

Editorial Santa Claus - cult hero

To provide a keener insight into the true nature of your Guilfordian editors, we have decided to publish a recent conversation on views of Christmas.

Editor Jim: "The sadness and dangers of Christmas are multiple: 1) 'Let us examine the dangers of making Santa Claus a cult hero. Many thinkers such as Mosca have emphasized the ideological significance of our heroes. By making this the season of Santa Claus we are exposing a set of values that endanger our safety and freedom. The character knows who's been naughty or nice.

"Is this anything but a legitimized Big Brother? Is there a big difference between breaking and entering through a chimney or a window? Further, by coming to rely on St. Nick's charity, we set ourselves up to be bought out by simple material gains at the expense of our spiritual yearnings.

2) "Another problem is rooted in the Christmas tree tradition. Every year we encourage the destruction of millions of living plants so that they can come and drop needles on our shag carpeting. Is there a clearer example of our disregard for the natural world and our ruthless desire to dominate it."

3) "Finally, this season is proclaimed to be a time of wanton lust and cheap grabbing. The mistletoe premise devalues all the spirituality of a loving and caring relationship. Certainly even the men from Milner would not rely on such a shallow and bogus excuse for an embrace. This does not even consider the spread of disease which results from this practice."

Notice how Editor Jim is coolly analytical, well organized, and rhetorical.

Editor Dale: "You're probably one of those people who write Christmas, 'Xmas' You remind me of a girl I once dated. She thought mistletoe was a foot disease. She had the..."

At this point Editor Jim stood up and left. The Christmas season is also a time for exams and Editor Jim was falling rather far behind in his work. Editor Dale was left mumbling to himself. Fortunately, up walked the upstart freshman, Features Editor John Mottern. If possible Editor Dale would edit Editor John's features. That being impossible, the conversation turned once again to Christmas.

Editor Dale: "Merry Christmas"

Editor John: "Is it Christmastime again? Time to run, run, run, and spend, spend, spend. All those unwanted relatives you'd rather offend than let in the door. Well, Editor Dale, don't you think its time to be a fool again and spend your stipend? I know its damn little but its better than receiving a present from that special person you forgot to buy anything for. If you get caught in that position, just say, 'It hasn't come in yet.' That's always an easy way out."

Editor Dale: "Why are you always looking for something easy? Let's change the subject to Santa Claus."

Editor John: "It will be a long time before I let some old man put his hand down my stockings. I'm tired of ruining a pair of nylons every year -- I keep thinking they'll hold more."

Editor Dale: "That's the entire problem with Christmas; greed and materialism have replaced love and sharing."

Editor John: "That's all fine and dandy, but without the annual boost to the economy a lot of people in this country wouldn't have much to share. Right now all I'm interested in sharing is a pitcher of beer. Or if the eggnog's spiked..."

Thus another philosophical night at the Guilfordian has deteriorated into the pursuit of pleasure.



From the entire Guilfordian staff, we wish that your pursuit of pleasure brings you a Merry Christmas.

Guilfordian

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That heavenly money

A column by O.L. Backer

God has called me to write this column.

I was opening my mail today, and there it was. "GOD has called YOU to play a key role in this final hour!" Naturally, I was intrigued by this, and decided to investigate further.

It seemed that Jack Van Impe Ministries, operating out of Royal Oak, Michigan, was inviting me to become a "Video Volunteer" for only \$15 a month -- just 50 cents a day. A handsome multi-colored brochure explained how this would support radio and TV broadcasts to millions around the world. "That 50 cents a day will be sent ahead and awaiting you when you enter into His presence," exclaimed the accompanying letter. Indeed... so you can take it with you.

"I would probably lose it, rather than find it, in the middle of freeway rush hour."

Alternatively, I could become a "Prophecy Partner", "World Witness", or "President's Council" for \$25, \$50, or \$100 a month. This was clearly a momentous decision. The thought of having a sound credit balance waiting for me in the next world was an appealing one... particularly if there's a cash bar.

I decided to consult my old friend and spiritual advisor, the Reverend Johnathan "Jack" Daniels. He was out when I called, but a bucket of cold water soon brought him around. I explained my problem and asked for his guidance.

Rev. Daniels just grunted and thought for awhile. "If you're thinking of sending money to him," he finally replied, "you're too far gone for me to help. But at least check out the competition first."

This sounded like good advice, so I went home and switched on the television. I had already missed the Billy Graham special on "The World Revolution," but I was lucky enough to catch the "700 Club" show with Pat Robertson, originating from Virginia Beach.

This rocked along for awhile with a routine guest describing how God had changed his life. Then the co-host began describing how he had gotten religion. "I met Jesus Christ in a car driving around in Texas," he said.

That woke me right up. No wonder I was a backslider, I thought. I've never been closer than Louisiana. I meditated on this route, but eventually rejected it. The pressure of checking the other lanes at stoplights would get to me before long. I would probably lose it rather than find it, in the middle of freeway rush hour.

Who knows? Maybe that's a leading cause of accidents: looking a little too hard for Jesus in that passing Ford wagon.

So I changed channels and picked up the "PTL Club" with Jim Bakker out of Charlotte. "Jesus loves you -- He really does!" said Bakker. Unfortunately, little was offered by way of specifics to cement that relationship. Bakker did wax enthusiastic when he spoke of

in my general direction and mumbled something about there perhaps being hope for me yet.

"Look here," he said, brandishing the letter I'd received. "What is the recurrent theme running through all of this?"

"God Is On Your Side," I quoted from memory.

"Besides that?"

"Send Money."

The Reverend smiled at my perception. "Now let's look further," he continued. "What were you telling me about the special guests on the Robertson show?"

"Do you mean the two nuclear physicists, and the film clip from the Atomic Industrial Forum praising nuclear power?"

"Very good," he prompted, "and what about this line from the Van Impe flyer?"

He was pointing to a part which read "A prominent general has stated, 'If SALT II is passed, we are in the final 1,000 days of history.'"

"Are you making cynical observations," I responded, "about electronic evangelists, greed, and reactionary politics?"

The Reverend just smiled. I thanked him for his time and left to do some heavy thinking. It was time, I realized, to make up my mind.

And so I have formed Divine Truth Mission O.L. Backer World Ministries. If I've been called, why go halfway?

In parting, I want you to know, Brothers and Sisters, that your gifts (sent care of this paper) will spread the word about divine healing and plutonium around the world. Millions are counting on you.

Inauguration plans announced

The last weekend in January will be a very special time for Guilford College, as the school inaugurates its sixth president, William R. Rogers.

The weekend's activities will feature a cello concert, a semi-formal ball, a panel discussion, and a special address by distinguished speaker, Dr. Patricia A. Graham.

The general theme will focus around issues in the development of creative leadership with implications for both national policy and Guilford's own long-range planning.

Dr. Graham is currently the Warren Professor of the History of Education at Harvard. She has also recently served as Dean of the Radcliffe Institute, and Director of the National Institute of Education.

PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTION - I have a few openings in my private voice studio. Experienced teacher, and member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Call Peggy Russell, 299-7562 for an appointment.

Reach out and touch the world

Time is growing shorter. Where will you be this summer? Home? Watching re-runs on television? Mowing the grass? Or will you be talking to a member of Parliament while Big Ben chimes in the background, watching Paris awaken while the Eiffel Tower stands sentinel? Or perhaps you will be skiing in the Bavarian Alps or walking through Havana comparing it to what you have just seen in Mexico?

Summer School in London. Summer School in France. Summer School in Germany. Summer School in Cuba/Mexico.

Guilford College, through the Center for Off Campus Education, offers these programs for 1981 so that students may reach out to the world during their summer, reach out of themselves and gain new perspectives and perceptions. Each program is led by experienced faculty who will not only teach a course but who will also open your eyes to different ways of life, different cultures and ideas.

You can travel with good leaders and good companions and earn credit at the same time. You can take courses

designed to merge with the surrounding resources. Courses whose existence would be impossible here, so far from their origin.

Re-runs or the Riviera? Chores or the Changing of the Guards? Taco Bell or tacos in Havana? Baby-sitting or Berlin? If you want to join the Summer School Abroad program of your choice, do it now! We need your registration as soon as you return from Christmas Break. Applications are available at the Center for Off Campus Education in the basement of Founders.