

Reality TV: wearing out its welcome

Grant Beaty
Charger Staff



Reality television started out with only a few shows, like *The Real World* and *Cops*.

Since these shows, reality television programs have taken a huge increase in the network program lineups and a big decrease in quality.

It seems that every network is trying to get the next big reality television hit by throwing out any and every idea that comes through. Now it is completely normal to see contestants eat animal body parts, men dress up like women and people lose weight on national television. People are taking good old-fashioned television shows and

turning them into a reality television show and having celebrities live with country folk. Is this how Americans



REALITY TV -- A reality TV version of *Gilligan's Island*... is nothing sacred? Photo courtesy of tbs.com.

are entertained? What happened to all of the sitcoms? Shows like *Seinfeld* and *Friends*? The witty humor of good sitcoms by far surpasses the mind-

less plots of reality television. The truth is that reality television shows are hardly reality at all. The people in reality programs are

not normal people. People are not going to portray reality with cameras all around them.

One of the reasons that networks like reality television shows is that it is cheaper to make than a sitcom where they have to pay well known actors large sums of money for each episode.

Instead, networks only have to pay a relatively low amount of money to one winner.

Reality television was not so bad in the beginning, but it has erupted

I believe in Santa Claus

Chelsey Littrell
Charger Staff



I, Chelsey Littrell, believe in Santa. I do not deny it. I have always and will always believe in him. When I was younger my friends told me that he did not exist, and I did not believe them. Later, I discovered my mother's handwriting on a personal note written by "Santa Claus."

I decided from then on, Christmas would not be the same know-

ing Santa was only a mythical being created as a ruse to get children to behave.

That was when I went to my sister for help. She told me her story, and how she discovered Santa was not "real."

She was upset at first by this discovery. My sister then proceeded to

tell me about Santa's spirit. She said something I will not forget. She told me that even though Santa Claus was not a real person, his spirit does in fact exist.

Just because something or someone is not physically here, does not mean you should stop believing in it. Let's face it, with out Santa Claus,



It's application time, seniors

Alison Palmer
Editor-in-Chief



Yes, it's that time of year again. A time for Christmas carols, candy canes and egg nog. A time for mistletoe, New Years parties and twenty-four hour marathons of *A Christmas Story*. This year, one more item has been added to my joyous holiday list: college applications. College applications, however, are not so joyous.

Now, I know that the whole application process is necessary, but does it have to be so complicated and redundant? How many times do I really have to write my name and address on the same application? Also, most applications have several parts to them that often have to be sent in at different times by different people. It feels like one chaotic mess, and it's even worse when trying to put together several applications at once.

My least favorite part of the application process is the formidable essay. Now, it wouldn't be so bad if they asked me to write an essay on what my favorite color is or why the sky is blue, but almost every college asks the cursed question: What sets you apart from the other applicants. Let's see... I'm an average white female from a middle class family. Wow, I'm just like everybody else.

Recently, for a scholarship I had to write about my American dream and how it was different than that of my parents. Now, this would have been a lovely little topic if my parents were starving refugees from Romania who only wanted a fair shake in this crazy mixed-up world, but unfortunately, they are not.

Okay, so I don't mind writing essays as much as I make it sound, and I did eventually come up with stuff to write about for the many, many essays I have to write, but I am just sick of the whole college thing.

Don't get me wrong. I can't wait to go to college and be on my own, but in my perfect world, col-

leges would simply call me and say, "Hey, we heard that you're pretty cool, and we want you to go to our school. Don't worry about that silly application because you're already accepted! Oh, and don't worry about the cost because your tuition is on the house."

I miss the days of elementary school when every year, I simply showed up to school and happy teachers escorted me to my classroom and gave me my books. The only thing I had to worry about was saving my pennies so I could buy Blue Bell ice cream at lunch.

College applications on top of school and the regular craziness in my life is slowly chipping away at my brain, and I fear that if I live to see the so-close-yet-so-far-away college days I will be too insane enough to enjoy them.

So while the rest of the world dreams of dancing sugar plums this holiday season, I will be dreaming of college applications essays that are dancing on the brink of my sanity.

I love Christmas time!

Angie Stewart
Charger Staff



It is Christmas time once again, which means it is time to start shopping for family, friends and that special someone. It is time to start pulling out those Christmas albums and listening to them. The time is here to sip on hot chocolate and stand in the cold weather while watching the Christmas parade. Christmas is also a time to get together with family and friends.

I just love the atmosphere of the Christmas season, even though it can be stressful trying to get everything done and buying gifts

for everyone. To me, it feels like people have a different attitude during Christmas: people seem to be kinder and nicer to each other during this time of year.

Driving through town and seeing all of the Christmas lights and decorations just gives me a different feeling than any other time of year.

My Christmas is never complete without watching the classic Christmas movies: *A Christmas Story*, *Christmas Vacation*, *Home Alone*, *It's A Wonderful Life* and *The Grinch*.

Christmas is that special time to show family and friends how much you care about them. It is about taking a break from your ordinary, hectic life-style to relax and realize what really matters.

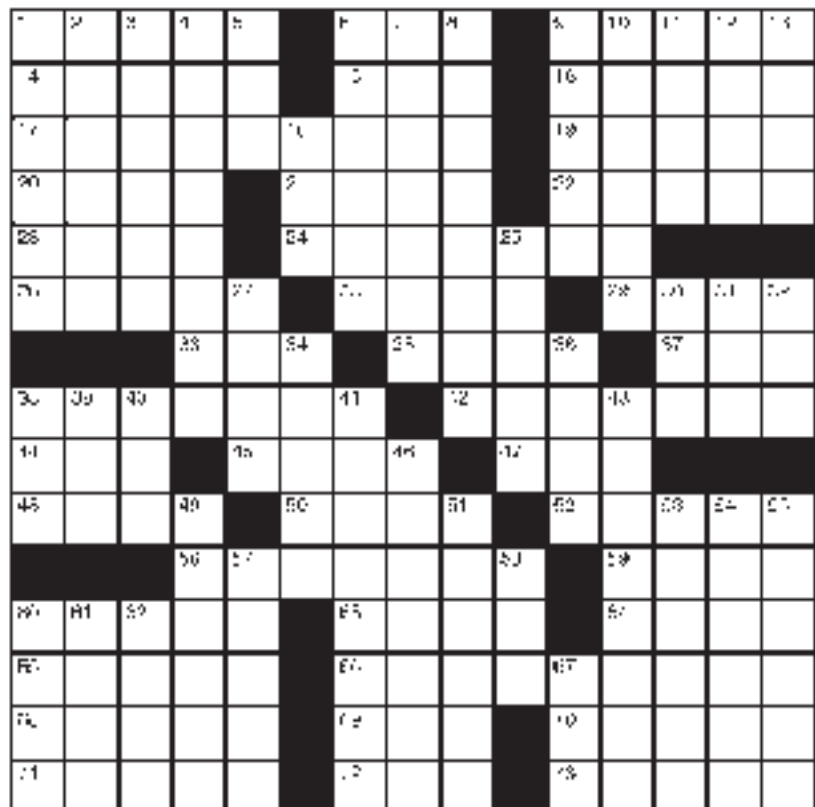
Christmas time, however, can also be the most stressful time of the year. Sometimes it is hard to have enough money to buy everyone exactly what you want to get them. It can be difficult and stressful to prepare for family and friends to get together.

Sometimes the meaning of Christmas can be lost in the materialism of it all. We can get distracted by just caring about what kind of gifts we will be getting for Christmas and nothing else.

However, after the distractions are gone, all of my shopping is completed, my errands have been run and the stress of Christmas is gone, I always realize that Christmas is my favorite holiday.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Sufficiently polite
 - 6 Stroke gently
 - 9 Opera songs
 - 14 Empress of Byzantium
 - 15 Stein file
 - 16 Imit. IN
 - 17 One who tortures
 - 18 Slave
 - 20 No. pro
 - 21 Adult male pig
 - 22 Ancient laborist
 - 23 Pop. grades
 - 24 Of Blue Eyes
 - 26 Aozabz
 - 28 Painful
 - 29 Infrequent
 - 33 A kind of cashew
 - 36 Major coat
 - 37 -a fer
 - 38 Theater troupe
 - 42 Former organ
 - 44 All in a moment
 - 45 Devitalizes
 - 47 3 g. CA
 - 48 Soke and Robert E.
 - 50 Promissory notes
 - 52 Find a new tenant for a flat
 - 56 Mayberry man
 - 59 Rescue
 - 60 Prison chambers
 - 63 Response times
 - 64 At that time
 - 65 Pontifical
 - 66 Volcanic events
 - 68 Cruise ship
 - 69 Behold
 - 70 Re of one mind
 - 71 Lute documents
 - 72 Moose
 - 73 Lager and ale



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- DOWN
- 1 Noisy insect
 - 2 Pressed
 - 3 A red
 - 4 Carving
 - 5 August's gr
 - 6 Vernacular
 - 7 Beatles song, "___ Fifty"
 - 8 L zero
 - 9 Contain's
 - 10 Fight ng bullets
 - 11 L sten to an appeal
 - 11 Garden bloom
 - 12 Florence's river
 - 13 Coze
 - 14 Nat'l. TV network
 - 25 Looks after
 - 27 L ligates
 - 30 False form
 - 31 Caviar
 - 32 Ram's dam
 - 34 Work at getting in shape
 - 36 Gloomly
 - 38 L Michaels' show
 - 39 End of a sock
 - 40 Sanified state
 - 41 Impeccable
 - 43 Level of esteem
 - 46 Section n a section
 - 49 L ke some peanuts

Solutions



- 51 Made a smooth transition
- 53 City near Rawlind
- 54 More level
- 55 Pas. present and future
- 57 Operators
- 58 Psychic's gill
- 60 Chilly
- 61 Toledo's lake
- 62 Highway subd vision
- 67 Hunter of films

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The purposes of *The Charger* are to inform, entertain, and provide both a catalyst and a forum for student expression.

The Charger's editorial responsibility lies not in presenting a particular viewpoint or agenda, but in representing a variety of opinions.

The Charger staff leaves the right to edit or censor its contents to student staff and editors. The unsigned editorial opinions are those of the editorial staff.

Students, faculty or others wishing to respond to an article or editorial in *The Charger* are encouraged to write letters to the editor. *The Charger* reserves the right to edit the material (for space, spelling, mechanics, etc.) so long as the meaning remains unchanged.

Letters to the editor must be signed, although names will be withheld by request if circumstances call for it.

Letters writers are strongly encouraged to allow their names to be included with the letter because a signed statement has far more impact than an unsigned one.

Students and faculty not on *The Charger* staff are welcome to submit editorials and guest columns. All submissions are subject to time and space limitations.

The Charger staff reserves the right to edit the material, so long as the meaning remains unchanged. This complies with *The Charger* policy that is a public forum for all students to express their opinions.

Contact us:
e-mail:
anderson17@k12tn.net

mail:
The Charger c/o CHS
2335 N. Washington Ave.