



THE BLACKBIRD Staff takes this opportunity to wish each and every one of its subscribers and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We offer this special 12-page issue as our gift to you and hope you will enjoy it.

Dwight Thomas, Editor

### Spirit Of Christmas Has Two Sides

When a salesman was asked to speak at a meeting he brought with him a huge white square of paper with a black mark placed in the center. As the salesman pointed to the paper, he asked individually the twenty-five men present what he saw. Without exception each man remarked that he saw either a black mark, black dot, or a black circle. Not once did anyone mention the vast white area surrounding the small, black mark.

How many of us are like the narrow-minded salesman? How many of us look only at the commercial side of Christmas and lose sight of the intended meaning of Christmas?

When we think of the giving aspect of Christmas, we can look at the black and see the selfishness usually present in our giving. We can look at the white and see the vastness of giving freely of oneself and expecting no gift in return.

We, as teen-agers, can look at the black and include only a small nucleus of friends in our Christmas celebration; or we can look at the white and center our Christmas around our family, extending greetings and spreading joy to everyone we see.

We, like the narrow-minded salesman, can limit ourselves to a commercial, unmeaningful Christmas. Instead, we should make the vast white area unlimited and prepare for the re-enactment of the birth of Christ in such a way that the joy we possess will illuminate us through the coming year.

### Has American Youth Become Soft?

Has American Youth become soft?

Since the day this great country of ours was founded the adults of America have always thought that the coming generation was surely going to the dogs. The Youth of America, however, have each time risen to the challenge and maintained our nation's position as leader of the free world. There have always been capable young men and women who were willing to assume posts of authority and guide the United States on the road of Freedom.

The situation has changed today, though. Not only have the Youth of America, but both adults and youth all over the world have become soft. The development of the Machine and the gradual increase of Government power over the individual have created a tendency in man to let someone else do what he used to do for himself. Conventionality and conformity are creeping into dominating roles in the play called Life. Society, not the Individual, now reigns supreme. The individual man is becoming pawn, soon he will be nothing.

What can we do to remedy this illness that is slowly penetrating the bloodstream of Mankind. We must certainly act quickly, for like every disease this sickness will eventually cause great harm or even death if not checked. First, man must realize that he is sick and must recognize his sickness. This is the most difficult task to fulfill, but after it is accomplished the cure will be simple. Man will then be aware of his danger, and self-preservation will force him to retreat and to take the correct path.

It is up to us, the American Youth of today, to see the perils that lie before us, to realize our softness, and to act accordingly. We, like all other generations face a challenge, a challenge, however, that must be met, for the future of life itself now truly hangs in the balance.

### Ben Blackbird

Sez



Have A Blast At The Christmas Dance

### HUMANS DEFEAT TB GERMS 6-0

The stage had been set and the battle was fought as dramatically as everyone had expected. The conclusion was in doubt most of the game, but the Human Bodies finally managed to score a 6-0 gridiron victory over the rugged Tuberculosis Germs.

For three quarters and most of the fourth the two teams battled but neither managed to score. Finally with the Germs driving late in the game, Body halfback T. B. Test leaped high into the air to intercept a Germ pass, and he returned it 99 yards to score the winning touchdown.

Waiting until late in the game was the Germs' usual strategy, which was to let the other team get tired and rundown, before the Germs would strike. But this time their strategy backfired.

Human Body Head Coach Chester X-Ray commented after the game saying, "Everybody needs a T. B. Test. Mr. Test is quick, explosive, and gets the job done fast. In my opinion he's a safe guard for anyone who challenges the rugged Tuberculosis Germs."

The Germs, a powerful team that rarely loses, will meet the General Public next Friday night in what promises to be a fine football game. General Public you had better get your "T. B. Test".

David Lamm

### From The Desk Of The Editor

(Editor's note, Editorials in THE BLACKBIRD should be written to express the opinions of the majority of Senior High students, not the opinions of THE BLACKBIRD Staff or any one member of the staff.)

To help meet this end, THE BLACKBIRD accepts any suggestions for possible editorials from the student body. Such ideas will be carefully considered by the editorial staff and those judged to be of interest and need will be published.)

Dwight Thomas, Jr.

### Measure Your Intelligence Through Unusual Version Of Aptitude Test

#### APPITUDE TEST

(Editor's Note: After you've taken this test, look on page 3 for the answers. If you get 13 correct, you're a genius; 8—you're average; 6—sub-normal; 4—sorry, but you're an idiot.)

1. If you went to bed at 8 o'clock at night and set the alarm for 9 o'clock in the morning, how many hours sleep would this permit you to have?
2. Do they have a fourth of July in England?
3. How many birthdays does the average man have?
4. If you had only one match, and entered a room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil heater, and a wood burning stove, which would light first?
5. Some months have 30 days, some have 31, how many months have 28 days?
6. If a doctor gave you three pills and told you to take one every half hour, how long would they last you?
7. What is the minimum number of active baseball players "on the field" during any part of an inning? How many outs in an inning?
8. I have in my hand two U. S. coins that total 55 cents in value. One is not a nickel. Please bear that in mind. What are the two coins?
9. A farmer had 17 sheep. All but nine died. How many did he have left?
10. Divide 30 by 1/2 and add 10. What is the answer?
11. An archaeologist claimed he found some gold coins dated 46 B.C. Do you think he did?
12. A woman gives a beggar 50 cents. The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. How come?
13. Is it legal in North Carolina for a man to marry his widow's sister?
14. How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the Ark with him?
15. What word is misspelled on this test?



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