

The Messenger

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio 45157

Volume LXIX

Issue 4

December 2013



*“Merry Christmas to all
and to all a good night.”*

Welcome to *The Messenger*, special December edition!

For this issue, *Messenger* staff members were asked to write an opinion piece centered around a holiday theme and then write a holiday story that could either be real or creative. While a couple of students choose the straight news story option, many others chose to write a fictional news story or short story. Their stories and columns are published here and we hope you enjoy them.

We are so grateful for the community's support of our newspaper, especially in a time when print journalism is struggling, and even *The Messenger* doesn't do much actually in print any more. The paper allows students a voice for their opinions as well as an opportunity to publish their work. As the adviser for *The Messenger*, I am very proud of their writing, as well as their commitment to the paper.

We are lucky to be a part of a community that values student journalism, and we appreciate the support of our advertisers and our readers.

We're also lucky to be a small part of a very generous community.

This year at the high school, we're on track to meet or beat the all-time food drive record at the high school (and that's even without John Callebs, aka the King of Cans).

We're also helping 35-40 students at Christmas through Lions Reach Out as well as collecting hundreds of personal care items for the Giving Tree. PTO members, local churches and community residents have stepped up to adopt needy families for the holiday season, and every staff member in the building has actively supported our community service efforts.

Even better is the fact that this kind of community service extends to every school in the district and the spirit of giving back is more than simply words in the New Richmond community.

Enjoy our special issue and have a wonderful holiday season!

The Messenger staff--from our cover photo

Bottom row: Christin Gray, Lily Cahall, Chelsey Fawley, Raven Miller

Second row: Josie Buckingham, Claire Burns, Hunter Gilpin, Sadie LaRocque, Collette Gibbs, Chandler Cochran, Alex Gardner

Top row: Ciera Moore, Joe Maxwell, Casey Pendergrass, Tristin Baumann, Ashley Gray

Spreading Christmas through holiday music

For some, the holiday can't come too early

By: Claire Burns

Are you the festive type whose life seems to go from one holiday to another? I know that I am! For me, holidays always are a joyous and festive time, especially Christmas. I believe that the official initiation of the start of the Christmas season is legitimately sparked by the beginning of the playing of the holiday music, which is traditionally on the day following Halloween. Many, including myself, believe that the joyous Christmas music creates a merry and fun holiday season.

For some, including myself, it seems that Christmas can't start too early. Radio

stations liven the holiday spirit by playing the accustomed jubilee music, which provide a sense of warmth throughout the community and puts everyone in the mood for the season. The holiday season creates an opportunity for families to make time for each other and grow closer together, and the Christmas music also creates a cheerful environment which is enjoyed by all.

Christmas music is also beneficial to stores for putting customers in the shopping mood. Christmas music is the ideal supplement to the holiday shopping experience. The lively music keeps shop-



pers in the festive spirit, while being entertained and motivated through the endless and dreaded holiday shopping experience.

The winter season creeps up on everyone, which calls for the need of comfort during the trembling, cold winter season, and Christmas music is the absolute companion for it. The broadcasting of Christmas music adds to the cozy, winter season feeling. The winter season is a time to wind down and recover from the long, busy summer days. It is also a time to perhaps become reunited with one's faith, which can be sparked by the traditional Christmas music.

Most of all, who doesn't love Christmas music? Especially the classics, such as; *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Jingle Bell Rock*, *Here Comes Santa Claus*, and many more favorites, which create a lively and

merry setting. These various family friendly holiday songs creates a fun and exciting atmosphere for children and their families to enjoy the most cheerful and fun Christmas season.

Those who are the anti-traditional Christmas humbugs and dread the beginning of the Christmas music, should change their attitude toward the Christmas season. There is absolutely no reason to despise the most favorable and merry season of all! Everyone should have the chance to enjoy the most happy time of the year and grasp the opportunity reunite with their family and friends to appreciate the holiday spirit!



Is Santa coming to Thanksgiving?

Mrs. Claus is bringing the drumsticks

By Alex Gardner

Trick-or-stocking stuffers? Should people have to put up their Christmas lights right after taking down their Halloween blow-up pumpkin? Absolutely not.

First of all, don't people need a break from all this costume making/buying and other holiday tomfoolery? From buying the candy getting your children's costumes, blah blah blah. It's even harder for people who have friends and family over for every holiday: setting up the party, sending the invitations, entertaining guests, and cleaning up the next day. I seriously doubt those people want to listen to the overly played *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer* on their way to work.

Another problem with the way too early Halloween-Christmas transition is the skipping of an important historical holiday: Thanksgiving!

Why should people skip over the celebration of the first Thanksgiving feast between the Native Americans and the pilgrims of the Plymouth colony? Now stores are starting the Black Friday craze two hours before Thanksgiving even ends! I personally hate dealing with the crowds at Toys-R-Us and the fighting over a LEGO set; I definitely don't want to make it any longer than it has to be.

Plus all this holiday idiocy costs money. From Halloween candy at \$8, turkeys at \$20, and Christmas trees at \$300-\$400, I guarantee there are people out there who could not afford even one holiday!

But who's to blame about all this early



Christmas nonsense? Two groups, stores and the media. The stores are putting out their Christmas ads in the paper closer to Halloween every year.

Yes, it's fair for the stores to start get their sales early but still, way too early.

Then there is the most notorious Christmas sparkers: radio stations. They start their Christmas music way before even trick or treating is over!

Is there a solution, some may ask? Yes, it's simple. Start Christmas a little bit later.

It should at least be pushed back to Black Friday, the closer to Halloween the harder it is to get early shop-

ping in.

Sooner or later people are really going to have to have Christmas shopping in July!

In conclusion, Christmas sales start weeks before they should even be thought of starting. People simply need a break and can't afford the few hour transition between trick-or-treating and stocking stuffers.

The media needs to push back the Christmas music start date and the stores need to send out their ads closer to the week of Thanksgiving and Black Friday.

I don't want to Deck the Halls until I see a Winter Wonderland.



Gingerbread Houses Hard To Make

Good luck with this family holiday activity

During the Christmas season the stores always have the boxes to make your own gingerbread house. They come with the already made parts, the icing and some little candies to decorate and the directions. It is a nice thing to try to do with friends or family, if it actually worked. When trying to make a gingerbread house, something always goes wrong. I have tried to make them multiple times but it never turns out the way it should. The icing doesn't work, there isn't enough icing, or the candy it comes with to decorate the house is just gross so no one wants to eat it.

When making a gingerbread house, one has to use the icing as glue to put the walls and roof together but the icing

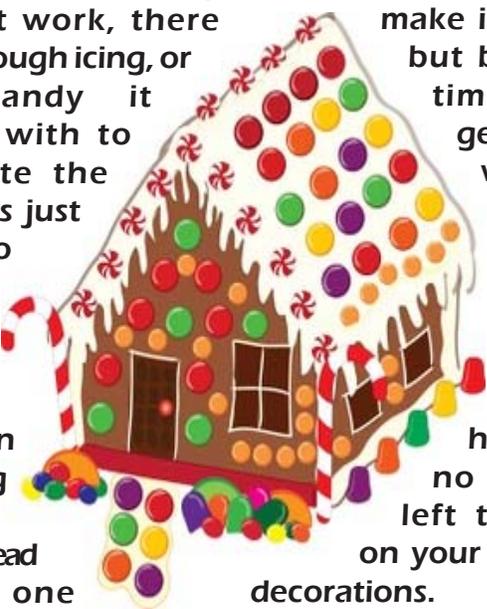
never seems to do the job. When trying to assemble the house, the icing takes too long to harden so you are standing there trying to hold it together until you get tired of it and give up, or even when it does harden, it just doesn't hold anything together and the house falls down. One way to try to get the house up is to use a lot of icing to try to make it stay, but by the time you get your walls put together and your roof, you have no icing left to put on your candy decorations.

Whoever makes the gingerbread houses has to use the cheapest icing ever because it

usually doesn't even taste good, and neither do the candy decorations. So even the house is made and it stays up, when eating it, it doesn't taste good.

If somehow the gingerbread house is made and it holds together, it probably won't get eaten. Either you don't want to break down the beautiful structure or it has already gone stale and nasty by the time you get around to eating the whole thing so it is just wasted. I think the best thing to do with a box kit of a gingerbread house is to break your house in pieces and just put icing on it and eat it because it takes way

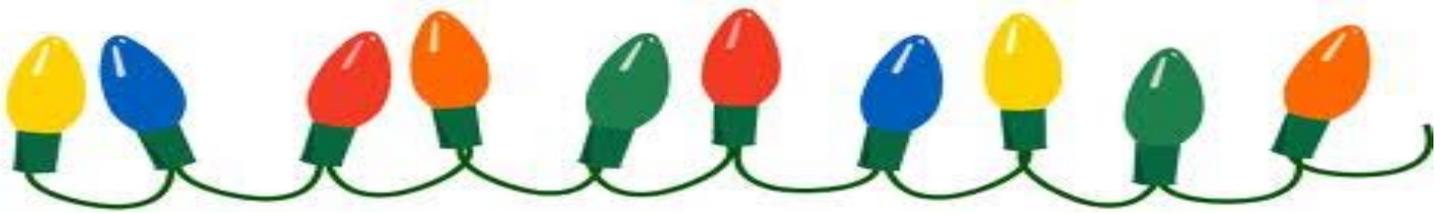
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• By Raven Miller
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too long to put it together. One way to make a good gingerbread house that tastes good and stays up, is to make the gingerbread yourself to ensure it will taste good. Another thing you can do to make sure your house stay up is to experiment with different types of icings and try to find the one thats holds the best. Lastly, buy a good brand of candy; that way, when you finish your house and you decorate it, the candy you decorated it with tastes good. Good luck with making your holiday gingerbread houses.

Greedy around the holidays Start being giving!

By : Casey Pendergrass



Kids can be very ungrateful, especially around the holidays. Children around the holidays can be greedy and they often are ungrateful about what they get. They're expecting iPhones or laptops, or new Wii games, and not appreciating what they get or have.

They tend to get mad if they get a BlackBerry or a Kindle because it is not good enough for them, but what they don't understand

is there are kids out in the world who often don't get to even eat around the holidays.

Kids these days are too spoiled with technology and are caught up in the next new phone, computer, or video game.

And being ungrateful is a real damper on the holidays because being ungrateful and mean to the person who

didn't get you the right gift is not right and it often makes the person who got you the gift feel bad and embarrassed. Just be thankful for what you do have; at least you got something so try to make the best of it.

A great way to teach kids to be more grateful is to sign them up in a volunteering program at soup kitchens or

Toys for Tots; that way, they can learn to appreciate what they get.

By seeing what others don't have, kids will hopefully focus on what they do have and they will be helping their

community and those who are less fortunate than they are.

Another great way to help out is to volunteer at animal shelters or help out at the library. These activities will get kids out of the house and off their phones and computers and they are great social activities that make a positive impact on those around

them.

If you are one who complains about your parents/guardian not getting you the right designer jeans you wanted or that new iPhone, think of those who are less fortunate than you. They are grateful to eat once a week and here you might be complaining about a hundred dol-

lar pair of pants that you might not wear more than once.

It's the season of giving, after all, not the season of getting, so appreciate what you have and give a little of yourself to someone who is truly needy.

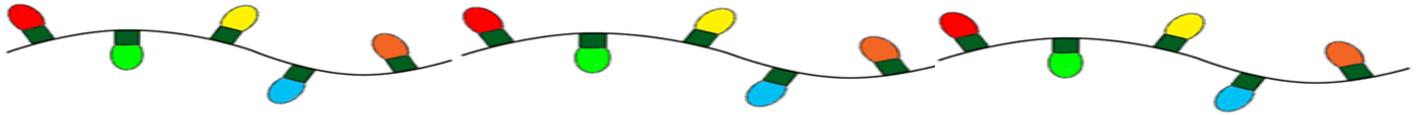


Good For Goodness' Sake
Fill Your Holiday with the Joy of Giving

Are children making wish lists this year?

Let's keep the magic alive for holidays

By Ciera Moore



Christmas. What do you think about? Presents, family, wish lists, giving, and decorating? All of these things are related to Christmas and the whole month of December, but what about magic? Children used to believe in the idea of Santa Claus and his reindeer and magical elves. But do kids still believe now?

Children today are so obsessed with electronics and growing up that they don't seem to believe in Santa anymore. There are five year olds that will tell you that Santa is not, and never was real, although sometimes there are kids that get excited to go see Santa at the mall.

Those are the kids that grow up and tell their kids to keep believing.

All kids love presents, they always have, as long as it's what they want. When Santa is mentioned, we immediately think Christmas, but kids think presents. They seem to only get excited to see Santa to tell him their wish lists.

To get kids to believe again, limit their access to electronics. Parents should monitor their children when they are on the internet or any electronic device, but not just for safety reasons. If a young believer gets on an anti-Santa site, their dreams are crushed forever.

Children that don't

believe in Santa and other myths are like tiny adults sometimes. They seem too uptight to be six year old kids.

Children are supposed to believe and always be looking forward to seeing Santa on Christmas to receive presents, the Easter bunny on Easter to get candy, and the Tooth Fairy whenever they lose a baby tooth. But now they seem more interested in the latest Apple product instead of childhood fantasies.

Then there are families that tell their children that Santa isn't real. They take away the magic that is involved with Christmas and Santa Claus. The

children believe their parents over an intangible like Santa Claus, and they don't doubt their parents just because they are their parents.

WHEN YOU
STOP
BELIEVING IN
Santa Claus
YOU GET
UNDERWEAR



So parents should stop telling their kids not to believe! Let them believe for as long as they can, at least until they decide that they don't want to believe anymore.

Don't crush their dreams before they even have a chance to believe. Let them spread the magic to their friends and find other kids who believe.

I think that children would be happier if their parents let them believe. When they are older they will be glad that their parents did not force them not to believe. They can then spread the Christmas joy to their peers for years.



Christmas: the best time of the year

Holiday brings joy to families everywhere

By Lily Cahall

Why are Christmas items on the shelves of stores when Thanksgiving has not even occurred yet? Many people have asked me this question. Honestly, I am not bothered by that at all. I think that all the Christmas items on the shelves of stores gets people in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas always brings me joy and warmth, especially when I get to see all the decorations, like the lights that dangle down from houses. I love those lights especially when it snows. So I get to feel extra warmth

when the items are out early.

If all the Christmas decorations and goodies are out early, then that means we can shop for Christmas presents earlier and often for a cheaper price. I go to the store for last minute shopping about a week before Christmas and everyone is scurrying, doing last minute shopping.

If people went Christmas shopping about a month or so early, life would be a lot easier, so I am happy that Christmas things are out on the shelves early.

I really love when the Santa comes to



the mall really close to Christmas time. I love seeing the reactions of all the little children's faces when they finally get to meet the guy who gives them all their wishes. When I see them, I remember when I first met Santa and I absolutely looked up to him for giving kids all they wanted. A kid before me cried his eyes out because he was terrified of Santa. I look back and picture that one boy whenever I go to the mall around Christmas time, I end up laughing to myself a little because it brings back memories.

During Christmas, I love spending time with family as well. I love baking with my mom and grandmother. We always bake cook-

ies for the rest of my family, who throws a Christmas party on Christmas Eve.

Whenever my grandmother, mother and I bake the cookies my brothers always end up coming and eating the cookie dough. They have done it every year now so it is sort of like a tradition.

Christmas always bring families closer together because even if they do not realize it, they are spending time together and that is why I just love Christmas.

I think people need to realize how Christmas can bring people together and be happier around the holidays. If they just let themselves be happy then they will.



Don't wait till the day before Christmas

Why last minute Christmas shopping is not ok



It's Christmas Eve, just a few hours until the big day, but instead of relaxing at home waiting for tomorrow, you're rushing



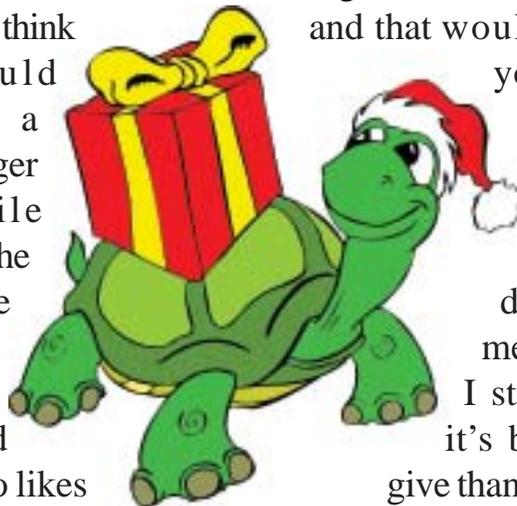
out to the store for last minute holiday shopping. This is the problem that has persisted all around the world for decades. And I think that it is absolutely the worst possible thing to do in the holiday season. My advice? Don't do it. Why, you might ask? I'll tell you why.

For one thing, when you wait to buy presents till the last minute, you're bound to forget something. Whether it's a present for this person, or a present for that person, somewhere along the way you're going to forget someone, and that per-

son might feel a little left out on Christmas morning.

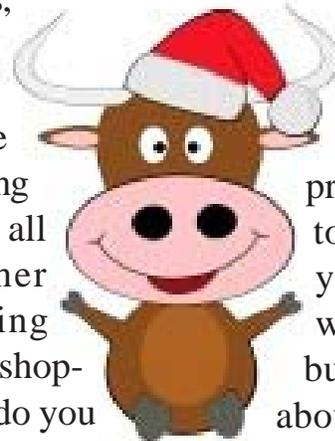
Another reason is that when you wait till the last minute, you don't really put a whole lot of thought into what you're getting someone. It's more likely to be something quick, cheap, and easy, rather than something well thought out that came from the heart.

Which do you think would put a bigger smile on the face of a child who likes cows? A tiny plastic toy cow wrapped in typical



wrapping paper? Or a large stuffed cow wrapped in wrapping paper with cows on it?

Also, if you already planned on getting certain presents, but the stores don't have any remaining because of all of the other people doing last minute shopping, what do you do? Most people have no choice but to go back to that last reason I gave for not waiting till the last minute, and that would put you right back at square one. Now don't get me wrong. I still think it's better to give than receive, and that you should be happy to get any gifts at all. But what would



be the point of getting people presents if they don't come from the heart? And it's pretty difficult to think with your heart when you're busy thinking about everyone else in the last minute. So when you go out to get presents for friends and family members, remember that the worst possible thing you could do is wait till the last minute. So take some time to think about it, put some heart and thought into it, and for goodness' sake, don't try to rush everything at the last minute.

One present vs. tons

We take for granted all the finer things in life, while some scrape by

By: Christin Gray



Are you givin' in or givin' up? This holiday season is about being with family and helping out others, although some get all caught up in the gifts they want under the tree.

As time goes on, Christmas begins to get more and more, "I want," and less, "What can I do for someone else." Underneath all the holiday rush to stand in line waiting for the biggest new electronic or spending hours researching where your child's few Christmas items are, why not look at shelters in the area where people who are truly in need would benefit from a few small presents.

The holiday season is about giving someone something he or she couldn't have

ever had without the help of others. Whether that be a few toy donations, some cash just to be able to make ends meet, or even some groceries to put food in children's mouths, the holidays are about doing little things that count.

Every year there are families hoping and wishing to be able to provide their children with ONE Christmas present each, meanwhile some of us are trying to find our way out of a present maze don't

ever think about the less fortune when we have all we need.

This year, make it a point to help someone. It could be as simple as when you get a new coat, not just throwing your old one away but giving it to a church, or a clothing drive. Something as little as a jacket could make the biggest difference in a little kid's life when the only coat he or she owns is a rag to keep warm in throughout the winter months.

Giv-

ing to others isn't just about the action, but the way it makes you feel when you do something nice for a family you don't know or friends in need. When you do something nice for another person, it doesn't go unnoticed.

A lot of times giving to others gives the receiving person the light of day and encourages that person to help someone else in need when he or she gets the chance.

When we realize our needs are met, we don't need to sparkle ourselves with a new Christmas dress, or the latest handbag out, but we'll feel a lot better knowing we made a difference in someone's life.



For crying out loud!!! Turn it off!!!

Christmas music for some has really gotten out of hand

Halloween is over, which unfortunately means radio stations have already started playing the deafening sound some people call Christmas music. The only part I hate about the holiday season is the fact that Christmas music starts playing way too early and is extremely overplayed.

I understand that Christmas is supposed to be joyful, and uplifting, but hearing songs like *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, or *White Christmas* twenty times a day really does the opposite for me and annoys me. There really is no point in every artist on the face of the planet singing the same songs; at least write some new songs and put some variation on the radio.

One band that I can listen to pretty much any time is The Trans-Siberian Orchestra, who are best associated with the holiday season. I'm pretty sure I like the band so much mainly because there are no words, and the group seems more up to date. I also like classical music and listening to orchestras and sympho-

nies. It also seems like there are more orchestras present and performing during the holiday season which isn't as bad as traditional Christmas music that blares on the radio.

Another reason why I don't like Christmas music is because it starts playing it super early and it gets

very old, very fast.

I might enjoy it just a little bit more if stations started playing it December because it's not even relevant until then anyway. The Holiday season simply starts way too early. I should not be seeing candy canes and Christmas trees next to Halloween candy at the store.

If there were a little bit more variety and fewer boring songs I

think I might actually start liking the music. Until then, I am going to dread turning on the radio from here until the new year.

If I have to hear Bing Crosby one more time I'm going to flip! I don't care if it is a tradition to play *White Christmas* or *Jingle Bells* three times an hour, I get sick of it, and it is totally unnecessary.

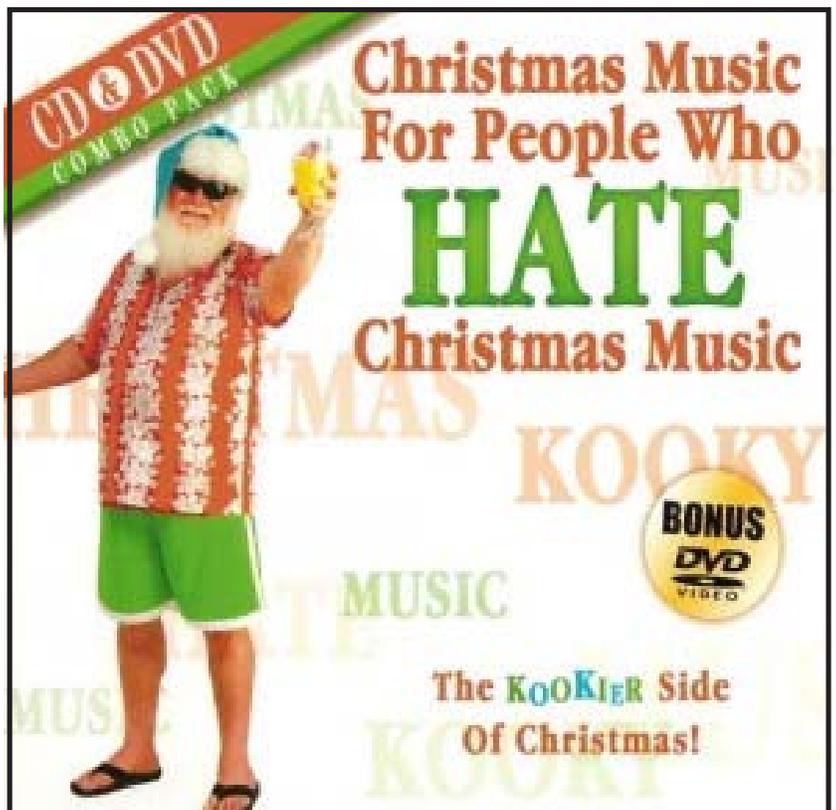
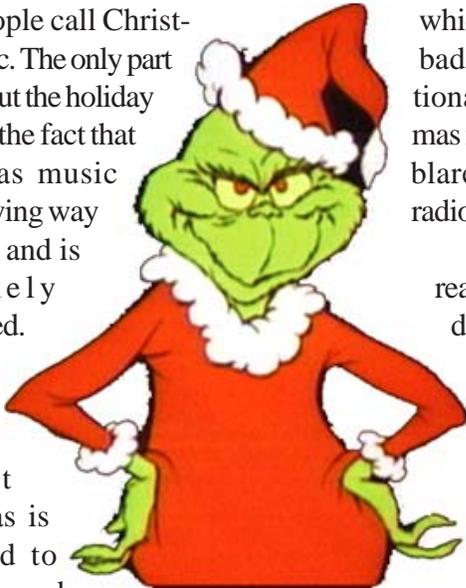
Imagine listening to the song you hate most in the world over and over again and then having it remixed by the artists you hate the most, then you will really see how much I actually hate Christmas music. To fix this problem, there should be a set

Bow Tie Brigade



By: Chandler Cochran

date when radio stations can start playing Christmas music, like, you know, December 1st, and they should suspend the playing of the music at the start of the new year. Maybe then we will keep our sanity and maybe not get so irritated so quickly. And I am sorry if I might have offended anyone, I just really do not think Christmas music is enjoyable to listen to... Bah Humbug!



Cookies, singing, and presents: What's not to love?

Christmas does not deserve to be complained about

It's nearing Christmas time; you know what that means: here come the complainers, complaining about anything there is to complain about involving Christmas; Christmas time beginning too soon, the "annoying" Christmas music, but honestly, this



holiday was literally created to bring everyone joy, so people need to suck it up, learn to live a little and have some fun being cheerful instead of hating on it.

Christmas music is a major problem to many people for some reason. The most innocent, harmless, cheerful music possibly the world has ever seen and some, if not most people, have a sincere hatred for it. To me, it makes no sense. Music that was literally developed to try to

brighten people with upbeat, happy tunes, and instead of loving it, people love to hate it. The funny part about it is that the music is entirely based around getting people excited for Christmas and making them all psyched that "Santa is coming to town," but in-

stead it makes people dread the rapid approach of the holiday that as kids, could not have come sooner.

Honestly, I just want to be able to listen to my Christmas music during the second week of November in seventh bell without my classmates harassing me because, for whatever reason, they find the music to be horrendous.

On top of people dreading the instant arrival of Christmas tunes immediately after

the season of scary movies, trick-or-treating, and pumpkin carving we also have to deal with Thanksgiving in between. Actually, that may be the reason people are so irritated by Christmas music. Not because the music is necessarily bad, but because the whole holiday season is so rushed.

Most large holidays are separated by months, such as St. Patrick's Day or Fourth of July, but in this case three of the the largest holidays are all crammed together in a span of two months, then combined with New Year's only a week later.

The problem is people are too rushed to actually enjoy Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's each separately. They all end up getting crammed to-



gether and forced upon people this is why so many people have begun to complain about Christmas.

And that's the reason I am complaining about people who complain about Christmas, a holiday invented to bring happiness to the most people possible. This is why I have no understanding whatsoever as to why people would be so cruel as to criticize this joyous, wonderful holiday.



Best present in the history of the world

Jean Baptiste the bunny made Christmas for me

By Chelsey Fawley



It's that time of year again, and whether you love it or hate it there is no denying; Christmas is right around the corner. Time for packed malls and carols echoed everywhere you go. Ready or not, it's approaching fast as can be.

Now, personally, I'm not a huge fan. My family isn't super religious and we've never been real big on all the presents. My mom and I have always agreed that we spoil ourselves all year - why blow a ton of money on one day? I just never saw the point. Not that I don't like presents. I mean, who doesn't like presents? I just don't understand the universal need to give all the pre-



sents on one day.

I mean, for us Christmas is about family and making one another happy. The presents haven't ever really mattered because I was an only child for the longest

time and so already got tons of nice things whenever I wanted them. Now that I have two toddler little brothers, we're getting back into the gift giving spirit, and it's been pretty fun. Again, who doesn't love presents? Also, picking the perfect gift for someone may be stressful, but it's super exciting.

This past week was a tough one and my boyfriend (on par with my family's belief that there's no need for a holiday to give presents) decided I deserved a present. Not just any present, though, - the perfect present. Like I said, I don't like Christmas but I'd never turn down a present, especially since the present I received was possibly the cutest

thing to ever be gifted. He definitely hit a home run with this gift, and the gift, along with the excitement to do Christmas for my little

brothers, has put me back in the holiday spirit.

The present I received was a lop eared rabbit.

My life has been made. For the longest time I've yearned for a pet - I just wanted something that I could cuddle with at night when I'm alone. Now I have a glorious year old Holland Lop Ear named Jean Baptiste and he's the best present I could receive. Now that I've got something adorable and lovable it really has brought me those warm fuzzy feelings that people talk about.

Receiving Jean Baptiste has been and will continue to be the highlight of my

holiday season. He's truly the perfect present - now I just have to work on finding perfect presents for everyone else!



“What's a Christmas Gram? I want one!” Elf ranks as viewers' fave

Everyone has to have a favorite Christmas movie, right? It is actually likely that a lot of us have the same favorite Christmas movie. In 2003, a ground shattering holiday film was released: Elf. Elf is centered on an orphan named Buddy, who got entangled in Santa's bag and ended up at the North Pole.

Buddy was raised by elves; as he grows older, Santa lets him go to New York to meet his real father, Walter Hobbs, who works for a publishing company and in a need of children's book. But, Walter Hobbs is on the naughty list because he is a cold hearted person and is completely unaware that Buddy is his son. Buddy explores New York City. What is one to think when they see a man in tights walking down along Fifth Avenue? Certainly, one's first thought, would be to criticize, but Buddy is cheerful and has a good demeanor about him.

As Hobbs relationship with Buddy begins to meddle with his work, he has to rethink of what his priorities for example the importance of believing in someone or some-



thing. . This is a heart-warming film to watch as Buddy helps his father find his way back to what is important in life such as taking more time to appreciate the what he has rather than what he doesn't and just being thankful.

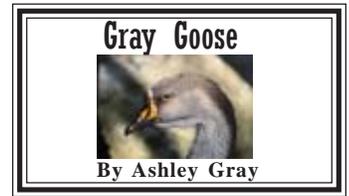
Of course there is always a bit of romance. Buddy begins to fall in love with the department store girl where he also encounters the department store, Santa who immediately recognized as an imposter and told him, "You sit on the throne of lies!" and "You smell like beef and cheese, you don't smell like Santa."

Toward the end of the movie, Santa is facing a crisis of the year. His sleigh was powered by faith and if enough people did not believe in him, he couldn't fly. Buddy convinced the girl he fell in love with that, "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear," so she stood up in front of NYC, began to sing,

and everyone joined in, and Santa's sleigh was able to fly. Elf illustrates that holiday cheer is about believing and by having faith, not believing because you can physically see something.

Elf is a great Christmas movie because it teaches people about holiday spirit. Being little, I remember the anticipation I would go to bed having Christmas Eve night. My family and I would go to Midnight mass on Christmas Eve, and I would always be worried to get home in time to go to bed before Santa came. It is movies like this that makes the kid in everyone come out.

Movies like Elf are what make adolescents excited for Christmas morning and Santa. These cute films are what Christmas is all about-time for everyone to be cheerful and believe in magic. Will Ferrell, who plays Buddy, is the meat and potatoes of the film. Seeing a grown man dressed as an elf himself, his Christmas spirit, and all the humorous antics show that no matter how old you are, everyone has a little bit of kid in them when it comes to Christmas and nothing is



stopping you from still having fun and enjoying the ambiance.

Besides Elf being such a stellar Christmas movie, it is definitely a comedy for all ages. Will Ferrell really fits the character of Buddy and you just have to love him because of all the extremely silly things he does, such as when he took the gum off the railing in the city and when he put Pop Tarts, chocolate syrup, marshmallows, and candy in his spaghetti. If it weren't for Will Ferrell really getting into character, believing in his character, and just being as silly as he is, this film would probably not be one of my top films.

As you can see, this is why Elf is my favorite Christmas movie. Not only is it a quality film spreading classic holiday cheer, but it is a pure comedy. It is a movie that all ages can find amusing. Come on, how could you not find watching a 6 foot tall man in yellow tights and a green tunic and all the outrageously hysterical behavior absolutely hilarious? Elf is a great family friendly movie and I highly encourage

Rudolph's gone missing

Can Christmas go on without the lead reindeer?

By: Collette Gibbs

Everyone's favorite reindeer has gone missing again. A couple of weeks before Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer suddenly went missing with no word to his family or friends. With this being such a crucial time in the Christmas season, will the holiday be able to go on?

Everyone in the North Pole has been searching high and low for the beloved reindeer. Everyone is worried about what will happen if Rudolph is not found. Christmas won't happen! People won't get paid! The good kids won't get their toys!

One elf named Buddy said, "I sure hope he comes back soon; if Christmas gets cancelled none of the elves will get paid. We have families to support!"

Santa and Mrs. Claus are beside themselves with worry for the little guy. "If anything bad happens to him, we could never forgive ourselves," said Santa. "There is absolutely no one to replace him. Christmas can't go on without him," Mrs. Claus said.

The elves and reindeer have formed search parties to find Rudolph, but have had no luck so far. They have been out all day and night searching everywhere in the Candy Cane Forest for him. They are asking everyone. Comet said, "After the last time, we never thought that Rudolph would run off again, everyone is shocked that he would just leave this close to Christmas."

The rest of the reindeer, most of whom are still in train-

ing, are fighting for the leading position. Most of the citizens would agree that Rudolph is irreplaceable, but one young reindeer called Blitz said, "I could do the same job Rudolph does, just strap a flashlight to my nose and I will be ready to go."

Rudolph's father, Donner, suggested, "I think that the search party is the best idea. If we don't hurry up and find my boy, his mother and his wife are going to lose it." Rudolph's mother and his wife, Clarice, are crying too hard too even talk about him being gone.

With all of the elves out looking for Rudolph, not many toys are getting produced. If Rudolph doesn't come back soon, then none of the toys will be finished in time to be delivered on Christmas.

Rando, an elf, said, "We have to take shifts making toys and looking for Rudolph. Most of us are exhausted and the toys we do make are falling apart; when we look for Rudolph we aren't very alert. Perhaps if we stop looking for him, he will just come back on his own."

The search parties have looked all over. They visited the Land of the Misfit Toys, and even the yeti's cave. Even after checking everywhere, it's no luck. Everyone just thinks he left forever. "That yeti was not too pleased to see all of us show up at his cave," Dasher said. "He's still not happy

about the last time he saw reindeer."

Recently, Santa had his elves hang up signs with a picture of Rudolph and information about him, telling anyone to call if they know anything about Rudolph. Santa even went as far as putting out a news broadcast all around the world to tell people about the missing beloved reindeer.

Santa is considering sending out a newscast from the North Pole that will be nationwide on all radios and TV's.

He just doesn't want everyone to think that Rudolph is trying to ruin Christmas. He doesn't want the little girls and boys to be worried that something bad happened to Rudolph. He is hoping that he will just come back on his own, but if he doesn't, more severe steps will need to be taken.

Retired elves have been called in to help look for Rudolph and/or work making toys while Rudolph is missing. Elves from all over the town are moving into the town center for the time being, some staying with relatives and others staying at The Snowflake Inn. The town is packed; there is barely any room to move anywhere in the town, it's starting to look a lot like New York around the North Pole.

Bobby, one retired elf, said, "I was happy to retire, but I will always be willing to help Santa and the gang out if need

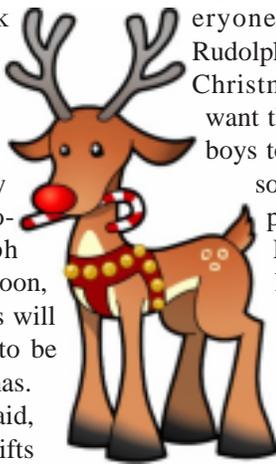
be. And it's fun to work alongside my grandkids. We don't get to spend much time together around this time of year."

After the news broadcast, parents from all around the world came to the North Pole to help in the search for Rudolph. "All we want to do is save Christmas for our little ones," John Smith from Arkansas said when he was questioned. "My wife stayed back home to comfort them because after they saw that Rudolph was missing, they thought that they would never see another Christmas."

When Santa and Mrs. Claus saw all the people that came to the North Pole to help in the search, their moods brightened a bit. "It's so good to see all these people here," Mrs. Claus said. "It makes me proud of people all around the world to see that they care so much about Christmas."

Everyone in the North Pole went out on a big search party last night and they still aren't back. "I'm beginning to worry that something happened to everyone else, too." Said Santa. "I'm thinking that when everyone comes back I'm going to recruit some of the more experienced reindeer and have them pull the sleigh and I'll ride around pretty low to the ground and hopefully this will lead me to some reindeer tracks in the snow."

With Rudolph missing the town is scrambling to keep Christmas on track. Hopefully, Rudolph will be found very soon.



The gifts you never got

Santa explains himself

By Joe Maxwell



As kids, all of us had a gift that we thought we couldn't live without. We sent letters to Santa over and over again, begging and crying that they will die if they don't get that present, along with the occasional "please Santa," of course. For some reason, even if they pleaded year after year for the same gift, they still didn't get it. Did you ever have a gift you always wanted but never got? Here are some New Richmond High School students talking about gifts they always wanted but never ended up getting. On top of that, we interviewed Santa Claus, from the North Pole, to explain why he wasn't able to get them that gift.

"Well, that's easy, I always wanted a puppy! Who doesn't want a puppy? My desire for wanting a puppy was completely fueled by the pure satisfaction of just owning a puppy," said Chan "The Man" Cochran.

Mr. Claus replied to Cochran, "Sorry that I wasn't able to get you that puppy you wanted, Chan. I knew how much you wanted it. Actually, if I do recall, one of my elves told me he saw you crying to your mommy about how much you wanted it. I used to be able to deliver puppies when they weren't as high in demand by young boys and girls. One year I decided I wouldn't be able to give puppies as gifts because they were just too rambunctious. They would end up tearing up other kids' presents because of their need to chew on everything, so I just



couldn't afford to deliver them as gifts without having to put my elves into overdrive to make extra toys!"

Now that Santa has explained why he isn't able to deliver puppies as Christmas gifts, he continued on to answer other students who questioned why some of their dream gifts never arrived.

"Even though I love my 1996 Honda Civic, ever since I was able to drive, I always wanted a Volkswagen Hippie Bus, but never got it!" said senior John Ernst.

Santa Claus then replied to Ernst. "Ah yes, John Ernst. Christmas of 2012, I remember it very well. One of the few young lads I have ever had requesting such a gift, eh. The reason I decided not to give you that gift is because I could see you having such a great future, I just couldn't live with myself knowing I turned you into a greasy hippie. I hope you aren't too upset, John!"

Another senior, Abby Jewell also requested an explanation for



why she didn't receive one of her dream gifts. "Santa! I always wanted an Easy Bake Oven! I was always a good girl and asked nicely, I just wanna know why I didn't get that gift, even though it used to be on the top of my wish list," she said.

"Come on now, Abby. You are trying so hard to make it sound as if you wished for this gift many years ago, but as I now recall, an Easy Bake Oven is on your wishlist this year, for Christmas 2013. Let's face reality, one must let go of one's childhood dream gifts when one is eighteen. Besides, where would you fit an Easy Bake Oven in your college dorm," Santa responded.

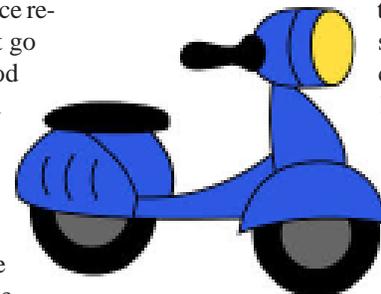
Along with the other students, sophomore Ashley Gray claims she was also "ripped off" by Santa, in her opinion.

"All I wanted for Christmas for several years in a row, was a motor scooter! But, every Christmas morning I woke up for, I ran downstairs to look for my shiny, new ride, but it was never there!" she said.

Santa explained himself. "Well Ashley, I honestly don't want to offend anybody because I like to stay

nice and jolly as much as possible, but we all know you and a motor scooter would not turn out well for anyone... or the fire hydrant outside your house. I went against your enjoyment to contribute to your safety. See, now I'm the good guy, buuuuuurn. Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Now that Santa Claus has cleared his good name, we all realize he doesn't mean any harm by not delivering us the gift; he was just not able to give it us. So, if you're still waiting on that gift from Santa, it might just be best to realize Santa might be saving you from social awkwardness in college, torn up shoes, becoming a hippie, or he might be saving your life as well as people in your



neighborhood by holding off on that certain gift, *cough* Ashley's motor scooter, *cough*.



When Santa Went Missing

THE MOST DRAMATIC CHRISTMAS STORY OF ALL TIME

By Tristin Baumann

Once a long, long, long, time ago, (okay well really like two years ago) two days before Christmas, Santa Claus went missing.

“What are we going to do?” exclaimed Mrs. Claus, “It’s almost Christmas and we can’t find him anywhere!”

Detective Ohio took Mrs. Claus’ fragile old hand and said, “Don’t worry ma’am, we’ll find your husband like a bear looking for salmon in a river.” She nodded her acknowledgement and the police set off on a worldwide manhunt, searching in both the north and south poles. They searched from the slums of Mexico, to the countryside of Italy, to the royal palaces in Beijing, to the high rises of Tokyo and all the way to the west coast, but they just couldn’t find Santa Claus anywhere.

Now with only one day before Christmas, Mrs. Claus had no choice, so she loudly proclaimed, “I will deliver this year’s Christmas presents to all the good children of the world!” So they began preparing for Christmas night. Mrs. Claus had the elves load up the sleigh, and then off she went to deliver the presents.

The first house Mrs. Claus stopped at was that of Alex Gardner. Mrs. Claus wiggled herself down the chimney, wondering how in the world her much bulkier husband made it down all of them. When she got out of the chimney, there was the Christmas tree shining bright and illuminating the living room in a bloom of fluorescent red, green, and blue lights. Mrs.

Claus tiptoed to the tree and began placing presents underneath. She was so occupied with making sure every present was in the right place, that she didn’t notice the young child sneak up behind her. She turned around to leave and found, to her surprise, the child, looking up at her with eyes full of wonder and innocence.

“Where is Santa?” asked Alex.

Mrs. Claus smiled at the boy and said, “He’s gone on a vacation,

but he’ll be back soon. Now go back to bed and you can open your presents in the morning.”

Alex nodded his head as if it made perfect sense, and then went back to his bedroom.

Mrs. Claus went back up the chimney and out. She got back onto the sleigh and off to the next house. Not too long after, she got to the house of Ciera Moore. Mrs. Claus slipped down the chimney with ease, now that she was getting the hang of it. As she popped out of the fireplace she was met by the sight of a child staring right at her with eyes of curiosity. This child she knew, was Ciera.

“Why is Santa not here?” questioned the child.

Mrs. Claus gave her stock answer “He’s on a vacation, but he’ll be back soon.”

Ciera tilted her head and asked,

“Why?”

“Because he’s very tired and needed a break.” Mrs. Claus replied.

“Why?” Ciera asked again.

“Because he delivers presents to all the children every year.” said Mrs. Claus, now losing her patience.

“Why?” asked Ciera for a third time.

Mrs. Claus sighed and said, “Because he’s the nicest guy in the world.”

Ciera nodded and said, “Ok.” So Mrs. Claus sent Ciera back to bed and put her presents under the tree, went back up the chimney and took off to deliver more presents.

Of course, Mrs. Claus skipped over the houses of naughty kids like Hunter, Chandler, and Joe, because naughty kids don’t even get coal

anymore (that stuff was expensive). Just near the end of the present delivery route, Mrs. Claus landed at the house of Lily Cahall. Lily was older than Alex and Ciera, and not too long from now she would be too old for the yearly presents delivered by Santa (or in the case of this year, Mrs. Claus). Mrs. Claus made her way down the chimney and out of the fireplace. And there sitting in a big comfy chair, was Lily, who seemed to have been waiting for Mrs. Claus all night.

“Where is Santa?” asked Lily.

Mrs. Claus knew that there was no fooling this child, who was obviously wise beyond her years, so she said, “Honestly, I don’t know. We’re looking for him though.”

“I hope you find him. If you see him, tell him I said thank you for all the years of presents he’s

given me and all the other good kids in the world.”

This made Mrs. Claus smile and say, “I will, Lily. Thank you. Now off to bed so I can deliver your presents.”

Lily went off to go back to sleep, and Mrs. Claus put her presents under her tree. Then she flew up the chimney and took off on the sleigh to deliver presents to the last few houses.

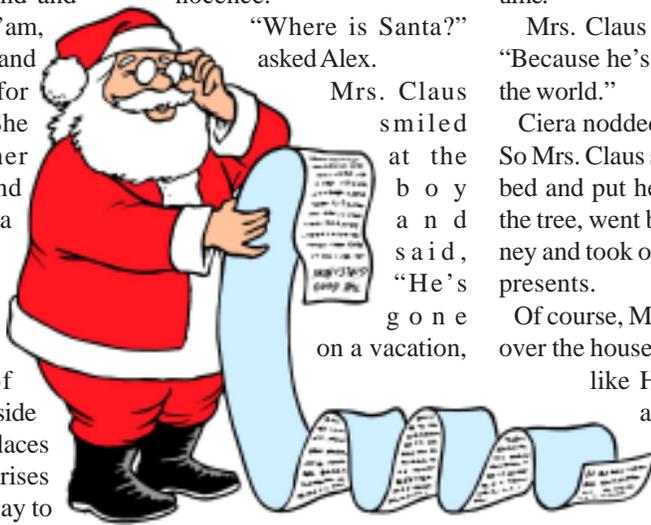
Finally, after a long night of delivering presents, Mrs. Claus brought the sleigh back to the North Pole, exhausted and ready for a year long rest.

As Mrs. Claus hopped down off the big fire engine red sleigh, Detective Ohio came up to her with a satisfied grin and said, “You did great ma’am, and we found something while you were out and about. If you’ll kindly come with me, I’ll show you.” Mrs. Claus could only nod as she went with Detective Ohio inside the Claus home. Sitting there in the big recliner chair next to the fireplace, was Santa Claus.

Mrs. Claus gave him a big hug and then asked, “Where were you?”

“I was at a... umm... a holidays anonymous meeting,” replied Santa, “I just couldn’t take all the pressure of the Christmas holiday this year. I’m sorry.”

Mrs. Claus’ smile turned into a stern look, and she said, “That’s fine. But next Christmas you’re going to go out and deliver presents,” then she smiled again, “and I’m going with you.”



Is Christmas really going to be cancelled?

With a deadline approaching fast, will Santa come to an agreement with the elves?

By: Chandler Cochran

Has Santa finally lost his mind? With 14 hour work days, seven days a week, most elves have had enough and have just recently gone on strike. They are refusing to do any more work without a proper contract and better pay. With Christmas just around the corner, will Santa and his group of lawyers settle on a new contract for the elves, or will Santa have to finish the job all on his own?

The Channel 12 news team broke the story immediately after finding out about it and dashed to the North Pole, and caught up with a few important members of the strike.

"We would get up around four thirty every morning, get some breakfast, then arrive to the toy shop at five just to work our butts off all day while the fat guy sits in his chair and eats all day; it was ridiculous," said head elf Joe Maxwell. "So we all got together a few days ago and decided to put Santa's operation to rest."

"When we got there, all I remember seeing was the whole elf community outside of the toy shop, and Santa's house rioting and refusing to work, it was quite the scene, seeing a few thousand

elves trying to burn down the North Pole, but nonetheless, a very serious movement," said news 12 anchor Bob Herzog.

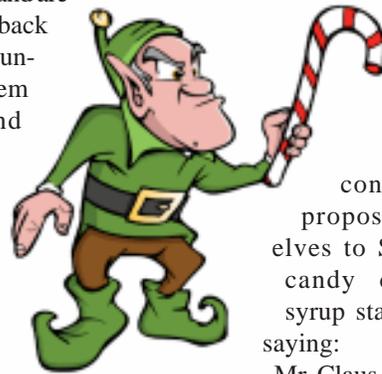
The strike started about a week before Thanksgiving, on Wednesday, Nov. 20th. There are plenty of rumors going around about what happened, but news 12 got the chance to talk to Santa's lawyer, and the lawyer in charge of the I.B.U.T (International Brotherhood of Union Toymakers). We have heard that the elves have not been to work since the riot, and are refusing to come back and finish the toys until Santa gives them better pay, and shorter hours.

"We understand that we have a lot of work to do, and there are millions of toys to make, I just feel if we had a better schedule, everyone would be more productive and we would have more holiday spirit," explained Maxwell.

Jack Hooke, who is the attorney for the I.B.U.T, stated, "There are millions of boys and

the day we have to have what's best for everyone, which means my clients are going to need better pay."

Santa has refused to speak at this time, but his lawyer did give us some information on behalf of old Saint Nick. "During this time we are meeting with the president of the I.B.U.T along with their team of lawyers to try to come to an agreement, said John Locke. "We understand Christmas is on the line and it is our job to make sure every child



gets the presents he or she wants."

The first contract was proposed by the elves to Santa in a candy cane and syrup stained letter saying:

Mr. Claus,

We the elves, who are make up the I.B.U.T, along with our totally awesome lawyers, understand Christmas is a very big time for you, and in the end, everybody gives you credit for it, but you need to realize that we work our butts off every single day of the year. We have always been cheery and have given the world so much but our holiday spirit has dramatically decreased leading to poor morale and poor production at the workplace. To make the long story short, big man, money talks and we have all the time in the world to wait but you don't, my friend.

Sincerely,

Joe Maxwell, Head elf and President of the I.B.U.T

Hooke said that Santa was not enthused at all with the elves "contract" and said he is willing to wait even longer so settle the deal.

"He understands that Christmas is on the line, and production of toys has been stopped for now but all he seems concerned about is money, and protecting the many Christmases to come, even if that means canceling this Christmas," said Hooke.

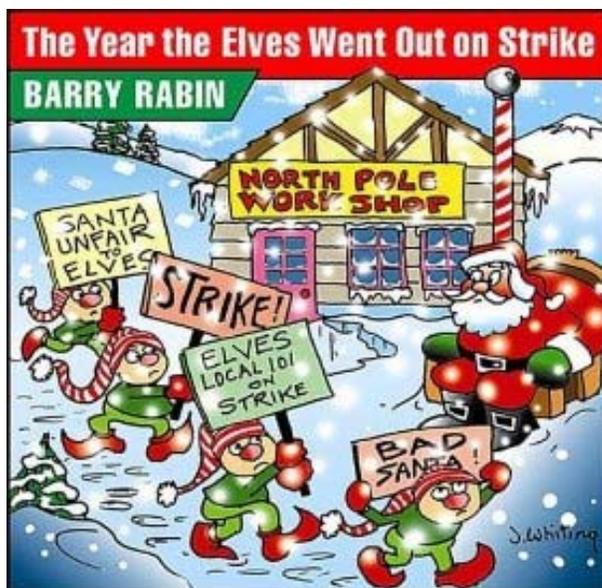
On December 1st, Santa, along with John Locke, produced a counter offer to the elves which gives the elves more pay, but says that their hours need to stay around the clock to ensure that all of the toys get assembled and Christmas can stay on track.

"Santa has finally written an acceptable contract and feels that this is all the North Pole needs to get back to its normal ways we all are comfortable with," said Locke.

The elves deliberated for over four hours and consumed over 50 gallons of hot chocolate and ate roughly 2,000 candy canes while in the conference room. They have accepted Santa's contract and are willing to start working immediately to ensure a successful Christmas this year. The new contract is for the next 50 years and guarantees a great Christmas for many years to come.

"Although we took our sweet time voting on this new contract, I believe that everyone will be happy with this new deal Old Saint Nick and his "lawyer" worked up. All jokes aside, I am really happy that this all worked out because I have a relentless four year old at home who would have cried endlessly if Christmas was cancelled," explained Hooke.

Santa is also grateful for the strike to finally come to an end, "All along I just knew we would get a deal done, I really didn't want Christmas to be cancelled but it made for a great news story, eh!"



From buses to sleighs

Santa calls for transformation in the transportation system

By: Claire Burns

Do you think that traditional school buses are overrated and outdated? Well, the wait is over! Due to the continuous increase in gas prices, the unceasing recession, and the decreased availability of resources, Santa has introduced his solution to the dilemma. Today, directly from the North Pole, Santa himself contacted the New Richmond Exempted School District's transportation director, Wayne Prescott to discuss his alternative.

Santa's brilliant proposal consists of the theory of replacing the traditional school bus with massive sleighs pulled by reindeer during the holiday season. This would result in the conservation of both fuel and school district expenses, while spreading the spirit of the Christmas season.

Santa believes that this in-

novation in the school transportation system in the New Richmond School has several favorable assets.

"This temporary replacement will indeed have a positive impact. Due to the recent updates in technology, for the last few Christmas seasons, I have been able to cut the use of fuel to power the sleighs; they merely run on the power of the reindeer and a few night panels," he said.

Yes, Santa did say night panels as he explained, "Since I deliver throughout the night, I am not able to use the latest solar panels, so my elves have come up with a brilliant solution. One cannot see it but miraculously, the light given off from the moon and the stars produces a sufficient amount of energy used to power the massive sleighs. Due to its massive size, I need

an excessive amount of energy to last me through the night. It is essential that the night panels are exposed to the night's light from dusk to dawn every day of the year. This process builds up enough energy to power my sleigh through the long Christmas night."

Due to the fact that school buses operate mainly during the daylight hours, Santa has come up with an innovative solution.

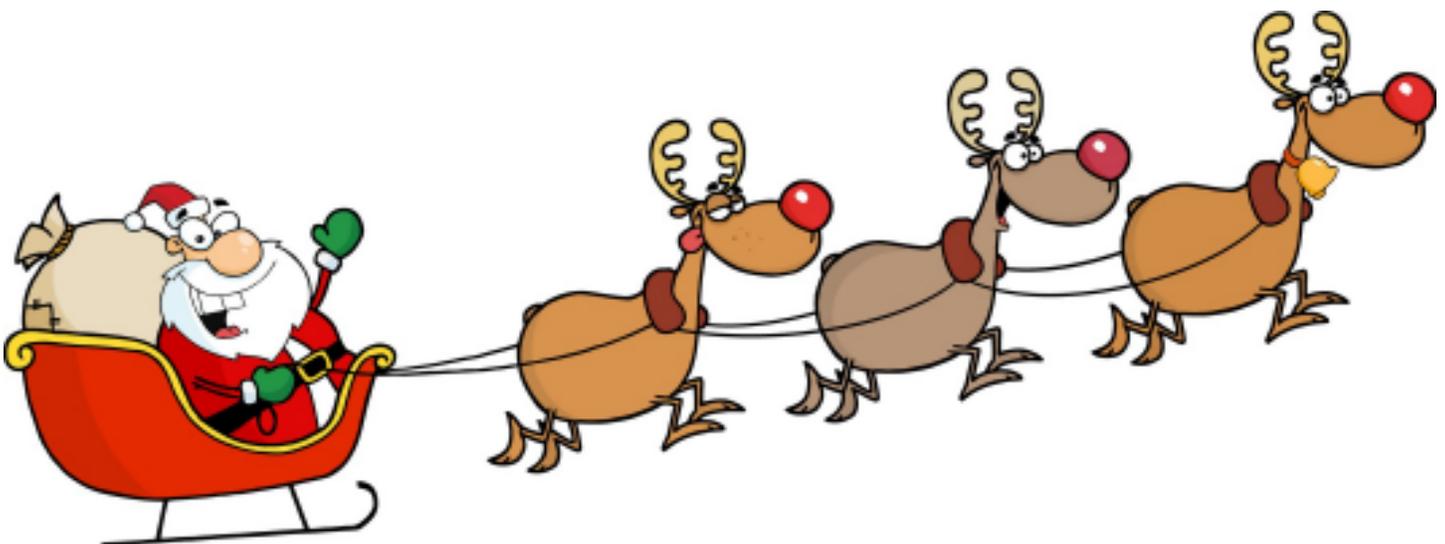
"Obviously, the traditional school buses do not nearly cover the distance which I cover on my Christmas night route, so charging the sleighs overnight would be a sufficient amount of energy for the sleighs to operate the sleighs during their daily route," he said.

The use of these massive sleighs would also cut back dramatically on the time of

the bus routes. Santa states; "If I can get around the whole world in twenty four hours with a stop at, I don't know.... EVERYHOUSE, the bus routes could be done in a jiff!"

The use of these sleighs will also decrease the number of drivers needed to transport the students. "Since the time allotted to transport the students will be cut in half, the number of sleighs will also be reduced. This will result in the combination of several routes, eliminating the number of sleighs out on the road," said Santa.

This new innovation will not be such a hassle as it may seem. With Santa's wide selection of reindeer roaming the north pole, this task will be quite simple. "According to my calculations, I believe that one reindeer will provide more than enough



power to pull a sleigh full of children,” stated Santa. “Since nine reindeer provide enough power to pull all the gifts for all of the children around the world, plus my plump self, I am more than certain that one reindeer would provide more than the equivalence of power of a school bus.”

Santa also believes that the preparation for this transition will be no problem at all.

“Ideally all that would need to be done is to build a stable suitable for approximately 25 reindeer. Reindeer are relatively friendly creatures and are more than willing to share a stall with two or three other deer, eliminating the number of stalls need to be built. To manage the stable and take care of the reindeer, the remaining bus drivers, who do not have a sleigh to drive will

be used to keep up with the maintenance of the stable.”

Santa is not the only one who sees this innovation as an opportunity to save the district’s budget, the NREVSD Transportation Director Wayne Prescott, sees many positive sides as well. “I believe that this is an excellent solution to the conservation of the district’s budget. The transportation expenses of every district is among one of the most costly areas including the expenses of fuel, buses, bus maintenance, and employees,” he said.

“With this transition, the expenses of the district will be dramatically reduced to merely the feed of the reindeer, construction of a stable, and employees to drive the sleighs and to keep up with the maintenance of the rein-

deer. As a result, the district will be open to the opportunity to purchases regarding improvements in what matters the most the children’s education,” he added.

The NREVSD’s superintendent, Adam Bird has big plans for the money which will be saved by this transition. “With the recent updates in technology, the learning process has, too, been modernized. This upcoming year’s budget will offer more flexibility due to the enormous amount of money that will be saved. With the decreasing quality of the district’s textbooks, I believe that it would be worthwhile to spend the excess money on iPads which have online textbooks. This would be beneficial for years to come due to the extreme amount of expenses that come with

the purchase of textbooks. Using books on the iPads will prolong the lives of our textbooks, while guiding the students in their learning process.”

Santa also addressed another positive side of transition in the transportation of spreading the Christmas spirit. “It seems like demonstrations of the Christmas spirit decrease every year. I am not sure if this is due to the increase in the maturity in modern day society, or what; however, this new advancement will provide children with an exciting holiday experience every day which will liven their holiday attitudes and make the Christmas season an even more enjoyable time of the year. Every child will begin to look forward to the holiday season each year, creating a cheerful atmosphere.”

Santa’s recent proposal of an innovation in the NREVSD transportation system opens several new opportunities for the New Richmond school district. Santa’s brilliant idea of replacing the traditional school buses with giant reindeer propelled sleighs will increase the flexibility of the district’s budget by saving money on gas, bus maintenance, and other vehicle maintenance. It also spreads the Christmas spirit which is a major positive effect to the whole New Richmond community.



Government shutdown threatens North Pole Santa facing Christmas financial crisis



Over the last few weeks, the nation has been dealing and coping with the major issue of the government shutdown. Although this shutdown was thought to be a short, temporary problem, it has still continued for weeks. As the holiday season approaches, people are beginning to question Christmas, including Santa Claus himself.

"This has been a problem for us all and we are in a state of panic. Of course I want to continue our tradition of spreading Christmas cheer, but as of right now, we just aren't sure how it will turn out," said Claus.

These issues are occurring simply due to the fact that the government is responsible for much of the North Pole's funding. Without these holiday funds being available, work at the North Pole has been stopped.

The elves have been in a state of dismay at these issues. "We don't

want to stop working, especially as it gets so close to the big day, but we have no choice. The big guy unwillingly sent out our orders, and we have to follow them," said Sally Little, head elf in the toy department.

"It's been a very tough time for all of us. We all tend to be quite positive and cheerful, so we are just trying to keep our spirits up," said Thomas Bit, another elf in the toy department.

Government officials have been timid to answer questions regarding the shutdown in relations to the holidays. "We are working to sort out these issues and get the system back up and running as soon as possible. No one wants to see Christmas not happen this year. We are trying to get Santa and the North Pole back in business. It's a difficult situation for everyone involved," said Anthony Snider, a chairman for the Board of

North Pole Relations (BNPR).

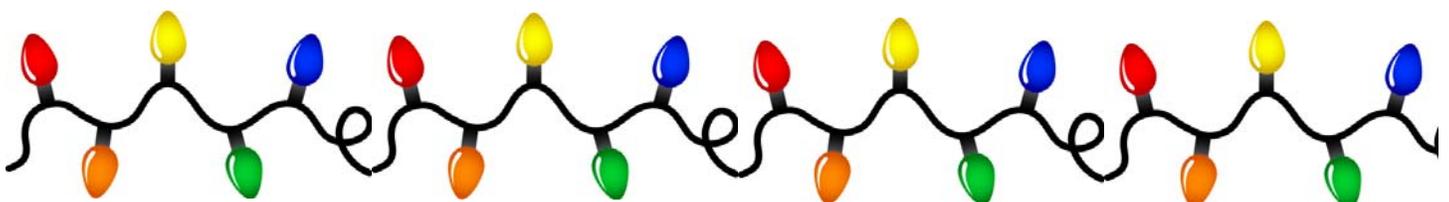
Claus has begun talk of breaking ties with the BNPR due to the current unnecessary complications arising through the government. "I never wanted the government to get involved with our businesses up here in my workshops in the first place. It's just much easier and simpler to create our own work and keep it in the North Pole. Although we are grateful for everything the BNPR has done for us, I should have chosen to stay away from ties with them. Christmas has always been run straight through the North Pole and maybe we will go back to our old traditions in the years to come," said Claus.

North Pole workers and residents have begun coming together to help resolve the



government issues. There are hopes get out of the BNPR business and go back to private funders that helped keep the North Pole running for so long. "Times have changed, but a lot of us still think and hope that our people here will be able to keep Christmas going," said Francis Hill, North Pole resident.

A live news conference is scheduled with Claus and BNPR representatives later this week. "As of right now, we all must keep the traditional thoughts and cheers of Christmas in our hearts," Claus concluded.



What's your Christmas ritual?

NRHS shares holiday traditions

By Ashley Gray

Everyone has a tradition, especially when it comes to the holidays. Gathering around the Christmas tree, hanging stockings, watching Christmas movies, and everyone filled with bundles of joy always brings highlights to the holidays. Teachers and students at New Richmond High School share how they celebrate Christmas.

Students said they celebrate Christmas in many different ways with various traditions with family.

"My family has a fun-filled agenda around this time of year. We decorate the tree, go to my grandma's on Christmas Eve, wake up and open Santa's presents, then go to my other grandma's house for dinner, along with all of my new toys," said sophomore Hali Stamper.

Sophomore Cydney Stiles said, "We celebrate Christmas by having family dinner with my grandparents. My grandparents spend the night, and then the next morning we open up presents."

"I celebrate Christmas with my family. I go to my dad's house, grandma's house, and my stepdad's parents' house," said sophomore Ariel Huber.

Sophomore Paul Jaehnen celebrates Christmas firstly by going to church with his family. "After church, my family celebrates together," he added.

NRHS teachers also have a few special ways they celebrate the holiday.

English teacher Shelby Pride said the older she gets the more she realizes how important family really is and she enjoys spending the holidays with hers. "Christmas Eve is spent with my parents, sister, brother-in-law, and niece. I play board games, eat and laugh with

the others," she said.

"Christmas morning, my grandparents come over for breakfast and to unwrap gifts. Christmas evening, we have my mom's side of the family over to celebrate with

more gifts, more food, and more fun!"

History teacher Josh Stratton said he, too, celebrates Christmas with his family. "I enjoy spending time with my family, enjoying some Starbucks, and watching football."

A majority of the students said their favorite childhood memory would be waking up early in the morning and seeing all the presents Santa had brought.

"I always enjoyed waking up so early to open presents and get the day started so I could see how all the things I got worked," said junior Brittney O'Brien.

Huber said, "My favorite childhood memory of Christmas was one time it was Christmas Eve and I remember spending the night with my brother and wak-

ing up with him the next morning and getting our stockings together."

"My favorite is waking up to see the lit up Christmas tree with presents under it," said Stiles.

Some students said their favorite childhood memories of Christmas did not include gifts. The holiday season is all about spending time with loved ones, the gifts might be important, but they are not the most important thing.

"One of my favorite childhood memories of the Christmas season would be when my grandma made me my very own ornament, where she painted my face and some facts about me on it," said Stamper.

Sophomore Ally Lutz said, "I always loved when my grandpa would read us stories on the night before Christmas."

Pride remembered the good days just as well. "On Christmas night, my dad and uncles would take my cousins, sister and I to look at Christmas lights while my grandma was back at our house putting out the toys Santa Claus left at her house for all her grandchildren."

Stratton, however, didn't get to come home to such surprises. "My dad would always end up telling my brother and I what we were getting for Christmas because he can't keep a secret"

The holidays always have something good to bring especially when family comes to town. "I enjoy seeing all of my out of town family and the food," said Stamper.

Jaehnen also enjoys seeing everyone. "I also enjoy the giving

and how everyone is happy," Jaehnen added.

O'Brien said, "I enjoy the Christmas music and just the whole vibe of Christmas; it's always so happy and fun."

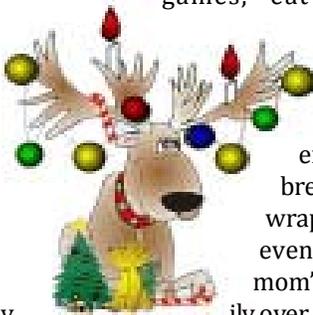
Many family memories come from past Christmases. "My favorite funny memory of Christmas is when the Christmas tree fell on top of my mother," said O'Brien.

Stiles said, "In fourth grade my sister still believed in

Santa but I didn't, so my mom put white powder under the fire place claiming it was Santa magic. I spent the whole day figuring out that the magic was baby powder."

"My favorite funny memory from Christmas is sled riding behind the tennis courts and going in the creek and when my friend Kyli thought her mom was an elf," said sophomore Ariel Johnson.

So now that the year is winding down to a close, take this time to unwind as well. Sit back and realize all the things you have available at your fingertips. The holidays are a great time for everyone to gather together and enjoy quality time with others that we do not always have with our busy day-to-day schedules.



Alert, Rudolph is lost!

Will he ever find his way back home?

By Casey Pendergrass



Rudolph and Santa's other reindeer wanted to go outside to play before they had to go out and deliver all the gifts to the children of the world.

There was just one issue: Dancer and Prancer wanted to go and explore the woods of the North Pole. Rudolph said that that was not a good idea, but all of Santa's reindeer agreed with Dancer and Prancer. They all wanted to go into the woods. The pressure got to Rudolph and he didn't want to be the "party pooper," so he agreed to go with them, Rudolph knew that this was not a good idea, but he did it anyway.

After a few hours, Rudolph said they should head back because it was getting dark outside, then, out of the blue, a huge snowstorm hit and it lasted an hour! After Rudolph dug himself out from the mountain of snow, he realized that he was all alone and out in the middle of nowhere. Rudolph knew he must find away to get back to Santa's workshop, but he had no clue where he was.

Rudolph was so upset because he fell into peer pressure and his dad and mom always told him never to do anything he felt uncomfortable with. But like every child does, he fell in and went along with others. Frightfully, Rudolph started panicking and spinning around in circles and

paced, wondering what a young fawn in the middle of the woods should do. He was scared and cold and he started crying.

Rudolph said, "I will never see my mommy again; I should have listened to her," and then suddenly it hit him what

Santa said. "Now, Rudolph it isn't always easy to get where you want to be in life but I will tell you just as I tell everyone I meet, don't give in and always try. With that you shall get far in life."

Right then power mode struck Rudolph and he was now more determined than ever to get back home.

Rudolph thought and thought and thought about what he had to do to make it through the night. Dusk was falling fast and the temperatures were dropping dramatically. When Rudolph was in fawn scouts (much like boy scouts, but for fawns), he learned how to make a fire and build a tent out of sticks and leaves to keep the wind out, and so he built one.

He fell fast asleep. When morning came, Rudolph went out to find some berries and a watering hole before he got started on his journey home. His mom told him that breakfast was the most important meal of the day, and Rudolph knew he must have food and be hydrated because he did not know how long it would take to get back home.

Once Rudolph had eaten and started to walk he saw a sign of hope; he spotted Blitzen's special collar! Rudolph knew that he was going the right way so as he continued to walk he looked for even more clues. But as Rudolph

walked on, he began to lose hope because he had not seen another clue in hours.

Rudolph sat down and started crying when he heard a soft little pipsqueak of a voice say, "What's the matter? Why are you sad?"

Rudolph jumped up in a panic and turned. "Hey, who's there?" exclaimed Rudolph.

"Look down," said the voice.

Right there stood a tiny rat named Ash.

"What's wrong," Ash said again.

"I'm lost and I can't find my way back home," cried out Rudolph.

"Well then, are you in luck! I know my way around this whole pole," said Ash.

Rudolph turned his head really fast. "Really? Do you?"

"Why, yes," said Ash. "I have a lot of family. I know this pole like the back of my paw."

There was a sign of hope for Rudolph again.

"Tell me where you live," said Ash. "I shall take you there."

"I live at Santa's house up on Re-

indeer Lane," said Rudolph.

"Oh, that's not too far from here," said Ash.

And so Rudolph and Ash went on their way back. The best moment had arrived. They reached Rudolph's house and his mom came running out the door as fast as she could.

"RUDOLPH'S HOME!!!"

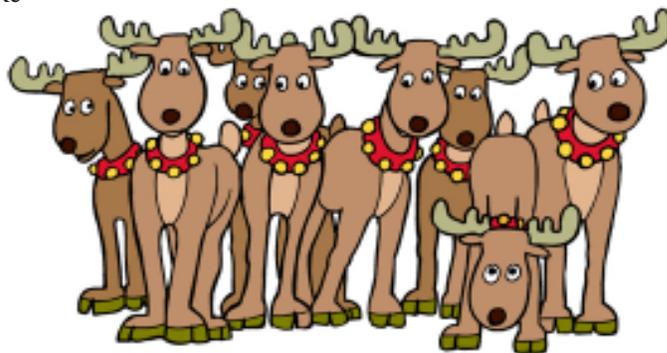
Rudolph and his mom and dad hugged for a good while and then all the other reindeer came out. Rudolph explained what had happened and Rudolph's mom was just happy her

baby boy was okay.

"Rudolph, we should have listened to you and from now on we will. We all were so worried about you," said Dancer.

"Well, we all learned a lesson. I learned don't give into peer pressure and you all learned not to go in the woods alone any more," said Rudolph.

"I think everyone learned a very good lesson," said Rudolph's mom. "Now let's go inside, have some dinner and spend some time together where we're all safe and warm."



"No, he's not hiding here."

Rudolph on strike!

Rudolph is now not so jolly for the Christmas season

By Ciera Moore

Our dear reindeer, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, has unfortunately been let go after all these eons of being in the business. He caused a ruckus in the workshop by threatening a strike so Santa Claus decided that the best idea was to fire him. Now Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer will fade out of our minds, and might go down in history for all the wrong reasons.

The day before Christmas, a very busy day in the workshop, Rudolph came to a very stressed out Santa. "He complained that I was not paying him enough! I pay him the most of all my workers AND reindeer! Plus, he gets all the fame and spotlight when it comes to my transportation," said Claus.

Apparently, all the fame has gone to Rudolph's head! "I do all the physical labor when it comes to Christmas. I am the reason those presents get to the kids of the world! Without my red nose, Santa won't be able to get anywhere during the night!" said Rudolph.

Rudolph wants more than recognition and fame now. All the young believers aren't enough for his suddenly dark heart. "Having all the kids in the world believing in me isn't enough anymore. Sorry, but young be-

lievers don't put hay in the stall. Santa says he pays me the most, but I barely get by! I can't imagine how the other workers get by when I barely can."

The other workers dearly miss their old comrade, Rudolph. "It's not as fun when Rudolph is not here at the workshop. He always served as entertainment on the long, monotonous days of building toys," said Lily, the young elf.

But not all the workers miss Rudolph. "When he wasn't picking on me for other's entertainment, he was complaining. He has always been trying to convince Santa to raise his salary. The days that Santa refused his requests, he was especially mean to me," claims the elf, Alex.

There are others that have suffered Rudolph's wrath. "When Santa refused his raises, Rudolph would be in a very bad mood. Since he couldn't make his own money, Rudolph would resort to thievery. There were many occasions when I would find him in my stall, going through my belongings looking for spare change. Once, he found all of my savings, but luckily Blitzen stopped him before he got very far," claimed Donner, the famous reindeer.

Rudolph seems to be the em-

bodiment of a childhood bully now that we know the truth. He picks on others for entertainment, which is no real reason to pick on others at all. He wants more money, and does anything to get his peers' "lunch money". The famous Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer is apparently all a lie!

Rudolph does not deny these claims. "Sure! I admit it! I do get angry and pick on others, but its like a stress reliever. It's just playful banter to me, sorry if I really do hurt anybody..." explained Rudolph.

But does he deny that he is a thief? "I need money. That's why I started this whole 'strike' thing. Santa doesn't pay me enough, that's all I'm going to say," said Rudolph.

Rudolph doesn't exactly say that he is a thief, but connect the dots. He is a poor reindeer that can't raise his income, so he resorts to stealing from his so called 'friends'.

Santa has to quickly replace Rudolph before this Christmas season. "I don't have time to interview, and hire a new reindeer. I'm going to have to promote another reindeer to the head of the sleigh. Maybe...Blitzen..yes, Blitzen will do for now," said Santa Claus.

So it seems that Blitzen is getting a promotion now that Rudolph is gone. At least somebody benefits from this horrible catastrophe that could ruin the view of Rudolph.

Now that Rudolph is not the reindeer in charge of leading Santa's sleigh, what does he do now? "Santa seemed to take pity on me. After a few days of being unemployed I realized what a



good job I really had. So I went to Santa and I apologized for being so difficult. He then offered me a new job that I will get paid a lot of money for!" explained Rudolph.

Santa explained what Rudolph is now doing to contribute to Christmas, but still get paid. "Rudolph came back a few days after he was fired, and I refrained from saying 'I told you so!'. But he really needed a job. I decided to give him the job of checking off the Wish List so that I know what kids have already received presents or not."

It seems that Rudolph is quite fond of his new job. "I really do enjoy what I do. I get paid as much as I want now!" said Rudolph.

Santa seems to think Rudolph is doing well, too. "Rudolph is working hard and I can tell he is trying to win back my trust. If he continues working so hard, I might just forgive him and promote him. It's a shame that I no longer have his red nose, though," said Rudolph.

Poor Santa Claus is lacking a very important worker now that Rudolph is in charge of the Wish List. Even though Blitzen is a good temporary worker, Santa still needs someone with their own light source on some part of their body. So if you fit that description, contact Santa right away! He might've gotten rid of a big thorn in his side, but now he doesn't have a very vital worker in his business.



Santa needs to cut down on cookies

New recipes invited; all bakers can apply

By: Lily Cahall

People around the world, there is an announcement that you need to hear! You love the gifts Santa has given you in the past, but have you ever wondered how he thought of our gifts to him? Imagine eating Christmas cookies from every single house around the world. Would you get sick of them? Santa Claus has recently told the press that he is going to stop Christmas if kids do not stop baking cookies.

Claus said he used to be in love with Christmas cookies. "Christmas cookies used to be my favorite part about going to the children's houses, but I just don't feel the spark any more. Plus, I am gaining so much weight, it is getting hard to move!" said Claus

Alex, the oldest elf at the Christmas factory, explained that he has known Santa forever and he has been acting differently for a few years now. "It has been a couple years since I have seen Santa at his happiest. Usually, he goes outside with me and we play in the glimmering snow, roll around, and make snowmen. Just recently he won't even talk to me! I didn't even do anything, I don't think."

Ciera is the newest reindeer here at the Christmas factory and said she didn't know Santa was mean. "When I was a little rein-

deer, I always thought Santa was the nicest person in the world, but when I met him he has a severe attitude and barely accepted me to be his head reindeer. I think he is acting this way because of all the cookies he has been eating. One day I feel like he is just going to explode. I am kind of glad Santa is putting off Christmas for a while because he needs to calm down and plus, I am new so I am afraid I'll fail at being a reindeer. I want to see him in a cheery mood and not so grumpy."

A young child named Hunter had his dreams and hopes crushed when he found out that Santa Claus, his hero, might not be visiting him this year because Hunter and his mom usually make Chocolate Chip Cookies. "...I-I-I-j-just wa-wanted to meet-t S-S-Santa!" His mother told us that he would not stop crying so his dad had to dress up and pretend to be Santa.

Mrs.Claus explained that she tried to get her husband of a millennium to eat her famous recipe of oatmeal raisin cookies. "Usually, whenever Santa even smells the scent of the warm, chewy, delicious cookies he is in the kitchen immediately! I just really wish he will turn back to normal. I miss his cookie loving self. Somebody has to do something



soon!"

Frosty the mailman, always gives Santa the young children's wish lists. "Whenever I see Santa, he greets with a HO-HO-HO and says thanks. But this last Christmas he just angrily took the letters and walked away."

Claus said that he will organize a contest to see can make the best cookies. The winner's recipe will be sent out around the world for children to bake that exact recipe and the winner will become famous. "This contest that I am throwing must be a good one in order for me to start up Christmas again. The cookies must be excellent, yummy, and must bring me joy."

Alex, the oldest elf, said his favorite cookies are sugar cookies. "I know Santa will love my cookies the most, because everyone loves sugar and cookies, so it goes perfectly together!"

Ashley, the youngest elf, said her favorite cookies were Oreos. "I know no one puts Oreos out for Santa on Christmas, so the change in flavor will be good for Santa, I feel. Honestly, I feel like he has never had an Oreo, so I hope he likes it."

Mrs.Claus decided she wanted to join the contest as well, just for, fun though. "I know my

Santa-poo and he loves mint cookies! He apparently eats them all the time. I am going to put all my effort into these cookies because I need to become famous. My time is almost up on earth and I need to be recognized somehow!"

Frosty the mailman said he has a secret ice cream cookie recipe. "If you add ice cream to the middle, it will be the best cookie around, I swear. I am for sure going to win this contest with my ice cream recipe."

So if you are interested in entering Santa's contest, you must have the perfect cookies. Maybe he will pick your cookies and the cookies will help save Christmas. To submit cookies to Santa you must call into his office and his head reindeer Rudolph will answer the phone. Rudolph will ask for all of your information, including your name and what kind of Christmas cookies you will bake. Once you have told Rudolph all of your information, you just send in your cookies and then keep your fingers crossed and wait. If he picks your cookies then you will get a call the next day. So bake your best batch of cookies and help save Christmas!



Mrs. Claus is hiring mercenaries

Santa may not be visiting the United States this year

By Alex Gardner

Americans! You might not get your presents this year! Santa Claus has lost his passport so he cannot go about his normal route of Europe to Africa to Asia to Australia to South America to Mexico to the United States to Canada due to the heavy border patrol laws on the Mexico-United States border!

The North Pole is in complete chaos, according to Buddy, a thirty year veteran elf worker of the remote-controlled toy factory. "I haven't seen boss (Claus) in over forty eight hours! I'm nervous! For the first time in thirty years, elves are competing with other elves for replacing boss and Mrs. Claus has even stopped cooking!"

Jingle, a new elf, has just recently joined the hula-hoop department of the physical activity toy factory. Jingle is not nervous at all and believes we will have another reindeer save the day. "I mean, the last time we had an emergency, boss found a reindeer with a freaky nose to help him."

Areindeer, Vixen, overheard the answer and had a harsh reply.

"That elf doesn't know what he's talking about! We reindeer can't help Claus with a passport! The border patrol is already hard enough!"

Comet, a lead reindeer, totally agreed with Vixen. "The border patrol is needlessly tough. All we do is break into people's houses and leave presents! It's not like we're smuggling illegal weapons into the United States or anything!"

Border police chief, Ciera Ebenezer, who is the leader of the anti-Santa movement, believes Santa should not be welcomed into the United States. "We have had several complaints, gifts falling from the sky, hoof marks on the roof, and even decorative Christmas ornament breaking!"

One of Ebenezer's officers, Lilian Humbug, has a list of complaints. "I've heard about reindeer scat on roofs, jump ropes hanging from trees, and the theft of milk & cookies."

Another of Ebenezer's squad, her husband, Hunter Ebenezer, is in charge of launching giant missiles at the accused illegal smuggler sleigh. "There have been a total of nine accusations of illegal smuggling, and in all cases, Claus has avoided a search every time. We have decided to take action by adding radioactive missiles, candy cane edition, to our arsenal. We have seven launchers each for each of Santa's buttons!"

Ebenezer said he believes his wife has become overly obsessed with stopping Santa but believes it must be something to do with her child-



hood. "Ciera supposedly never got that shiny red bicycle that she really wanted but she never. I think she probably holds that against Santa."

When asked about her childhood Christmas, Mrs. Ebenezer launched all seven launchers and asked to be left alone before the coordinates are changed...

But when asked a second time several hours later, Mrs. Ebenezer confirmed her husband's theory. "I wanted that bicycle! If I would have gotten it, I would have gained one more dollar at my lemonade stand the summer after by making it to Mrs. Frost's house, allowing me to buy a Hershey bar instead of some M&M's that I could have traded with Brady for a Reese's cup, which in turn I could have given to Mr. Diffusion, my ninth grade biology teacher giving me extra credit, and putting that grade up to an A instead of a B allowing me to get into Harvard instead of Yale and giving me the option to become a professional rower and fulfilling my dream of becoming an Olympic Athlete."

Santa saw the quote and decided to try to give Mrs. Ebenezer the bicycle. "I feel hor-

rible about skipping her house that one year but her giant Great Dane tried to eat Blitzen!"

When Ciera received the bicycle, she picked it up and broke it in half, screaming: "I needed this thirty years ago!" Santa cried for several hours.

Mrs. Claus is having a nervous breakdown over the coming Christmas. She is afraid that her husband will be stopped, or even worse killed, by the Border Patrol. "I'm absolutely flabbergasted that the patrol won't even ask us to search. I am now planning a counterattack, I'm training the reindeer to be specialists in advanced weaponry such as tanks, sniper rifles, and satellite lasers. Comet is also trained in the medical field and is considered the most important, behind my husband, of course. I am also sending several elves trained in throwing stars and snowballs to help along the way."

Will Santa find his passport? Will the citizens of the United States get their presents? Will Mrs. Claus hire Mercenaries? Who knows? Maybe foul play is involved... but I guess we will have to wait until December 24.



Faces in the Hallway

By: Christin Gray

Senior Olivia Ferguson

Senior Olivia Ferguson said she would definitely have her phone in her hand if she found a sleigh with reindeer.

“I would run outside and take pictures for Instagram. Who wouldn’t want a picture with a reindeer?” she said.

“I would absolutely get in the sleigh; you don’t get that kind of opportunity every day,” she said.

If the sleigh took Ferguson to the North Pole, she said, “I would be so happy! I would love to see the North Pole and the



northern lights,” she said.

“If I could make toys with the elves, I would feel super tall,” she said, “but I wouldn’t mind chilling with them. As long as I get to sit with Santa, I’ll be happy,” she said.

Sophomore Ryan Brunk

Sophomore Ryan Brunk has a different approach for what he would do if a sleigh with reindeer were parked outside his house.

“I would look around to see if the sleigh was real and then pet the reindeer,” he said.

“I would definitely get into the sleigh, just to know what it feels like and to look at all the cool things inside, I would try to see if I could make it fly, too,” he said.

If the sleigh took Brunk to the North Pole, he said, “I would call my parents and let them know I went to the North Pole and tell them I was going to stay here in



the North Pole a while to have fun,” he said.

Meeting Santa, and making toys with the elves, “would be something else,” said Brunk.

“I would feel good and I think it would be loads of fun to make toys because I like building,” he responded.

Junior Korinne Gillman

Junior Korinne Gillman can’t wait for Christmas. We also would have a thief on our hands, because if a sleigh was parked outside her front porch with reindeer attached, she’d take some presents, and take pictures with all the elves.

“I would definitely jump in the sleigh, it’s not every day you just find a sleigh and reindeer in New Richmond. I would take the sleigh for a joyride and feed the reindeer some carrots,” she said.

If Gillman went to the North Pole, she said she would go crazy.

“I would be super excited, I would run around and hang out with all the elves, make friends



with Santa and all the reindeer. I would try to get all of them to make the presents I wanted,” she said.

If Gillman could make toys with the elves she said, “I would feel like a child, but a really happy one. It would be pretty cool and just chill with Santa and his elves making toys and stuff. I would love to sit on his lap all day,” she said.

Freshman Korey Feldkamp

Freshman Korey Feldkamp is very excited for Christmas. If a reindeer and a sleigh were parked outside Feldkamp’s house, he said, “I would go get my little brother because he loves Santa. I would also get inside the sleigh, because I would love to hang out with the elves,” he said.

The thought of going to the North Pole excites Feldkamp with overjoyed expectations. “I would try to slip in Santa’s office to see if I was on the good or bad list,” he said.

Making toys with elves and



meeting Santa sounds out of this world, but Feldkamp would feel special. “If I got to make toys with the elves, hang around and eat Mr. Claus’ cookies, I would feel like it was a once in a lifetime opportunity, It would also be very cool to be Santa’s right hand man,” he said.

It's Christmas in July, everyone!

No, but seriously though, we're celebrating Christmas in July

By Chelsey Fawley



Hey everyone it's that time of year again! Christmas time. Ahh, the warmth of a sputtering fire, chestnuts roasting on an open flame, the gentle pitter patter of snow as each individual snowflake joins the rest that are lying on the ground. . .

SCREEEEEEEECH!!!!

Just kidding! Recently all the important world leaders gathered together to look over some yearly scheduling. Due to the end of the year constantly being packed with with holidays, Pope Francis and other prominent leaders came to the agreement that they would be moving the date of Christmas starting in 2014. Instead of having a slew of holidays at the end of the year, Christmas will be July 25th in hopes of better fueling the world economy and making the summer more enjoyable.

Pope Francis, along with several other prominent world leaders such as Vladimir Putin, Hu Jintao, Hugo Chavez, Beyonce, and Barack Obama are all ecstatic about the new date.

"It is most important to the people of the world, along with the International Confederation of Catholics that we help people in the world," Pope Francis said. "Oftentimes families cannot af-

ford to celebrate all the end of the year festivities. Now with Christmas in July we will suddenly assist thousands of families throughout the world. "

Obama agreed wholeheartedly, saying, "I think it's time the people of the world get a little change. There's way too many holi-

days in winter as is, and supporting some spree spending in the summer when people usually would not be shopping will help keep the flow of money steady throughout the economy."

Here in southern Ohio, however, things aren't going over too well. People are in an uproar in New Richmond High School over this recent change, and it's for a great variety of reasons.

Senior Abby Jewell had one simple complaint about the change in date. "This is bull!," she said, "I can't wear my Santa suit in the middle of summer! That will be way too hot. Plus I'll look like a doofus."

Juniors Olivia Latham and Micha Brumbaugh were also quite appalled by this change.

"What?!" Latham said. "Christmas is supposed to be cold and snowy. I don't want to have Christmas dinner with my family in a tank top and shorts. A Christmas barbeque just doesn't have the same heart-warming connotation. Aaaaaand if Christmas is in July we don't get a break anymore, so just no."

Brumbaugh had a similar argument. "That's stupid they can't just change Christmas!" she said. "Everything about Christmas is cold. All the songs

are about snow and icicles and snuggling because it's cold outside."

History teacher Bill Harris was quite upset with the change, too. "I can't wait that long," he said. "I need my presents now."

English teacher Malissa Cornette felt similarly. "I vehemently oppose moving Christmas to July!" she said. "I mean, if there's Christmas in July that seriously cuts into my Sunlight Pool time. We can't have that."

Counselor Carolann Coulter was in disagreement as well. "It's tradition! Christmas is about religion and family and being in the cold weather. We can't just go changing things all of a sudden."

Science teacher Pat Crowley was also quite heated. "I am infuriated!" he said. "I'm an old school guy, I like Christmas when it is. Maybe I should write my councilman. . ."

Some people aren't quite so upset about this change, however.

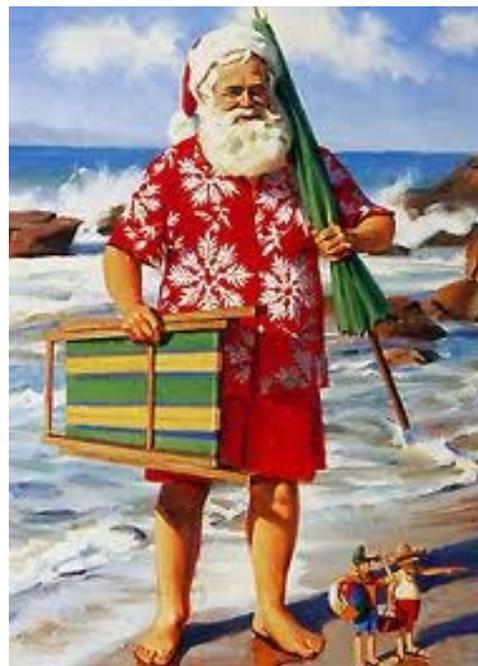
Senior Justin Adams stated, "I celebrate Ramadan, so it jolly well doesn't matter to me."

Junior John Buckingham was also quite cool with the switch. "I mean, it seems like a nice change," he said. "I like Christmas and I like July so it seems like Christmas in July is a pretty good match. Plus Beyonce said it so I mean. . . that's pretty much a good enough reason to be pumped about it."

Sophomore Mat-

thew DeVoe was alright with the switch as well due to the idea of presents in the summer. "I'm not really religious," he said, "and so I just love Christmas for the presents. Getting presents in the middle of summer seems pretty cool with me. It doesn't matter when it is, I just like presents."

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is not about religion. It is about a much needed change and new exciting traditions. Perhaps the most admirable open acceptance of this change was shown by English teacher Nicole Parker. "I think this is a great idea!" she said. "I won't have to worry about the weather messing up my travel plans or anything. Just two years ago we couldn't have Christmas due to an ice storm. If it were summer, that's all taken care of. Man, that sounds like it'd be great. We could have outdoor celebrations or even a barbeque. Plus, no one would overeat for fear of looking fat in their summer clothes! I'm all for this, let's do it."



Chaos in the North Pole

Come Help Santa And The Elves Make Toys!

By: Raven Miller.

There is chaos at the North Pole in Candy Cane Forest as Santa and all his elves try to make the toys for all the good little girls and boys.

It seems this year that all the boys and girls have been very good and have requested a lot of toys. Santa does not think that he and the elves can finish all these toy requests before Christmas Eve. He is looking for some help in the workshop to make the toys just for this holiday season.

This is not a permanent job. It is just for the Christmas season. Employees will be paid with milk and cookies and their help will be greatly appreciated by

everyone, And how cool would it be for anyone to say he or she worked with Santa and all his elves?

Mr.Claus gave us some insight on why they need help with employees in Santa's workshop. "This year it seems we have a lot of boys and girls who are good, almost all of them; in fact, we have never had this many children on the nice list so we have never had to make this many presents. Also, it seems that the nice children are asking for more presents than usual. We are just very overwhelmed this year," said Claus

Applicants must meet a few requirements, "To be hired to work this year at the North Pole

and help with the toys, you must have experience in the toy making process, Also, you need to love gum drops and cookies because you will not receive money after Christmas, you will receive cookies.

The shorter you are the better, because you will be working in the workshop with the elves and our doorways are pretty small to make the elves feel more comfortable," said Claus.

If Santa does not get enough people to send applications to be workers in the North Pole, there will be a few consequences.

"If we do not get enough people to help work in the Candy Cane Forest, some kids might not get presents or might not get everything they asked for because I don't think the elves and myself will be able to make all the toys. If we don't get help, we might only be able to pick one or two presents for each kid. If that happens, it will cause more work because Mrs.Claus would

have to call all the parents of the children in the world and tell them why their kids aren't getting everything that they asked for from Santa. Then the children's parents will have to go out last minute and try to buy some more presents for their kids and hurry up and wrap them," said Claus.

Even though everyone agrees that it would be bad if the good boys and girls didn't get the toys they wanted, some reindeer don't think it would be that bad if there weren't that many toys this year.

"One good thing about this Christmas if we don't have a lot of presents is that they sleigh won't be very heavy. We reindeer right in front of Santa's sleigh have the hardest job be-



cause we have a lot to of weight to pull. It would be nice to have a light sleigh for a change," said reindeer Dasher

Mrs.Claus feels very strongly about making sure every one of the good kids gets all of the toys that they asked for. "Isn't that the point of Santa is that you write a letter and send it to him and you get what you asked for? Well, what is everyone going to think if they don't get what they want for Christmas? They will stop believing in Santa!" she said.

Some of the elves are very worried about how much overtime they are going to work if they do not get enough help for the Christmas season.

Their job is to make every toy that is asked, for so they will have to work as much as they can to make sure that children gets what they asked for.

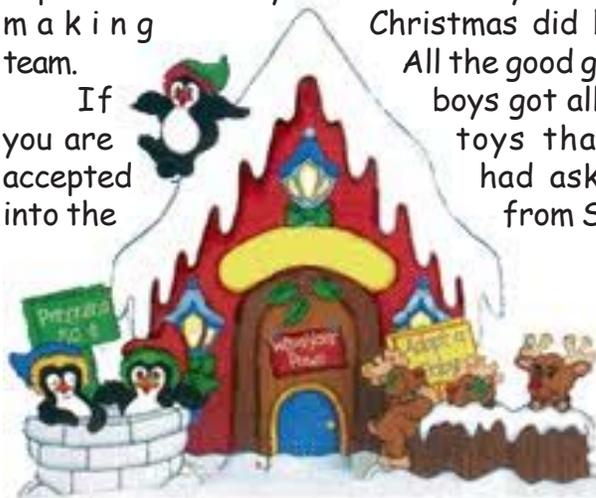
"I am working 16 hours a day to try to help get these toys made and Mr.Claus said that if we don't pick up the speed we are going to have to work more hours a day. I barely get to see my wife and kids as it is, and adding to that,

I wouldn't see them at all. We might even have to work Christmas Eve. This will be the first year in history that we have to work Christmas Eve," said spokeseff George Gum-drop.

If you are someone who is looking to join the toy making team in the North Pole, there are applications you can fill out on helpsanta.com. It is a lengthy application, but once you finish it, you hit the send button, and Santa will send an elf down to your house.

Then he will take you to the North Pole and Santa will ask a few more questions and will test you on how fast you can learn to make toys. There will be a demo toy that you have to make in under five minutes and if you succeed then you will be accepted to the toy making team.

If you are accepted into the



toy making team, you and your family will be moved to the North Pole and you will stay in an elf house until the Christmas season is over. You will live just like everyone else that lives in the North Pole. You will work 12 hour shifts, which is a little less than what the elves are working.

It could be a really fun experience to see how the elves live and work. If you do a good enough job then next year, Santa might call you back to have you help with the toys.

"Please, everyone, make sure that you go home and log onto your computers and you fill out an application to work in the North Pole. I need a lot of help this season," pleaded Santa.

December 26

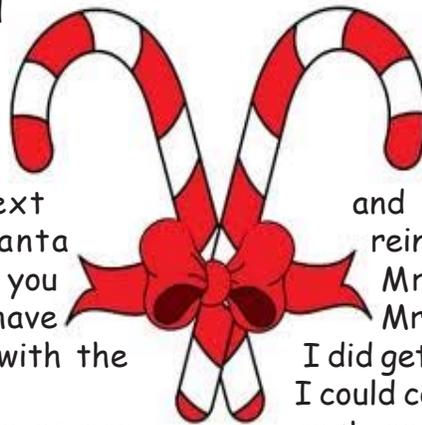
As everyone can see, Christmas did happen! All the good girls and boys got all of the toys that they had asked for from Santa.

There were 934 people accepted to

help Santa and the elves finished making all of the toys. They did not have to work on Christmas Eve, and 400 people were asked to come back next year and work.

"Working in the Candy Cane Forest was pretty fun, It was a good experience to meet Santa and help all of the elves and eat dinner in the Claus household on Christmas Eve with all of the elves and reindeer and Mr. and Mrs .Claus.

I did get asked if I could come back next year and help in the forest again. I accepted because it was the best time I have ever had even though it was a lot of work. My family and I enjoyed it very much and are very pleased we got invited to come back next year." said seasonal employee and New Richmond, Ohio resident Josh Nixon, one of many who was selected to go to the Candy Cane Forest and help with the toy making.



Christmas came to a stop?

A very serious holiday story

By Hunter Gilpin

The day of Christmas is tomorrow. The one day many children from around the world look forward to all throughout the year. I finally went to sleep after being on my computer for the longest time. Being excited when I first lay my head upon the pillow, I still couldn't go to sleep. After a while, I had no idea what time it was before I went to sleep but I knew it was late.

I woke up around eight o'clock to find no presents under my tree. Feeling confused, I searched my house and not one present was found. I felt that it really wasn't Christmas. Perhaps I simply just looked at the wrong date on my calendar. But to my odd surprise, it was December 25!

I called Alex to see if it wasn't just me missing gifts. "Yeah, I'm missing mine too!"

he said.

I was shocked. "Do you think Tristin has his," I asked him.

"If we don't have ours, he doesn't have his either," Alex said.

I decided to call Tristin as well. "Hey dude, did you get your Christmas gifts at all?" Alex asked.

"No, you guys?" "Nope," I replied.

"I have an idea. Meet me at our usual spot... quick," Tristin said.

We decided to meet at our public park, Jemmy's Dog Run Park, in New York City. When I got there, Alex and Tristin were already there.

"So what's your idea?"

"I was thinking, I have always wanted to do this as well. What if we... traveled to the North Pole? We could ask Santa what happened and fix it for him." Tristin said.

Then he mumbled, "To ensure we are on the nice list as well."

"What was that?" I asked.

"Nothing!" Tristin said quickly and sharply.

"This isn't going to work." Alex started. "If we could even get there we wouldn't even be able to find Santa's Workshop. It's protected by magic."

"Well, I like the idea. Alright, let us prepare. Tomorrow we will leave. I have a friend that can fly us." I said. "Fine, but this won't work!" Alex yelled, while Tristin and I ran to our houses.

The next day, we met at the airport with my friend Seeth. Seeth was a helicopter pilot and he used to fly tourists around New York.

"You expect us to fly all the way to the North Pole with a dinky helicopter?" Alex exclaimed.

"Yes..." Seeth waited.

"Ok then..." Alex started to walk towards the helicopter, then Seeth yelled at him.

"Shoes! Off! THIS IS MY HELICOPTER" Seeth shouted.

"OK, Tristin, how do you feel now that you can go to the North Pole." I asked.



He didn't answer; in fact, he was already in the helicopter's passenger seat, excited as a five year old on Christmas morning.

"That answers my question," I mumbled under my breath.

We all finally got into the helicopter and Seeth took off.

After a while, Seeth said we were stopping somewhere in Canada for fuel. I was the only one awake. I was wondering what the news was like since Christmas didn't happen. I turned on my phone and checked. Sure enough, it was the top headline: Christmas Came to a Stop? I don't know why, but Seeth came running back at full speed to the helicopter.

"Hey Seeth, why-" But he cut me off and yelled at me to get in the helicopter. I dropped my phone unknowingly and we took off. later on I asked Seeth what happened.

Seeth mumbled, "I landed in a parking lot."

"What?"



A little louder, he said, “I landed the heli in a parking lot.”

“What!?” I asked surprised yet confused.

“I LANDED IN A PARKING LOT”

“Why?” I asked.

“Because I couldn’t see. There was snow and stuff everywhere,” Seeth replied.

“Then why are you even flying this helicopter?” I asked.

This time he didn’t answer. Seeth just stared at me. I decided to forget everything and went to sleep.

The next morning Seeth woke everyone up. We were at the North Pole. Tristin was at the door of the workshop, jumping up and down in excitement. Alex and I were still trying to wake up when the workshop door opened up. We thought Tristin opened it but Santa emerged from the workshop.

“I told you ,Alex!” Tristin yelled.

“Unbelievable...” Alex mumbled.

I was siding with Alex on this one. How did we even make it to the North Pole in a helicopter? Then a booming voice echoed through the air.

“Ho Ho Ho. What brings you three to my Workshop? How did you even get here in the first place?” the strong voice asked.

“SANTA!” Tristin yelled in excitement.

“You didn’t answer my question, young Tristin.” Santa said.

Tristin was in excitement shock. I came over and answered.

“We wanted to know what happened to Christmas. Obviously you are well and not missing or anything.”

“Oh... well, Hunter, someone went back in time with my main sleigh. It was the one modified for the current population of the world. Without that I cannot bring gifts to the rest of the world. I only got to Mexico and couldn’t get to the West Northern Hemisphere,” Santa explained. Then he continued, “I need help from you four. Seeth, Hunter, Alex, Tristin, you four possess the power to travel back in time and save Christmas. Yes, Tristin, you will be on the nice list.”

“Yeah!” Tristin exclaimed.

Santa led us to the time travel keeper, Mrs. Griffin, and we asked her if we could go back in time to catch the thief. She said if we could bring back the thief without causing any tears in the space time continuum, we would be allowed to use the time travel sleigh.

We traveled to many different time periods, not finding a single trace of anyone from our period.

Finally we found them in the Renaissance. There were two people loading a trebuchet in Santa’s sleigh.

“Hey! You guys ruined Christmas! What do you have to say for yourselves!” Tristin yelled.

The mysterious figures yelled back, “All we want is this trebuchet. Santa will never give this to me so I stole his sleigh and went to get this. Now go back to your sleigh and go away.”

“Uh, I’m sorry, whoever you are, but we have Santa with us,” I said. “He will appear here in a few moments so I suggest stopping what you’re doing and return the sleigh.”

They laughed at us and continued trying to load the catapult. I kept wondering who they were. Seeth decided to take action. He jumped on the sleigh and activated the unload feature on the back. The catapult fell out and broke.

“Are you serious? After all that hard work, you ruined it. Well, Ciera, go get another one.” the first figure said, speaking to the young girl beside her.

“Yes ma’am,” Ciera said sadly and with tiredness.

I noticed a guard coming around the corner.

“Shhh... everyone hide. There is a guard coming,” I whispered.

We all hid. I kept noticing the guard wasn’t moving. He was standing there looking around. I concluded that he heard the trebuchet break. Then finally he walked away.

A few things happened right then. The two mysterious figures were tied up by Seeth. Santa appeared and said

something. An elf sprinkled some sort of dust on us. I blacked out.

The next morning, I woke up on my bed. I went downstairs and found my presents. I was thinking about yesterday, or was it yesterday? I was very confused so I went to check my phone. I couldn’t find it and then I remembered I dropped it in Canada.

“So it wasn’t a dream,” I said to myself.

I went to my presents and found the tiniest one. I opened it and it was my phone! I was surprised. Then I noticed I had a new text. I opened the text and read.

“Dear Hunter, I am so grateful you helped me save Christmas and got my sleigh back. You should really be grateful, too. You, Tristin, Alex, and Seeth all got something special in a gift. Hunter, yours is not your phone. Check in the back. From Santa. P.S. This number is untraceable. I’m sorry.”

I was shocked but I had to see the special gift. I opened it and threw the paper away. I smiled.

I got a Portal 2 gun.

Back to normal.



Threat to Christmas has many panicking

Governor of North Pole planning to cancel the holiday

By: Sadie LaRocque

A threat of canceling Christmas recently in the North Pole has induced panic. If you have heard the rumors, you may be wondering who threatened to cancel Christmas. It was Governor Noel. Because of the threat to Christmas, Santa, the elves, Mrs. Claus, and people everywhere are getting ready for the holiday and are ready to protest the cancellation.

Noel decided that he wants to cancel Christmas even though it's a tradition for many families to celebrate. "I'm not a holiday person and I don't think we need the holiday. The Christmas music and presents are going away but the family time is still there. You have all year to spend time with family, including the time that would normally be the holiday. I know that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth, but it doesn't have to include music and presents," he said.

The Christmas music and gifts will be done away with if the holiday is cancelled but the family time is still there.

"Just because I am cancelling the holiday doesn't mean it is a total loss. I realize that citizens will be angry about the cancellation and the children are going to wake up without gifts under their trees. The point of Christmas isn't the gifts. Spending time with family and the celebration of

Jesus' birth is what it's all about, so it's not like it's a complete loss. Plus, the annoying Christmas music that everyone gets tired of within three days is going to be gone with the holiday and the gifts weren't that important anyway," said Noel.

Santa isn't happy with Noel's decision to cancel Christmas, and not many people will be.

"I can't even think about Christmas being cancelled. It will disappoint so many people to hear Governor Noel's plan and for them to not have presents under their trees when they get up on Christmas day," Santa said.

Cancelling the holiday may upset people, however the panic and complaints hasn't affected the decision to cancel. "I still plan on cancelling Christmas and I don't care how the elves or Santa feel about it. Children may not wake up with presents under their trees, but that's not the point of Christmas so I don't care," Noel said.

Noel's plan to cancel Christmas wouldn't interfere the family time and celebrations that happen at that time very much, just the more superficial stuff.

"Doing away with the holiday would not do away with the family time and celebration of Jesus that occur during the season. The family time is still there and people can still celebrate Jesus.

Christmas isn't for the superficial things like annoying songs and presents. Have family time, but the gifts aren't necessary," said Noel.

With all the hard work put into Christmas by the elves already, the possibility of cancelling the holiday has resulted in a lot of angry elves.

"I don't believe that Governor Noel actually wants to cancel Christmas; I think he is joking with us. I mean, who in their right mind would do that? If it actually happens, I won't be happy. We elves have put a lot of work into this Christmas and none of us are very happy about it," said Holly the elf.

"I heard the elf's reaction to my decision and that they think I am joking about my plan but I'm not. I don't like Christmas and I'm not going to change my mind on it," Noel said.

The elves have been busy working on toys since the day after Christmas last year and weren't pleased with the proposal of cancelling it.

"I've put so much time into making toys and preparing for Christmas along with the other elves; we have been hard at work on the toys for children since last year and are not happy with the fact that they plan on cancelling the whole holiday. We will spread the news around and are going to try to make

it so Noel can't cancel the holiday," said Christopher the elf.

Santa is in with the elves to hopefully get Noel to not cancel Christmas.



"My elves and I are not going to let Noel cancel Christmas, it just wouldn't fly with us.

Christmas is a tradition and you can't just stop a tradition. We will rebel and celebrate Christmas and if Noel tries to stop us, he will have to stop the rest of the world, too. We are willing to get him overthrown if it comes down to that because we refuse to let this happen," Santa said. "If the holiday is really cancelled we're starting a petition and getting as many signatures as possible to overthrow Noel and get Christmas back."

Noel is stubborn and refusing to change his mind on the holiday being cancelled, however; Santa and the elves planning on going against him has had no effect and it seems like nothing will.

"I know that Santa and the elves want to try to get me to change my mind about cancelling Christmas but they're not going to. I may be stubborn but it doesn't matter. Santa and the elves should be happy with my decision but instead are whining about it. Christmas is cancelled and that's that." Noel said.

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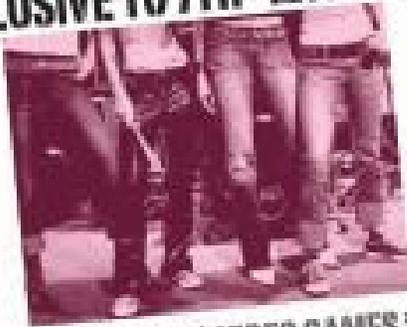
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