



Features



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The Spirit of Christmas

by Laura Smith

"The spirit of Christmas is in the air." This is heard often around Christmas holidays but what exactly does everyone mean by this Christmas spirit? Most people only see Christmas as a time for vacationing, getting presents and waiting for Santa Claus to bring all of our gifts on Christmas Eve. True, these things are a large part of Christmas but one of the most important aspects of Christmas is spending time with family and friends. Christmas is the season of good cheer, peace on earth, and good will toward men. As the holidays approach everyone appears to have a positive attitude as well as high spirits. A question that everyone must confront is whether or not it is better to give or to receive. The obvious answer is to give...well, maybe for some. Some people are only satisfied if they have been given the gifts they want and this is all that brings them happiness. Those that understand the positive, beneficial aspect of Christmas gain their happiness from giving gifts. Their satisfaction comes from the joy they bring others. This spirit, the true spirit of Christmas, is often times forgotten. Everyone needs to become more aware of the "Spirit of Christmas."

Are You Insecure?

by Courtney Rogers

Insecurity is a common feeling experienced by many high school students. Take this quiz to see how you rate.

1. Do you avoid looking people in the eye when you are talking to them?
Yes No
2. Do you change outfits three times each morning before finally deciding on one to wear to school? Yes No
3. Do you constantly wonder what people think about you? Yes No
4. When you are going out with someone, do you worry about them dumping you? Yes No
5. Are you willing to change yourself in order to live up to other people's expectations of you? Yes No
6. Have you ever stayed home from school because of a disastrous zit or unruly hair? Yes No
7. If you are in a room full of strangers, do you introduce yourself? Yes No
8. Are you overly-generous to everyone? Yes No
9. Do you feel more comfortable in public places when you have friends/relatives with you? Yes No
10. Do you always second guess your actions? Yes No

If you answered yes for 8 to 10 of these questions, then the constant pressure of high-school life is really affecting you. Time will help some with your insecurity but it would also be good for you to talk to a trusted friend or adult about how you feel.

If you answered yes for 4 to 7 of these questions, you are probably in the majority. Everyone gets a bout of insecurity every now and then. Just remember to be yourself and do not concentrate on what others think about you.

If you answered yes for 1 to 3 of these questions, then you are full of confidence and are totally sure of yourself. However, watch out and do not get conceited or then you will have a reason to feel insecure.

Consumer Beware

by Kellie Palmer and Courtney Rogers

While flipping through the pages of a magazine, have you ever noticed many of the ads that advertise products that seem totally useless and ridiculous? Many of these ads feature products that sometimes seem too good to be true. From acne solutions that work overnight to hair products guaranteed to produce hair growth in a day, these ads have it all! How about the jewelry and hair accessories that are true fashion don'ts? One example, the banana band, is a headband - banana clip combination. Hey, I wouldn't wear it, but for some people, this may be their thing. For those of you who know what I'm talking about, reading these ads at the end of a magazine eventually becomes a ritual. I find myself looking through these ads every now and then just to get a good laugh. One product I've noticed that sparks my curiosity is the revolutionary fat pills. Yes, fat pills. These pills guarantee a loss of one to two pounds in a matter of days just by popping a pill every now and then. Although I and many others may truly doubt this product, this may be the answer to some people's prayers - if they're brave enough to try it. For me I find exercise

works well.

In any case, whether you read these ads just to get a good laugh or are one of the many brave consumers, each to his own. As for me, I'll stick with JUST reading the ads, but I leave a tip for the consumers: If it seems too good to be true, it usually is!



Can Keondra lose those extra pounds?

Fast and Fancy

by Kellie Palmer

Are you a fast food junkie? Do you prefer a steak house? While many people prefer the convenience of fast food restaurants, others find nothing can beat down home cooking. Others still find that nothing can top a nice steak dinner at their favorite steak house, whether it's the Outback or Yadkin Valley. Which do you prefer? Many lean toward fast food because of the convenience and some-what inexpensive costs when compared to steak houses. Those who enjoy a big juicy steak, though, feel the money's worth it. Whatever the case, there are thousands of options when considering food. Here, some students at AHS reveal which restaurants they prefer.

1. Rebecca Montgomery: Taco Bell
2. Catherine Weber: The Olive Garden
3. Keshia Lowder: Darryl's
4. Amy Morehead: Yadkin Valley
5. Heather Smith: Red Lobster
6. Anonymous: Ted's Gas and Stuff Roadside Kill Grill
7. Mark Efird: Burger World HUH HUH HUH
8. Meredith Vanderburg and Ashley Swanner: Dicks?@!*
9. Michael Davis: McDonald's
10. Michael Crowder: The school cafeteria
11. Antonio Brown: Jack's Chicken Shack
12. Tommy Blalock: Eury's Truck Stop
13. Mylon Baldwin: At my grandmother's house
14. Steven Houck: The Filling Station

Earning Ways for the Holidays

by Laura Smith

It's almost Christmas and you have a thousand presents to buy. Being out of school, you've got all the time in the world and everything's great. EXCEPT—your pockets are empty. What

are you to do? Around Christmas so many teenagers come up empty-handed when it's time to hand out presents because of their lack of money. There are so many ways for teenagers to earn money around Christmas. One of the most common ways is babysitting while parents go Christmas shopping. Some local stores may hire you to help wrap gifts during the Christmas holiday. You could also earn a few bucks by helping your parents out around the house. Molly Tripp babysits some during the holidays to earn a little extra money. Angela Vanore and Sasha Eury both work around their house for a few extra dollars. Emily Stonestreet babysits for children whose parents are involved in military Christmas balls and Stephen Houck plans to take on a job at Family Dollar for the holidays. If you happen to be one of those unfortunate poor teens, you need to get busy looking for some way to earn some money for the holidays so you won't come up empty handed.



Stephen Houck is looking for money at Family Dollar!

FULL MOON

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