

Winston-Salem Chronicle

"The Twin City's Award-Winning Weekly"

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Editorials

Merry Christmas

Each Christmas, most of us spend time wondering about its "real meaning." Whether you are Christian or not, you can enjoy Christmas as a time to celebrate the "real meaning" of life itself, which is rooted in how we treat ourselves and each other.

Age teaches us that it's not so much what you do as how you do it. Everyone wants to make a good living, have nice things and provide for their kids. But in the end the you have to live with the memory of how you went about it. For instance, the problem with so many relationships between couples and between parents and their children really isn't a matter of how little time they have. There will never be enough time to do everything. And a person only has so much energy. Because of that, we can — and must — make our relationships a top priority. Right along with making money and earning promotions and prestige. What's success worth if you can't share it with loved ones?

This Christmas, may we all slow down and find a sense of peace.

And there's no way to get around what's in your heart. Don't fool yourself for a minute: if you're upset inside, if you're stressed out, people around you will see it.

This Christmas, seek out some quiet time. Gather in the living room with your family, turn the television off and just visit for thirty minutes.

An old clown gave good advice when he said, "Remember to be kind, because all we have in this old world is each other."

Leadership Needed

The list of black leaders going off the scene due to retirement and death is growing longer. Locally, we have observed the passing of the Rev. J.T. McMillan, Charles McLean, Laura Wall, Tom Hooper, Jerry Gilmore Sr., Carl Russell Sr., and Avery Flynt.

On the national scene, Rep. Mervyn Dmally (D-California) retired this year as a senior member of the California legislature. Celes King III retired this year after 40 years of service to the California Congress of Racial Equality.

All of these individuals were associated with winning important gains for the entire minority community. They were leaders. And although larger numbers of African-Americans are coming into positions of political leadership nationally, we can never sit on our laurels. Think of it: who will replace our current aldermen and commissioners? We cannot sit back and wait for leaders to appear.

Project Blueprint, a new United Way program, is doing its part to ensure that African-Americans are prepared to serve on non-profit boards.

If each of us took responsibility for mentoring one person, what a difference we could make!

Twenty-three black executives were recently trained and matched with mentors. Leadership Winston-Salem also actively cultivates leadership in African-Americans.

Each one of us can undertake mentoring one individual. Look around at the individuals in your life and find one person who's potential you will support. It may be the grocery bagger, the newspaper carrier, or the barber shop owner. Leadership potential lives in each of our hearts! Find that spark and help it grow in someone else — the world will be a better place for it.

The I Ching, an ancient Chinese guide to life's turning points, says that a person's character may be judged by what he or she nourishes in others. "Those who cultivate inferior behaviors and relationships are inferior people; those who cultivate superior qualities in themselves and others are superior people."

This is a test that we should apply to ourselves as well as to others.

Don't Knock Others When They're Down

To The Editor:

On the persecution of black officials...people make mistakes. Sometimes they do so unintentionally, in which case they should be forgiven. Sometimes they do so out of selfishness, and if careless or selfish behavior injures others, they indeed need to be reprimanded or punished.

But too often our very sophisticated society smells blood and goes after someone with a vengeance that can be just as reprehensible as the act that is being condemned.

There is a fine line between coddling anti-social or irresponsible behavior on the one hand and being merciless on the other. Perhaps there is not such a fine line after all, because there seems to be plenty of latitude between the two.

Punishment as retribution can be defended. Punishment as deterrent also makes sense. But getting gratification out of seeing someone suffer is indefensible and indicates the presence of sick emotions.

Punishment of an offense requires that the offender be "injured." But that should suffice. Adding insult to injury does not degrade others. It only degrades us.

John T. Greenwood, Esquire

Low Sodium Diet

To the Editor:

I am a participant in the TONE program (Trial of Nonpharmacologic Intervention in the Elderly) sponsored by the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. The TONE study is trying to determine the effects of a low sodium and/or weight loss diet on hypertension.

I have been in the pilot program for the past six months and have been involved in the low sodium diet intervention. My eating habits have changed, my blood pressure has been lowered and I have lost weight. I feel much better and I will

Merry Christmas



Santa Claus was recently spotted with a lap full of kids at the Phi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 9th annual Christmas party held recently at Bethlehem Center.

CHRONICLE MAILBAG Our Readers Speak Out

continue to stay on this type of diet. It was a great help for me to see a nutritionist and also to meet in a group where they prepare low sodium foods. The TONE program has been a good program for me and I would highly recommend it to people who are 60-80 years old with high blood pressure. If you are interested in this program you would need to call Joyce Wheeling at 777-3945.

Mrs. Mae Carroll

Help At Last

To The Editor:

American School Needs To Be Challenged

Reports and studies repeatedly condemn America's school system — public and private — as the worst in the industrialized world.

The average class valedictorian in the United States would rank as an average student (in the 50 percentile) in China, says Christopher Whittle, Chairman of Whittle Communications. That should give you some idea where the average American student ranks worldwide — at the bottom.

And we're talking about the generation that we will depend on to run the trains on time, bring us our warm milk in the nursing home and deliver our Social Security checks — if they can read the address.

We have another set of studies outlining what should be done. Year 2000 goals abound: increase the high school graduation rate; U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics; students will receive knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global

economy, etc.

Instead of becoming hopeful from such goals, you get sad. All around you is nothing but rhetoric without action or action that moves us even further from those laudable goals.

For example, this year Detroit's teachers struck for more money and power. Starting salaries are already over \$40,000. A precious month was lost that could have helped high school seniors prepare themselves for college and other students prepare themselves for high school. Teacher's salaries should increase, but only when productivity (acquired knowledge and skills of students) does.

Whether teachers should make more money won't mean much to the public, however, until the products of the schools improve and someone becomes responsible for the low skill level of its graduates.

Presently, if a graduate cannot read the high school diploma, no

one in the education system is responsible. But as taxpayers we are responsible for the salaries of administrators, teachers and supervisors who train the graduates.

New York City, for example, has more school supervisors than

France and the state of New York has more school supervisors than all of the countries in Europe combined. In fact, the New York school system spends more per capita on students than anyone but New Jersey and gets a lower student performance than anyone but New Jersey.

However, New York schools lead in condom distribution, classes on AIDS and is now engulfed in

drug addiction. Only spiritual help and drug counseling and your will power will keep you free from drugs.

Thank you Judge Wood for not being as harsh as you could have been. I was given time for my crime, but I was also given help with my drug problem and another chance to straighten my life out.

Society, don't give up on me now. I still have a chance to help myself and to become a productive citizen. I thank you again.

Australia Smith

What do we need? Competi-



TONY BROWN

Syndicated Columnist

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tion. If we are going to beat the Germans and the Japanese in "bottom up" production, our workers at the bottom are going to have to be smarter than their workers. Simply put, education is an economic issue.

Maybe when the demands of the marketplace shake the bloated bureaucracy into reality, it will compete — and save our children's future and this country.

Celebrating The Christmas Spirit

What About The People Who Have No Christmas

Time and time again we see it on the news.

By Keir Rhodes
Age 16

People crying, Mt. Zion Baptist Church North Forsyth High

The unfortunate or should I say poor. Grieving from depression they wish they had more.

Financially defunct they have no one that loves them.

Walk by them in the street. No one thinks of them. Enough to love, enough to care. Enough to give the warmth and heart that we all share.

They are modernly segregated and not given a chance to excel from temporary hell and also advance.

When the system backs them you say it's unrealistic. But say otherwise when they become a statistic. It's not a color thing so don't discriminate.

But homelessness isn't prejudice, if so togetherness would deteriorate. So then why is it traditional to feel merry?

Knowing that people suffer everyday yeah it's scary. So when we leave to spend time with our families prior to the 25th. Don't forget about the less fortunate cause it is no myth.

They say that if you wish upon a falling star your wish will come true.



What About Jesus?

the sky and thank God for us living.

By Tremaine Torrance
Age 16

Why is Christmas so commercialized?

The story of Santa as he flies through the sky. The malls are filled with credit cards, money, and parents buying toys—

Spending all their money just to prove there's a Santa Claus: But in this monotony — have we forgot the cross? The story of a Rudolph, I've been told —

But Rudolph never saved a soul! It seems like we're celebrating the season and forgot the reason.

Don't forget the baby who saved our souls. A child with a heart — one hundred percent gold.

A child who died for you and me — Years ago on calvary. A child whose birthday comes once a year. Hold it in your heart very dear.

So don't get caught up in the play! Give a kid a bible instead of a toy. Let's celebrate His birthday with much joy — And don't forget the cross, is what I ask.

Please spread this message — It's all Christian's task!



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