

ST. NICHOLAS was the bishop of Myra, Asia Minor, in approximately 300 A.D., and was renowned for his generous nature.

He was first recognized as the patron saint of Christmas in the Netherlands.

## symbols of christmas

THE CHRISTMAS TREE has several sources. One belief is that the idea originated in Scandinavia. Scandinavians once worshipped trees, and when they became Christians, the sacred evergreen tree became part of their festivals.

Another legend describes how the first Christmas tree was revealed in a miracle to an English missionary, Winfrid, later known as Boniface. Approximately 1200 years ago, he was travelling through northern Germany, and came upon a group of heathens at an oak tree near Geismar. They were preparing to sacrifice their prince to Thor. Winfrid intervened, and cut down the oak. As it fell, a fir tree appeared, and Winfrid told the people it was the tree of life, symbolic of Christ.

The practice of using evergreens for decoration can be traced to ancient Rome. Romans exchanged the branches for good luck on the first day of January. The English adopted this custom.

SANTA CLAUS is a distinct Americanism. However, certain traits have their roots in other cultures. The belief that Santa comes down the chimney was derived from a Norse legend. The Norse believed that if the goddess Hertha appeared in the fireplace, she would bring good luck to their homes. The name was evolved from Dutch settlers in the New York area; they knew the spirit as Saint Nicholas.

Rumour has it American children don't pronounce the words very well, so they shortened the name to Santa Claus. In 1823, Clement Moore, an American minister and poet first described Santa's outward self in the poem we now know as 'The Night Before Christmas.'

MISTLETOE The origin of this delightful practice is unknown. However, ancient Celtic priests, Druids, used to give mistletoe sprigs away as charms. It was also used in religious gatherings in Europe hundreds of years ago. As we now interpret this custom, anyone caught under the greens must give a kiss to the person catching him. (Good Luck).

LIGHTS at Christmas are symbolic of Christ, the Light of the World. It is believed that Martin Luther first put lights on his tree to capture the glory and beauty of the stars over Bethlehem on the first Christmas.

In Ireland, a candle is placed in the window to light the way for the Child on Christmas eve. In Canada, for example, several churches hold candlelight services.

## there's no space like home

"Rolling Stone" magazine usually begins its explication on a new band with a catchy opening paragraph designed to lure the reader into the bowels of the story. However, my initial encounter with the personnel and music of Home, a relatively new group on the Edmonton scene, occurred in the laid-back environment of a house full of amplifiers, consoles, instruments, drum kits, tape recorders, cats and a German shepherd dog.

Home is a six-man unit. John Shearer, the acknowledged leader and original member of the group, plays electric guitar and composes much of the outfit's material, while Gary Marcus and Lawrence Alexander provide the rhythmic foundation on bass and percussion, respectively.

In addition, the group features Robin Taylor on woodwinds, William Konsorodo on keyboards and CKUA's Jay

Smith as 'narrator.' The initial concept for the group was formulated in December, 1970, but its present constitution is only two months old. Moreover, the band plans to expand its membership with the addition of a female vocalist accomplished in scat singing.

The major part of their music I heard was originally conceived as an aural prop for sundry theatrical endeavours. In particular, the compositions "Soliloquy" and "Fallen Angels" are movements from a Shearer ballet entitled "Inquisition." The group plans to perform this "three-character" ballet with an orchestra in the early spring of 1973.

Home is not a boogie band. Regarding influences it owes its collective sound more to Edgar Varese, Don "Beefheart" van Vliet, Frank Zappa, and John McLaughlin than to Chuck Berry. Some of the group's more "commercial" numbers include

King Crimson's "21st Century Schizoid Man" and the Zappa composition "King Kong." However, if you groove on 7/4 time then you can dance to it.

Home was originally conceived as a medium for a 'variety of presentations' of music; from structural or orchestrated music to absolutely freeform innovation. Shearer chides, "If a musician hasn't got enough imagination to produce music that is at once spontaneous as well as fresh, then he is merely a technician... not an artist."

Shearer and Konsorodo have worked in the past with varied forms of 'musique concrete'. Some of their knowledge in this field has been incorporated into Home. Shearer's 'Soliloquy' contains a taped fragment of Organized Sound which he prepared last year. The group also uses other instruments that aren't so popular with today's boogie people. Variable Frequency Oscillators, Phasers, and less sophisticated instruments such as the Theremin and Electric Vagina are part of the group's armament.

Konsorodo and Taylor do most of the solo work within the group; as well as the unrequited Shearer.

Shearer's guitar playing, in particular, is quite unique. He gets a wailing saxophone quality out of his instrument which is reminiscent tonally and stylistically, of Lou Reed in his "Sister Ray" period and the Stooges' Ron Asheton.

The public will soon have the opportunity to experience Home. Its management, Magic Christian Extraprises, intends to debut the group at a proposed "psychedelic revival" in January at the South Side Arena. The group will also appear on CKUA's "Acme Sausage Company" in the New Year.

J. Adams

CHRISTMAS CARDS are a fairly recent phenomenon. The first Christmas card is believed to have been printed in London in 1843. Charles Goodall and Sons began printing and selling cards in 1862. Coloured cards were first designed in 1865, by Louis Prang and were taken to the United States in 1875.

THE YULE LOG came from the Norse and Anglo-Saxons. Once a year, they burned an oak log to honour Thor, god of thunder. When they became Christians, they retained this ceremony at Christmas. The English keep an unburned part of the yule log for the next year's Christmas for good luck.

## footnotes

### TUESDAY DEC 12

An open sing at RATT, at 8:00 p.m. Anyone wanting to perform is invited to. Anyone wanting to listen is also invited. No admission charge, although donations are appreciated. Sponsored by Edmonton Folk Club.

### WEDNESDAY DEC 13

All wives of students are invited to attend the Xmas meeting of students wives, 8:00 p.m. Meditation Room, SUB. Mrs. Fraser, guest speaker, will demonstrate Christmas decorations. Materials will be available for "try your own". See you there.

### THURSDAY DEC 14

The Richard Eaton Singers will present a performance of Handel's Messiah at 8 p.m., in All Saints' Cathedral, 10035-103 Street. DAVID STOCKER is guest conductor; BRODERYCK OLSON, concert master; ALEXANDRA MUNN, harpsichordist. The soloists are: ELSIE ACHUFF, soprano; BETTY BOWEN-WING, mezzo-soprano; NIGEL LEMON, tenor; GLYN WILLIAMS, baritone.

Admission is \$3, students and senior citizens half-price. Tickets are available at the Department of Music and from members of the Richard Eaton Singers.

10:30 a.m., in Room TB-39 Tory Building: Dr. Sandra Ball-Rokeach, Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, will give a Public Lecture: "The Subculture of Violence and Social Class as Determinants of Interpersonal Violence". (This is a report on Dr. Ball-Rokeach's work that has evolved out of her assignment with the U.S. Presidential "Violence Commission")

### FRIDAY DEC 15

'LIFE OF JESUS' Christmas is near, but do you know anything about the life of Jesus? If you feel interest, please come to the Edmonton Chinese Christian Fellowship meeting which will be held in SUB Meditation Room. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. sharp

International Folk Dancing on Fridays from 8 - 10:30 p.m. in room 11, Physical Education Bldg.

### FRIDAY DEC 22

International Students' Committee Christmas Light Tour and Dinner 6 p.m. Tour of Edmonton. Meet at SUB Information Desk. Followed (7:45 p.m.) by Dinner in Pembina Hall Common Lounge. Please bring records (dance music). Tickets \$2 (package price) from 2-5 Univ. Hall (phone 4145) by Dec. 21.

### WEDNESDAY JAN 10

Inner Tube Waterpolo is back for another fun-filled season. It starts Wednesday, Jan. 17 and continues every Wednesday night from 7:30-10:00 p.m. A team consists of 4 women and 3 men. Get yourself a name and sign-up by 1:00 p.m., Wednesday January 10, in either Men's or Women's I-M office.

Women students over 25 years: Meeting in Pembina Common Lounge between 11:30 and 2:00 p.m. Come anytime. Bring your own sandwich lunch. Coffee will be provided.

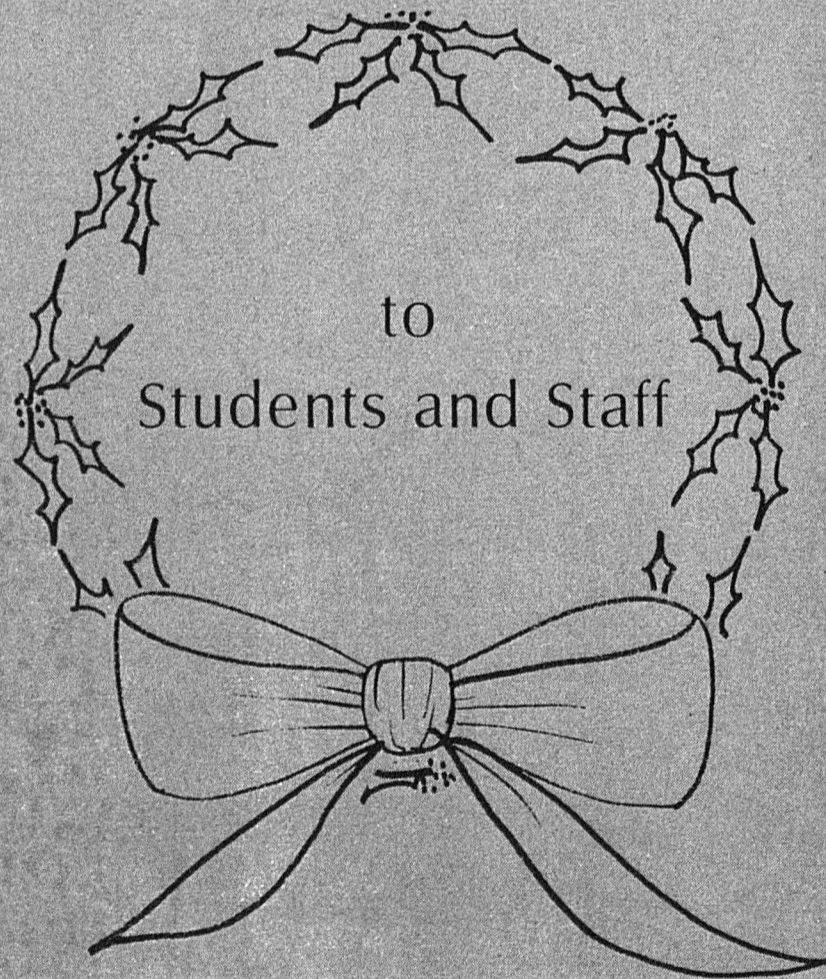
### GENERAL FOOTNOTES

Social Services Lounge in Room 24B SUB from 10 a.m. to midnite daily. Cheap coffee and carnival atmosphere.

The Campus Crusade for Christ is holding a conference, Dec. 27 - Jan. 1, 73 at Hotel MacDonald, Edmonton. For detailed information and brochure, please call 436-3834 or 436-3324.

Lutheran Student Movement: Vespers 9pm every Thursday at the Lutheran Student Centre 11222 86 Ave. Inquire about bible studies 439-5787.

## SEASONS GREETINGS



to  
Students and Staff

from Student Council