

Mommy, what does "Christmas" mean?

The snow is softly falling, building up on the rooftops and doorsteps, covering the ground with a soft, fluffy blanket of white as far as the eye can see. It makes one feel like a kid again. The temptation to run out and make a snowman or a snow angel is almost too much to resist. It also makes one feel peaceful, and puts everyone in the Christmas spirit.

It is a time of good will, peace on earth, and Christmas shoppers, pushing, shoving, screaming and shouting, trying to get at the toys that their dear, darling children want from Santa. Breaking each other's arms and legs if that is what it takes.

Such has been the scene this year in department stores where the *Care Bears* and *Cabbage Patch Dolls* are being sold. This is the era of the commercialized Christmas. I stand back and watch in horror and amazement: shoulder to shoulder, shopping cart to shopping cart, people getting short-tempered and nasty, bitching at the poor sales girl about something totally beyond her control.

One thing's for sure: if you're looking for cheer and good will, don't go shopping.

If we are fortunate enough still to have our grand- and great-grand-parents with us, we can listen to them reminisce about how it all was.

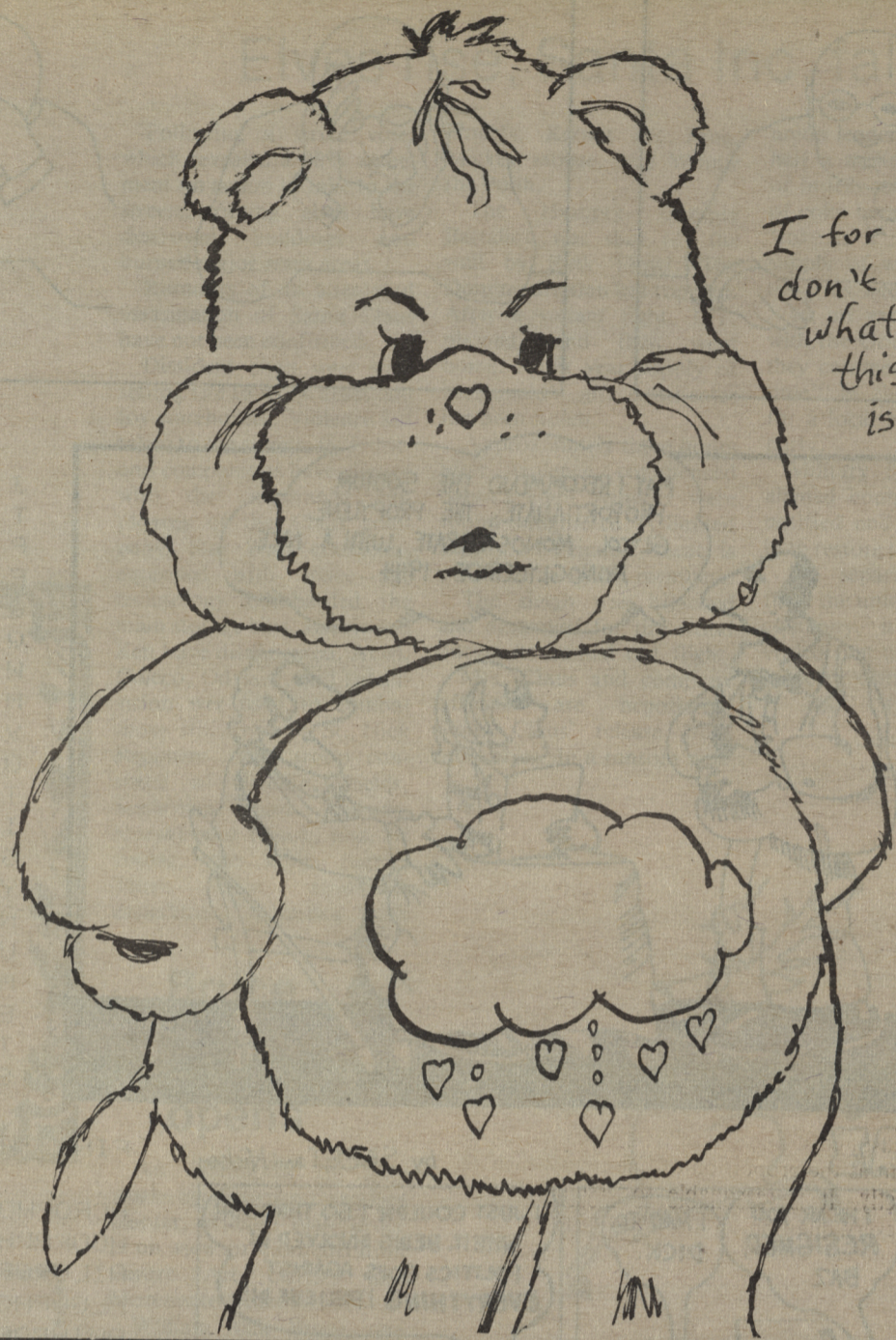
We wonder if it was really the way they say. The Christmas carolling with a cup of hot chocolate or eggnog at every home. The truly happy faces on everyone, wishing good cheer and Merry Christmas to one and all. The candle-lit ceremonies. And most of all, the giving of a simple, often home-made gift, given and received with a trueness and love of heart they were meant to represent.

Even the idea of Santa has changed. St. Nicholas, alias Santa Claus, alias Kris Kringle, was a man who represented the true meaning of goodwill towards mankind. To receive a gift from St. Nick was a privilege, not the right that children believe it to be today.

It is really a sad comparison to the Christmas of today. We hear carols only on the radio. People seem to be more short-tempered than formerly, with little wishing of goodwill.

The greatest difference, I feel, is with the way the children approach Christmas. First thing in the morning, there are gleeful squeals from the kids, bright wrapping paper flying this way and that, all to be forgotten by afternoon without even a thought to what this day of gift-giving is all about.

Children of today seldom remember that it is a celebration of life, a new life, a new chance for the world: the celebration of a child born to save the world.



I for one
don't know
what all
this fuss
is about!

LETTERS

Best wishes to you and all your staff for continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Hennessey
Registrar and
University Secretary

Mistake made

Let me say how much I think the new format, the new name, and the new no-nonsense approach have improved your paper. I, for one, find it refreshing and have nothing but praise for the effort that you and your staff have so obviously put forth to raise its tone. Especially appealing is the hard line taken about what will be edited: everything! I firmly believe that the intention of maintaining a high quality paper can do nothing but attract serious students to your camp.

One tiny (as far as I am concerned) demurrer concerning your Senate story on page 1 of the 24 Nov edition: I am not chairman of Senate, but secretary. The chasm separating the two is wider than a church door, deeper than a well, and filled with all manner of demons. Thus, I have no ambition to leap the gap and am happy that the Senate chairman is someone other than myself, in this instance although I'm sure at times to his regret, University President Peter Meincke.

Business Society responds

"The judgement is in" (December 1), a message to the university community concerning the fourth year Business course **Management Policy** contained some very important information for Business students.

However, there were a couple of points incorrectly stated. To reflect back, the business faculty is presently looking into ways of improving the structure of the course, in order to better serve students.

There have been three changes proposed. The first change involves preparing the students better for the course. Any fine tuning changes can take effect immediately, unlike the changes in the other two proposals.

The second change would mean the passed-in project could take on different forms; for

example, a project could be done by an individual or group. The project might include a project researched over the summer with the help of a professor.

The third change involves the length and timing of the course along with the emphasis put on the marking of the project. An example could be stretching the course over a year or making the project worth only one-third of the course mark.

These last two proposals, if implemented, would not take effect until present sophomore students were beginning their fourth year.

We are interested in hearing your comments on these proposals, so that we can present them to the faculty at our meeting with them in January.

Ken Mutter
President, Business Society

From our editor

As many of you may have noticed there has been an ad for an Editor of the UPEI newspaper in the paper for the last two weeks. This job begins

January 3, 1984.

Yes, I am giving up my position as Editor-in-Chief.

In my time as Editor of the paper, I achieved a goal that had set for myself: to make the UPEI student newspaper a useful and informative branch of the media. I am fully aware that there are some rough edges yet and it is hoped that with some help the new editor and the remaining staff will be able to smooth these off and put out quality paper that will please almost everyone.

Since the first edition of *The Netted Gem* came out, I have received a number of complaints about the new format and content. These were well appreciated by myself and the staff. Thank you for the words of encouragement.

There are always people that want to complain about things that are new. Well, these complaints tell us what people want and don't want.

'Bye for now. See you around campus and good luck to the new editor and staff. We will be looking forward to the first 1984 issue to come out on January 12.

Yours truly,
Denise Richardson

P.S. Merry Christmas

The Netted Gem

Thursday December 8, 1983

Staff

Coming to you semi-live from our cozy little office way up on fourth floor Main, this week's gem of a staff! We are Editorial Page Editor Dave Doiron, Sports Editor Phil Stanyer, Copy Editor Sharon Leighton, News Editor Ruth Edgett, Production Editor Carolyn Ryan, Advertising Editor Gus Hillstrom, CUP Editor John Dougan, Arts Editor Johnathan Orlowski, Editor-in-Chief Denise Richardson, and the dedicated and vital Howard Beattie, John Pendergast, and photographer Parker Grimmer.

The Netted Gem is the weekly student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island. Views expressed in the Netted Gem are not necessarily those of the UPEI Student Union. We reserve the right to edit copy for space, style, or legal reasons. Letters to the Editor must be typed double spaced and be submitted before noon on Monday. Letters exceeding 500 words in length are prone to cutting and much abuse by the collective staff. All letters must be signed by their author(s). Our office is located on the fourth floor of the Main building. Our telephone is 892-4121 Extension 387. The Netted Gem is a member usually in good standing with Canadian University Press.