

Exchanging or Giving?

"What shall I get my roommate for Christmas? She refuses to tell me what she wants, and I can't think of anything she really needs. This Christmas shopping is worse than a week's history parallel." Such lamentations are frequent on our campus in the weeks preceding Christmas vacation. Is one's distress justifiable? Indeed. Christmas shopping is a problem. Perhaps we all need to examine our Christmas gift lists and see to whom we are giving. Should we not examine our ideas about giving in the light of the real meaning of giving? Isn't most of our giving really just exchanging gifts?

One of our faculty members, Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, has happily solved the problem of Christmas gifts. She continues to give gifts to the children, very old people, and poor people on her list. To her adult friends and family she writes letters asking their permission to send the money she normally would spend in buying gifts for them to the Negro Deaf and Blind School. She suggests that instead of giving her a gift they use the money for some similar cause.

Mr. M. H. Crockett, principal of this school, in a letter thanking Dr. Johnson for her gifts told of how some of the money was spent: "May I express my deepest appreciation for the check sent. I'm sure you recall the wet and fairly cold days in February and most of this month. Shoes for six children have been purchased; fourteen pairs have been repaired; seven pairs of blue jeans purchased and four sweaters. I hope you realize just how good one feels when he can go downtown and get what a child needs at once. May I say that it has been through you and friends you have sent us that many of our problems have been solved."

Would not Christmas mean more to each of us if we could receive thank-you notes such as this? Is not this kind of giving the essence of the spirit of that One who brought Christmas to the world?

Capable of Deciding?

The students of Meredith College are mature young women, entirely capable of making intelligent decisions as to how they spend evenings of entertainment. Yet over seventy-five per cent of them decided not to attend the Carolina Playmakers' production of "On Borrowed Time" last Saturday night. It is our firm conviction that every student who saw the play enjoyed it and that every absent student could have had the same enjoyment had she been there. Having such a conviction, we question the verity of the opening statement.

Most students when approached about their absence say, "I wanted to go but—" Why are *but*s a greater hindrance on this occasion than on certain others?

In view of the poor attendance not only at the Playmakers' production but also at the earlier Barter Theatre performance, we wonder if it might not be possible, by raising the student budget fund, to include several such plays in the required concert series.

Home for Christmas

Christmas at home will probably be a constant whirl. There will be Christmas cards to write, clothes to get in shape for important occasions, last minute gifts to buy, friends to visit, parties to attend, church programs to participate in. Wouldn't it be easy in such a whirl to use our homes largely as hotels and the members of our families as maids and cooks? This Christmas let's all resolve to spend more time with our families. As one faculty member says, show your family that you'd like to come home even if there were no Chevrolet or chocolate cake there.

Mish's Messin'

Let's see now—how many more days is it?—'til we go home, that is—not long—

I always like the rather tense and tingling feeling in the atmosphere before Christmas. Several of my teachers have voiced the opinion that they wish we would do more studying and less wishing we were at home during these few weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. They're right, of course, but now that the Yuletide season is so near, I stop every once in a while and just daydream. Do you do that too? Good—we must have "holidayitis"!

Doesn't the Bee Hive and all surrounding territory look better? I've never seen such a change in any place! That old auditorium was a sore spot on this campus, and I'm not sorry to see it go. Hurrah for this improvement!

Congratulations to all those people in the Silver Shield and "Who's Who"! We have some really outstanding girls on this campus.

All this year I've been telling myself I look quite mature, but the other day my ego suffered a serious setback. My sister (high-school child) and I came over to see "The Robe" during the holidays, and the man there selling magazines about the movie told me that I could buy the magazine, give a book report on it, and get extra credit. I said, "Why, I'm not in high school," and do you know . . . he *laughed* and never did believe me! Nuts! Maybe it's a good thing. . . . Maybe I'll look 20 when I'm 30 . . . that's the only consolation.

Something was said last year about the stuffiness of the auditorium nearly every time anything went on over there, and I hate to mention it again, but please, can't something be done about the heat? It was almost unbearable during the Trapp Family Singers' Concert. Unless it gets awfully cold, the chorus will just roast during their Christmas concert. There's simply no sense in such discomfort.

Girls, I think we've been falling down in our support of the Playhouse. The people in the Playhouse bring us good plays and then we don't even bother to go see them. Thus they lose money and feel like not trying to do anything more. If we stop having such productions as the Barter Theater, for example, brought us, then in the final analysis, we are the ones that are going to lose. . . . Think about this. . . .

This next came from the *Varsity News*, University of Detroit:

"I serve a purpose in this school which no man can frown—I quietly sit in every class and keep the average down."

Have a Merry Christmas! One of the best ways I know is to practice what Gary Moore says every day—be kind to each other. You know, if we were to try that *every day*, like he says, being kind during the Yuletide season wouldn't be as artificial as it sometimes is now. You know, that thought was not original with Gary Moore, either. Someone else said the same thing long ago. Let's do try it. I'll wager we won't be sorry.

See ya after the holidays.

LIMIT

No student may take less than fifteen hours or more than seventeen without special permission.

WOMEN AFRAID: A SUGGESTION FOR THOSE WHO WANT PEACE

By CHARLEEN SWANZEY

How often have you heard, "We live in an age of fear?" And how often have you been afraid? If you are like I am, the constant talk of communism, World War III, and superbombs colors everything you do, every reaction you have—your education plans, your marriage plans, your philosophy of life. And

perhaps your response is "It's not fair! It's not fair that the man I marry must leave me—that I must live under the constant strain of fear for my parents, for my friends, myself, and my children yet unborn." Perhaps you feel as I have felt that we are merely toys in the hands of a capricious destiny. Where does this get us, you and I, college women? Nowhere!! We are hysterical and concerned for a while. Then out of lack of interest we forget which is submitting and war goes on until it comes so close to us again that we are shocked into acknowledging it again and offering it a brother, or a husband, or a child.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Good habits, bad habits, essential habits, nonessential habits, habits, habits, habits—have everything to do with society, for they act as a unit of measure for character. Are they a measure of character? A unit of measure must be standard. Are habits standard? Each individual discriminates in his own mind as to whether a habit is acceptable or nonacceptable to him, but like habits, individuals differ in properties as well as effect; subsequently, how can one individual say of another that a particular habit is good, bad, or essential to him any more than he can say that everyone should have red eyes?

To take a hypothetical illustration, suppose an individual has nothing tangible upon which to stand—no religious convictions, no philosophy of life, no faith in persons and things. Where can he turn? He must turn to things objective. In such a frame of mind suppose he considers smoking. You can see a cigarette. Unlike people, you always know exactly what to expect from it—the pleasure (?) to be derived from it. You would not necessarily say that the person who smokes is proud of it and that it is good and has no evil effects, but at least it is something tangible upon which that person can depend. Such a habit cannot be justified by its being tangible; however, the "essential" nature of the habit to the individual in such a frame of mind may be understood.

Using habits as a unit of measure can be dangerous because of the narrowing effect that it has upon one. If we learn to understand people's habits, not accept the habits for ourselves, then we can respect other people and at the same time not let their habits influence ours. Since habits, like personal characteristics, are unique, they should be considered only in that respect.
Miriam Allen

What can we do? It is impossible to influence the United Nations. Even if it were not impossible, trying would be unethical since the U. N. is a world organization and the only opinion we express is that of an American citizen—but through our own government we do have a voice in world affairs, in destiny. So why not use this power we have? Realize that nothing ever has or ever will be achieved by a passive attitude.

Do you not remember the women in the Greek play *Lysistrata*? They knew their power and used it. Women today do not realize how powerful they are. Why, what would happen if women in the United States would say with one voice, "I will have no more children to be massacred in war," and would enforce it for a while. Why, the world would be at our feet, begging not to be annihilated. Of course, this is extreme—but even softening the point, what would happen if women, or just college women, should demand peace in the world?

You can reach your government by writing your senator. They will hear you if you should a well informed attitude and I know you are well informed since it's your life at stake! Make your exclamation point in determining your fate.

Senator Clyde R. Hoey
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hoey,
A senior this year at Meredith, I hope to graduate this June, marry,
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