

Merry The Daily Tar Heel Christmas

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Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus

Editors note Francis P. Church wrote this letter about Santa Claus before the turn of the century. It has been reprinted many, many times yet is something that has never grown old.

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the New York Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehended by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world around him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childish faith then, no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus!

You might as well not believe in fairies. You might as well get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see him coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see a fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they aren't there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart a baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men, not even the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the superlative beauty and glory behind. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia may, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

First Space Meeting Succeeds

Space Capsules Fly Closer Than Ten Feet Apart

SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON (AP)—Four excited U. S. astronauts scored America's greatest space success Wednesday with a historic rendezvous in their two spaceships. Then they set out on a happy formation flight 185 miles above the earth.

The six-hour space hunt ended dramatically with two teams of astronauts only six to 10 feet apart—after Gemini 7 had flown more than 4 million miles and Gemini 6, the hunter, more than 106,000.

They nudged so close that Gemini 6 Command Pilot Walter M. Schirra could see the 11-day beard growth of the second craft's commander, Astronaut Frank Borman.

Schirra and Pilot Thomas P. Stafford masterfully flew up for visit with Borman and James A. Lovell Jr., who had not seen an Earthling since they embarked on a 14-day voyage Dec. 4.

Schirra said the space chase and rendezvous was so easy "We would have no trouble docking." An actual link-up—or docking—is one vital maneuver the United States has yet to accomplish, but neither spacecraft was equipped for it on this flight.

"You're up close," Schirra told Lovell early in the formation flight.

"I can see your lips moving," Lovell replied.

"I'm chewing gum," said Schirra, a 42-year-old Navy Captain and oldest of the nation's active astronauts.

"Oh, okay," Lovell said. "Can you see Frank's beard, Wally?"

"I can see yours better right now," came the reply.

First word the maneuver was successful came from Stafford. He calmly reported to anxious ground controllers over a noisy communications channel shortly after 2:30 p.m. "We're about 120 feet apart and sitting."

The meeting occurred high over the Pacific Ocean during Gemini 6's fourth orbit of the Earth and Gemini 7's 16th.

A busy worldwide tracking network, for the first time in history keeping tabs on two spacecrafts at once came to a virtual standstill during the final breath-taking minutes of the momentous and dramatic meeting in space.

"This is the waiting time," mission control said as the final, tricky maneuvers to bring them only feet apart started. "It's all up to them."

Even though they were traveling 17,500 miles an hour over a 108,000 mile chase course, Schirra cautiously maneuvered the spacecraft's relative speed only a few feet a second nose-to-nose with Gemini 7 — not risking a collision.

"We did it," someone said over the command channels.

Thus, the United States claimed title to man's greatest space adventure, one that represents another giant step in its race to put men on the moon by 1970.

At the moment of blastoff, these elated words were heard from Gemini 6: "I should say. This is a real one."



DTH Photo by Ernest Robl.

'Groaning Bored' Honor Buck Taylor

A jubilant ride on a mule-drawn wagon ended an evening of festivities Tuesday night for the Society for the Preservation of Buck Taylor's Mutton and Shoats.

The organization, which describes its ten members as "the Groaning Bored," was formed recently in an effort "to exonerate the decent and God-fearing name of the Honorable Buck Taylor."

Taylor, a Revolutionary War veteran, was hired in 1795 as the University's first steward.

According to the Mutton and Shoats Society, he was "viciously and unfairly" attacked for the quality of the food he served.

As a tribute to Taylor, the Society resolved to meet several times a year and "partake of the most delectable potatoes and vittles to be found in the region."

Preparations for the formal Christmas banquet began at the Goody Shop at 1 p.m. Thursday. This was followed by a cocktail party at the home of Dr. Stephen Baxter.

Two Out Of Every Three Students Don't Graduate

"Look to your left and look to your right," say the orientation counselors. "One of you won't be here to graduate."

Whether the drop-out problem at UNC is actually this bad is the subject of an extensive study made recently by the Admissions Office and the University Testing Service.

Their report, released last Friday, indicates that the 33 per cent fatality rate is no overstatement.

The study was made from the records of the class of 1964, and included sophomore and junior transfers. It indicates that of the 1,426 students enrolling in the fall of 1960, only 859 have graduated.

A total of 711 withdrew at some time during the four years, but 144 of these returned.

Although the regular four-year students had almost a 40 per cent drop-out rate, the transfer students had only 25 per cent of its 633 students to drop out and fail to return for a degree.

The University has no record on what these students do after leaving Chapel Hill, but year so that they may meet in other schools to graduate.

According to D. W. Campbell of the Testing Service, 42.6 per cent of the students leaving Carolina do so because of ineligibility, and another 12.9 leave because of borderline grades.

Other reasons for withdrawals are marriage, health, finances, lack of interest, or suspension. Only 1.5 per cent of those leaving were suspended.

Correlation was found between the high school record and SAT scores of the student and the likelihood of dropping out.

Richard Cashwell of the Office of Admissions says that those students with a poor record and a high SAT were more likely to leave than a student with a good high school record and low SAT.

The size of the city the student comes from has little to do with his success in college. There is some connection between the type of secondary school a student graduates from (public schools have fewer drop outs than do private schools), but this probably fluctuates from year to year.

A student's rank in his graduating high school class seems to be a good indication of his college potential.

Charles Bernard, Director of Admissions, stated that even top rated students have become ineligible from time to time, and that students with the least acceptable potential have become good students with high grades.

Bernard feels that the student here will get no more than he works for. Some men come here and simply fail to make the adjustment to college life. This is especially true of those who "coasted" through high school and expect college to be the same.

The Admissions Office is doing what it can to prevent additional drop-outs by trying to accept only those people show good scholastic promise. This has been successful to an extent because the withdrawal rate has been decreasing continually since 1958.

But even this presents its problems because the tight housing situation will not permit so many freshmen to be enrolled in the future. The present freshman class consists of 2,305 General College, Nursing, and Dental Hygiene students.

Although applications for admission are coming into Bernard's office about 30 per cent faster than last year, only 2,300 can be accepted.

In order to give next year's freshmen a better chance to do well on placement tests, the Admissions Office is planning to hold preregistration again this summer. The program had been temporarily dropped.

Dean of Men William Long is also planning an orientation program for parents next year so that they may meet the administration and faculty and get to know more about the University.

So even though the per cent of students dropping out is decreasing, only those students with desire and potential are likely to get the sheep skin.

Santa's Main Problems—Kissing, Beard Pulling

BY BOB HARRIS
DTH Staff Writer

A UNC journalism student says a "bad memory" isn't the only problem of playing part-time Santa.

Steve (Santa) — with the — failing — memory) Lail first made the news when he asked a little girl where she got her all-day sucker. She quickly reminded him that he had given it to her at another store.

"The main problem I have," Lail said, "is making the kids believe I'm Santa."

"To make sure," Lail added, "the kids want to punch me in the stomach and pull my beard. Some even want to kiss me."

With his 230 pounds, "jolly old" Lail doesn't have any problems on the first count. He also has learned to hold his beard to keep the kids from pulling it off, but he hasn't surmounted the kissing problem.

In one kissing incident a fast little boy spit in Lail's face after getting fuzz from the beard in his mouth.

"I've held about 40 different jobs," Lail said. "And this is the hardest one I've had."

His first problem this year was a too-tight uniform. He had to sew a piece of cloth onto the belt to make it fit.

Lail said the worst Santa job he had was at a Lenoir Rhyne faculty party.

"That was the hardest time I've ever had making kids believe I was Santa Claus."

"Part of the kids knew me, part of them were Japanese and didn't believe in Santa Claus, and part of them were German and believed in Kris Kringle. They didn't know who I was."

One of the Lenoir Rhyne youngsters even wrote him a thank you note for being Santa Claus.

One night club offered him a Santa job last year passing out fifths of liquor. "I don't know why I didn't take it," Lail added.

Lail came by his job honestly. His father also used to play Santa.

CAROLINA
STYLE
with
Ed Freakley



Santa's Cards And Letters

Santa Claus made an urgent call to the DTH office yesterday. He is really worried.

He says he can't figure out some of the letters he has been receiving from our community.

Here are some of the requests that have Santa confused.

Consolidated University President William C. Friday asked for a new Speaker Ban so he will have something to keep him busy for the next couple of years.

After a year and a half of dullness and peace, Chancellor Paul Sharp would like to return to the controversial Hiram College.

Dean of Men William Long wants 2,000 additional cars on campus so he can come up with another brilliant parking plan.

Campus Security Officer Arthur Beaumont would like Morrison College to show some more pornographic films so he can "investigate" them.

Hickey Asks St. Nick For Win

Football coach Jim Hickey wants a schedule that does not include Michigan, Wake Forest, Virginia, Georgia, Notre Dame or Duke.

Ray Strong, director of the office of records and registration, would like enough courses to go around.

Dean of Women Katherine Carmichael wants to hold monthly supervised panty raids so things don't get out of hand.

The KA's would like to ban 'Dixie' and replace the Stars and Bars with Old Glory.

The Student Legislature would like something to debate instead of agreeing on everything.

Hugh Blackwell wants to see his life-long dream come true — a campus radio station.

The UNC Marching Band will take anything it can get (Sorry, but I just couldn't resist).

The managing editor of the Daily Tar Heel, Pat Stith, would like to congratulate Mr. Ben Day on his wonderful invention.

DTH Editor Ernie McCrary wants a recurrence of mono so he can skip exams and catch up on the work he owes since the last time he had the disease.

Residents of Alexander would like to thank whoever is responsible for the lead shades over Winston windows.

The Chapel Hill merchants asked Santa for a new herd of gullible students to keep their revenues in the deep, deep black.

Chapel Hill Police want a case they can solve.

A certain member of the Chapel Hill Fire Department wishes someone would get rid of those \$!%*&?) Christmas decorations.

Merry Christmas, Carolina Style or any style.

APO Celebrates Birthday

Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity, celebrates its 40th anniversary today.

The UNC chapter, with 21 brothers and nine pledges, is one of 387 in the nation.

At present APO is engaged in two activities, the Ugliest Man On Campus contest and the Traffic Safety Program.

Past undertakings include collecting money for the Community Chest and sponsoring the Book Ex.

The fraternity is open to anyone on campus.

The fraternity was organized at a Fayette College. UN's Rho chapter was the 17th organized in the country. It was formed in 1933.

Pan Hellenic Council

The Pan Hellenic Council has planned four meetings to be held in January in girls' residence halls which will acquaint freshmen women with the Carolina sorority system.

Slides of the different sorority houses will be shown, and Council members will describe and answer questions about sorority life.

Every freshman woman is invited to attend the meeting in her residence hall. Town

women may attend any of the meetings.

Coeds interested in spring rush, which will begin in the second week in February, should sign up by Jan. 11 in the Dean of Women's office.

The meetings and their respective dates are: Spencer, Jan. 3 at 6:45 p.m.; Cobb, Jan. 4 at 6:45 p.m.; Nurses, Jan. 5 at 6:45 p.m.; Smith, Jan. 6 at 6:45 p.m.

Morrison Elections

Byron McCoy is the new governor of Morrison College after running unopposed in the Morrison dorm elections.

Dick Levy defeated Joe Saunders for academic lieutenant governor. John Ellis became the new social lieutenant governor by beating Ward Maillard.

Gary Boggs defeated Ralph Levering for executive secretary. Richard Wright, running unopposed, became the new treasurer.

Sixty per cent of the 1,021 students in Morrison turned out for the election.

Playmakers Perform

The Carolina Playmakers Student Workshop will present

The Second Shepherd's Play today at 3:30 in front of the Davie Poplar and at 4:30 in the court between Saunders Hall and Murphey Hall.

The production will be given on a specially constructed copy of an Old English Pageant Wagon. These traveling wagons were used to transport shows from town to town during the Middle Ages.

The Second Shepherd's Play is a popular miracle play taken from the Middle Ages. It tells the story of how the first Christmas Eve affected a humorous group of poor shepherds who were watching their flock of sheep.

The main characters in the production will be played by Bob Lucas, Pat Ervin, Mike Clark, Pat Hurley and Jim Chesnut.

Junior Class Officers

Junior class officers, committee chairmen, and committee members will meet to discuss plans for the year at 4 in 101 Davie.

Any juniors who have not been interviewed and would like to work on the finance, publicity or social committee should contact Mel Wright at 968-9215 or Bill Nucciarone at 962-5640.