

Editorials

Annual festival celebrates arrival of whom?

"Christmas: an annual church festival, kept on December 25 in memory of the birth of Christ, celebrated generally by special gifts," says Webster. Perhaps it would be more correct to say, "Christmas—an annual festival celebrating the arrival of an obese man who traditionally falls down chimneys to deliver special gifts." This idea seems to prevail, rather than the real reason for celebrating: the real meaning of Christmas.

The name Christmas comes from the early English phrase "Christes Masse" which means "Christ's Mass." The custom of exchanging gifts was originally in commemoration of the gifts the Wise Men brought to the Christ Child. Today, the giving of gifts seems to have lost much of its original meaning.

According to Webster, Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) was the patron saint of Russia, and of mariners, merchants, and children. He was a bishop of Myra, an ancient town now in Turkey. Legend says that he was only a boy when he became a bishop. He was extremely kind, and often went out at night to take presents to the needy.

After his death, his legend was re-told and re-told. English children, trying to repeat the Dutch name

for the saint, "Sinter Claus," said it so quickly and excitedly that it soon became "Santy Claus," and "Santa Claus."

By putting increasingly more emphasis on Santa Claus, society has gradually pushed aside the tremendous news of the arrival of the Christ Child, until today the great excitement is over the arrival of Santa Claus.



Writing class creates Christmas spirit in poetry

by Jean Carlson

He was bruised for my iniquities.
And thus procured my peace.
He was sent by a God who loved me;
I, whose face was turned from God.
I was not even asked to love this man of Sorrows,
But rather just to accept His birth and death
As especially for me.
Love was created by God,
For we only love because God first loved us,
And sent His Son, Jesus Christ.



by John Richardson

Safe from perils of holiday traffic
Home with their dry sigh
With parcels and boxes and silent lights.

North pole,
A fat man with a beard and suit
Knows this and is smug, not jolly.
Business is good—Christmas incorporated prospers.



by Doug Johnson

People tell me I have to face
Reality in its true place
But with this I must disagree
Because there's true escape for me

Now I find it wrong to be found
In the halls of life's empty sound
Of hate, greed, and self-destruction
Which comes from mind's elusions

It can be changed to love and peace
Someday the greed and hate will cease
And bring about a peace of mind
Which will someday save all mankind

But when reality means love
I will face to true meaning of
A life in a world without crime
Which will last til the end of time

Commercialized view of Christmas disturbs students

by Marlene Feves

You no sooner finish your bag of trick or treats when witches, bats, and goblins are replaced in department stores with tinsel, colored lights, silver trees and Santa Clauses. Are the animated windows and gay fancy displays which catch get in the real holiday spirit? Are they the eyes of shoppers meant to help people designed with the religious meaning of Christmas in mind or are they traps for shoppers and their pocket-books?

Is Christmas meant to be a profit making, shopper luring, glamourized holiday or is there still some meaning left inside it? Do little children know the Christmas story, or are they too blinded by commercialization to even care? Is commercialization destroying the meaning of Christmas?

"Christmas should be simple instead of having all that gaudiness," commented Jan Plummer, when asked about the meaning of Christmas today. "Sometimes even the simple Christmas lights become too exaggerated," thought Jan.

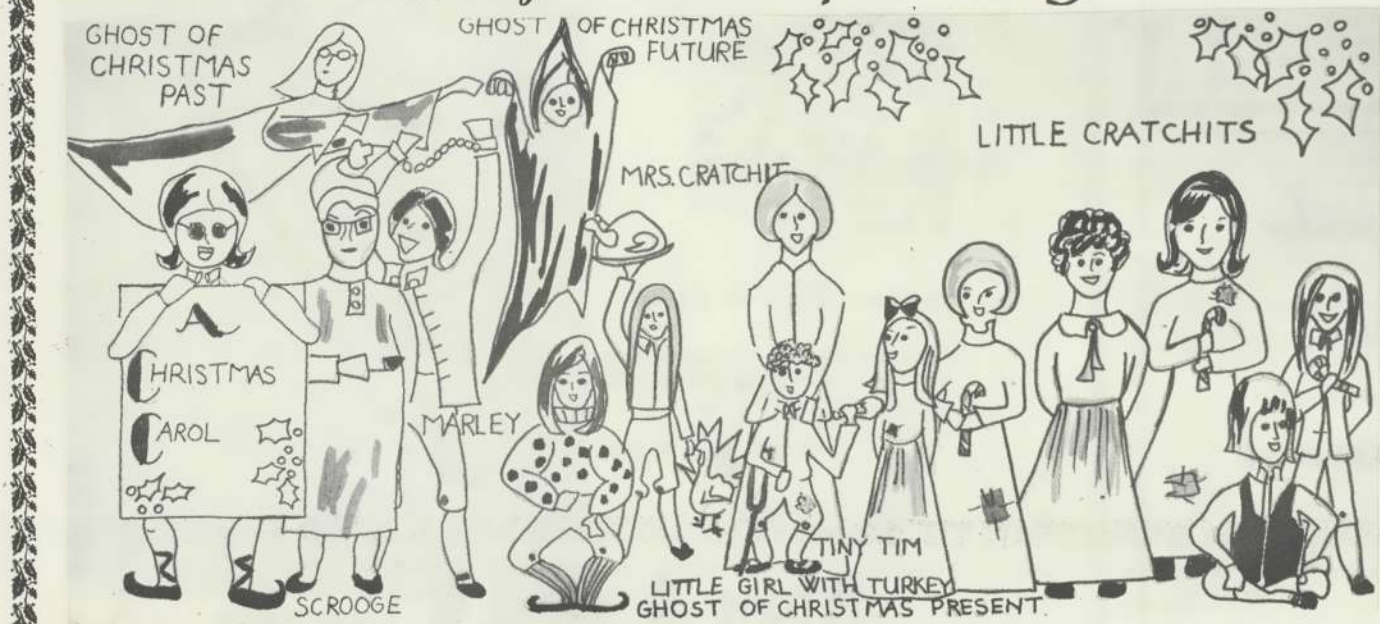
"Christmas is just becoming too commercial. It's really ruining the Christmas image for kids. I teach Sunday School," explained Jan, and a lot of kids don't even know the Christmas story. It's funny," grinned Jan, "everybody complains that Christmas is too commercial, then everyone goes and buys!"

"Business men have found a good thing in Christmas and build it up until it's out of proportion," Kathy Shayler, junior declared. "They've taken the meaning out of Christmas. I feel that it is up to the individual to bring the meaning back. A family should try making their own gifts and stop putting the emphasis on buying. I think they should start trying to replace the money part of Christmas with love," Kathy concluded.

"I think businesses make more during the Christmas season than for the whole year put together," decided Rick Wilson, a new General at Grant this year. "I think the true meaning of Christmas should be published more, but even though the meaning of Christmas is sometimes hid from kids by the gimmicks of industry," continued Rick, "the kids still learn from their parents the true meaning and spirit of the holiday so they can pass it on to their kids."

"Christmas is a religious holiday," agreed Jim Lusby and John Sholian, two freshmen. "Lights and tinsel have nothing to do with the meaning of Christmas. It seems that some of the frauds that occur in stores during the season, almost mock the real meaning of Christmas!"

Merry Christmas from the Grantonian Staff!



The Grantonian

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