

Times, kids have changed

A tale of two Santas

by Gall Bronson
Staff Writer

Santa Claus shouldn't be too surprised this year if he finds a beer or daiquiri under the Christmas tree.

Kids don't promise to leave ole Santa the traditional milk and cookies these days, according to UNC students John Cutchin and Robert "Waldo" Walters, who portray the frosty-faced gentleman at University Mall.

Both Cutchin, a law student, and Walters, a senior chemistry and physical education major, have been Santa before.

"I always wanted to be Santa Claus, so when I was in high school I started doing it for club parties and church groups," said

Cutchin.

Walters, who plays center for the UNC football team, was Santa for Belk department store last year.

"I'm really a Santa Claus in real life," said Walters. "I'm not afraid of embarrassing myself—I'll act like a dumbbell just to get a laugh."

Walters and Cutchin have the same Santa Claus philosophy—joy and happiness.

"I try to always be jolly," said Cutchin. "The sense of humor of America has gone down amazingly in the past five years. Parents are so serious . . . kids need something joyful to look forward to every year."

Walters said he tries to be especially outgoing toward children who appear to be

underprivileged or shy.

He said once a group of black children seemed to be uneasy because he was a white Santa. "I walked up to them and said 'Merry Christmas from your Soul Santa,' and when they left one of them said, 'Man, you're a real cool Santa!'"

"Everybody loves a Santa Claus and wants to see him," he said. "I get a kick out of hugging old ladies and giving Santa Claus rings to coeds."

Walters said he thinks most kids know who the "real" Santa is, but they don't want to blow their chance of finding presents under the tree, so they play along with their parents.

"I almost burst out laughing once when a little girl said 'I want a dolly that pee-pees in her britches,'" said Walters.

"The most touching thing was when a little boy asked for his mother's back to get well," said Cutchin.

Cutchin said it is so difficult to get Santa off his mind, that he even dreams like old St. Nick.

"My wife woke me up one night and told me I said 'See that red hammer over there? That's one of Santa Claus' tools.'"

Cutchin and Walters, both married to legal secretaries, said their wives urged them to get their off-beat jobs.

Ironically, Cutchin said he doesn't particularly want children of his own, although he loves kids.

"I like to see the bright side of kids, but not the idea of wiping noses, changing diapers or hearing them cry," he said.

Walters said he tries to make sure the children are exposed to the real meaning of Christmas by asking "whose birthday it is on Christmas."

Cutchin summarized up his concept of Christmas and Santa by bellowing, "Ho! Ho! Ho!"



Some children get a little nervous when the big moment with St. Nick finally arrives. UNC students John Cutchin and Robert Walters are among many Santas in the area trying to make this Christmas a memorable one for the children. See story at left. (Staff photo by Bill Wrenn)

Aid sought for Israel

A representative of Kibbutz Aliyah, an emergency aid program will seek volunteers for civilian aid to Israel at the Hillel Foundation Monday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

An American Zionist Youth Foundation representative has said the Israel Emergency Activities program very desperately needs volunteers to work in Israel.

Mark Silver, a co-ordinator of the emergency activities and a Zionist contact, said volunteers not accepted during the Middle East War can apply at the Hillel Foundation at 210 W. Cameron Ave.

Volunteers are needed for a month at Kibbutz Aliyah; for three months at Project Bardess, working during the citrus harvest and at Sherut La'am, the equivalent of VISTA, for six months.

Silver said volunteers are needed because the Israeli military reserve will be on active duty for at least three months.

Volunteers will have to pay travel expenses but will receive free room and board. Volunteers will start leaving for Israel Dec. 15 and continue until February, Silver said.

Energy debate set

Members of the UNC Debate Team will present a formal debate on the energy crisis at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4 in Gerrard Hall.

Sponsored by the senior class, two teams, each composed of two members, will debate the topic of federal controls of the supply

and utilization of energy in the United States.

The areas of concern will be conservation, pollution, strip mining, oil drilling and limits of growth.

Jeff Allred, a political science major from High Point, and his partner Walker Smith, also from High Point, will present the affirmative argument for controls.

Tom Dillard, a chemistry major from High Point, and Cole Campbell, an English major from Winston-Salem, will argue the negative side. Audience participation will be encouraged.

The UNC Debate Team recently won first place in national competition at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. They competed with 100 other college teams from throughout the country.

The public is invited to the debate. Admission is free.

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News in brief

Scientific theorist to speak

Immanuel Velikovsky, a scientist known for his controversial ideas about astronomical phenomena, will speak in Great Hall tomorrow night at 8 p.m.

Velikovsky, whose number-one bestseller in 1950, *Worlds in Collision*, became a target of ridicule by fellow scientists, will talk on "Man and the Universe at the Dawn of the Atomic and Space Age."

During the past few decades, Velikovsky has predicted a number of findings such as an extremely high temperature on Venus, and radio waves from Jupiter. Also included are the terrestrial magnetosphere, a high frequency of moonquakes, and localized areas of strong radioactivity of Mars and the moon.

In *Worlds in Collision*, Velikovsky theorized that the planet Venus erupted from

Jupiter and that it destroyed the earth in the 15th and in the eight centuries B.C.

As a result, scientific publications refused him access, and Velikovsky was also forced to change publishers.

Duke speech planned

Noted author John Reachy will speak on "legal, psychological and sociological outrages" at 8 p.m. today at the Gross Chemical Building on Duke Campus. Admission is free.

Reachy will also hold an informal meeting with UNC students and faculty at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the second floor lounge in Greenlaw.

Reachy's major works include *City of Night*, *The Fourth Angel*, and *Vampires*.

Di-Phi posts filled

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies elected officers for the spring semester Nov. 27. The new officers will be inaugurated at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 in the Society Chambers in New West. It is open to the public.

The following students were elected: M. Keith Kapp, president, sophomore; Foster Ockerman, Jr., president pro-tempore (outgoing president), senior; Harriet Margolis, clerk, sophomore; Edward Furr, critic, junior; Greg Sloan, sergeant-at-arms; Bennett Steelman, historian, sophomore; Roger Kirkman, treasurer, graduate student.

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