

# CHRISTMAS IN BURLINGTON

by Tom Ward

Christmas is a time of year when old friends get together, brotherly love abounds, and all good children receive a nocturnal visit from their kindly, benevolent patron saint. It could be said that at Christmas the whole world loves children but in reality this is not a fact. The people of Burlington, North Carolina hate children.

The previous statement is not really as astounding as it may seem at first glance; it has its basis in fact. I really doubt that you could actually find a single person in Burlington who admits that he hates children, especially at this time of year. However, past events have shown that a great many people in our neighboring fair city do not give a tinker's damn about the fate of their children.

Evidence of such neglect and indifference can be found in the results of a recent referendum. Once again a vote was taken to see if teachers' salaries could be raised, and once again it was negative in the final results. The request was quite a reasonable one, since Burlington teachers have done without a raise in pay for twenty years.