

THE
COLUMN

by
Ed
BELL

" 'Twas the night before Christmas
When all over 'the hill',
Nothing was stirring . . .
Not even a still!
The classrooms were empty,
There were no more capers;
But lights burned in the city
As professors marked papers . . ."

After the preceding bit of plagiarism, . . . a few thoughts on the coming season as it applies to university students . . . with a few presents for some particular "needy" persons. *The forecast is for . . . serious worry over examinations (not only by the Frosh either), exuberant train trips to various cities (last year a few of the boys were asked to leave the Montreal train at McAdam), a few quiet days at home (rationalizing to "Daddy" the reasons why low marks might come on certain subjects) . . . a family Christmas, growing restlessness between Christmas and New Year's Day, a hectic round of social activities (which causes "Momma" to inquire, "Is this the way you act at UNB") . . . and back to classes to show off the new clothes which were tastefully selected (probably by a maiden aunt).*

The Christmas season is hectic . . . with its tinsel and glitter, its commercialization . . . with its Sally's and Freddie's (shudder) "Cheerfully lying to Momma . . ." It has its wild parties, its mad rush by department stores to sell everything at boosted prices, and all the other aspects that cynics feast upon. Ogden Nash, in *A Carol For Children*, writes:

"God rest you, merry Innocents,
While Innocence endures.
A sweeter Christmas than we to ours
May you bequeath to yours."

But these things are not all . . . or even an important part . . . of the spirit of Christmas. Small unasked favours by your friends, the smile and greeting of a stranger on the street, an understanding hand on your shoulder when things are not going well, the feeling you get when you know you've helped someone without their knowing it, a smile from a child . . . these are the little things that put the first syllable in Christmas. When you stop and take stock of the past year and find with a feeling of warmth that you know many wonderful people and that all people, despite minor differences in your relationships with them, are good and kind in their own way . . . this is the spirit of Christmas. You cast aside the petty little prejudices in your own life and appreciate what a great world it is, how fine people really are, and how fortunate you are to be a part of it all . . . then you realize that Christmas is not just a tradition or a commercial enterprise . . . it is a feeling of gratitude for life that lasts all year long.

In all sincerity, I wish all my friends, and those whom I would like to have as friends, best wishes for a happy holiday and a true and meaningful Christmas. To those who do not hold Christmas as a religious holiday, again my sincere best wishes for a good holiday and a happy and prosperous new year. As Dickens put it, let's make it a Christmas so that it can always be said of us that "we know how to keep Christmas well". And I join with Tiny Tim . . . "God bless us every one."

**Brunswickan
On Vacation**

You are now reading the last Brunswickan of 1960. Our staff now takes time out to catch up on long-neglected essays, reports, studies and other pleasant pastimes. But don't fret, for we'll be back, fresher than ever, on January 17 to start the second half of our 1960-61 sentence.

Until then, we wish you one and all the best on term exams, a safe journey home, an enjoyable holiday, a happy new year, a safe journey back, and a riotous second term.

And to those students who will not be privileged to return next term, the Christmas graduates, farewell, and good luck.

Bye now!

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The Column—ODDS 'N ENDS

My best Christmas present to date is the general agreement among my critics that I am not like Fairbairn . . . indicating that I have fulfilled at least one aim which I set out with . . . Thankew, friends . . . HELP STAMP

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