

She Is Not a Believer

Editor's note: The following article was written by Kathleen Rose, age 19, from Marblehead, Massachusetts, and was taken from "Seventeen" Magazine.

"I don't believe in Santa Claus. Before you shrug your shoulders and say, 'So' let me add that not only don't I believe in the jolly old fellow, but I don't think children should be taught to believe in him either. It's just that I think the Santa Claus myth adds very little to the average child's enjoyment of Christmas, and it may even spoil the fun for children and their parents.

To begin with, there's the problem of explaining dear old Santa to the child. He lives at the North Pole. Then who is that in every department and variety store waiting to be told what boys and girls want for Christmas? Next there's the ritual of going to see one of these kindly stand-ins and perhaps having a picture taken while sitting on his lap. Parents love this but children rarely do.

Santa's method of transportation poses additional problems. Children are told that merry St. Nicholas travels in a little red sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer, but they quickly spot the impracticality of this. ("How does he have room for toys for all the good little boys and girls in the world? He must have to make a lot of trips—how does he deliver everything in just one night?")

Those who defend St. Nick and all he stands for tell us that none of this really matters because children are so pleased with the pretty presents Santa leaves for them; children just love to receive gifts; they don't particularly care if they come from Santa Claus or the Loch Ness monster—all they worry about is whether they get all the toys they ask for. Since parents choose and pay for everything anyway, why shouldn't they take credit for their generosity?

Finally, and most important, there is the problem of the child's discovery that there really is no Santa Claus. This can be a terrible shock, and can lead a child to question everything his parents have ever told him for which he has no tangible proof.

Ironically, it is religion which may suffer most in this re-evaluation of all that was previously accepted.

Although I agree with the motives of those who maintain the Santa Claus myth, I think it is senseless to submit children to it only to turn around one day and tell them you were merely joking. Wouldn't it give children just as much pleasure and be a lot simpler for everyone if we showed Christmas as it really is—a religious holiday and a joyous time—certainly the last time of year when we should resort to deception, however well-intended it may be."

—Kathleen Rose

Keep the Basketball Bouncing

So what if Roxboro is considered a football town. Is that any reason to forget basketball and other sports offered at RHS?

The basketball players put as much time and work into their sport as do the football players. They are trying to make a name for you—the students of RHS. It is rather disheartening to play on an away court and be followed by only a few fans.

Playing at home is almost as bad when sometimes the visitors can yell as much as the home side.

It really means a lot to a team to know someone is out there yelling for them even if they are thirty points ahead or thirty points behind.

The basketball team plays the same schools the football squad does. Does the distance suddenly become too far to travel when the game is played in a gym?

RHS cagers will need all of the students' support especially since Jordan, Cary, Chapel Hill, and Garner are rated in the top ten of the state.

RHS has the quality, all it needs is support from you!

About Those Lunch 'Nappers'

"... I did it only for a joke—just for some fun. Sure I could afford thirty-five cents for lunch but it was more fun to eat lunch brought from home. It's even more fun to take somebody else's from their locker.

The first couple of times it was hard to do. But all you have to do is to go up to a locker and get a lunch—just pretend it's yours.

The situation got so bad that the students began putting "dummy lunches" in their lockers or not leaving a lunch in there at all.

I was caught and suspended for a while. I hope people will not judge me by this incident. I was only having some fun..."



'Let's Keep Santa' Say RHS Students

In accordance with Kathleen Rose's ideas that "Santa Claus Should Retire," several RHS students were asked their opinions on the same subject. Here are their thoughts:

Vernon Williams, Senior: "Might as well. Nobody believes in him anyway except little kids. They need somebody to believe in anyway."

Cindy Woody, Sophomore: "No. He makes little kids happy. He is symbolic of love at Christmas. He is teaching people to love."

Randall Millhiser, Sophomore: "It's a heritage and he is symbolic of the spirit of Christmas."

Kathy Coates, Freshman: "It wouldn't be Christmas without Santa Claus."

Annette Bryant, Freshman: "He is good for little kids to look forward to, so we should keep him."

RHS Students Flunk!

Recently, the Rocketeer editorial staff conducted among homerooms chosen at random, a survey to find out how well RHS students were informed concerning their school.

The senior class seemed to be the best informed. Following is a copy of the questionnaire with the answers. The percentages given represent the percentage of students who answered the question correctly.

- Who is the:
 - Assistant Principal—David Barrett 40.2%
 - Dean of Girls—Mrs. Duncan 83.8%
 - Dean of Boys—Mr. Horton 83.6%
 - President of the Interclub Council, Vernon Williams 24.1%
 - Secretary of the Student Council—Carolyn Hall 31.3%
 - Treasurer of the Student Council—Tommy Holt 39.6%
 - Head Football Coach—Larry Dixon 69.9%
 - Head Basketball Coach—Reid Davis 69.3%
 - Athletic Director—Jim Edens 55.1%
 - Drum Major of the Band—Cal Berryhill 63.3%
 - Head of the RHS Cafeteria—Janie Aiken 45.2%
 - What is the 1967 Football Team's Won-Lost Record—9-3 20.4%
 - Is Mrs. Virginia Brown or Mrs. Rachel Brown Mr. Tom Brown's Wife—Mrs. Virginia Brown 75.5%
 - What is the RHS Faculty Number—52 3.9%
 - How many husband-wife sets are presently teaching at RHS—4 16.1%
 - Who is the Superintendent of Public Schools—Walter Rogers 73.6%
 - How many varsity cheerleaders are there—11 36.3%
 - Who is Head (varsity) cheerleader—Gayl Talbert..... 81.5%
 - Who is Head Librarian—Ruby Hester 39.9%
 - What is the name of the annual—Rocket 67.3%
 - Who is the editor of the annual—Kathy O'Briant 25.4%
 - Who is the editor of the Rocketeer—Claudia Berryhill 19.4%
 - How many janitors are there—4 23.1%
 - Who are the secretaries—Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Puryear 13.7%
 - BONUS: What is Willie, the janitor's last name—Walker 3.3%

Suggestion Box Attracts Students

In response to the Suggestion Box in the Commons Area, the Rocketeer Staff received "suggestions" from "_____ " to "A job well done."

"Have color pictures and reduce single copy rate" were suggestions received most often. This can hardly be done because: 1) it costs approximately \$240 as a base rate to print one four-page issue. 2) to print color pictures, the printer has to run the paper through the press for each different color. Can you imagine how much this costs?

Several students suggested grapevines or gossip columns.

The Rocketeer staff does not believe that the average RHS student would really like this sort of column. The staff feels that the "What were you doing last Saturday night" kind of fare is far below the intellectual level of RHS'ers. The staff refuses to stoop to such levels of journalistic endeavor, even to gain readers!

The staff suggests that if you have any valid complaints or ideas to write them down in the form of a Letter to the Editor and sign it and put it in the Suggestion Box.

Letters Student Disagrees; All for Privileges


Dear Editor,
I would like to make a few comments on the article "Senior Privileges, Yes—No" published in your last edition of the Rocketeer.

Concerning senior privileges, I would ask the author of the article in question to correct an oversight on his part. I feel that if he had put any research into the facts he would find that almost every school has a set of senior privileges. I know this for a fact because I have attended several high schools and have been in contact with many others—all of these having senior privileges. Many of the privileges found in these schools are the same ones we are asking for.

The same privileges we are trying to obtain will be here when we have left. We are laying the foundation for our underclassmen to build on. To the underclassmen I would say: Remember you can't build without this foundation, so why not help?


Vernon Williams

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