

Teen Talk: On Santa

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



Sheena Gagne

It has been in our school for only two years and has 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 body-inhibiting 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 lot 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 simple.

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 brain-washed 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."

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 development-focused "showcase portfolio." These portfolios will correlate with the four Gateways that make up the new state accountability standards.

"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 have.

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 deduction.

Donating is easy. All you need to do is call 1-800-488-CARS (2277) and a representative of the National Kidney Foundation will walk you through the process of donation. They'll even arrange a free tow. Vehicles are sold either at auction or for parts, with 70% of the proceeds supporting the work of the foundation.

The National Kidney Foundation is the nation's leading volun-

tary health agency dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases, and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation.

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

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.

Stay informed...pick up the Herald weekly

Professional Grower Products for your Home Garden

POTTING & GERMINATION MIXES 2 CF & 3 CF BAGS
PINE BARK/PEANUT MULCH CU. YD.
PINE BARK/PEANUT COMPOST CU. YD.
AGRICULTURAL COMPOST CU. YD.



Rich, composted products for potting house plants, seeding flats, improving your garden soil, and mulching your landscape

BIO-COMP

482-8528 • Hours M-F 7:30 am - 4 pm
2116-B Bio-Comp Dr., Edenton
(Off Soundside Road, one block past White's Country Store)

To buy, sell, trade or rent... You'll find the best bargains around each week in the Herald classifieds contact 482-4418



BRYANT GRIFFIN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

1st Class Work Guaranteed!

INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

209 Nixon's Beach Rd. Edenton, NC 27932

License #14785-L

(252) 482-3844

WHITEMAN'S SERVICE CENTER

3141 ROCKY HOCK RD. 221-4547
NOTARY • MEATS • GROCERIES • BEVERAGES
ICE • LIVE BAIT • FISHING & HUNTING SUPPLIES
STAMPS • KEROSENE • HARDWARE • GREENHOUSE
MEAT SPECIALS RUN THURS. THRU SUN.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

DELMONICO STEAKS \$5.29 LB.	COUNTRY LINK SAUSAGE \$1.79 LB.
FRYER LEG QUARTERS 39¢ LB.	SMOKED JOWL \$1.09 LB.
GWALTNEY BACON \$1.59 12 OZ.	SARA LEE POUND CAKE \$2.29 10.75 OZ.
MUELLERS ELBOW MAC. 65¢ 16 OZ.	DH CHEWY FUDGE BROWNIE MIX \$1.43 21 OZ.
SOLO 16 OZ. PARTY CUPS \$1.33 20 CT.	BUSH BEST BLACK EYED PEAS 49¢ 15.5 OZ.

TRAVELERS EXPRESS MONEY ORDERS
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 7:30 a.m. til 10:00 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Happy Holidays

from the staff & management at

WATERMAN'S GRILL

Thank you for another great year!

Our adjoining wine shop is open
CATERING NOW AVAILABLE
Special Orders for Cases of Wine

We will be closed on Christmas Eve and will re-open for lunch the Monday after Christmas.

We will be closed after New Year's Eve & will re-open on Tuesday, January 11th at 11:30 a.m.

427 SOUTH BROAD STREET - DOWNTOWN EDENTON
482-7733

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 Vehicles, Boats, Jetskis, Boat Motors and Farm Equipment.