

FROM MICAH SCHAFFNER

TRIANGLE

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EXTENSIVE SYMPATHY

BY LAURA WEAVER

As the holiday season is now in full swing, and we have only a few days left of this semester, it is easy to get overwhelmed. There is so much going on from stringing lights around our indoor evergreens to buying presents for our loved ones, all while trying to raise our grades a bit before the semester ends. Our hearts are full of not only joy and excitement for the holidays but also the sorrows of failures and losses from the past year. Even as everything seems to be moving so quickly at this time of year, we each need to allow ourselves time to rest in God's peace and remember what Christmas really means.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This should not be seen just as a birthday celebration, but as a reminder that Jesus was not only fully God, but also fully man. He technically could've descended from heaven as an adult, but then He couldn't sympathize with us entirely as He now can. He went through each stage of life until His willing, sacrificial death, but not once did He sin.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:15



Even as we go through great trials, we ought to remember that Jesus, one of three persons of God Himself, has voluntarily been through worse than what we are dealing with, "yet without sin." He can sympathize with us to the furthest possible extent, and not only that: He loves us! Let's not forget why He came in the first place: He came to die in order to bring us the opportunity to be with Him in eternal, glorified ecstasy. Who are we to deny such a display of perfect love for such imperfect people?

The holidays are upon us, and with them come many opportunities to be among people that may not know the love of Christ. As we have such opportunities, we should at the very least, show love to others. Leave an impression on them of love and selflessness. Pray for confidence to tell the good news of the Gospel within God's timing. I hope you have a merry Christmas, remembering why Jesus came.



WHAT IS THE WORST WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

JANELLE EDWARDS
An actual burrito



MARK BOYD
I got a bag of chocolate chips.
But I don't like chocolate.



ENOCH ALBERT
a photo of the gift giver
standing in a forest



SEREN LEWIS
A pair of used socks



ERIN O'CONNOR
A plunger

HISTORY OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT

BY SEAN O'CONNOR



We all know what it's like to partake in a White Elephant Gift exchange. First, you nervously pick up a present from a collection of odd looking gifts while everyone else watches you like a bunch of hawks. Then, you nervously walk back to your seat while trying not to trip. And finally, you open a gift that feels like it is going to be a ladder but ends up being a plunger. But how did this tradition start? Allow me to share with you this magical tale.

The tradition supposedly began in the ancient kingdom of Siam (current day Thailand). The king would give an albino elephant to anyone in his court that annoyed him. These animals were considered sacred and were thus not allowed to work. The gift would then put the person into financial debt due to the animal's enormous upkeep cost and utter worthlessness.

While some of the White Elephant Gifts today are pretty bad, they are nothing compared to what they used to be. So next time you feel like complaining because you did not get the gift you wanted, just be thankful your gift will not put you in debt.



9th grade girls Bible white elephant gift exchange

OUR CLIMATE CONUNDRUM

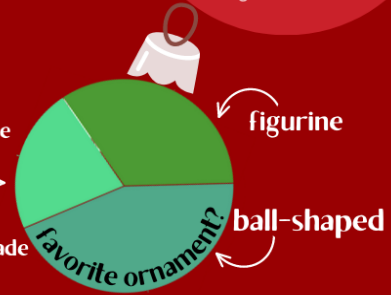
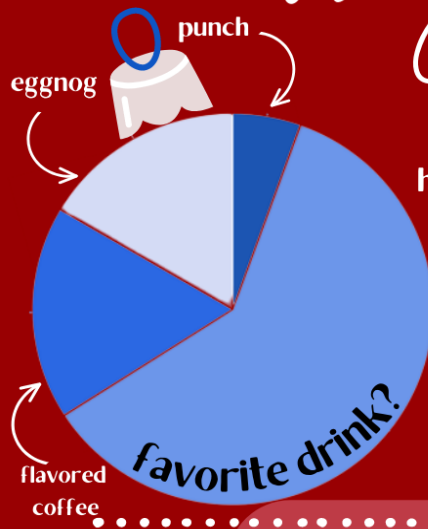
BY SUSANNAH FARR



With warm hearts and eager expectation, we await the Christmas season. Having just recently come from Thanksgiving break and not quite to first semester exams, we're all dragging a bit. Lots of us have already picked out and decorated our Christmas trees, and we are just bursting at the seams waiting for Christmas break. And while we may have decorations, holiday treats, and party plans, we do not yet have one thing that is almost essential to a feeling of festivity. I bet everyone can guess what that one thing is. Snow! Anyone who has lived in South Carolina for even the shortest time has probably realized that we have less than seasonable weather. Is it too much to ask to get some chilly gusts of frost during the Christmas season? Somehow, even having lived in South Carolina

for many years, I'm still taken aback by the unusual nature of our climate. So, having gotten that lament out into the public, and having also by chance taken up the hobby of meteorology (not really, but let's pretend), I have a weather forecast for the holidays. I predict it's going to be sunny with a high of 55 degrees. But it could also be raining with a high of -3 degrees! Or maybe, if South Carolina's atmosphere is feeling extra creative, we'll get some clouds with 70 degree temperatures! Perhaps if we start a campaign, the weather will listen to us. Does the atmosphere succumb to democracy? Alas, I feel all we may receive is a slight drizzle of slush, typical of our beloved Palmetto State.

Christmas Jingles Survey



- the people's favorite Christmas traditions...**
- decorating ginger-bread houses
 - putting bows in dad's hair
 - hiding a pickle ornament
 - solving math problems for gifts
 - gifts on the 24th

the people said...

would you rather?

travel	OK	stay home
slippers	OK	footie p.j.'s
pretzel sticks	OK	marshmallows
aesthetic tree	OK	assortment of ornaments
sleep in	OK	get up early
make food	OK	eat food



Infographic by Grace Trotter

Do You or Don't You?

Do you celebrate Advent?

Yes	No
39.6%	60.4%

Do you open gifts earlier than Christmas?

Yes	No
44%	56%

Do you still believe in Santa Claus?

Yes	No
12.1%	87.9%





A SEMESTER IN REVIEW

BY JONATHAN ROSE



On August 15, Bob Jones Academy came together for another school year. Some began the difficult task of trying to obtain an ID card and finding their Bible class. Many returned to search for old friends and look for changes in the Quadrangle. They found an obvious change waiting for them at the top of the amphitheater. The Spirit Rock filled our minds with many questions: what was this chunk of mineral? Why was it here? And how was it possible for Bennett and Stephen to have ten birthdays in a row?

Dr. Agathered us all in the AAUD and introduced unified as our theme for the school-year. Naturally then, the SBO almost immediately split us into 4 opposing teams and had us drain every Dollar Tree of its party supplies and post-it notes. Spirit week was a definite highlight, from Rand Hummel's messages to the games and skits. It also settled us in as the school-year really got going. Dual-credit classes and the first dreaded English projects started rolling. Fall began.

October began with the departure of the seniors to the Wilds. Immediately after they left, the state of South Carolina closed its airspace as the remaining students filled the sky with fireworks and balloons in celebration. But by Friday, they were forced to put on fake smiles and welcome the seniors back. If only they'd known many would have been okay with staying in North Carolina. The seniors got even more attention at senior night, and they got so stuck-up that the administration decided to send the upperclassmen to college the next week to deflate their egos and remind them of their insignificance.

Bruins week was generally a helpful and fun week, but confirmed that though the upperclassmen were desperate to get out of school, they had no idea what to do when they left.

Other fall events included the beginning of concert season. The first concert of the year, held in the Activity Center, put the "wind" in wind band and tested the memorization of the band members who couldn't keep their music open. High School Festival attracted many entries in various fine arts categories. The choir concert welcomed winter and took a side on the argument of when to sing Christmas songs: definitely before Thanksgiving.

Fall began to turn into winter, and the fall sports season ended with almost every team winning a championship. The next month began with half of the guys buzzing their heads to celebrate No-shave November. Everyone learned new songs for Veterans Day, and students packed Walmart to buy all kinds of paper goods for Shepherd's Gate. In celebration of our hard work, the school took an afternoon to hold basketball tryouts thinly disguised as a dodgeball tournament.

The holiday season rolled around with a series of Thanksgiving chapels. Students left for Thanksgiving and returned, exhausted, to a decorated Quadrangle. Events including the lighting ceremony and even more concerts also brought the excitement for break. Now, as we go into our final week of exams, we are encouraged to finish our semester strong with enthusiasm for Christmas!



'Twas expected that our very own art teacher would win our art contest! Congratulations, Mrs. Wright! Time to take Mr. Wright out on a date with our Chick-fil-A gift card, sans child. (And a VERY special thank you to Mr. Nic for being such a jolly sport!)

