

# Editorial

## "Only 36 Shopping Days Left..."

As soon as the Halloween candy could be dumped into the "Half Off" bins, store owners began decking their walls with red and green trappings of the "Holiday Season" in the hopes that Christmas shoppers soon would be there. Before we've had a chance make our request for white or dark meat from the Thanksgiving bird, Santa gets ushered into town at the Raleigh Christmas parade. Full page ads from local retailers announce Pre-Holiday Savings! Layaway Now for Christmas! The countdown begins...

In our recessionary times, it seems that the spirit of Christmas is thrust on us earlier and earlier every year. Who's to say that we won't be exchanging presents at future Fourth of July picnics?

Retailers are nervous that shoppers will cut back on their annual gift-giving expenditures. Worse yet, it seems that many holiday buyers are using cash! Credit card vendors report lower than normal charges, indicating that consumers are resisting merchants' pressures of "buy now, pay later." This attitude normally encourages increased spending, as many feel that paying with plastic doesn't add up as fast as real dollars.

Every year we hear the traditional hue and cry that Christmas is too commercial, the true meaning of the season forgotten. Christmas isn't the only holiday that suffers.

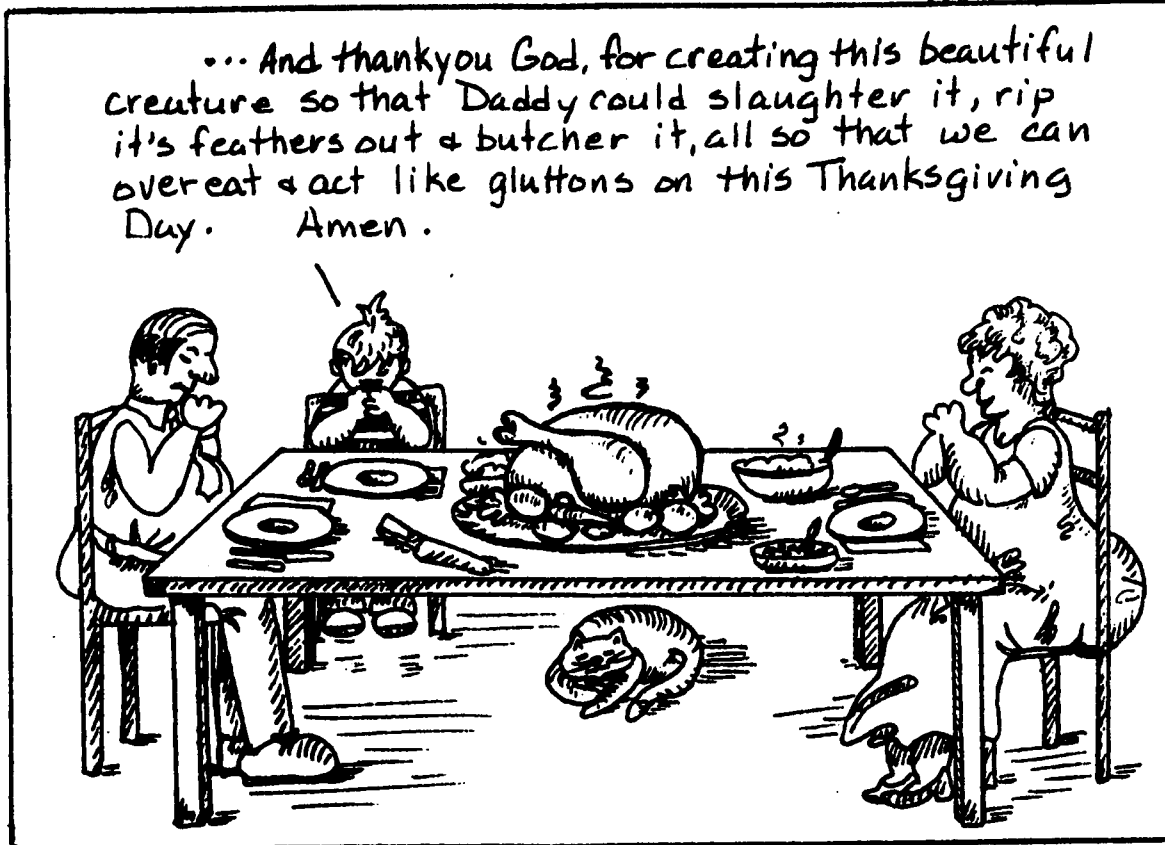
Independence Day is an excuse for a cook-out. Veteran's Day is just another day that the U.S. Postal Service doesn't deliver. Hallmark invents Boss's Day and Secretary's Day. The local florist and AT&T reap the profits of Mother's Day. (Father's Day is an also-ran.)

This Thursday, we'll sit down to watch Dad carve the turkey, argue with Mom over the merits of oyster vs. cornbread stuffing, and reach for our second helping of pumpkin pie with extra whipped cream. Let's take a moment to reflect on the many blessings for which we are thankful.

If we're lucky, our families are healthy and whole. We have friends and family that love us. We've never known what it's like to be hungry or cold.

It makes spending lots of money on Christmas presents seem less important, somehow.

DAM MAXWELL



YOUNG FUTURE ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent letter to the editor concerning the Cornhuskin' Can Art Competition. The Can Art Competition was developed this year to take the place of the traditional toilet paper fights. Meredith Recreation Association (MRA) chose to replace the toilet paper fights because they were environmentally wasteful. According to Mary Liles in Housekeeping, approximately 600 rolls of Meredith toilet paper were used each year during this event. MRA, along with the Cornhuskin' Class Co-chairs, developed the rules for this new event. One of the issues discussed and given much consideration when we developed the rules was the use of beer cans in the can designs. We made the decision to allow beer cans in the can sculptures based on the rationale that the Meredith College Handbook allows for alcohol beverage containers to be brought on campus if they have been thoroughly washed out and left uncorked.

We felt as though students who would participate in this event should

be given the opportunity to respect and uphold the Meredith Honor Code. We also felt that beer cans need recycling as much as soda cans. MRA fully supports the Meredith Honor Code and the penalties that students would have received if they had violated the honor code. MRA did not, however, encourage the consumption of alcoholic beverages; we did encourage the recycling of aluminum cans for environmental reasons, for class spirit, and to benefit a selected charity.

I am very pleased to report how well the Can Art competition went. Not only did the competition go well, but there were "no girls who were campused for having a few drops of beer in their cans, or no hall searches were conducted because of reports that girls were drinking in their rooms." The Meredith students upheld the honor code and did not ruin Cornhuskin'. I hope that any students who were upset about the use of beer cans attended the Can Art competition and observed for themselves the small percentage of beer cans used.

*continued on page 3*

## Letters to the Editor/Articles Policy Statement

Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor or submit an article concerning any subject.

All published letters must be signed by the author, who may request that her name be withheld from publication.

Letters to the editor may be dropped in the *Herald* box beside the box office at Cate Center, sent through campus

mail to Box X133, or delivered to the office in person. Deadline for letters is Wednesday at noon. All letters received after that time will appear in the next edition of the *Herald*, which is published every Monday during the school year. When school holidays fall on Monday, the *Herald* will be distributed on the next full day of classes after the holiday.

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