

サンタさんは本当にいるのでしょうか？という社説があります。これは1897年、8歳の少女ヴァージニア・オハンロンが新聞社、ニューヨーク・サンに“サンタクロースは実在するのか”、という題で手紙を送ったことから始まります。彼女は学校で「サンタクロースはいるのか」と友達と意見を交わしました。彼女は結論が知りたく、父親のすすめでニューヨーク・サンに手紙を出したのです。当時のニューヨーク・サンの論説委員、フランシス・チャーチは上司にこの手紙についての社説を書いてくれ、と頼まれ手紙について社説を書きました。以下にその社説を原文のまま紹介します。



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 comprehensible 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 about him, as measure by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. Y generosity and devotion exist, and and give to your life its highest beauty would be the world if there were no there were no VIRGINIAS. There no romance to make tolerable except in sense and sight. The would be extinguished.

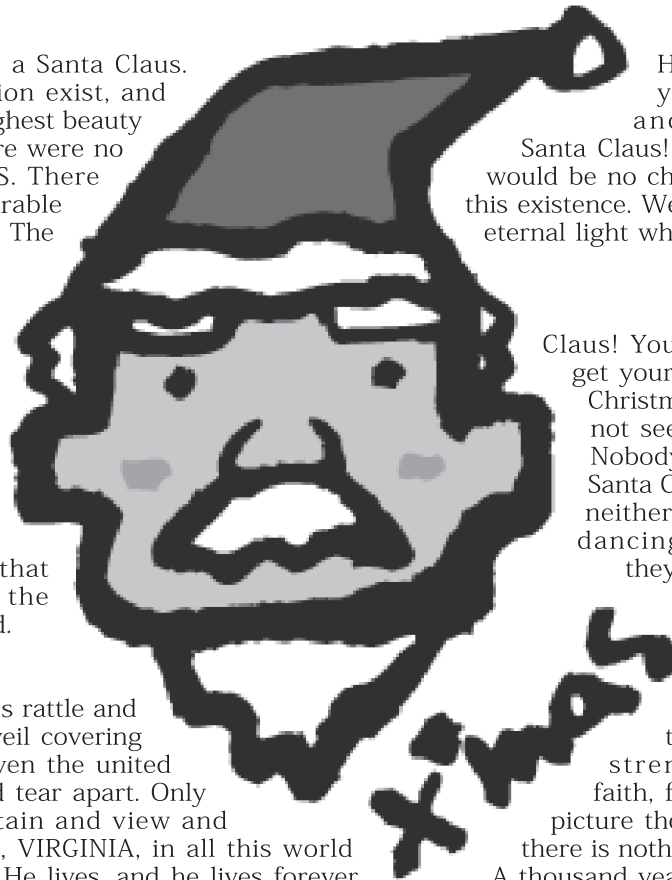
Not believe in Santa Nin fairies! You might in all the chimneys on but even if they did what would that prove? is no sign that there is no the world are those that Did you ever see fairies not, but that's no proof that conceive or imagine all the and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and inside, but there is a veil covering the strongest man, nor even the united man that ever lived, could tear apart. Only can push aside that curtain and view and beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world Santa Claus! Thank GOD! He lives, and he lives forever. ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make

He exists certainly as love and you know that they abound and joy. Alas! How dreary Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, this existence. We should have no enjoyment, eternal light which childhood fills the world

Claus! You might as well not believe get your papa to hire men to watch Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, not see Santa Claus coming down, Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that Santa Claus. The most real things in neither children nor men can see. dancing on the lawn? Of course they are not there. Nobody can wonders there are unseen

see what makes the noise the unseen world which not strength of all the strongest faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance picture the supernal beauty and glory there is nothing else real and abiding. No A thousand years from now, nay, ten times glad the heart of childhood.



M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S
A N D A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

名大生協ニュース『Me ~ dia』は、名大生協・学生委員会・総代生協委員の活動をみなさんに伝えるフリーマガジン(無料配布誌)です。生活の知恵、生協の活用法の紹介を通じて組合員のみなさんによりよい大学生活を提案します。みなさんの意見を反映させ、より名大生の生活に密着した内容にしていいため、本誌アンケートにご協力をお願いします。みなさんのご意見、ご感想をお待ちしております。 名大生協学生委員会