

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

Equal Time

Do you object to the way society celebrates Christmas?

NOTRE DAME

TOM LOONEY
Senior
football

"No, I don't because I think that if everyone puts forth good Christmas spirit and overall good feeling about the birth of Christ and Christmas, and the true meaning of it, everybody will have a very spirit filled Christmas."



THERESA CICCONI
Senior

"Yes, because it's too commercialized. There is too much emphasis on giving and receiving presents instead of the true meaning of Christmas. It seems that the religious aspect is made secondary. I would like to go back to the old-fashioned Christmas, where presents were hand-made, and with hand-made decorations. Now, everything is too artificial, even down to the trees."



MICHAEL BUCKLEY
Junior
track

"Yes, because it places too much emphasis on receiving material things and we don't give to the people who need things — we give to the people who already have things. We should try to put efforts toward giving to the powerless of society."



RACHEL LEE
Sophomore
volleyball

"Not really. I think there is still a lot of families that stay together; there is a lot of family unity. Something I don't like is all the commercialization. There is a lot of advertising to get everyone to buy a lot of presents. I think things like Christmas Day church is nice and the Masses leading up to Christmas explain a lot of the true meaning of Christmas."



TOM OBUCK
Junior
yearbook staff

"Yes, it's too commercial. I like the idea of an old-fashioned Christmas with the family. I think it's all right when they have Christmas trees and all the glamour but the advertisements are too much. The religious aspect has been lost with all the shopping. Our family still carries on the traditions which is nice."



WINI REIDY
Junior
ski club

"You could say it's too commercialized as far as business goes but then again as far as I celebrate Christmas, it is a meaningful time of the year; a kind of retreat. We usually have a big family dinner; the whole family comes over and opens presents together and we all go to Mass together. It's a time for personal reflection. My parents like to stress the fact that it's Christ's birthday and not just a time to get presents."



MICHAEL LOVELAND
Sophomore
track

"People have to make a living, so I guess they have to have commercials. I don't like the commercials that try to 'con' kids into asking for a lot of things; the commercials are taking over TV and spoil the meaning of Christmas."



SUE MEHNICK
Sophomore
drama

"Basically, it's a good way. The way it brings people together is good because everybody becomes closer. The only bad thing about it is that it's too commercial. Like all the stuff that comes out in October for Christmas. Everyone is worried about buying things and not the true meaning of Christmas."



A Children's Christmas

By SANDI MICHAELS
Cardinal Mooney

It was a still night in Bethlehem. Samuel, a local shepherd boy had just finished his dinner and was on his way to the pasture. It was his turn to tend the sheep.

Samuel had two sisters and three brothers. His sisters helped their mother with the cleaning and cooking while he and his brothers helped their father with the sheep.

As Samuel made his way to the pasture, he noticed how bright the sky was that night. The sheep were unusually quiet, most of them peacefully sleeping and Samuel was alert for sound of hungry wolves.

He was sitting on a huge rock watching the sheep when suddenly he saw a bright light in the sky. A man, dressed in white and with golden hair, appeared sitting on a cloud. "Watch the sky Samuel," he said. "You will see a dancing star. Follow it and you will find happiness."

Then before Samuel could ask his name, or how he could find happiness, the man disappeared.

The sheep had become excited and they walked about looking up at the sky. Samuel also watched, until at last he saw the dancing star. It was huge and brighter than all the others. As he watched it, three men dressed in fancy robes came along with their camel piled high with expensive gifts.

"We are following the dancing star," said one king.

"To find happiness," said another. "You may come with us if you'd like."

Samuel accompanied them and after awhile they came upon a broken-down stable which stood underneath the dancing star. Inside, with the animals was a mother, father and new born baby. The three kings gave the baby all the gifts they had piled on the camels.

Samuel was embarrassed because he had nothing to give. "Who is this baby?" he asked.

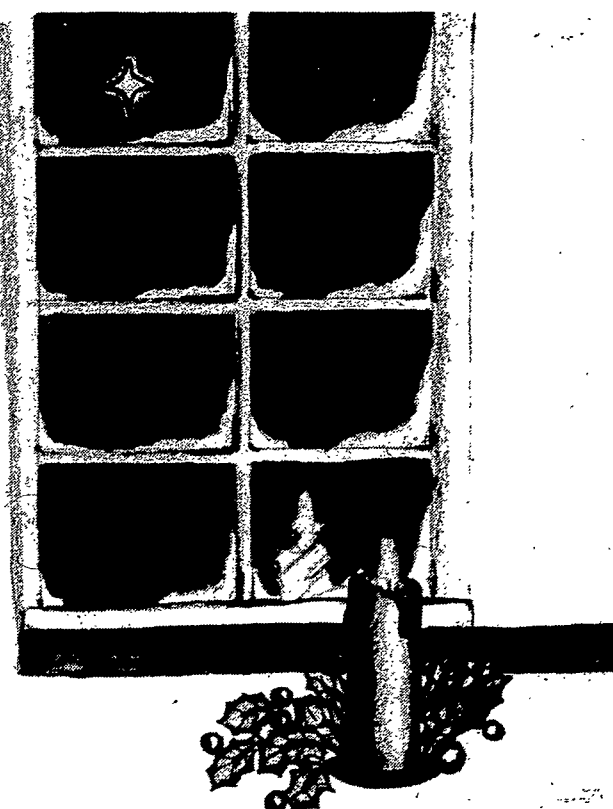
"He too is a king," they replied. "The greatest king of all."

not a king with land. His kingdom is your soul. Give him your heart."

"I have nothing to give him," Samuel unhappily said. "Where is his kingdom? When I am older and have my own sheep, I will send him the largest ram I have."

Samuel gazed at the baby sleeping in his mother's arms. He looked at all the people who had come to see the child. He saw the peaceful glow on their faces. It was then Samuel knew he had truly found happiness under the dancing star.

One of the kings knelt beside Samuel and said, "He is

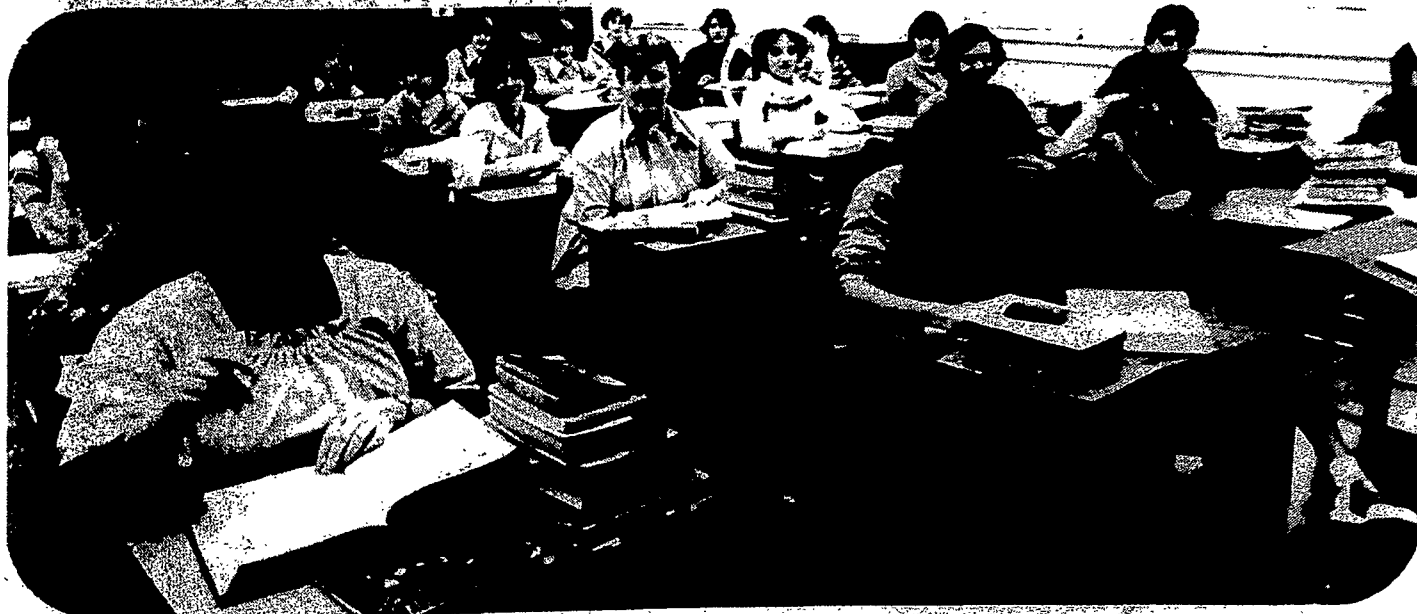


Happy Holidays!
From St. Agnes

Christmas

*Christmas,
Children's little joy,
Fascinated by the lights on the tree,
They sit watching them flash
And glow.
Nothing else concerns them,
For Santa brings joy and mystery.
Little ones hanging their stockings,
Stars are seen in their eyes,
They know no other holiday like
Christmas.
Remember, when you were little,
You couldn't sleep for anticipation
Of a jolly fellow leaving gifts.
Think, yes think of that one
Special toy, coat, or gift that you
Wanted all year.
Then came Christmas, you explored the
Packages under the tree.
Your mother said not yet!
You begged to open the one
That you thought was it!
The time came to open the gifts,
Your father and mother handed
You the box brightly wrapped.
Staring for a moment at it,
You wonder.
Unwrapping it, you spare nothing!
In astonishment, you don't speak.
Then you say in a soft voice
Oh, its so beautiful!
Thank you!
Yes, this is what I call*

Christmas Joy!
By KEVIN O'CONNOR
Notre Dame



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Geneva DeSales during class. The person circled above should bring the clipping to the office to be forwarded to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, Dec. 26 to receive \$5.