## Teen Talk: On Santa

am member of a fairly new class at John A. Holmes High School -called the "Dream Team.



been advised by Mrs. Emily Parrish and Mr. David Lewis, as well as other supporting faculty and staff of JAH.

Through this class, I have been a role model for the children in the lower grade-level schools by signing a contract saying I will not drink, smoke or do any other bodyinhibiting actions to show these children that athletes are not all that bad (another interesting aspect to being involved in the Dream Team is being an athlete).

The Dream Team's main goal in going to the elementary schools and the middle school is to interact with the children and help them find a positive niche in life, to be there for the ones who have no one else to turn to. There are a lof of issues, I've found, that these children deal with on a day to day basis, such as teachers, parents, and the all-important belief in Santa Claus.

My personal opinion of Santa Claus is that it's one of the biggest scams ever perpetrated in this country (no, I'm not kidding.) No parent should tell their children that a fat, jolly old man who likes milk and cookies will grant their Christmas wishes (out of the goodness of his heart, mind you) if they are "good little boys and girls." Come on! It's bribery, pure and

I have to admit it's pretty smart. But I told myself long ago that I would never tell my own future generation(s) about Santa Claus. I will be as honest to my children as I can. But what do I say to someone else's child who trusts me and adores my every move - that I don't believe in Santa Claus? That there are no flying reindeer and a cozy house at the North Pole? It all sounds very ethereal to a brainwashed 10-year-old, after all. How can you be responsible for destroying their belief in Santa?

One of my third graders asked me that question and my morals and values collided. My heart raced, my brain couldn't function fast enough and I looked down at this child, dumbfounded. How could I possibly explain to this dear heart that his loving parents liked to amuse him somehow and that the industries use Santa Claus as propaganda for business purposes? How could I possibly dash this young person's faith in a "perfect": being and explain the imposters in every known shopping mall across America? Oh, the torment of my weary soul ..

What did I finally do? I did what any other sensible 17-year-old would have done; I avoided the question altogether. I asked the child, "Do you believe in Santa Claus?"

"Oh, yes, Ms. Sheena," he answered. "I believe. My mommy and daddy told me if I was a good little boy, Santa Claus would get me..."

If this kid only knew. Sometimes ignorance can be bliss.



JAH World Cultures Project

Seniors in Sandy Davis' class at John A. Holmes High School have been hard at work this past semester completing an independent study of Korea and Japan. Students contacted each country's national embassy, conducted research through e-mail and the Internet to develop a comprehensive study of each country's culture, population, and geography. Here, Simko Wynn (left) and Regina Bond stand in front of displays they made based on their studies. Each student dressed in outfits that would be found in Korea and Japan. The students presented their final projects to a panel of judges (teachers) from the high school. Loretta Guard, media coordinator at the school and one of the judges, said, "It was obvious from the oral presentations that the students learned a great deal about the countries they had researched. Their interest in the customs, education, and religious beliefs came through as they talked about what they had learned."

## Making this year's resolution stick

Do you have a hard time keeping New Year's resolutions? Here's one that doesn't involve calorie counting or nicotine patches. Donate your used car to the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Cars Program. Not only will you be helping the more than 230,000 Americans with kidney disease, you could also be rewarded in April with a tax

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For more information, or to donate your car, van, truck or boat. call 1-800-488-CARS.

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#### Grant

Continued From Page 7-B

worked to develop curriculum and teaching guides that address the student mastery of these skills throughout grades K-12," he added.

The New Century Grant proposed by the partnership focuses on the use of a career developmentfocused "showcase portfolio." These portfolios will correlate with the four Gateways that make up the new state accountability stan-

"These portfolios will document student mastery in the system's locally-developed workplace skills of Speaking, Responsibility, and Technical Writing," said Boyce.

"Our partnership believes that the concepts of JobReady are important to our community," he explained. "A well-prepared work force is vital to the continued growth and success of the Albemarle region."

Community support for JobReady is evident. Rubrics for the Responsibility, Speaking, and Technical Writing skills can be found on the walls of many local businesses as well as in classrooms. Students and teachers have been welcomed into workplaces to job shadow. The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce has fully embraced Job Ready through activities of their Educational Committee and through the annual JobReady Expo. Teachers and employers are continuing to work together to set the standards for learning what our children should

## CAMA permit fees may rise

The application fees for permits needed for certain types of coastal development could go up next year.

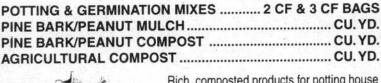
In a telephone conference call Dec. 17, the NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) voted to raise permit application fees for the first time since 1991.

If the new fee schedule is approved by the state Rules Review Commission and the General Assembly, application fees for general and minor permits will increase from \$50 to \$100.

The application fee for major permits for public or commercial development will rise from \$250 to \$400. The increases would take effect next August.

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## **CHOWAN COUNTY** TAX LISTING NOTICE **FOR THE YEAR 2000**

All real and personal property owned on the first day of January, 2000, except licensed vehicles, must be listed with the Chowan County Tax Department during the month of January (General Statutes 105-296).

All businesses are required to complete and file a Business Personal Property form by January 31, 2000.

Persons 65 years old or totally disabled with an income less than \$15,000 may qualify for the Elderly and Disabled Exemption. If you meet these requirements, please contact the tax department.

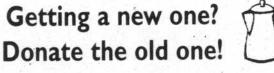
All improvements made to real property since January 1, 1999 are to be reported on the tax listing form.

The tax listing forms will be mailed December 30, 1999. Completed forms must be returned by January 31, 2000 to avoid a 10% penalty on personal property. Forms may be returned by mail. If assistance is needed, you may go to the Chowan County Tax Listing Department, 113 E. King Street, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning January 3, 2000.

Please List All Unlicensed Motor Vehicles, All-Terrain Vehciles, Boats, Jetskis, **Boat Motors and Farm Equipment.** 



# Donate the old one!



PLEASE DONATE UNWANTED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

to the swap shop at the Sound Side Drive Convenience (recycling) Center.

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SWAP SHOP AT NO CHARGE. Hours: Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. 1 - 6 p.m.

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