

The Sword

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A Seasonal Message From the President

May the blessings of Christmas fall like snow in your life—beautiful and bountiful. May the holidays truly be holy days in which love of God, family and friends are beautifully and bountifully recognized and celebrated. Trees and travel, cookies and carols, gifts and good food enhance the days but may the heart of the

matter remain God's peace that goes beyond human traditions or tinsel. I wish each of you a very happy vacation, filled with meaningful relaxation and inspiring spiritual reflection. Please join in the prayer which provides the theme for our choral concerts this year.

"Come, O long-expected Jesus,
From our fears and sins release us.
...
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
...
Now your gracious kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone;
Raise us to your glorious throne."

May God bless all with grace and peace.
Merry Christmas.

President Bob Holst

He Said

By Andrew J. Everard

A deep laugh pierced the room as a gray-haired man, aged before his time sat in a worn out lazy-boy chair. From appearance, he looked comfortable rocking back and forth creating a certain rhythm. He wore a pair of gray sweatpants, an old stretched-out undershirt and nothing on his cold feet, as his light green eyes watched the familiar t.v. set. Sure he looked comfortable, but inside him there was tension swelling up. There were business calls buzzing in his ears and deadline dates floating in his head.

He would sit in his favorite chair every night trying to relax, but there was always something worrying him that couldn't always be pushed back in his mind.

He was a very important man to his family, amongst his many friends, and business partners.

The life of the party, as one would say, was he. He was always keeping people on their toes with his lovable jokes and laugh. "Just do your best, and if you do all you can, I am proud of you," he would say whenever one had a worry.

Every human loved this man and knew all his funny ways. What no one, not even he, knew was the silent sickness that washed through his body. From the outside he looked well, but silently, he was ill. No one would think he would be sick, not a man so happy and so great. So that one sad day, as silently as it came, so silently it took him away to a far away place where his lovable laugh could piece the sky.

Happy Birthday DAD...I will always love you!

—Andrew

She Said

by Bethany Moritz

Busy shopping malls, making list, my grandma's brussle sprouts, and an extra five pounds. This are all things I could do without at Christmas. Unlike others though, I still feel excited when Christmas rolls around. I get so sick and tired of people complaining of how Christmas is a Government constructed holiday that was made to help our economy. Or how Christmas is all about who gives the biggest gift and who receives it. Christmas is the remembrance of our dear Lord's birth. And if you have a hard time remembering that every year, then let this article be a reminder. Now in light of all the controversy, that me just say that these are only my feelings about Christmas and in no way reflect the opinions of the school. (I feel that needed to be said.)

Now, there is nothing wrong with sharing and receiving gifts with others, it is all part of the beauty of the holiday. However, I do think that there is something wrong when people constantly complain about all the shopping and all the hassle they have to go through during Christmas to do this. I am sorry, but I have no pity for you at all. Why? Because Christmas is a time when we can

show our love for others. I think giving gifts is a great way to show your love for other. The Wiseman traveled from afar to bring gifts for Jesus, and we complain about traveling to the Mall of America. Try getting there on a camel!

Christmas is also a time when we can gather together with our families and friends, and thank God that we have each other. How often do we get to see our relatives besides holidays? We should be thankful for the time the government gives us off to be with our families.

Christmas also gives us more opportunities to help others who are less fortunate than we. When we are given two weeks off, maybe we should go out and do something for others, instead of setting at home watching reruns of Ricki Lake.

Finally, it is a time when we can reflect on the best gift of all, Jesus Christ. It may sound corny, but Jesus is the reason for the Season. It sad that people who complain about Christmas have to be reminded of this.

So if anyone ever complains to you about Christmas, tell them to put a stocking in it!

Merry Christmas Everyone, and God Bless!

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We would like to apologize for the delay in releasing our next regular issue. Look for a full issue shortly after break! Have a safe and happy Christmas Break.

-Your Friends at *The Sword*