

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

by Caroline Cockrell

Silver bells, Siller bells, It's Christmas time at St. Mary's. Students smiling, teachers passing, students flunking exams. In the air there's a feeling of Christmas. What kind of feeling is it? Do you know what causes it? Hh, I know, you're excited about opening up all your gifts under the tree and going to all of the Christmas parties. Are you looking forward to telling Santa Claus all that you want for Christmas? Oh, I forgot one thing, you have this feeling of exuberance because you won't be at school for three weeks? I know, that has to be the one and only reason why you are looking forward to Christmas.

Let's be serious for a moment and remember the significance of Christmas. At some point we all tend to forget the real meaning of Christmas. The tradition of Christmas began when the angel said, "Unto them, fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord..." Is this why you celebrate Christmas, or do you look forward to it because of all the benefits you gain from it?

I asked several girls at St. Mary's about their opinion of Christmas. "Christmas is too commercial," said one. "The stores are only out to make money during Christmas, not to share any Christmas cheer with anyone," replied another. "It is just a waste of time and money because people are not celebrating it with the right purpose in mind," declared another student. So is commercial too commercialized? Do we

Review Of Mime Troupe Christmas Show

by Aura Bland

On November 30th an inspiring Christmas event took place on St. Mary's campus. The Masquers Mime Company of St. Mary's performed a series of Christmas pantomimes which had the audience totally captivated. The Masquers Mime Company consists of Mary Clyde Bridgers, Gwyn Cooley, Corbin Hogaboom, Helen Jones, Laura McConnell, Lisa Nichols, Holly Pritchard, and Claudia Werman. The presentation displayed a diversity of Christmas ideas that fully celebrated the spirit of Christmas. Many of the pantomimes stirred uncontrollable laughter such as Helen Jones' portray of the difficulty of wrapping Christmas gifts, and a variation of "The Night

sometimes forget the real meaning of Christmas with all the hustle and bustle? Are we sincere when we say, "Have a Merry Christmas?"

Is Christmas today: Santa Claus, reindeer and Frosty the Snowman? We will never forget sitting on Santa's lap with that long list in our hands and the way we've imagined reindeer on our roof on Christmas eve. Remember all of your favorite Christmas specials you watched in front of a roaring fire? And were you not afraid that the Grinch might come and steal Christmas away from you? In the long run they do to some extent, but a young child might not understand this. Does he think it is just a time to get all the toys he wants from the jolly fat man in the

red suit?

Have we destroyed the true meaning of Christmas? "NO!", proclaimed the same girls which were interviewed. The meaning of Christmas has not been forgotten in the homes. Gifts are given to loved ones in the remembrance of the way the three kinds from Orient Ore gave the first gift on Christmas to Jesus Christ. The star which embellishes the Christmas tree is significant of the star in the East. "Behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and are here to worship Him'." Are you here to worship him?? "Merry Christmas!"

Academic Council News

by Don Roberts

As you have the opportunity to voice your opinion in student affairs through the Legislative Body, so you have the opportunity to voice your opinion in academic affairs through the Academic Council. Established in 1972 as a combination of the old curriculum and academic standards committee, the 18 member Academic Council plays an important role in campus life. Its purposes are to advise the President and Dean of the College, to make academic policy subject to faculty review, and to review curriculum on a continuing basis. Along with nine faculty members representing departments and four permanent members (the Dean of the College, the Registrar, the faculty representative to the Board, and the librarian),

there are five student representatives, including two seniors and one student from each of the other classes. The two elected seniors this year are Susan Stanley and Lynn Jones; the junior representative is Clarkie Hicks; the elected sophomore is Tricia Brooks; and the freshman representative is Rita Woltz.

The potential role of student representatives on the Council is an extremely important one. We solicit and need your counsel, ideas and participation. Frankly, with some exceptions, past student representatives were distinguished by three attributes, two of them questionable—good intentions, silence, and absence. It is vital that each class elect responsible, intelligent, outspoken representatives so that the students' voice in academic affairs will be heard.

As indications of the importance we attach to student participation in the Council, you will see the following happen: (1) Student representative membership on all Academic Council subcommittees, (2) The parting of Academic Council minutes prominently in the Student Union, (3) Periodic reports to students in The Belles from student representatives, faculty representatives, and me.

RALEIGH FINE ARTS SOCIETY LITERARY CONTEST

by Patti Drake

From November 1, 1978, to February 23, 1979, the Raleigh Fine Arts Society is conducting their first Wake County Senior High School Short Story Contest. Anyone in 10th, 11th, or 12th grades is eligible to enter. Each student may submit one short story.

The final copy of each story must be typed and double-spaced. Each story should be approximately 5000 words. Erasable typing paper will not be permitted. The author's name will not be anywhere on the short story, but on a separate sheet of paper containing name, address, high school class, teacher's name (English teacher) plus name and address of present school. All writers would be wise to keep a personal copy of the story in case of a misplacement of the original copy.

The student's English teacher must review the final copy and must be in his or her

I lived in Bayeux, a small town in the north of France. My French mother was divorced but very self-sufficient and proud of the fact. I had two brothers, Dominique and Fabien, aged seventeen and fourteen. I also had a sister, Brunehilde, sixteen, who was my counterpart. My mother, whom I affectionately called "Maman," works at a nearby bank. She is the busiest woman I have ever encountered; she is constantly doing for others. And yet she always had time for a smile or a comforting word. I know the eldest, Dominique, the least because he was away most of the summer, but he seemed to be a very nice, easy-going guy. He had the hardest time understanding my ever-faltering French, but the fact that he tried shows what a patient and understanding guy he is. Fabien, on the other hand, is constantly teasing or being teased. The liveliest of the group, he easily captivated everyone's attention. It didn't take long for me to learn to love him as the little brother whom I had left at home. Brunehilde is such a sweet, considerate girl that it is hard to do her justice. At all times, she looks for things to do that would entertain me. She had numerous friends, and she always made it a point to introduce them to me. It was because of her efforts that I saw all that I did while I was in France. It is easy to see why I had such a commendable time in Bayeux. My family was attentive to everything I said or did, and this gave me enough self-

confidence to be able to really gain a sense of belonging to them. They included me in everything that they did and because of this I grew to accept and to love them as my own. You might think that I had an especially considerate family, as I thought, but most of the other Americans expressed sentiments similar to mine. Of course, there were problems; this was to be expected, but we learned to compromise and to accept each other as they were. This ability to cope brought us closer together, and, at the end, it was a very painful task to part with them.

The second part of my summer in France was, if not as endearing as the first part, very enlightening to say the least. Living in Bayeux with my family gave me an insight into the French culture that no tourist could ever obtain, regardless of how many sights he or she saw. It's the feeling of being on the inside looking out that made me appreciate all the things that I saw and did. I not only saw many of the historic sights but I learned their effects on the French people's lives. Because we traveled through France with the French, we could easily see the pride that they had in their country. We toured France in a bus, and we slept in tents together. I wish that I could portray to each and every reader what a fantastic opportunity this is. But I can't. All I can tell you is that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I would never trade this summer for anything. I hope you won't pass it up.



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Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

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