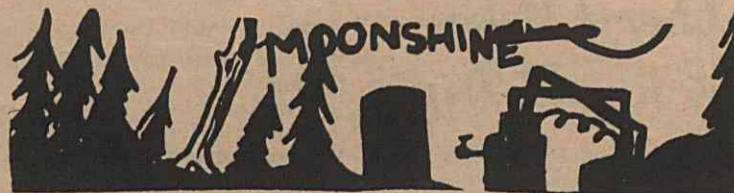
What has happened to all the assemblies? There has not been an assembly in the last seven weeks. We did not even have a Thanksgiving program this year. Has the motive for assemblies stopped? It seems that programs never get off the ground or that they are stomped down. I think the student body deserves and wants a good program. I admit that a few students cut up at assemblies but have you considered that the fault might be in the program? The majority should not be penalized for those few outbreaks. At the rate that assemblies are developing we won't even have a Christmas program or any other type of assembly.

Inquirer

To Inquirer:

Apparently you are not truly interested in assemblies, because there have been several assemblies this year-not just the traditional kind. Included among these programs is the time Jan Lefler and Charles Hill spoke, and when Coach Swanner gave his personal testimony. These assemblies were held during the lunch periods so that only those students who were really interested would go, thus saving the speaker and the school considerable embarrassment. It is true that some of the traditional assemblies weren't held this year, and were missed by many persons. There were many reasons for this, including lack of speakers. There will be a regular assembly in early January when ten lawyers will

come to speak and answer questions. But the trend is going toward lunch-time assemblies. Students have been clamoring for open assemblies, and this is the only feasible solution. Either lunchtime or no time, it's your choice.



BY CHICK MORRIS

During the Christmas season, people do two things that they invariably regret: (1) go to a Christmas party and (2) make New Year's Resolutions.

Most resolutions concern dubious activities of the coming year. Of course, no one will ever be able to keep them, but that is part of the fun trying to outlast friends by adhering to an impossible resolution.

To my knowledge (which is infinite), no one has ever held his resolution for more than two weeks, and that was me, when in 1969 I resolved to refrain from sticking my cat in the washing machine.

So here, printed for the first time anywhere, exception last year, are resolutions of our faculty and students. The first one comes from our eminent Mr. Frazier.

K. Frazier: "I will not argue ever again with students or with basketball officials."

(This resolution will be lucky to outlive the first game after

New Year's.)

Coach Wheeler: "After evaluating the upcoming year's football program, we will fill the year with hard work in order to get the job done."

(Interviewer: "In other words, we're going to be great?" Coach W.: Right!)

Some students dealt with their past times in their resolutions:

Mark Frazier: "I want to find me a woman."

Reggie Dailey: "I will never argue with a teacher again."

John Frederick: "I will score 63 points next year against that county school."

Many students, however, expressed in their New Year's Resolutions some of the basic issues that concern us all.

Bobby Swan: "To impeach Nixon-Agnew."

And finally:

Jimmy Cain: "I will find a pot big enough to cook the 14-pound crow I'm going to get for Christmas."

While Others Are Making Merry . . .

Christmas means many different things to different people. Church. Caroling. Christmas trees. Presents. A time of good will, of sharing, and of loving one another. A time to think about our friends, old and new. Charities have their best season at Christmas time because people who have, think about those who don't. Collections of all sorts spring up in all sorts of places to allow people to give some of the things they have to help others (ie. the toy drive and the canned goods collection).

Strange, isn't it, that when we are striving so hard to help out people, we don't know and perhaps never will; we are able to miss a needy and most deserving individual right in our midst?

But that's exactly what has happened. Here is a true friend to all, and we are doing nothing to make his Christmas a little brighter. And after all he has done for us--entertaining us from the moment he arrived

here a year ago, willing to help out anyone, letting people kick him around without retaliation, even helping to keep the grounds clean--we can't even think to offer him a helping hand in this holiday season!

That's right! While we are opening all our presents, he'll be trying desperately just to find a place to keep warm. There won't be a Santa Claus for him; he doesn't even have a stocking. And when we're eating our big Christmas dinner, he'll be lucky if he is picking over some scraps. He will just be a lonely vagabond until school starts again.

However, his plight has not been overlooked entirely (the proof is here in black and white). Maybe some of you can find it in your heart to help out our poor little friend. If you can't give him anything in the way of material sustenance, you could at least say "Merry Christmas, Warfy". Your Christmas will have a deeper meaning, and so will his.

'I Who Am Black'

Contributed by students from Mrs. Almond's Black Literature class.

Edited by Arlesa Daniels.

Black is Beautiful
Where it's at,
having soul
together, cool and bad
the best,
super bad,
being proud,
awareness,
what I am.

my life.

Black is
Pride in one's self as a human being
beautiful as a sunset,
different from White,
awareness of prejudices,
difficult to describe,
many challenges in a white society,
greatness that is never found,

Soul on Soul!
Right on!

The Full Moon
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