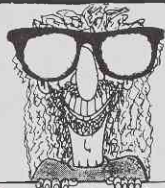


That's Entertainment



Off the Wall

By Noel T. Manning, II
Entertainment Editor

I welcome you with a joyous heart to the ultra-ordinary Christmas edition of *Off the Wall*, and, once again, I am forced to answer...

****NON-READER "CHRISTMAS" MAIL****

Question: Dear Mr. Smarty Pants,

I'm sure you probably get dogged a lot at this time of year...I mean with a name like "NOEL"...People must sing to you until you can't stand it anymore! Is that the case? And, if it is, how do you handle it?

Signed, "Happy I Don't Have a Name Like Noel"

Answer: How's it goin' Happy...,

Yes, I'm afraid you are more correct than you know! There are literally millions of idiots in this world who think they can build an entire comedy routine on singing my name to me...But, my friend "Happy," it's not so hard to handle this... because I realize that those people are *idiots* and they can't control their stupidity...I just wish they would attend a few meetings of "Idiots Anonymous."

Thanx, Off the Wall Dude

Question: Dear Pony Tail Man,

Every Christmas when I go home from school, my mother makes me go out and purchase a poinsettia. Don't get me wrong, I don't mind going out for my mom or anything like that. And it's not that I don't like

poinsettias. I do like them, I really do...And I know that they're a tradition and every-thing...But I was just wondering why they're a tradition? And where they came from? Can you help me?

Signed, Momma's Boy

Answer: Yo, Momma's Boy,

It may surprise you to know that the adoption of the poinsettia as the Christmas flower is relatively recent, dating only from 1828...o.k., o.k. It's not that recent...but according to traditions, it is! This plant is native to Mexico, and it's a member of the spurge family (Are you getting all this). It has been said that as early as the 18th century that the Mexicans called the plant "Flower of the Blessed Night," because it resembled the Star of Bethlehem. And this is probably the first association between the plant and Christmas. In 1828, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico, brought the plant to the states, where it was then re-named in his honor. And by the time of his death in 1851, the poinsettia was already established as a Christmas tradition! I hope I've been of some help...so Merry Ho! Ho!

Off the Wall Dude

Question: Dear Bearded Dude with Long Hair,

I was told that Holly was once used by Christians as a substitute for mistletoe. And I was also made aware that the sharply pointed leaves of the Holly were to symbolize the thorns in Christ's crown and the red berries, the drops of His blood...Is this true?

Signed, Holly Hobbie

Answer: Hey, Holly,

You got it right on the toes!

Felecia Navidata, Off the Wall Dude

Question: Dear Mr. I Think I Know Everything,

Why do people cross out Christmas with an "X" and call it X-mas?

Signed, Dr. X

Answer: What's up Doc,

This familiar abbreviation began with the Greeks. X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, Xristos. By the 1500's "XMAS" was popular throughout Europe. Early Christians Had understood that the term merely was Greek for "Christ's Mass." Later Christians, unfamiliar with the Greek reference, mistook the X as a sign of disrespect, an attempt be heathen to rid Christmas of its central meaning. For many years, Christians have disapproved of this term because they were unaware of its roots! So, as you see...It's not meant to X out Christ!

Joyous Noel, My Good Doc, Off the Wall Dude

Question, Dear Sir,

I just got thru watching "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and a friend told me that other names were considered instead of "Rudolph"...Is that so?

Signed, Kris Kringle

Answer: Hi, Kris,

Your friend is right! "Rollo" and "Reginald" were two other names that were considered for that famous reindeer. In 1939, Robert May, an advertising writer for a Montgomery Ward Department Store in Chicago, wrote a poem for a Christmas promotion...and now, that poem almost 51 years later has become a Christmas standard for children...The poem became the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Thanx and Happy Holidays, Off the Wall Dude

Well, that does it for the Christmas edition of *Off the Wall*, and, until the New Year slams the door on my foot, I'm Noel T. Manning, II wondering this...If a teenage bull misbehaved and his parents sent him to his pen--Would he be "Grounded Beef"?

Special Thanx to Charles Panati's Christmas Encyclopedia

A.J. Jamal

By Jane Richards
Staff Writer

On November 15, the Student Entertainment Association was pleased to present A.J. Jamal to Gardner-Webb students.



Appearing in Dover Theatre, Jamal joked with the crowd of 150 for over an hour.

Jamal has taken his original and energetic routine to numerous television shows including "The Arsenio Hall Show" and "Comic Strip Live". He has also opened for such musical acts as Diana Ross and The Temptations.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Jamal is tireless in performing at colleges and clubs around the country. He is a phenomenal talent and a name to remember in the future.

His show was impressively funny, and the SEA wishes him luck as he works to become one of America's most memorable.

Screen Test

By Casper Jetson

CHRISTMAS TIME FAVORITES

Christmas is a time for sharing love and joy with those close to you... The following movies are available at most video outlets... During this holiday season I suggest choosing one or more of these seasonal picks to get yourself into the spirit...and share that spirit with someone else..."Joyous Noel"

CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

1. A Christmas Carol
2. A Christmas Story
3. A Gift of Love- O'Henry
4. Bells of St. Mary
5. Ernest Saves Christmas
6. It's a Wonderful Life
7. The Little Match Girl- Hans Christain Anderson
8. The Miracle on 34th Street
9. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
10. The Night They Saved Christmas
11. Prancer
12. Santa Claus, The Movie
13. Scrooged
14. White Christmas

CHRISTMAS FAVORITES FOR KIDS (AND SOME ADULTS TOO)

1. A Flintstones Christmas
2. A Pink Panther Christmas
3. Benji's Very Own Christmas
4. Charlie Brown's Christmas
5. Disney's- Mickey's Christmas Carol
6. Disney's- One Magic Christmas
7. Frosty The Snowman
8. Here comes Santa Claus
9. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
10. The Little Drummer Boy
11. Pinocchio's Christmas
12. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
14. Yogi's first Christmas

