

Christmas in the slums not 'commercial'



Sharon Burnett, a Durham resident, doesn't have big plans for Christmas. Her eighth grade class is having a party on Thursday and that will probably be her biggest celebration of the holiday season. Sharon doesn't expect to receive the sewing machine she really wants but is content to spend Christmas Day with her family at her grandmother's home in north Durham.

by Pam Jones
Staff Writer

(Editor's note: DTW staff writer Pam Jones and Martha Hogan, a junior psychology and sociology major at the University, visited the slum area in Durham Wednesday in hopes of determining what kind of Christmas slum residents have. The two compared their impressions of what they saw. Miss Jones wrote the story.)

The closest the average middle-class American gets to the Christmas experienced by the impoverished black man is perhaps giving to his local Salvation Army post or putting a basket of fruit on a splintered doorstep. The poverty-stricken families of the slums are often forgotten in the midst of the "Christmas spirit."

But the people living in the slums of Durham expect the same from Christmas as do those who have found success in the suburbs. Having relatives near them during the holiday season is most important. The slum residents tend to de-emphasize the tinsel, the Christmas tree and expensive decorations, but this is only because they don't have the money to afford these luxuries.

Because they do not have the money to spend on the commercial aspects of Christmas, the slum residents tend to place more emphasis on their family gatherings.

The teenage girls look forward to receiving the latest fashions such as boots and pants suits. Most little boys want gun holsters and trucks. Their expectations contrast with the barrenness of their homes.

Most slum residents have plans to spend

Christmas outside of their homes. One young mother of seven, living in a four-room home, said she planned to spend Christmas with her mother across town. Another woman expressed a desire to visit her father in Newark, N.J., but she doubted she could get the money to go.

Staying at home for Christmas seemed less important to them than visiting relatives.

Like most low-income families, these people feel the squeeze of inflation. For those like the mother with seven children, even the most simple gifts might be too expensive this year.

Church and school seem to play a limited role in the children's Christmas. Some of the children interviewed said they were planning to participate in exchanging gifts and having parties at school. One little boy proudly displayed bells he made of paper cups and aluminum foil suspended from a green ribbon.

They did not seem to emphasize the traditional Christmas dinner as much as most Americans. Unlike most American housewives, slum residents don't do extensive baking of cookies, cakes and pies. One woman said she was planning to bake one or two cakes.

There was no mention of such Christmas traditions as hanging stockings, caroling or trimming trees. Santa Claus is a bringer of gifts and goodies, but the gifts and goodies for the slum children are not what they see on television.

Slum residents do express the traditional true meaning of Christmas as it pertains to Christ and his birth. But their monetary assets restrict them to enjoying a more religious and less Commercial Christmas.

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Education reorganization could be needed - Friday

Some reorganization of high education is necessary "to make the system more efficient" Consolidated University President William C. Friday said Wednesday.

Discussing Gov. Robert Scott's meeting Sunday with University trustees concerning possible reorganization of higher education in the state, Friday said, "It is a good thing to bring trustees together to discuss problems of higher education."

"We need to develop a system," Friday continued, "to remove the political aspects from higher education."

Scott urged the trustees to devise a proposal to reorganize higher education which could be introduced in the 1971 General Assembly, according to a report Tuesday in the Tuesday edition of The Charlotte Observer.

The Governor is reportedly disturbed

over the legislative jockeying between state universities over the past several years.

At the Sunday meeting, Scott allegedly told trustees he is seeking a system which would do away with the Consolidated University and the Board of Higher Education. An agency in which all of the state's 16 institutions of higher education would be represented was proposed to set policy for education in North Carolina.

This agency would coordinate all higher education in the state and review budget requests from the state institutions of higher learning.

The Governor told the trustees "there is a considerable fragmentation of higher education in the state, and unclear responsibilities and distinctions between the Consolidated University and the Board of Higher Education."

Scott said he has "tried to open communication" between the Consolidated University and the other institutions of higher education in the state.

"I have sought to avoid a coming confrontation which may already be here," Scott told the trustees, "with your help, I hope to arrive at some plan for the organizational structure of higher education in North Carolina."

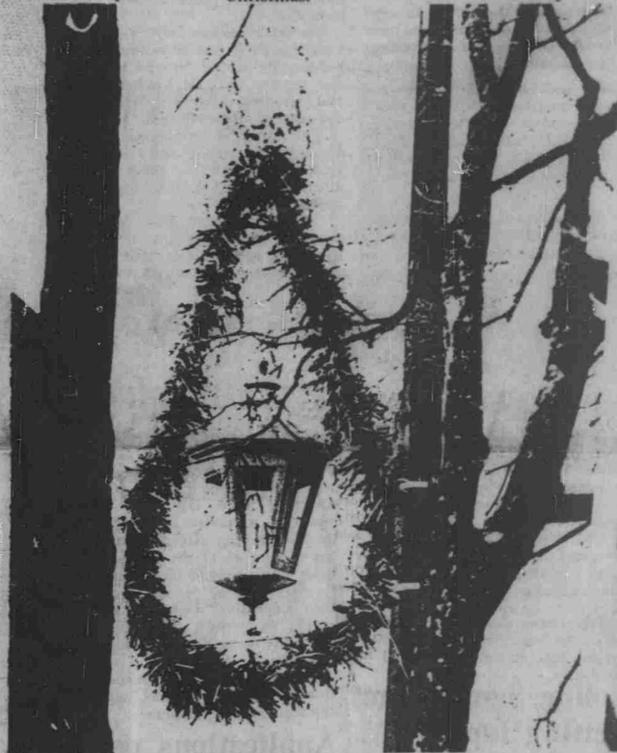
Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson said Wednesday, concerning the meeting, "there needs to be a reassessment of higher education. I can't comment on a specific proposal until one has been made."

An executive committee meeting of the University Board of Trustees is scheduled Dec. 29 as a "follow up" to Scott's recommendations about higher education.

Scott said Sunday the trustees will have four alternatives at their upcoming meeting. They can have the Consolidated University absorb all other universities, strengthen the Board of Higher Education and give it absolute authority over priorities and budgets; create the newly proposed structure suggested at the Sunday meeting or do nothing at all.

The Governor also restated his commitment before the trustees, made in a speech in 1968, not to go to the General Assembly and ask for restructuring of the educational system. He said, however, "I can't stand by and not see the resolution of this problem. I see no other way out."

"My role is to give leadership. You (the trustees) are the ones who need to do the job."



Downtown Chapel Hill took on a festive air this week as the Christmas decorations reminded everyone just how close Christmas really is. Better get that shopping done quickly, or it will be too late. (Staff photo by John Hart)

Campus zoning draws opposition during hearing

by Evans Witt
Staff Writer

The question of University zoning was the topic of a special public hearing held Monday night by the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen and the Planning Board.

No opposition to the general idea of University zoning was expressed at the hearing, although a large number of residents of South Columbia St. vigorously protested their being included in a proposed University "A" zone.

In the weekly Board of Aldermen's meeting which followed the hearing, the pollution problem of the New Hope Reservoir, the downtown merchant's reaction to the Christmas Street party and student appointments to the Human Relations Commission were major topics.

At the special hearing, Chapel Hill Director of Planning Harry Palmer explained in detail the reason for the proposed change in the zoning ordinance.

The main basis for the change in the ordinance is the large number of startling

incongruities in the current University situation, Palmer said.

Previously the University functions could occur in any zone in the town. For example, the majority of the main campus of the University is zoned for small single-family dwellings.

The change in the ordinance would differentiate between normal academic functions and other "supportive functions, such as the laundry plant, which could be classified as heavy commercial or industrial," according to Palmer.

The opposition to the re-zoning along South Columbia St. was led by Dr. Herhard Lenski, a sociology professor. The main force of the residents' arguments was that there was no logical reason to zone a completely residential area for University use.

The Board of Aldermen unanimously passed a resolution asking the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake a study of the environmental effects of the New Hope Dam.

The aldermen expressed their concern for a lake-side recreational area for the town and their hope that the new lake would provide this.

Alderman George Coxhead communicated to the Board the displeasure of some of the downtown Chapel Hill merchants with the Christmas street party held last Saturday under the joint sponsorship of Student Government and the town.



Chapel Hill's Christmas Tree

Christmas

Kids 'n Santa, holidays and last minute tests

by Lou Bonds
Staff Writer

Judging from the amount of tests being given, Christmas has hit the town of Chapel Hill and the University.

Bah humbug. The street lights are up, the store windows are full, Santa's face is plastered on just about every door in the neighborhood and the manger scenes are being put up on front lawns.

You might say the town is looking right pretty indeed.

The students are giving their final yuletide parties in the town, drinking a few Christmas toddies and hoping the police don't catch them in the wrong lane of Franklin Street.

Everybody seems to be smiling a lot more and shouting a lot less.

The guys are beginning to tell wild stories about how good looking their "hometown sweeties" are; the girls are dressing up. And the couples are kissing as if the two weeks apart from one another is a year.

The candle-hawkers have hit the streets on clear nights. Everybody has to have a candle.

The freaks are wondering how they can stand two weeks of home life, and so are the straights and so are the parents.

Wrapping paper and ribbons are selling well. Forests are being cleared of trees.

The four- and five-year-old kids in town are being nauseatingly nice in order to get a lot of presents.

The national sales of puppies has skyrocketed. Nothing is better than a cuddly old mutt to light some kid's heart up.

The ministers in town are wondering how on earth they are going to say something different about Christmas this year.

Everything is just about ready for Christmas. Except there's no snow and no sleigh bells and no snowmen.

The spirit of Christmas is here all right. For some people, it's just hanging back for a couple of days more. And then, in just seven more days, everybody is going to get all sentimental and gushy about how much they love each other and what a Merry Christmas they're having.

And then Christmas will be over.

Housing problems now easing

by Bill Pope
Staff Writer

Crowded conditions in residence halls this semester should ease up by next semester said the director of residence life Friday.

As of mid-December, there were 80 unfilled spaces for next semester in women's residence halls, 13 of them for graduate students. There are 103 undergraduate and 17 graduate spaces open in men's residence halls.

"We have yet to receive applications from newly admitted spring students," said Kepner. About 100 students are

expected to enroll in the spring with approximately 40 per cent requesting University housing.

"We should not be as crowded in the spring semester as we were this fall," Kepner added. He said he was "very pleased with the occupancy level" for the spring semester. As of last week, there was a vacancy level of spaces available of 3.6 per cent for women and 2.1 per cent for men. More applications are expected for these spring vacancies.

There were nearly 900 empty spaces in resident hall at the beginning of the spring semester last year.

Kepner said there was a "reasonably good prospect" that persons who can't find off-campus housing could find spaces

in University residence halls at the beginning of next semester.

James Wadsworth, director of housing, says it is difficult to determine whether the off-campus housing shortage will let up next semester.

"It is never as crowded second semester as the first," Wadsworth explained. "We usually receive most of our off-campus openings between Dec. 15 and Jan. 5, but it is difficult to say because it varies every year."

"There have been very few openings off-campus so far, but as time goes on, we are hoping for more."

Wadsworth feels some students are moving back to campus because of the "many improvements in residence halls."

Coed dorms, telephones, refrigerators and kitchens are some of the improvements Wadsworth cited.

The following spring semester spaces are available in women's and men's resident halls as of mid-December:

Women: Morrison-34, Craigie-13, East Cobb-5, West Cobb-5, Winston-5, Joyner-5, Project Hinton-4, Alderman-3, Parker-3, Kenan-1, McIver-1, Connor-1, Spencer-0, Whitehead-0.

Men: James-49, Ehringhaus-29, Football Section-12, Morrison-6, Project Hinton-5, Old East-1, Old West-1.

This is the last issue of The Daily Tar Heel until after the Christmas holidays. The staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.