

EDITORIALS

Christmas And Its Many Faces!

The Christmas season is a special time of year for most people for many different reasons - some good, some bad, and most probably in between. Shopping malls fill to satisfy the commercial zeal of consumers, churches extend themselves to offer spiritual needs and food for the down east, little children extend their fantasies about old Santa and parents help them along the way.

Christmas Day 1984, like all Christmas Days, is filled with the reality and dreams of the extended family gathered around the Christmas dinner table in laughter, joy and happiness. Yet, the essence of this, the most

joyest of our holiday seasons throughout any given year, has many faces for many different people in many different situations. Fortunately, we hope and pray that for most people the face of Christmas is one of giving, receiving, feasting and merry-making.

Unfortunately, the joy of Christmas for most is too often best seen and best appreciated as we realize from media reports that God has allowed us to avoid the calamities and misfortune Christmas faces for many others. The recent 2,000 deaths in Bhopal, Indian, from a poisonous gas

vapor; a Chicago father who witnessed helplessly his wife and five children die in a house fire is one face of Christmas. Another face shows the joy of an 11 year old Charlottean shouting joyfully, "This is the best place I've ever stayed since I've been living," upon moving into a new public housing apartment.

Then, too, there is the sad Christmas face of the 25 year veteran textile worker in Kannapolis who, like many of her neighbors, has been advised that their last paycheck will be on December 31 because

the plant is closing its doors. These workers will then join others without jobs, and some without hope as they exhaust the last unemployment insurance check. It is within this face of Christmas that a five year old in Detroit says her only wish for Christmas

is for Santa to give her six months unemployed father a job. On a broader scale, the face of Christmas in a nationwide poll, Santas in many department stores are hearing more and more small children expressing a similar wish - a job for their dads would be a first on their lists ahead of new toys for themselves.

The faces of Christmas include lower gasoline prices for travelers this holiday season and pledges from some business firms to provide money and other resources to provide heat and warmth in many homes throughout the Piedmont area.

There are shoppers and shoplifters, there are wars and rumors of wars, and there is freedom to embrace Christmas or reject it or even curse it as these too are among the many faces of Christmas.

There are company Christmas parties for some and the choice of private, peaceful prayer at home or at church for others and there is the death of old hatreds and the rebirth of lost loves in these many faces of Christmas.

Thus, within these many faces of Christmas, people appear to show a mixed sense of hope and despair as Christmas Day 1984 approaches. Yet, author Hal Lindsay writes, "...man can live about 40 days

without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only about one second without hope." Mr. Lindsay's words are supported by Bible scripture. In Job 5:16, 11:18 we read, "...the poor hath hope...and (they) shall be secure because of their hope."

Therefore, as we wish for you and your loved ones A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, we remind you of the importance of the need for hope,

hope for tomorrow and hope for the distant future regardless of the current faces of the fleeting moments of the Christmas in your life. To that end we pray that God will begin or continue to shower his blessings upon you in this holiday season.

West Charlotte Not In 2005 Plan?

In unveiling a four-month study of housing, employment and population trends that hopes to provide data for policy development for a 2005 Plan, Dr. Albert Stuart, a UNCC geographer and consultant, forecasts that Charlotte will be quite different from what we have as 1984 draws to a close.

Dr. Stuart predicts that by the year 2005 Charlotte will have abandoned its family-oriented suburban, mostly single-family detached housing lifestyle. In its place we will create a regional metropolis dominated by condominiums and apartments located in east, northeast and southwest Charlotte occupied mostly by single and divorced people.

Coupled with this, Dr. Stuart predicts that Charlotte by the year 2005 will be an "office-oriented, white-collar, information-processing economy...where the gap between the rich and poor will be greater than it is now."

It is interesting, if not disturbing, to note that the forecast growth will not include northwest Charlotte where most of our black and a high percentage of our poorer citizens live. Let us hope that such forecasting does not alter any public policy plans and interest in the further development and improvement in the Beatties Ford Road residential and commercial area.

From Capitol Hill

Free South African Movement Is Rapidly Expanding

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

The daily picketing of the South African Embassy, which is gaining momentum, is for the purpose of educating people, nationally and internationally, about South Africa's apartheid system and also to bring pressure on the South African government for complete eradication of the inhumane apartheid government, and to force the Reagan administration to abandon its South African policy of constructive engagement.

Blacks in South Africa live under several brutal conditions. They must carry passbooks at all times. The laws prevent the Black South African workers from earning the same wages as whites. Blacks who live in the little barren carved out homelands have to leave their homes to work for the whites. This situation causes a separation of the men from their families for many months. Wives are not allowed to live with these men during their period of work. Blacks in South Africa are not allowed to protest.

In the early part of October, 1984, the 21st battalion of the South African Defense Force was sent into the black town of Soweto. October 2, 1984, troops again conducted searches in four black townships. November 13, 1984, a large number of troops raided another black town.

On November 5-6, one million South African blacks, predominantly made up of industrial workers staged a two-day strike in South Africa to protest the apartheid system and a host of grievances stemming from apartheid. This was a coalition of 30 unions, community and student organizations. The United Nations and the vast



Alfreda

majority of member states have been unequivocal in their opposition to apartheid and repression in South Africa. The U.N. has passed numerous resolutions both in the Security Council and the General Assembly demanding fundamental changes in South Africa. Most recently U.N. Security Council resolution 566 was passed condemning South Africa's apartheid. Of the 15 members, 14 voted for condemnation with only the United States abstaining. Reason given by Ambassador Kirkpatrick for the abstention was that there were excesses in the language of the resolution.

Apartheid conditions have worsened under the Reagan administration's "constructive engagement" policy. His administration has expanded South African and U.S. attaches, increased honorary consulates, lifted restrictions on military exports to South Africa, increased nuclear cooperations, trained South African Coast Guard, increased International Monetary Funds to South Africa, and there has been an increase in loans of U.S. banks to South Africa. Bishop Tutu, of the South African

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MICHIGAN CHRONICLE

SUBURBIA
THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM BLACK COMMUNITIES

BAH-HUMBUG To Holiday Season!

Bah-humbug to the holiday season. Feeling a bit blue, broke, or just sick of it: what can one do: Be happy! Why? Because.

Be happy that you are not the sales associate in the retail stores. Hats off to those wonderful people who can smile and be helpful when 50 people are demanding personal attention at one time.

Be happy that you are not the letter carrier delivering those heavy packages and millions of holiday cards. The people working in the United States postal system are doing their very best to move holiday cheer and well wishes across the miles. Do not yell if a very special card or package arrives after the holiday - perhaps it was mailed late!

Be happy you are not the Christmas tree sales associate. Remember he or she must insure that each tree purchased is just right for each home. Also remember that he or she is standing out in the cold and damp nurturing trees and wreaths.

Be happy you are not the market owner having to insure stocks of turkeys, hams, beef and fall vegetables. Especially if what the consumer wants is not there, chaos



Sabrina Johnson

begins.

Be thankful you are not the hundreds of people who lost thousands of loved ones in the Union Carbide accident. Bhopal, India, will soon return to normal lifestyles but life will never be the same. The after effects are blatantly death but the future effects are unknown.

Be thankful for the gifts of Baby Fae and William Shroeder. Baby Fae's short life has given doctors and scientists more knowledge into heart transplants including animal into human. William Shroeder's artificial heart lets the world know that the machine-computer age has a purpose other than to drive folks crazy.

Be thankful and happy for all the people who make America what it is: the best

nation in the world. The holiday season is not and was not built on material items. Material items should only be part of the scenario. Family, friends, tradition, togetherness and worship are the staples of the season. These things are the "glitter." Even if the material things are not as one may want - remember that having one's health, physical faculties, and freedom are the most important things in life, gifts merely are decorations.

Finally, please remember the sick, shut-in, hungry, and poor, and those loved ones mortal or not.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Elders And Christmas

Special To The Post
For most North Carolinians the holiday season is a time for love and sharing with family and friends.

Many older citizens are not so fortunate. They no longer have a family or a home. Instead they live in nursing homes and rest homes across the state.

Nursing home administrators say today's patients are older and more disabled than ever before. Most are not able to leave nursing facilities for a Christmas with family, even if they have a family close by.

"December, January and February are lonely months," said Anne Hutchinson, administrator of the Louisburg Nursing Home. "Our residents could use some of the Christmas cheer then."

Ernest Messer, assistant secretary of the Division of Aging, encouraged North Carolinians to share a little of their time during the holiday season with those who are confined to nursing homes and rest homes across the state. "Older people with no relatives close by are so appreciative of time and attention," he said.

Nursing home and rest home professionals agree. To Hutchinson, the saddest person of all is the one who has no family. She remembers an elderly lady, now dead, who one year received gifts from the nursing home staff but refused to open them. "She wouldn't open them because she said the gifts could not be hers since she had no living relatives," Hutchinson explained.

Marilyn Jamison, activity director at Knollwood Manor in Raleigh, encouraged citizens to visit nursing homes and rest homes, and to get actively involved with residents. "One church group gives manicures during the holidays," she said. "The residents love this special attention. They need a hands-on project, not just to be surrounded by a large group of people."

Knollwood has a Christmas party for which many groups donate gifts, Jamison said. She suggested that persons who wish to give gifts to residents of facilities in their area donate lap robes, white knee hose for men and women, cushions for wheelchairs, stamps and stationary. Since many residents are on special diets, gifts of food should be limited, she said.

"The most important thing, though, is to take a little time out of your schedule to pay a visit," Messer said. "Bring an older person into your life, and you will see that you benefit from the experience as much as he or she does."

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