

OPINION

Blue Banner Editorials Missing the "good ol'" holiday season

by Erin Curtis
Copy Editor

I've decided that growing up sucks. John Mayer says, "Here I stand, six feet small, romanticizing years ago. And these days I wish I was six again." I have to say, I couldn't agree more.

Last week I heard someone singing the song "All I Want for Christmas," but instead of saying "All I want for Christmas is you," she changed the lyrics to "All I want for Christmas is beer."

It seems like, with pressures from exams, the stress of Christmas shopping, and simply the effects of the winter season, people have gone crazy.

Everyone I talk to says they're either drowning away the stress with alcohol, or they're trying to get through without the booze and are on the verge of a mental breakdown.

I can't help but think back to a time when mid-November meant getting my Christmas wish list ready for Santa, pilgrim art projects at school and decorating my room for the holidays.

Now it seems like the only lists I make are of all the school work I have left to do before Dec. 3. The projects have become a little more difficult than cutting out a traced copy of my hand, and there is definitely no time for decorating. There are only so many ways a person can be pulled at one time.

It disheartens me to realize that the time of year I most looked forward to as a child has now become the most dreaded.

I have become what I always promised myself I wouldn't: someone who shudders at the thought of the holiday season and all that it encompasses.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not completely cold-hearted. I still love walking around downtown all

bundled up, window shopping with friends. But then I open my nearly empty wallet and look at the 50 people in front of me in line and that pretty much puts an end to my warm, fuzzy feeling.

So, I've decided to stop bitching and do something about it. I'm going to get together a group of friends, sit them all down, serve some hot chocolate and watch "It's A Wonderful Life," because it is a wonderful life.

Ok, now I know I'm getting a bit cheesy here, but there's something that happens every time I watch that

movie. It's as though my spirits are lifted, as if it's a boost of encouragement to be able to face the season with at least a little smile on my face.

So, if the pressures of the season begin to get you down, may I suggest finding someone to snuggle up with, put on some PJs and slippers and have yourself a date with Jimmie Stewart?

This year I can honestly say that all I want for Christmas is for the chance to go back to the "good ol' days," even if just for a little while.

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"Live every day like it's your last:" definitely not a good motto

What would happen if everyone followed this well-known saying?

by Maggie West
Staff Photographer

In this country, we have many motivational slogans, such as "Just do it," "seize the day," "go for it," etc. While all of these sayings may seem a bit cheesy, none can even come close to surpassing the utter stupidity of one. The idiotic phrase I have in mind is none other than "live everyday like it's your last."

Whoever coined this little gem clearly did not think about the dire consequences it holds. I implore all of you to take a minute out of your busy schedules and contemplate the true meaning of this cliché little sentence. If it really were your last day to be alive, what would you do?

I, for one, would have the best day ever. I would fulfill every suppressed desire I had ever felt throughout my entire life. I would break every rule.

I could and piss off whomever I wanted. The world would be mine for the taking.

The first thing I would do would be to neglect every single responsibility I had. I wouldn't go to work, I won't go to school, and I most definitely would not clean anything. If you've got one day left to live, why waste it doing boring stuff?

Then I would make a list of every crazy idea I ever had, things that I have always wondered if I could get away with.

For example, running through the quad in a bear costume and throwing water balloons at people. I must admit, I really don't have any real desire to do this.

However, given that it is my last day to live, I'd do a lot of things that I normally wouldn't have the guts to try.

Before I enacted all of my ridiculous schemes, I would get horribly drunk.

Drinking as much as you can just seems like something most people would do if they only had one day left to live.

Besides, just think about all the added courage

and motivation you would have. Nothing adds to the pleasure of doing random, crazy stuff quite like alcohol.

In addition to drinking everything I could, I would



probably eat everything I could too. Calorie counting simply has no place in my last day on Earth. Goodbye tofu, hello Twinkies!

The final thing I would do would be to tell everyone I know exactly what I thought of them.

This would be great for those friends and family have secure places on my good side.

However, it would not be such a pleasant experience for those who had managed to severely anger me at any point.

Every teacher who had ever given me a bad grade, any boss I ever hated and any ex-boyfriends I am not on good terms

with would be subjected to extremely harsh criticism and ridicule.

Chances are, I would probably take this one step farther by being extremely honest with innocent passerbys.

If there's ever been a time in your life when you wished you could tell someone how ugly their shoes are or how dumb their haircut is, this is your chance!

After all, it doesn't really matter if they get mad because you'll be dead in the morning.

This brings me to the conclusion of my tirade. Just imagine if, after doing all this stuff, you actually woke up the next morning (sick, hung-over, and humiliated of course) and had to do it all over again.

Eventually, you would become a fat, alcoholic idiot without any friends.

The point of this is that it is impossible to truly "live everyday like it's your last."

Granted, we could all learn to appreciate our surroundings more and "live in the moment" more often.

However, if we all, literally, went around acting like their was no tomorrow, our quality of life would definitely suffer quite a blow.

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"Just imagine if, after doing all this stuff, you actually woke up the next morning (sick, hung-over, and humiliated of course) and had to do it all over again. Eventually, you would become a fat, alcoholic idiot without any friends."

Democrats: protest all you want ...it may help the Republicans win in 2008

by Chad Mohn
Columnist

Some Democrats, in compliance with their time-honored tradition of blaming America first, have attributed George Bush's victory to the sheer ignorance of this country's rural voter.

They continue to believe that the treasonous Republican Party scammed their way to another victory with the old theme of God, guns, and gays.

Instead of constructively questioning their party's failure to relate to the average American, they seem committed to bringing down George W. Bush's successful platform.

Feeling morally and intellectually superior to 51 percent of America, the aforementioned Democrats remain intent on letting their voice be heard, even after America has clearly "spoken."

As a Republican who is somewhat worried about the 2008 election, I urge you, please, KEEP ON PROTESTING!

Fight for government-controlled health care! Demand that a woman should be able to have an abortion in the third trimester of a pregnancy. Let everybody know about the civil liberties be-

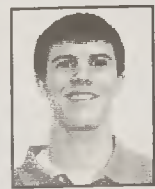
ing deprived daily throughout America by the Patriot Act. Inform the masses that Saddam Hussein wasn't that bad of a guy and he posed no real threat to America. Remind this country that Osama Bin Laden is still at large.

Get together with a group of people and march downtown. Let your voice be heard! For the past two years, record numbers of individuals have been "letting their voice be heard."

Bush has been the focus of countless marches, 527 ads, movies, music videos, editorials, Web sites, concerts, and basically anything else you could imagine. But, somehow, even with all of these people devoted to taking him out of power, Bush received 10 million more votes in '04 than he did '00.

He became the first President to receive a majority of the vote since George H. W. Bush in '88. Bush improved his numbers in every state but one and the Republicans gained an even larger majority in Congress.

One could argue that the protests actually helped the Grand Old Party. So, once again, by all means, keep on protesting. I



might even dust off my old "War Doesn't Solve Anything" sign and join you.

Together we can ensure that a Republican occupies the White House for at least the

next 12 years. Unfortunately, however, some left-wingers realize that Democratic success in the future relies not on a change in America, but rather in a change within the party.

They also understand that George W. Bush is going to be president for the next four years (and four years only), regardless of how much they protest or complain.

Fortunately for the Republican Party, these Democrats are few and far between.

But, I hope those Democrats who still honestly believe that a majority of America wants socialized healthcare, government funded abortions, and a foreign policy highlighted by appeasement and weakness are satisfied with "protesting" more so than actually winning elections.

In the meantime, I'm going to send off a monetary contribution to the ACLU. I figure that has to be worth at least 20 more Republican votes in 2008.



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