

# Peace on earth



# The Observer

Dearborn High School

Dearborn, Michigan

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# OPEN END



LOIS

"IF YOU COULD BE ONE OF SANTA'S ELVES, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?"

"I'd like to take care of all the bad boys for Santa."  
Lois Postif, senior



ROY

"I'd love to be Christmas Carol's full-time assistant."  
Roy Conover, senior



MITCH

"I'd like to play with Santa's dolls."  
Mitch Lingenfelter, senior



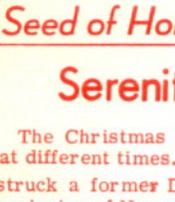
JOHN

"I want to be Mitch's helper!"  
John Szopko, senior



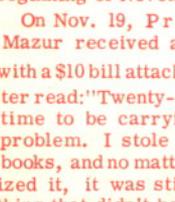
DEBBIE

"I'd like to spy on the kids to see if they're good or bad."  
Debbie Wright, junior



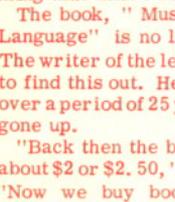
TOM

"I want to test the rocking horses."  
Tom Sigler, sophomore



KAYE

"I would like to be the elf that makes peace for everyone because there isn't enough of it anymore."  
Kaye Gilchrist, junior



BARB

"I want to feed Comet, Cupid, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolf. ...."  
Barb Corbett, senior

"I want to put a blue lightbulb in Rudolph's nose."  
Teri Huckabone, senior

"I HATE ELVES! Bah-humbug!"  
Bill Creek, senior

## Christmas Spirit Short-Lived; Feeling Fades With New Year

BY BILL WAS

Snow and evergreen trees are not the only signs of the Christmas season, for during this time a strange phenomenon descends over many people—the "Christmas spirit."

This spirit is easily identifiable by a cheery smile on everyone's face and the tendency to acknowledge people that were ignored before. These effects increase in intensity up to Christmas Day and then taper off with the coming of the new year.

Then fading away as the New Year's Eve hang-overs, this spirit disappears until next Christmas time. People return to their normal selves, ignoring others and striving to "keep up with the Jones'."

In a world so filled with hate, prejudice, and fear, this "Christmas spirit" would be a welcome addition. However, why must this spirit be present only during the Christmas holiday? People do not begin to live during the Christmas season and retreat into hibernation as the new year opens, although some seem to.

Christmas is a happy time, a time of giving and receiving, when all people are reminded that the person next to him is his brother. Many of the world's problems would be solved, or alleviated, if more of the "Christmas spirit" persevered throughout the new year.

## Christmas Traditional Revised; Scrooge's Story Now a Musical

"I hate people. I despise them. I deplore them," grumbles Ebenezer Scrooge as he walks home from work on Christmas Eve. And he certainly makes no secret of his feelings.

But everyone knows the story of Scrooge, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Not everyone, however, knows about "Scrooge," Hollywood's latest rendition of the tale.

The story of Scrooge is now a musical, complete with singing and dancing in every street. But the London background is still beautiful, and every British accent is still in place.

Albert Finney could not have been better as the heartless miser Scrooge. His walk, his gestures, his facial expressions are all perfect for the cold, bitter, and, at times, heart-

wrenching old man who has too much of "the milk of human kindness" and gets a bit drunk.

The ghosts of Christmases Past and Present are a pleasant surprise for viewers, and Scrooge's futuristic descent into Hell is strikingly reminiscent of the movie "2001."

All in all, "Scrooge" is a delightful movie. It is well-directed, fast-moving, and in spots, a real tear jerker. The acting is excellent, the children are irresistible, and the songs and music never bog down. It

is well worth viewing, at Christmas, or at any time of the year. "Scrooge" is in the fourth week of a run at the Dearborn Theatre, Michigan at Telegraph.

### Seed of Honesty Blossoms Late

#### Serenity for Troubled Christian

The Christmas spirit hits people at different times. Apparently it struck a former DHS student at the beginning of November.

On Nov. 19, Principal Leonard Mazur received an unsigned letter with a \$10 bill attached to it. The letter read: "Twenty-five years is a long time to be carrying around a guilt problem. I stole one of the music books, and no matter how I rationalized it, it was still stealing something that didn't belong to me."

The book, "Music, the Universal Language" is no longer published. The writer of the letter took the time to find this out. He rationalized that over a period of 25 years prices have gone up.

"Back then the book probably cost about \$2 or \$2.50," said Mr. Mazur. "Now we buy books at \$8 or \$10 apiece."

"A letter like this makes you feel

kind of proud," he continued. "To think somebody planted a seed of honesty in this person and it just took a little longer to blossom."

The anonymous writer was motivated by a sermon he heard in church. "Our pastor gave an excellent sermon on unanswered prayer and how we all needed to look into our past and see if we had done some deed which was wrong and, by that retribution, we could erase the deed in God's eyes."

"I am sorry I haven't paid this debt before this. The book has been destroyed just as the deed has been erased."

Mr. Mazur was moved by the gesture. "It has gone a long way to restore my faith in human nature," he commented. "It's hard to believe it! I've heard of this happening to other people, but I never believed it could happen to me!"



EBENEZER SCROOGE COWERS BEFORE THE GHOST OF HIS FORMER PARTNER, JACOB MARLEY.

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# DHS Clubs in Flurry of Christmas Activities.....



With the holiday season rapidly approaching, various clubs and classes at DHS are taking on special projects for Christmas.

Mr. Gordon Bremenkampf and Mr. Robert Bridges, of the Math Department, assigned their Geometry I classes to make a project related to both geometry and Christmas. For example, a student could make a model of Santa Claus using circles and triangles in construction.

Mrs. Saralee Ward, Spanish teacher, is teaching her advanced Spanish classes to make pinatas. A pinata, a part of the Spanish custom of Christmas, is a model of a donkey made of papier-mache, filled with presents and suspended from the ceiling. A child is blindfolded and given a club with which to strike the donkey. When it is broken, the presents fall to the ground and are distributed.

Mr. Donald Boughner, Art Department chairman, instructed his art classes to make Christmas cards, which were sold during school before the vacation break.

The Booster Club sold fresh mistletoe on December 14 and 15, and the French Club decided to learn some French Christmas carols and go to either Wayne County General Hospital or a nursing home and sing for the patients also.

It seems the Christmas season does indeed bring the spirit of giving, sharing, and making people happy-- hopefully lasting the whole year 'round.

Extra effort, with help from student teacher Mr. Jim Harrison, on the parts of (clockwise) Peter Tippett, Marcia Wood, Maya Monsour, Gary Preston, and Darcy Dean provided a "mod" Christmas play this week for students of two elementary schools. Mrs. Frances Sanders' Interpretive Reading class formed the cast.

Christmas wreaths, popular symbols of the Yule tide season, are made and displayed by (l. to r.) Guy Hart, Kathy Lehnert, Brian Voytovich, and Time Reese. All members of Mr. Jim Vanderhull's Special Education classes. The wreaths, hand made of pine cones, berries, and pine clippings, will be taken home and presented to the parents.



CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION ON A Spanish Christmas ornament, a pinata, is carried on by two seniors, Jo Merkle, left, and Barb Lewis.

## Madrigal Dinner Relates History

The Redwood Room was transformed into the King's Great Hall of a 16th century English castle last evening as the members of the Senior Ensemble portrayed the lords and ladies attired in costumes of that period.

The occasion for the festivity was this year's Madrigal dinner entitled The Feast of Christmas.

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Trumpet and vocal fanfares heralded between each course. The members of the choir, also attired in costumes, served the meal.

The ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Phil Mark, vocalized with the accompaniment of the first chair strings from the Symphony Orchestra and also a few students who play the recorder, a medieval instrument.

To complete the effect, a court jester, Senior Eric Wartman, roamed the court, while a minstrel serenaded guests.

## Naughty or Nice?

# Letter From Santa Warns Students

To the students at DHS,  
Ever since you were little tykes you've heard that each year on the eve of Dec. 25 a fat man in a red suit, comes flying through the air in a sleigh pulled by nine reindeer, bringing presents to all of the good children.

During the past few years I've heard you all laugh, "Ho, ho, ho, there is no Santa Claus." Well, have I got news for you!

There is a Santa Claus! Santa lives! In fact he has been watching you the past year to see if you've been naughty, or nice. Many of you are going to be in for a big surprise this Christmas.

You may think that I'm a dumbhead and naive, but remember I was also young once.

I've seen you smoking in the johns. I've seen you littering the cafeteria, and I was there at that last grasser you went to (I was the one with the long, white beard). You are the students who will get no more than a big lump of coal in your stocking. So there!

As for this pollution bit, all I have to say is if it doesn't end, there will be no more Christmas. Donner and Blitzen have come down with emphysema (like you might if you don't quit smoking), and Rudolf's nose is getting so dull that we may have to fire him.

By now, many of you are still laughing "Ho, ho, ho" under your breath, but you just wait. You just see if you're still laughing on the morn of Dec. 25 when you go downstairs and find nothing but a bare tree!

To those who have been good, I'll

see you on the 24th. And don't forget that chocolate chip cookies are my favorite.

Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all a good night.  
S. Claus

## Yule Heralds Truth of Giving; Stores Prey on Season Shoppers

Growl! Your tiger will be on the prowl when he receives a jungle print night shirt this Christmas. Called "Wild," this garment, featured in J.L. Hudson's Christmas Catalog sells for \$7. A similar item for female tigers is called "Tame."

Sound ridiculous? This is only one of many gimmicks advertised each year at this time. People, forgetting the true meaning of the season, will buy a gift of no use because it is in the right price range or out of sheer frustration.

When in doubt about a gift selection, both sexes usually purchase a name brand perfume or cologne. Most of these use gimmick tactics for advertising such as putting free self-defense directions in bottles of Hai-Karate men's cologne. These toiletries are available in sets of after-shave, body rub, after-shave balm and soap-on-a-rope. They may, however, be purchased separately.

More extravagant gifts range from an \$11 tie case, to a knight's head lighter, tagged at \$9, to a viking helmet bar set priced at \$35. This set features a decanter with four glasses.

One of the wildest gifts of all is offered by the Dallas, Texas firm of Neiman Marcus. This company is displaying a \$5,000 bathtub made of clear plexiglass for the "hard-to-buy" person on your gift list. Furthermore, if milady finds bathing a bit boring, she can amuse herself with an aquarium built around the tub instead of bursting those common bathtub bubbles.

If someone you know has a fondness for animals, you needn't settle for a dog or cat. Noah's Ark, equipped with 178 animals is available for the special price of \$588, 247. If you have aspirations of purchasing this item for this Christmas, however, you are too late. By ordering Noah's Ark, one must allow 4 years for delivery. This gives the store time to round up the boat's inhabitants. Neiman Marcus admits the ark is a publicity stunt. No one has ever ordered one.

mas Day dawns, many hearts will be heavy. An "I love you" would have meant a great deal more to the person who received the jungle print night shirt or the \$35 viking helmet bar set with four glasses and decanter.



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