

"About life..."

...and a creature was stirring...

By Laura Henkes

And it was the night before Christmas. But it wasn't a mouse.

Few things are greeted with such adverse comments and sympathy as having a birthday on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve; it is equated with having a life-long curse, with being cheated and neglected, both materially and emotionally.

However, being an expert on the subject, I couldn't disagree more. There is not a better day of the year to have a birthday, than Christmas Eve.

After all, how many people have to work on Christmas Eve? (Well, one year the day was spent masquerading as a lady Santa Claus.) Other people waste valuable vacation time so that special plans can be made on their special day.

But the best part of all is the fact that a spirit of celebra-

tion and excitement never fails to exist. And everyone is available to participate in it. The brisk weather, with its chill, sends everyone quickly scurrying, with their assortment of packages, to be enveloped by the warmth of home and kin. Offerings of food and drink contribute to the sharing process.

Casual conversations come and go as guests orient themselves toward the warmth of the fire from a couch or a spot on the carpet. The room is calmed by the radiance of the Christmas tree lights and the flickering of the fire as the sparks fly out and die, upon hitting the slate.

Eventually, a decision is made to exchange the gifts which have been carefully arranged and rearranged by younger members of the family. The birthday is acknowledged

ed first, with the traditional Christmas exchange of gifts following.

As the evening wears on, it becomes a very sensory experience--the smell of the fir and wreaths, the myriad of colors throughout the room, the drowsiness resulting as the warmth emanates from the hearth, and the shadows dancing over the beams high above. Some eventually rouse themselves to depart; others may slumber the night away in front of the coals.

Christmas Day, which follows, is a continuing celebration with an even larger gathering. But I feel the spirit of Christmas Eve night is very special and unique. For company, festivities, food and drink, sharing, environment, and excitement, its effect just can't be beat.

Selection criteria, not lottery, blamed for unfairness

(Cont. from page 1)

Adams, admissions director and Bernice Evans, a counselor.

"Just because a student gets an A in chemistry doesn't mean he can deal with people in a nursing situation," Evans said. "I think that some C students make excellent

nurses. I'd like to think that CCC is turning out good nurses. They are passing the state nursing test."

Adams said that the committee is considering the use of grade point averages, test scores, desire, motivation or a combination of these factors in improving the selection system. "The problem with a personal interview," Adams said, "is

that some people can talk a good line."

The conflict is not with the lottery, but with the selection criteria Adams said. "Whatever criteria is used, there has to be an unbiased way to sort out equally qualified applicants. This is where the lottery comes in," he said.

Lantz said that the current selection system tends to be less fair when there is a large

excess of applicants. "No system can be entirely fair, it's a psychological thing, when you are the one excluded by the selection system; the system is not fair," she said.

Evans said the most unfair part of the lottery is that students do not know "until the last minute" whether they will be accepted into the program.

"The nursing program is very demanding," she added. "This makes it difficult for those with families or those supporting themselves to plan their personal affairs when there is

no guarantee of getting into the program," Evans said.

"I think Arlene (Jurgens) should be given credit for recognizing the problems with the selection system and trying to do something about it," Evans commented.

The committee hopes to make a decision on recommendations to improve the selection system by the end of the quarter, Jurgens said. The committee will submit their findings to Lantz, who will present them to administration for final approval.

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