

C T H E CARBON

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MCSA's Present and Future

by Angela Hatem

This year's Marian College Student Association, MCSA, has had their hands full. The 1997-1998 executive board consisting of President Sials Dust, Vice President JoAnne Caporale, Secretary Angie Wyler, and Treasurer Pat Thurston, have been working hard to ensure that the students' voices be heard.

Dust, a senior, and Caporale, a junior, stated that student involvement and feedback have been a large part of their agenda. "This year we have started an e-mail account in order for better communication with students about what's happening on campus," said Caporale. "Through e-mail we've been able to give out notices to students, we received the idea for assigned parking spots through e-mail," stated Caporale.

The goals of MCSA, which were highly commended by the Board of Trustees, are as follows; Goal 1: Increase awareness of MCSA, Goal 2: Increase student



MCSA Executive Board Members

awareness and feedback toward the functioning of MCSA, Goal 3: Recognize outstanding student accomplishments: academic, athletic, service, and leadership, Goal 4: Establish working relationship with *The Carbon*, Goal 5: Maintain strong financial status of MCSA, and Goal 6: Increase commuter student involvement.

As a representative of Marian, MCSA has taken part in many influential events. "We took part in the Founders' Day celebration, and many other campus ceremonies," stated Dust. Caporale and Dust also received the honor to meet Ruth Lilly, who rarely allows anyone to meet her, or thank her for her contributions. "The executive board was also chosen to be on the President's Christmas card, which usually has photos of buildings, cities, the cycling team, or the sisters," commented Dust.

MCSA has also implemented the Above and Beyond award. "This award is given to a student who is nominated by an advisor, coach, or a teacher for

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by Jennifer Beck

It's that time of year again. What, you hadn't heard? Where have you been since the day after Halloween? How could you not have known that the holiday shopping season is now upon us? In fact, according to retailers, who have been planning this year's holiday advertising campaigns since December 26 of last year, it's almost over! That's right, you have only ... GASP ... two weeks left before Christmas!

According to those aforementioned "retailers," spending an insane amount of money on holiday gifts for your friends and family is the only way to truly tell them you love them. After all, in today's consumer culture, there's no better way to show your loved ones you care than by buying them the overly-hyped, grossly-overpriced merchandise massmarketed throughout the land. Disheartened? Before you dash out to your nearest suburban mall to take part in the ridiculous ritual known as Christmas shopping, read this shopping journal. It helps to know you're not alone. Happy Shopping!

July 4, 1997: At family Fourth-of-July picnic, Grandma asks everyone what they want for Christmas. Talk about early-birds! I'm still recovering from last year's Christmas shopping.

November 28, 1997: Day after Thanksgiving. I celebrate the kick-off to the holiday shopping season by sleeping in late,

feasting on leftovers, and not leaving the house the entire day.

December 1, 1997: I buy my first Christmas gift, a sweater for my dad, at the Marian College Bookstore. The Shopping Gods must have been smiling down on me: there's only one sweater left, but it's in exactly my dad's size, and it costs only \$20. I think it's the first time in my four years at Marian that I've been able to buy anything at the Bookstore besides a pack of Lifesavers that's in my price range.

December 3, 1997: I run into a friend who tells me that not only does she have all her Christmas shopping done already, she's also already wrapped the gifts and placed them under her totally-decorated tree. I ask her if she knows my Grandma.

December 5, 1997: At T.J. Maxx in Greenwood, I find fabulous deals on tasteful gifts in the Homeware Section. However, after maneuvering past the middle-aged couple arguing in Menswear, the toddler throwing a temper tantrum in Toys, and the mother yelling at her 10-year-old in Juniors, I seem to have somehow lost the holiday spirit.

December 6, 1997, a.m.: My first holiday trip to the mall. Although I don't buy very many presents here, I'm startled to see a guy I knew in high school hawking pagers and cell phones at Radio Shack.

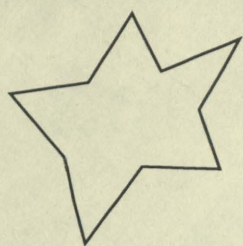
Upon arriving home, I immediately call the Registrar to make sure I'm on track for graduation.

December 6, 1997, p.m.: Another ghost from Christmas past appears in the form of my high school Anatomy and Physiology teacher, who holds up the line in Office Max for about 20 minutes. I struggle to keep my patience while secretly seething about that B- I didn't deserve.

December 8, 1997: I pull a muscle carrying all of the holiday catalogs from the mail box to the trash. Included in the mail is an invitation to post-Christmas wedding reception on December 27. Yea! More shopping!

December 10, 1997: I'm comforted by the fact that I'm not quite as "last minute" as some people. For instance, last year a friend's brother waited to do his Christmas shopping until early evening on Christmas Eve, right before the family was to begin their annual exchanging of gifts. When he arrived home and they sat down beneath the Christmas tree, he pulled out a Meijer sack and placed three unwrapped CD's on the floor in front of his sister and parents, telling them that they could fight over the one they wanted. I thought I was bad! This guy would definitely not get along with my Grandma! And the holiday shopping saga continues ...

A Shopper's Journal



A Season

A German Christmas

by Viviane Seumel

Christmas in Germany and in the United States is quite similar when looking at the general idea of this holiday, but there are some Christmas traditions practiced in Germany that cannot be found in this country.

Christmas in Germany really starts with the first of December. On that day small children and often even teenagers receive from their parents what is called an advent calendar. This calendar is a special incentive which helps children through the long wait until Christmas Eve. The calendar has twenty-four windows, pockets or boxes filled with candy and other small gifts. Every day from December 1 through 24, children open one part of these calendars experiencing a little surprise each time.

Another special day on the way to Christmas is December 6, which is St. Nick's Day in Germany. The night before this day, children young and old clean and shine their shoes and boots and put them on a window sill in their house. Over night, St Nick secretly visits and leaves small presents such as books and chocolate for them.

During the Christmas season which is



called *Advent* in Germany, the four Sundays before Christmas are celebrated in a unique way. Almost every family has a decorated advent wreath in the family room. Its main feature are four candles, one of which is lit on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, two are lit on the third Sunday and so on. Finally on Christmas, all candles can burn.

The main Christmas event in Germany takes place on Christmas Eve when Santa Claus or rather *der Weihnachtsmann* comes to bring presents to everyone. Santa has a sleigh with four white horses that pull the gifts, which are stored in thick dark sacks. However, Santa is not just a fictional character but actually appears because many families ask a relative, neighbor, or friend to dress up as Santa and come into their house to deliver the gifts. This is especially exciting for young children who have to sing a song or say a poem. Santa then answers questions about their behavior in the past year, in order to receive the presents.

Despite these differences, Christmas in the United States and in Germany is essentially the same, based upon the idea of the birth of Jesus Christ and the gift of love and forgiveness granted to us. And this is what should be remembered no matter where in the world Christmas is celebrated.

Chanukah: Festival of Lights

by Emily Persic

During this, the darkest time of the year, comes a holiday of warmth and light. Chanukah, the Jewish celebration of a miracle performed for Israel some 2000 years ago, is celebrated this year starting Dec 24 and continues for eight days.

This celebration's main focus is around the Menorah, the candelabra which holds nine candles, one for each of the holy days and one with which to light the others. On each day a candle is lit, starting with one the first day and going until all are burning on the final day. The more elaborate the Menorah, the better, as beauty only increases the celebration and thanks to God. There are two blessings told every night with the lighting, and one extra blessing told only after the first night. All members of the fam-



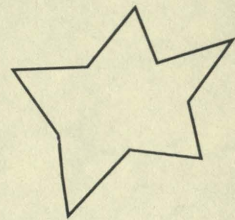
ily take turns lighting the Menorah, as this is very much a holiday about family and community.

The main ways of celebrating have to do with lots of good food and drink, such as potato latke (grated potato fritters), soufganioth or ponchkes (jam filled donuts) and couscous, a Mediterranean dish.

During Chanukah people do give each other gifts, especially to children, and play games, such as spinning the Dreidel, a type of top with Hebrew letters inscribed on all the sides. They also read from the Torah, and tell stories. Most importantly, family and friends spend time together.

Chanukah celebrates the overwhelming theme that permeates the Jewish tradition, that even in the darkest times, light, hope, holiness and joy can and do occur. It is a lesson that all people of all religions can understand during this cold, but hopeful time of the year.

of Celebration

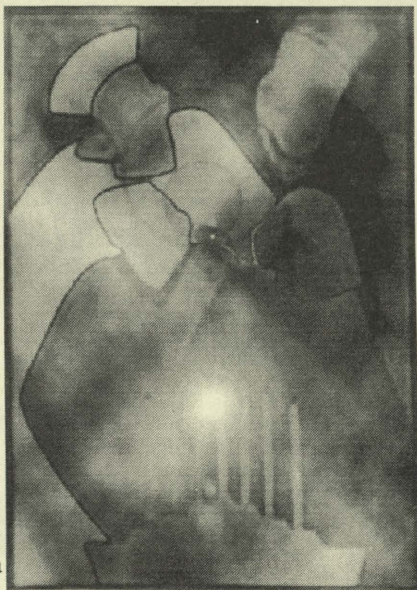


Kwanzaa Reflects Community

by Daniel Przybyla

It could be a false presumption of mine, but I would bet only a tiny percentage of students fully understand the holiday known as Kwanzaa. Exclusive to African-Americans and their culture, this seven day holiday, which begins on December 26, is a celebration of cultural heritage for African-Americans. Camille Stewart, a devout follower of Kwanzaa, says, "It is meant for African-Americans to recapture what we've lost and to reincorporate African values in society."

Stewart's emphasis on values is practiced through the seven day observation of seven key principles. Each day a candle is lit. Adding a unique cultural significance to the holiday, every candle represents an African word. *Umoja*, which means unity encompasses the effort to strive for unity in the family, community, nation and race. The other six principles include: self-determination - *Kujichagulia*, cooperative economics - *Ujima*, a collective purpose to restore traditional greatness, *Ujamaa*, creativity - *Kuumba*, faith - *Imani*, purpose - *Nia* and



finally on New Year's Eve, a day of feast and fellowship occurs.

Unlike Christmas, which has its ties to religion and commercialism, Kwanzaa celebrates its tribute to cultural heritage. Religious restrictions are non-existent. Therefore Islamic, Catholic and Protestant faiths unite in the observance, independent of religious influences.

Maulana Karenga was the founding leader of the holiday, which will be celebrating its 30th year in 1997. Out of the devastation which occurred during the Watts riots in 1967, Karenga wanted African-Americans to celebrate their cultural ties and not to shatter their likeness through economic and religious difference. Nearly 13 million African-Americans nationwide honor this cultural holiday. And as its popularity escalates because of the increasing influence of ethnic and cultural diversity in the US, Karenga insists on remaining faithful to its purpose. Karenga believes African-Americans must remain steadfast to tradition and reason in order to sustain the sanctity of Kwanzaa.

A Green Christmas

by Emily Persic

Christmas around the world is celebrated in many ways. In the UK countries such as Northern Ireland there are similarities to American celebration, such as Santa Claus and Christmas trees, but many differences as well.

According to my sister, Callie, who lives in Northern Ireland, one of the big yuletide traditions are inter-active plays they call pantomimes. Different community groups will put on children's stories and fairytales that are set in that community, and that the audiences interact with. One that she just saw was *Cinderella in Ballymurphy*; Ballymurphy being the community in Belfast that put on the play.

Another difference is that they set off fireworks for Christmas, as well as having *Crackers* to enjoy. *Crackers* are small paper brightly colored packages with a string on either end. Two people pull each end, it makes a loud pop, and opens. Inside is a prize, a crown and a sweet or sometimes a joke.

Christmas puddings are another popular tradition. They are similar to American fruit-cakes in look, however they are tastier and more enjoyable to eat. No holiday meal is complete without a Christmas pudding.

In America we look to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as our two paramount days of celebration and visitation. In the UK and Ireland, the two main days are Christmas Day and Boxing Day, which is December 26. Boxing day refers to one's *Christmas Box*, as in, "What would you like in your Christmas Box" as opposed to "What do want for Christmas". Boxing Day is an important day for visiting friends and family.

While we Americans hope for a traditional white Christmas, the Irish will satisfy their holiday appetites with green clovers and rolling hills.

Hispanic Celebrations of Christmas

by Trenia M. Logan

The Christmas holiday season holds many different meanings for many different people throughout the world. As a multicultural country, it is important that we learn about the differences that we share. Here are some of the ways that Latin American countries celebrate Christmas.

To get an idea of Christmas in Argentina, think "Fourth of July in December," according to Sr. Susana Bollinger, one of the Spanish professors here at Marian who is a native of Argentina. There are barbecues with lots of different meats, lots of heat, and lots of fun times outside.

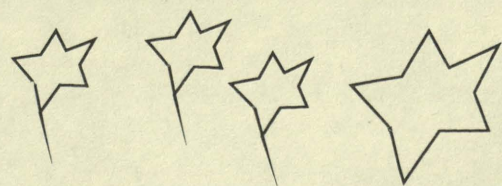
In El Salvador, The celebrations consist of fiestas, soccer games, bull-fighting and bullriding during the day. After

all of these festivities have finished, night brings fiestas complete with dancing and the lively music of the people. The whole town comes out into the streets to celebrate and be with their families and friends.

In Mexico, there is a celebration of the *posadas*. The people sing and walk to different houses every night leading up to Christmas Eve. It is a re-creation of the events that lead to the coming of the Lord. They ask if the people who reside there have heard about Jesus' coming. The people answer no and then invite the visitors in for the traditional punch that is made of all kinds of citrus and other fruits with or without tequila. The children are given sweets during this time also. The residents of each house that is visited then, join the procession to

the next house. Finally, on Christmas Eve, everyone goes to the main church in the town to sing and welcome Jesus into their lives. On Christmas day, there are fiestas in which the pinatas, which are filled with fruit, are busted. It is believed that the pinatas contain all of the evilness and that upon busting the pinata, the evil is overcome.

Many of these celebrations are performed here in the US by those people who have migrated here from various countries. Many largely hispanic communities celebrate in their traditional customs.



A Christmas Carol

by Trenia M. Logan

A *Christmas Carol* now being performed at the Indiana Reportory Theatre, is the classic story of Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas. With all of the new age changes in modern productions of this age-old story, some of which include Scrooge as a woman, the IRT's production was refreshingly old-fashioned.

The casting was believable for the most part. At times, Scrooge didn't seem quite as "Bah-humbug" as he should have been. The Cratchett kids were absolutely adorable, especially the "two smaller Cratchetts". The spirits of past, present, and future were all well represented. The ghost of the future was frightening. He looked like something from a horror flick instead of a Christmas tale. He definitely portrayed the many fears and uncertainties that most people have concerning the future. Tiny Tim seemed a bit too healthy to have been so critically ill. He just did not appear to be as sickly as the story describes him.

The only thing about the whole performance that was really annoying was the use of the enormous golden frame. During the first half of the play, this frame was being moved around so much that it was distracting to the storyline and the primary actors on stage. Other than the frame, the settings were wonderful. The stage was completely covered in snow that appeared as though it had just been trucked in from



A scene from the play *A Christmas Carol*

the North Pole. The lighting system set the feeling of a cold wintery night very well also.

All in all, I really enjoyed this production of *A Christmas Carol*. I would recommend that everyone, Scrooges included, go see this production at IRT, if for no other reason than to see the Christmas turkey that is literally twice the size of Tiny Tim.

Indigo Girls

by Dawn Duncan

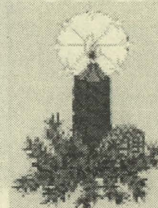
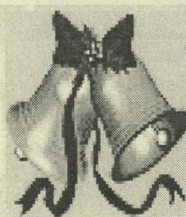
On Tuesday, December 9, The Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, rocked the IU Auditorium.

Opening for the Indigo Girls was the Milwaukee based band Mrs. Fun. Mrs. Fun was not at all fun. The band consisted of two people, a keyboardist and a drummer. The music was so mind-numbing that this reviewer felt as if someone was drilling a hole in her head. Unfortunately, the opening act played for forty-five minutes and nearly put the audience to sleep.

Finally, the lights went down and Emily and Amy took the stage, opening with a song from their first CD, *Land of Canaan*. Fans of this fabulous duo would have been hard pressed to find a fault with this show.

The Indigo Girls played variety of music from all 8 of their CD's. They played quite a few songs from their new CD, *Shaming of the Sun*. Old standards like *Tried to Be True* and *Closer to Fine* kept the audience on its feet and dancing. Along with these songs from their early releases, the Indigo Girls also performed crowd favorites like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Least Complicated* and *Power of Two*.

Although they played for an hour and forty-five minutes, the crowd could have gone on all night. I may be biased, because I am a huge fan, but this was an incredibly good concert.



Top Ten Christmas Movies/Specials according to The Carbon staff

10. *Winnie the Pooh Christmas*
9. *Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer*
8. *A Garfield Christmas*
7. *Miracle on 34th Street*
6. *A Christmas Carol*
5. *Frosty the Snowman*
4. *A Christmas Story*
3. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
2. *It's a Wonderful Life*
1. *The Grinch who Stole Christmas*

MCSA Continued from page 1

accomplishments in areas such as academics, sports, leadership, or academics", said Dust. "We will also be registering for One America, a club which celebrates the joy of cultures and diversity", stated Dust.

Plans for the upcoming semester will include another look into the visitation policy, and a possible upgrade of the meal exchange so students can get more for their

money.

"Our board members are a team, we have a fun and easy going atmosphere. We are always open for ideas on activities and concerns", agreed Dust and Caporale.

MCSA meets every Tuesday at 8:15 P.M. on the second floor of Ruth Lilly Center. Dust stated, "We are the voice of the students, but we can only do as much as they tell us to."