



# The Decree

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1979

## I REMEMBER.....

Dawn was about to break. There was a cool chill in the air. As I look out the window all I could see were snow-covered roof tops, and tree boughs heavy laden with snow. There was a roaring fire in the fireplace. As I sat by the fire, the familiar smells of spices and evergreen wafted throughout the room.

It was still too early for the children to be up so I sat back in my chair, slowly drinking a cup of coffee and recalling some of the Christmas mornings I had shared with my family in the past. As I sat there I thought about how different my family spends Christmas now and how it was spent when I was a child. Oh, how I yearn for those days again. My children are growing up missing all the fun things we used to do.

As children, we all worked together for days and days getting the house decorated for Christmas. It was a tradition for us to spend Christmas Eve trimming the tree. After we had finished the tree, Daddy would take down the old family Bible and read the Christmas story to us. When he had finished reading, we would say our prayers and go to bed to dream about our presents. We all looked forward to running downstairs the next morning to see what Santa Claus had brought.

Christmas was one of the most important days of the year for us. My mom got up very early and would spend the wee hours of the morning in the kitchen cooking pies, cakes, and candy. We always had enough food to feed an army. After we opened our presents and played for a while we would load the car and head to my grandparents' home. We'd pass the time by singing Christmas carols and taking in the scenery. Before I knew it, we would be at my grandparents' home.

I knew when we got there we would be greeted by aunts and uncles and our cousins. But I always looked forward to my hugs from my grandmother and my grandfather. By the time we were settled, my tummy was growling. We had breakfast with Grandma and Grandpa. The smells of

country sausage, scrambled eggs, and brewing coffee filled the air. We'd gather around the big diningroom table and "enjoy a meal fit for a king."

After breakfast we would go to the living room where the Christmas tree was. Grandpa would come in the room with his Santa suit on and pass out our presents. When we were through, there would be mounds of wrapping paper strewn all over the room. When we tired of playing with our toys, Mom would bundle us up and we would go outside to play in the snow.

It was fun to build snowmen, snow forts, and make snow angels. Playing the snow would wear us out and whet an appetite for Christmas dinner.

Christmas dinner was super! We had ham, turkey and dressing, an array of vegetables, and cranberry sauce. My aunt Jean made the best yeast rolls; I don't know anyone who had rolls to compare with her's. But that wasn't all! Mom brought the pie and cakes she had made. We even had homemade snow cream.

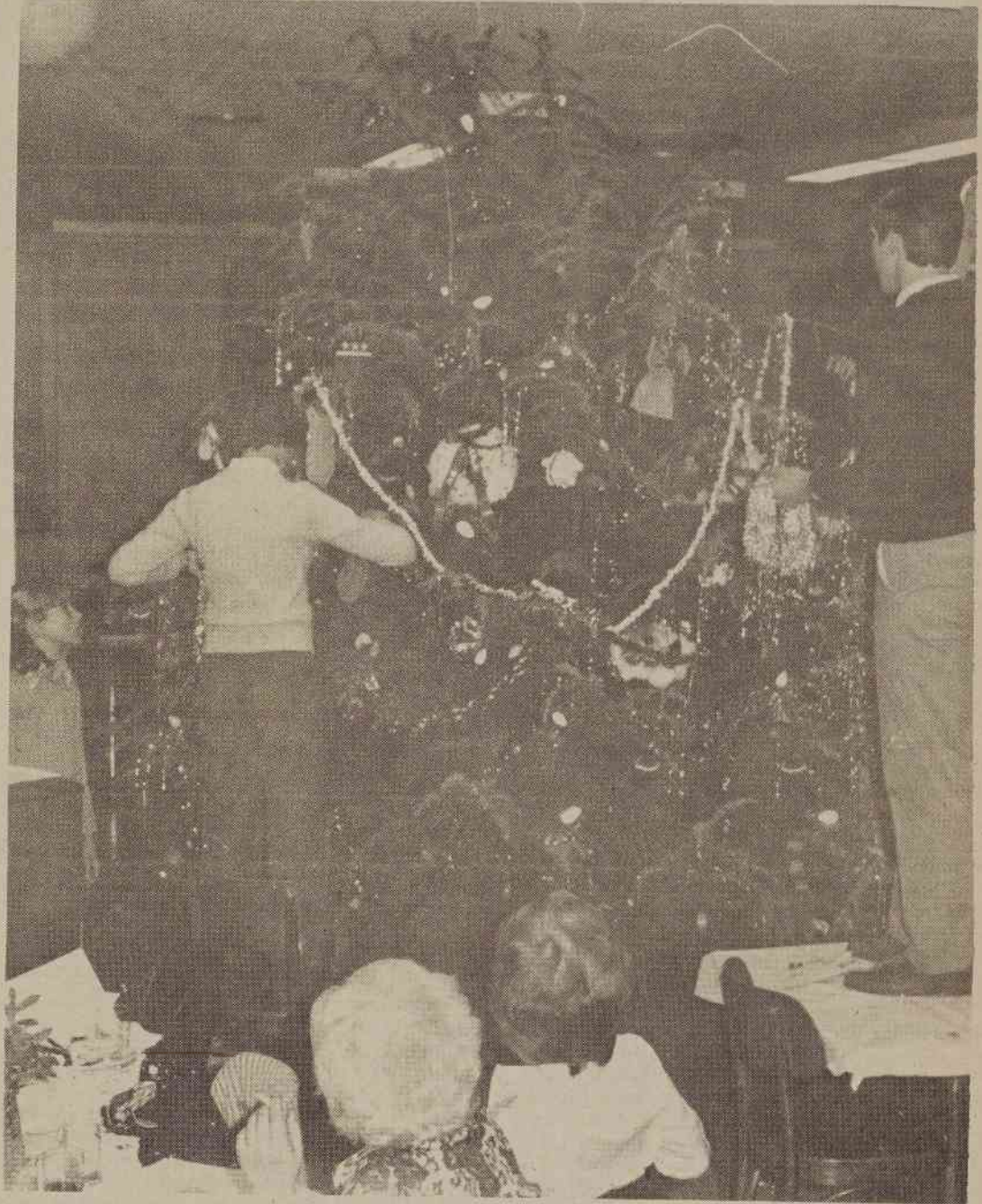
After dinner my aunt would send us back outside to play until it was time for us to go home. What they did while we were outside, I never knew.

"Hey Mom, wake up," someone cried. I looked up and saw my husband and three children standing around me. "It's time to open the presents," cried one. "Mommy," exclaimed my little girl, "Daddy said that we were going to spend the day with Grandma and Grandpa."

Tommy, my husband, had left the room while we were talking. The next thing I heard was, "Ho, ho, ho!" In walked Tommy dressed in Grandpa's old Santa suit.

I just smiled. With tears of joy in my eyes, I joined my little family as we opened our presents. As I looked around the room I thought to myself, "Maybe they do care after all."

Jean Goolsby



## The Energy Crisis: Running On Empty

The energy crunch has hurt us in many ways. The strain on our pockets, and the inconvenience of long awaited hours in the gas lines. The big monopolizing oil companies along with the O.P.E.C. nations are to share in the

blame, but what can be done to help resolve the problem of the energy shortage? The most common of several solutions to the shortage is to have every individual help conserve this precious commodity.

The Wesleyan community could contribute, if each resident student closes his window when the heat is on, turns off stereos when not in use, and regulate the use of small appliances which guzzle large amounts of electricity.

Wesleyan's total utility bill, which includes heating and electrical power, cost Wesleyan \$175,000.00 last year and increases annually with inflation. Mr. Ray Kirkland pointed out that if this huge sum of money could be reduced, by conserving energy, the result would be a stabilization or reduction of tuition, depending on the amount of money the college saves on its energy bills,

An idea stated by Dr. Kenneth Finney is called the "double-prong challenge." The double-prong challenge would work like this: a student decides to work on an energy program for the college, pending that he or she is successful, and saves the college a substantial amount of money on their energy bills, then this student's tuition would be waived for four years. This is one of several good ideas which can save energy and help Wesleyan students at the same time.

Students, wake up! Start sacrificing now to help conserve energy, or the result will surely be a grave one.

Noel Patel

## A CAPTIVATING CHRISTMAS

AP--Washington, D.C.

This morning, President Carter, in an unexpected press conference, announced that Kris Kringle, a prominent international figure, was among the hostages presently held captive by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The Ayatollah, in an undisclosed letter to Carter, revealed that Mr. Kringle is among those to be tried as spies. He denounced Kringle as an attache of the U.S., claiming that Kringle's world tours during the month of December are not for the propagation of world peace, brotherhood, and love, but

rather, are American satellite spy missions. Khomeini accused the U.S. of corrupting the Christmas concept through "subversive activities." What these "activities" include has not yet been disclosed by the White House. He further described the action taken by the U.S. as an "abomination to Mohammed."

The President stated that there was not any semblance of truth to Khomeini's accusations. He said, "The Ayatollah has gone well beyond the bonds of acceptable international behavior. We have received

world-wide support in condemning Khomeini's captivity of Kris Kringle." Carter once again called for the immediate release of all hostages.

How this recent development will affect Christmas is yet to be seen. Unless Kringle is released within the week, it appears children around the world will wake up to empty stockings and minimal presents under their trees. Parents and children protesting Khomeini's actions rallied in the Capitol displaying banners which read, "Box, gift wrap, and send Khomeini to Hell!!"

Only those who have the patience to do simple things perfectly will acquire the skills to do difficult things easily.