



The 60 members of the South Brunswick Middle School chapter of Career Exploration Clubs of North Carolina helped make Christmas happier for some low-income families by purchasing toys and clothing

for their children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree of Hope. They also collected items for food baskets which have been distributed by the Volunteer and Information Center.

Speight is Morehead finalist

Charlie Speight, a senior at South Brunswick High School, is one of six regional finalists for the 1993 Morehead Awards to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Speight is the son of Carl and Jean Speight of Leland. The Morehead Award offers an all-expense-paid undergraduate education at UNC-CH, valued at \$40,000 for North Carolina residents.

About half of the 125 finalists will receive the Morehead Award, which also includes internships through the foundation's summer enrichment program.

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE

Saturday, December 26
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 (not including Tom Clark)

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Happy Belated SWEET 16 Nirali

December 18th

Horse management subject of TV series

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will present an eight-program series in horse management during the months of January-March.

The seminars will be conducted by specialists from the Animal Science Department and the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University. The seminars will be presented over a special two-way television network at several university sites around the state. This interactive television network allows presenters and audience members to see and speak to each other.

The local site for these seminars will be UNC-Wilmington.

The seminars, each scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m., are as follows:

- January 12 -- Basic Horse Nutrition.
- January 19 -- Horse Breeding/A.I. and Evaluating Stallion Fertility.
- January 26 -- Preventive Health Care for Horses.
- February 2 -- Equine Prepurchase Exam.
- February 9 -- Horse Selection and Evaluation.
- February 16 -- Broodmare Nutrition and Body Condition Scoring.
- February 23 -- Horse Behavior and Restraint Training.
- March 2 -- Performance Horse Nutrition.

Because of the two-way television network used for this series, attendance will be limited and assigned on a first-come basis. There is a registration fee of \$2 per seminar.

For additional details and registration, persons should call the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Service, 919-452-6393.

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Merry Christmas

"Merry Christmas" we have always said. "Happy New Year" we add to the end just to prove we're in a festive holiday mood. Bob Cratchett even generously gave those two words, "Merry!! Christmas!!" a century or more ago. Did George Washington sip eggnog with his family and friends before a roaring fire at Mount Vernon? I think so. Did the pilgrims take pine boughs and mistletoe with a touch of holly and make a simple wreath or mantle decoration? Did they worship God's gift of life? I think so. I also venture that most gifts exchanged in times past were intertwined and wrapped with love.

The gifts I recall all had love as a major ingredient. I remember specific trucks, dolls, bikes, stereos, a sweatshirt, a toy police car, and a dutch oven that will feed generations to come. I remember meals with aromas that today invoke feelings that can only be expressed to yourself in your own mind; you know how smells carry you back to a special time and place.

Christmas has progressed with the march of time and man; progressed did I say? Perhaps Christmas has digressed -- as toy soldiers give way to video games as imagination is replaced by low level radiation -- where do we continue to go? The infernal credit card has broadened the reach of Christmas. Yes, we can now obtain those items previously only dreamed of and for the rest of the year and beyond the bills and statements of balances due that are the stuff nightmares are made of. Does God love credit cards? Does Christ leave without "the card"? Does our nation's financial woes and economic troubles improve as the credit card imprinter slides back and forth (oh, I forgot those new-fangled gizmos that you zip cards through that reads those little strips of I guess magnetic or just magic tape on the back of those plastic icons)? I think the answer is "NO!!"

I guess by now you sense my frustration with our commercialized celebration. Santa truly has love in his heart... he is my friend for I have helped him in recent years. Yes Virginia, I have been one of "Santa's helpers". Santa told me, however, that love for one another is the true meaning of Christmas. Santa reminds me that he is merely a helper, like a clown at a birthday party. Santa reminded me a few years ago that Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, the true example of love, is the "reason for the season".

I have gone through my own Scrooge metamorphosis (I never hated Christmas, I just needed focus). I am one of those lucky men. My wife and child (soon to be plural) warm my heart 365 days a year. My family, including the in-laws and out-laws, is my gift that I treasure every day of every year. I have found that love is not an ingredient to spice up a gift, but it is the foundation... it is the entree... it is the nucleus of it all.

Let us take a picture of all we have had, now have and will have. Let us bring out the camera, an old Brownie, one of those box cameras - not a camcorder. Let us focus at this special holiday time, not on this holiday time. Let us focus at improving that gift we have to give. Just like when Christ fed the multitude from the baskets of fish and loaves, our basket of love is never ending and all we have to do is hand it out.

Dear Santa, I don't want anything else for Christmas. I already have it all but if you need some extra love, my basket is full.

Skip Watkins

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