

# Christmas in Other Countries

By Maria Monfreda  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

With December in full swing, the Christmas season is upon us. It's time to participate in all of our favorite traditions: looking at Christmas lights, decorating the tree, and ice skating. These are all the things people traditionally look forward to every year, but does everyone participate in these traditions? Obviously, people have gotten used to these fun things, but other countries have their own unique traditions including the Philippines, Sweden, Japan, Colombia, and Austria

In the Philippines, they host something called "The Giant lantern festival." It is held each year in San Fernando, also known as the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines." It is always on the Saturday before Christmas Eve. Many people come together to take part in this festival and competition and try to make the best lanterns they can. When the festival first started the lanterns were pretty small, but now they've grown to be about six meters.

Sweden also has a pretty interesting Christmas tradition.

Starting in 1966, a 13 foot tall Yule goat was built. It is always in the center of Gable's Castle square. The goat is said to help Santat deliver presents every year, instead of a sleigh he rides a goat. There is another tradition that comes with this one and that is the burning of this statue. Every year people try to burn down the statue and there has been no explanation for it. Sweden takes great measures to protect it, they have fences, set up security cameras, and have guards stationed in front of it. It has only been successfully burned down 29 times, the most recent being in 2016.

Christmas isn't super popular in Japan, but they do have a funny and unique tradition, eating KFC on Christmas Day. Yup you heard that right, they eat Kentucky Fried Chicken each year on Christmas day. KFC releases their Christmas menu each year on the KFC Japan website.

Norway has a tradition that isn't very joyous and that is hiding their brooms. This tradition started centuries ago when people believed that witches come out on Christmas Eve to look for brooms to ride on. A lot of people still believe this myth today.

The next country is Colombia. They have a really unique tradition called "Dia de las Velitas" or Little Candles' day. This day starts the Christmas season. Colombians put candles and lanterns in their windows in honor of the Virgin Mary and the immaculate conception. This tradition has grown over the years and many people have very elaborate displays. You can find the best ones in the city of Quimbaya, where people compete to see who has the best arrangement.

Lastly, Austria has the weirdest tradition by far. This tradition is called Krampus. Krampus is set to be St.Nicholas's evil accomplice. As good boys and girls are rewarded by St.Nicholas, bad children are said to be captured by Krampus and taken away in a sack. In the first week of December younger men actually dress up as Krampus and scare children with chains and bells.

We often get accustomed to our traditions we celebrate every year, so it's very important we learn about what other countries do to celebrate Christmas. These unique traditions seem very interesting and definitely make me want to travel to these countries during Christmas time.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia

# New Years Traditions Around the World

By Laurel Gibbins  
*@lfgibbins9212|Co-Editor-In-Chief*

Although Christmas gets most of the attention this time of year, New Year's still deserves some praise. After all, it marks the start of a brand new year filled with new opportunities, memories, and experiences. As with most holidays, there are different traditions around the world. Here are a few:

Latin America:

A popular tradition in many Latin American countries is the burning of muñecos, which are effigies of people who played big roles in news, politics, or held other significance during the year. The burning represents doing away with the old. For people who aspire to travel in the new year, walking around with a suitcase is said to bring great travel opportunities. Many people are sure to clean their houses before the stroke of midnight to, again, symbolize doing away with the old. In Cuba, it is popular to throw a bucket or glass of water out a door or window to welcome the new year. It is said that this tradition symbolizes revival.

In Brazil, it is traditional to wear white clothing while attending New Year's parties at the beach. Wearing white and jumping into the ocean or placing flowers in the ocean are both sure ways to bring good luck and fortune.

Europe:

Almost every European country has a different New Year's tradition. Every year, Spaniards race against the clock to eat twelve grapes at the twelve strokes of midnight. Each grape represents a month and if you eat all your grapes, you will have good luck in the new year. However, if you do not eat all your grapes, you will have bad luck and misfortune. Spain is not the only country with traditions involving food. Much like Spain, Italians eat twelve spoonfuls of lentils at the stroke of midnight. In France the year is welcomed by eating pancakes, Germans eat pigs made of marzipan for luck, and in the Netherlands, it is popular to eat donuts and other ring shaped foods. Hungarians believe animals can speak on New Year's Eve, so they take the opportunity to talk with their pets.

In Belgium and Romania, people bless their pets and livestock to wish them well in the new year. To wish prosperity to others, the Dutch break plates on doorsteps. It is said that the house with the most broken glass on their doorstep has the most loyal friends.

Asia:

Many countries in Asia do not celebrate New Year's Day on January First. This is because the countries follow the lunar calender instead of the Gregorian calendar, which is the calendar the western world uses. As evident in the name, the lunar calendar follows the moon phases. A new year is marked by a full moon. This year, the lunar new year will be celebrated on February 1, 2022. Because the holiday is marked by the moon phases, the date changes every year. It always falls between January 21 and February 20. Countries that celebrate the lunar new year include, China, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, and other East-Asian countries.

These are just a few of the many traditions people celebrate all over the world. This New Year's holiday, take some time to explore these traditions and others.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia



Photo Courtesy of Flickr





# The Roar

Thursday,  
December  
16, 2021  
Volume 21  
Issue 4

Loveland High School, Loveland, Ohio

Page Editor: Chase Gibson & Ben Hicks

Look Inside:

## 2021; A Timeline Of Events

By Kate Carpenter  
*@kate\_carp|Co-Editor-In-Chief*

2021 is slowly coming to an end, and it only seemed fitting to reflect back on some of the more notable events that have ensued over these past 12 months.

January 6  
The United States Capital Riot occurred just a week into the year. Five people died, and at least 56 police officers and civilians were injured after thousands of supporters of former President Donald Trump broke into the US Capitol building. As of November 2021, around 700 people have been charged in connection with the riots.

January 20  
Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States and Kamala Harris became the first woman to become Vice President of the United States.

February 2  
Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos stepped down after more than 26 years and named Amazon Web Services CEO Andy Jassy as his successor.

February 18  
NASA successfully landed its Perseverance rover on Mars, seven months after launching. This rover was intended to collect samples and as a way to pursue human development on Mars.

March 12  
The family of George Floyd, the man

murdered while in police custody in Minneapolis last May, settled their lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis for \$27 million after 3 weeks of intense debate in the court.

March 29  
In Minnesota, opening statements began at the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin, who was accused of murdering 46-year-old George Floyd by kneeling on his neck back in May of 2020. Chauvin was later found guilty and sentenced to 22.5 years in prison.

June 16  
Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed the Texas House Bill 1927, eliminating the requirement for Texas residents to obtain a license to carry handguns either concealed or openly starting on September 1, 2021.

June 30  
Comedian Bill Cosby's sexual assault conviction was overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court after much debate. This overturn in decision allowed Cosby to walk free after 3 years in prison.

July 23 – August 8  
The United States competed at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan and won 39 gold, 41 silver, and 33 bronze medals.

August 10  
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that he would resign effective August 24 after an inquiry found he

sexually harassed multiple women. He was succeeded by Kathy Hochul from the Democratic party.

August 29  
Hurricane Ida made landfall near Port Fourchon, Louisiana, on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. This hurricane resulted in the confirmed deaths of 82 individuals.

October 13  
Star Trek actor William Shatner became the oldest person to go into space, at age 90, on board the Blue Origin, launched from Texas.

November 1  
The trial of Kyle Rittenhouse began in Kenosha, Wisconsin following the fatal shooting of several people during a protest surrounding the death of Jacob Blake. Rittenhouse would later be found not guilty on all charges on November 19.

November 5  
10 concert goers were killed at the Astroworld Music Festival during Travis Scott's set. Dozens more were injured as a result of overcrowding and minimal security.

2021 has clearly been an event-packed year full of highs and lows. Hopefully this timeline has been informational and reminded you of the monumental events that have occurred in these past few months. Until the next time. Have a happy new year!

### News



Photo courtesy of Pat Arnow, Wikimedia Commons

On this page find a recap of the eventful year that was 2021.

### Features



Photo courtesy of My French Life

Explore various New Year's traditions worldwide on page 5.

### Editorials



Photo courtesy of Flickr

On page 2 dive into potential solutions to expand the annual College Football Playoff.

### Sports



Photo courtesy of Loveland Athletics

Read about the future of Loveland High School baseball on page 7.



Photo Courtesy of NASA Kennedy, Flickr

Jeff Bezos presents his rocket to the Blue Origin Company, as he prepares for his journey in space. Bezos took his journey on July 20th, which was the same day of the moon landing 52 years ago.

Photo Courtesy of MojNews, Wikimedia Commons

Sprinters head towards the finish line at the 2020 Summer Olympics. The Summer Games took place in Tokyo, Japan for the first time since 1964.

Photo Courtesy of The White House, Wikimedia Commons

Joe Biden sits down for an official portrait as the 46th President of the United States. He assumed office on January 20, 2021, succeeding Donald Trump.



# Debate: Why Cats Are Better Than Dogs

By Sean Behling  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

Pets are a great thing to have. The companionship and happiness they often bring can give you great motivation and seriously change your life for the better. According to WorldAtlas, dogs are the most common pet in the United States and cats are the second, with no other pet species reaching anywhere near the number of these two animals in households across the US. However, debate has often sprung up between lovers of both animals, arguing which is the better pet, cats or dogs? Many have their own opinion and side to the argument, and I am no exception. I personally prefer cats as a pet to dogs and see them as the better pets because of it.



Photo By: Wikimedia Commons

let you relax in peace. Secondly, cats are so chill that they don't often have to be in the same room as you, contrasting with a dog where, unless they're asleep, they will do their darndest to find you and pester you for love and attention. I would somewhat equate having a cat to the idea of having a chill roommate, whereas having a dog is more like having a child that you care for. While you will feel happiness at your dog's companionship and loyalty, you will also feel frustrated whenever they get into trouble, ripping up cushions, peeing on your carpet, etc. In contrast, cats will let you know when they need food and other necessities, but will often just vibe with you in the same room, allowing the both of you to just silently



Photo By: Pixabay



Photo By: Kitty Terwolbeck

I'm sure I've angered many dog lovers by simply saying those words, so allow me to explain why I like cats so much more than dogs. First of all, I have to say something, I do not have a very active lifestyle. This disclaimer is necessary because my first point is that cats are better for someone like me who spends quite a considerable amount of my free time sitting indoors. Cats spend most of their time loafing around and sleeping their days away, so it's a better mood for a pet than having a dog, hyper or not, making me go out into the cold of winter so they can exercise or do their business. This is because not only are cats generally much more laid-back pets, but they are also smart enough most of the time to do their business in a litter box and

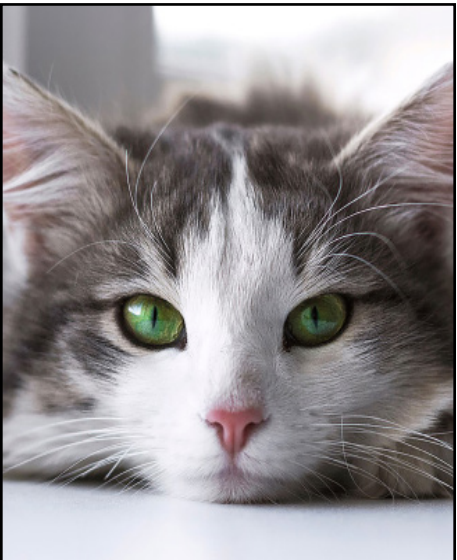


Photo By: Wikimedia Commons

enjoy each other's company. Finally, I simply find cats cuter than dogs in most circumstances. Dogs are cute and friendly, no doubt there, however, cats are not only smaller and more adorable, but are also flexible animals with a wide variety of funny positions they can be in. The way cats sleep, curling up into a cute, fluffy ball, the cute fluff that covers their faces and paws, I simply adore it. I understand that I kinda sound like a crazy cat person (which isn't too far off from the truth), but I just want to express how much I love cats and why I think that they are better pets than dogs are. I do not wish to discount the fact that dogs are also amazing pets, I merely wish to convey my view on the argument of which is better, cats or dogs?



# Correct Way To Expand College Football Playoff

By Ben Hicks  
*@hicks12\_ | Staff Writer*

The way in which college football declares its national champion has always come under intense scrutiny from fans, coaches, and media alike. For over 100 years from 1869 to 1998, various mathematical and voting methods were utilized to select a national champion. However, in most years, there would be no unanimous champion, and no national championship game to decide one. 1981 even had six separate "national champions," despite Clemson being the only undefeated team among the group. College football, arguably the most passionately followed and unique American spectacle, had an issue. The fans had no way of decisively understanding what team was the best following the season. Every other sport has a game or a tournament to declare a champion. March Madness decides an undisputed national champion through a 68-team tournament. The NFL Playoffs culminate in the Super Bowl, which declares a champion. Every other major American professional sport has a playoff format which results in a best-of-7 championship series to decide a league champion. Yet for over a century, college football did not. In the mid 1990s, conference commissioners and school presidents discussed multiple solutions to the championship issue. Following rounds of debate and negotiations, former

SEC commissioner Roy Kramer fathered the BCS model, which was a temporary solution to determine a national champion through an actual football game. However, the system faced immense criticism through its strictly mathematical determination of the best teams throughout its fifteen year existence. In 2014 the College Football Playoff was created to replace the BCS. Compromising old and new. The best of both worlds, right? Wrong. The CFP only includes four teams, not enough for a fair tournament. There's been semifinal blowouts in every edition, in the end creating only one desirable matchup, which already existed under the BCS. So, what truly is the best way to decide college football's national champion? An 8 team playoff. To decide the expanded field a mix between automatic qualifiers and at-large bids would be utilized. There would be five automatic bids into the playoff, the conference champion from each power 5 league, the ACC, Big 10, Big XII, Pac-12, and SEC. Some of the greatest debate surrounding the current CFP is its exclusion of smaller programs, such as 2016 Western Michigan and 2017 UCF, which hail from the 5 smaller conferences, colloquially known as the Group of 5. So, the highest-

ranked Group of 5 team would also automatically qualify. The final two spots would be filled by the remaining two best teams. Once the 8 slots are filled, a committee would rank them accordingly, with the 1 seed playing the 8 seed, and 2 vs. 7, etc. An added benefit is that an 8-team bracket would allow for 7 high-profile games. Each of the famous New Year's Six Bowls would be played each season, before the CFP National Championship Game as the 7th and final matchup. So the 2021 format is as follows: Automatic Bids: ACC - Pittsburgh Big 10 - Michigan Big XII - Baylor Pac-12 - Utah SEC - Alabama Group of 5 Qualifier: Cincinnati At-Large Bids: Georgia Notre Dame An 8-team playoff creates more dramatic first round matchups than a twelve or sixteen team format, while allowing for more inclusion for smaller schools than the limited 4 team model. Truly, the best of both worlds.



Photo By: Carol Highsmith



Photo By: Wikimedia Commons



Origins of Christmas

By Sam Crane  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

According to the Christian faith, Christmas is a well known holiday observed by millions of people worldwide. This holiday commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the year 0 (since our calendar years are based off of the birth of Jesus Christ). He was born from the virgin Mary. The Bible says that God chose Mary to have his son Jesus. Mary knew a prophecy from Isaiah 7:14 which says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will

conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." God had faith in Mary because she was such a devoted follower of his. God sent an angel named Gabriel to tell her that she would conceive a child through the power of the Holy Spirit and that she would give birth to God's child. God sent an angel into Joseph's dream to tell him that his wife Mary had not cheated on him and that her story was truthful. He told him to stay with Mary and raise the child as his own and name him Jesus. The Wisemen followed the Bethlehem star to the location of Jesus's



Photo courtesy of Sergé on Flickr.com



Photo courtesy of Mishelved on Pixabay

birth, where they indulged him with gold and treasures. Joseph and Mary escaped persecution from the Roman Empire for their crime of being Jewish by traveling 90 miles from Nazareth while Mary was pregnant; eventually, they attempted to stay at multiple inns which were full. They ended up finding a stable where Mary safely gave birth to baby Jesus. When she gave birth, there were shepherds who were out in the field to watch over their flocks and an angel sent by God came down to the field and told them "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger." When the

angels left the field, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem to witness what had been shared with them. Many people had heard of the good news and praised God when they found out what had happened and how their Messiah had been born. Jesus was born the Messiah, King of the Jews, and God's son. His birth is the reference point in all biblical stories and the root of Christianity. After Jesus was born, Joseph was once again warned by an angel that King Herod of Judaea wanted to bring harm upon the child. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt until the Angel returned and told him that King Herod had died. Jesus has been a martyr and symbol of hope for many around the world and every December we celebrate his birth.

Why US Should Not Participate in 2022 Olympics

By Jack Gerber  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics are fast approaching, but many wonder if the US should participate because of China's human rights violations. These violations include enslaving Uyghur Muslims, censoring ideas that disagree with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and encroaching on Taiwan. These violations are horrendous, and the Chinese Government needs to answer for these violations of the rights of their citizens.

We can and should show China that their authoritarian rule will not be tolerated by America and its allies. The Chinese Communist Party is enslaving an entire ethnic group in northern China. They have enslaved Uyghur Muslims by forcing them into detention camps and brainwashing them with Chinese propaganda. According to The Guardian, "[There is] a large network of detention camps, in which more than a million are thought to have been detained." These crimes by China are inexcusable,

and they must be held accountable. There are many reports that China has been harvesting organs from the Uyghurs groups. In fact, Nilz Melzer, an expert on torture and inhumane treatment says that data about the organ information from the prisoners is "registered in a database of living organ sources that facilitates organ allocation." Harvesting organs from unwilling people is inhumane and cannot be tolerated, especially when it's by a world superpower. If America attends the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, they will be showing China that there is no retribution for their crimes. The Chinese Communist Party is censoring its citizens and stopping them from criticizing their government. The Council on Foreign Relations says that the Chinese government can "crack down on news stories by claiming that they expose state secrets and endanger the country" but also that "The definition of state secrets in China remains vague, facilitating censorship of any information that authorities deem harmful to their political or economic interests." This allows China to censor anything that they want. This Orwellian censorship cannot be tolerated. The Chinese government has been encroaching on Taiwanese territory. According to The Daily Wire, "Communist China sent 52 military planes from its air force into Taiwanese air space on Monday, the largest incursion ever by China." China's intrusion into Taiwan shows that they are not afraid to invade Taiwan. Since Taiwan is an American ally, these encroachments cannot be tolerated by the American government; there must be a consequence for their actions.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Although US athletes that have been preparing for years would not be able to compete if we boycott the Olympics, China must answer for their egregious human rights violations. China's blatant violations of human rights cannot go unanswered for, even if it means that athletes aren't able to compete. In 1980 America led a boycott of the Moscow Olympics to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. If America boycotted the Olympics in 1980, they can and should boycott the 2022 Beijing Olympics to protest China's human rights violations. We can and should lead a group of our allies to boycott the Olympics to show that we will not tolerate Chinese human rights violations just as we did in 1980.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This is a protest held in Hong Kong calling for freedom from Chinese communism. This was just one of the protests held for Hong Kong's Independence.





# Nightmare Before Christmas:

## Feel-Good Christmas Movie or Frightful Halloween Movie?

By Laurel Gibbins  
*@lfgibbins9212/Co-Editor-In-Chief*

With Halloween comes the barrage of The Nightmare Before Christmas merchandise in stores like Hot Topic and Target, but the same could be said about Christmas. During both holidays, stores have a bunch of merchandise themed around this movie which brings the question: Is it a Halloween movie or a Christmas movie? It is full of creepy scenes that would scare a child, but it also revolves around Christmas. So which is it? In this article, I will be writing about both sides of the argument and will then come to my own conclusion.

To begin, we will get into the Halloween aspects of the movie.

First, the most obvious distinction is that they are all



Photo Courtesy of pixabay

monsters, with quite creepy designs and voices that definitely didn't scare me as a child. Their aim is to scare people, even at some point singing, "this is Halloween" over and over. Their village is even called "Halloween Town!" Not to mention, rather than joining in on Christmas with Santa Claus and being a cute movie about monsters helping spread Christmas joy around the world, they kidnap him. Not only do they kidnap him, but they send him to Oogie Boogie who literally tortures the poor man. Plus, the only way Jack can make Christmas seem appealing to his townsfolk is to make it seem scary, it is a nightmare. **Josie Cooper (9)** agreed with this sentiment saying, "It's like a scary movie and Christmas is happy."

To which I completely agree. Even watching it today I watch it during the Halloween season. The Christmas season is for Elf and Home Alone, not a horror movie about Christmas. Josie was among 66% of people who agreed it was more of a Halloween movie.

Now for the other side of the argument, Christmas. The movie does revolve around co-opting Christmas with "Sandy Claws" I'll give it that. There are reindeer, a sled, a red suit, toys, and lots of singing. These are all popular parts of the Christmas season. After all, the movie has Christmas in the title. Santa and his elves are in the movie too as well as the Easter bunny... so perhaps it is an Easter movie? Kidding, however, like most Christmas movies, there is a redemption arc for the "grumpy" or "naughty" protagonist, (Jack Skellington), as he battles Oogie Boogie and saves Santa and Sally after realizing all his wrongdoings. Jack even feels bad that he spread terror as all he wanted was to join in on the Christmas spirit after feeling a bit bored with Halloween.

Jack went into Christmas Town, saw the wonders of Christmas, and wanted to share that with his town. Unfortunately for him, they weren't interested in that magic until he made it seem scary. His townsfolk become the elves creating evil toys, undead reindeer are created, a skinny red suit is stitched for him, so it basically is the

concept of Christmas, but the polar opposite of Christmas at the same time. In the end, Santa spreads Christmas joy to the people and the movie ends in snowfall for Halloween Town which is a very magical experience for them overall. I'd say that follows the guidelines for a typical Christmas movie. **Tobi Marques (12)** very passionately spoke for this movie saying, "It's literally centered around Christmas!"

With that, I leave the decision to you. Is it a Christmas movie or a Halloween movie? Personally, I am going to have to side with the Halloween folk on this one... but the choice is up to you. I wouldn't say this movie is horror-movie scary, but it is definitely Halloween-kids-movie scary. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas, hopefully, you don't receive any evil ducks or snake stockings this year...



Photo Courtesy of disneywiki.com

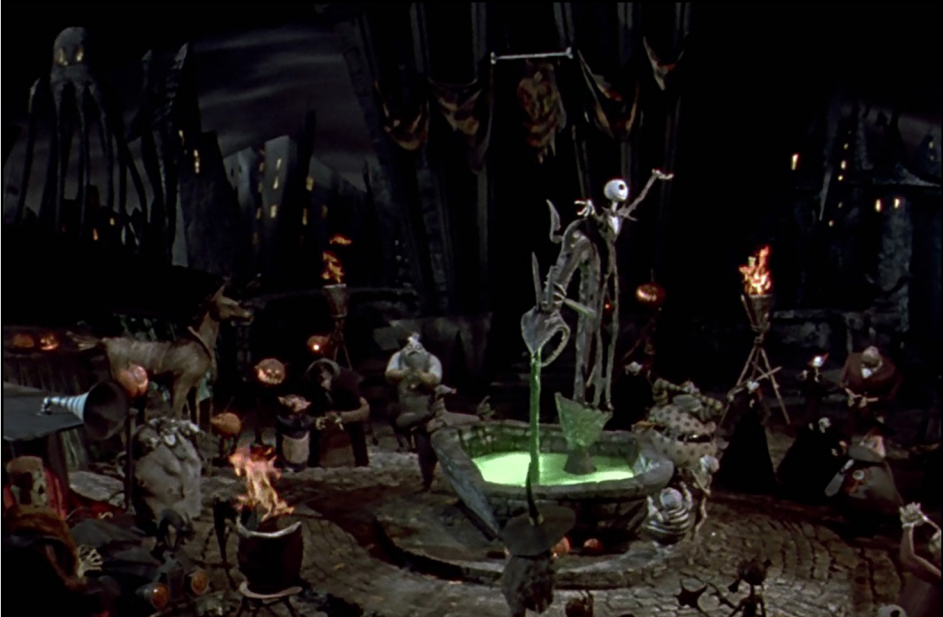


Photo Courtesy of disneywiki.com



Photo Courtesy of disneywiki.com



Photo Courtesy of pinterest.com



Photo Courtesy of disneywiki.com



**Frizzy Melon**  
**SALON**

Hair · Nails · Massage · Skin Care





# Dad Jokes Galore: Scott Badzik

By Grace Nunn  
@gracegnumm | Co-Editor-In-Chief

It is finally the fine month of December. With break and the holidays making this a special time, who better to feature than a special dad: Scott Badzik, father to Samantha Badzik (12). You may know Mr. Badzik from cross country, as he helped to coach the boys’ team the past few years. My gift to you this holiday season is a lovely interview with a lovely father. Happy holidays!

What is your favorite dad joke?  
“Did you get a haircut? No. I got them all cut.”  
This is genius. The joke is all in the wording, short and sweet.  
Are your jokes all original or found online?  
“Most of mine are from my grandfather.”  
It is truly heart-warming to see fathers passing down their legacy to their sons and so on. I am glad to see the legacy continued through Mr. Badzik.  
How do you feel about dad jokes overall?  
“I think they are silly.”



Photo courtesy of Scott Badzik

He was telling the same jokes his whole life. And even though I had been hearing them for over 40 years, we would both be laughing in anticipation of him getting to the punchline.”  
A very nice backstory to your dad-joke-telling. I think dad jokes really are a great way to make people comfortable. I encourage using them as first date starters because they are completely harmless but funny and loosen the other person up a bit.  
Do you find your jokes funny?  
“Not particularly.”  
Well, I am sure other people would say that your jokes make them laugh!  
Any final words?  
“Have the ability to laugh at yourself.”  
A great way to end the article. It is so much easier to get through life if you are able to laugh at your dumb mistakes or mess-ups, people will laugh with you, not at you. I hope everyone has an amazing winter break.



Photo courtesy of Scott Badzik

Don’t we all, that is what makes them great. Dad jokes are not genuinely funny, they are just so stupid or simple that it makes you laugh, you can’t help it!  
Why are they called dad jokes?  
“The father is the only person in the family with a sense of humor.”  
I would like to mention that he added a wink to the end of that. I think this is debatable, but there is a reason they are called dad jokes and not mom jokes.  
Do you think dad jokes are an art form?  
“Definitely! It’s all in the delivery.”  
I’m so glad all dads have agreed on this point. Dad jokes are an art form.  
Why do you tell dad jokes? Is it to annoy people?  
“My grandfather had an amazing self-deprecating sense of humor. His silly jokes made us comfortable around him and always added a little joy to our day. And it worked.”



Photo courtesy of Scott Badzik

National

Lampoon's

Vacation

Movie

Christmas

Review

By Molly McCort  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

For this special Christmas issue, I’m going to be reviewing the movie Christmas Vacation. This movie is about a family who has their extended family over for Christmas, and the main character, Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) wants to make sure that everything at the event is absolutely perfect. However a series of incredibly unfortunate events threatens to destroy Clark’s plans.  
The movie starts off with the Griswold family driving to a field to cut down the “perfect” Christmas tree. The tree ends up being incredibly larger than they had planned, and barely ends up fitting in their living room.  
The extended family then arrives, causing a lot of grief from the original family in the house. The space ends up being very cramped.  
Clark then tries to hang up lights, using dangerous methods, including incorrectly using a ladder and stapling lights to the roof. Eventually, when the lights turn on, it ends up blinding almost everyone in the neighborhood.

Clark then gets unexpectedly locked inside of his attic while the family leaves to go Christmas shopping. In the attic, he rewatches old films from his kids’ childhoods, and relives some old memories. His happiness quickly disappears as his family returns and opens the attic, causing him to fall.  
Clark’s plans to have a “perfect Christmas” are even more compromised when Clark’s cousin, Eddie (Randy Quaid) shows up in his driveway and begins to camp with his family in his trailer.  
On Christmas Eve at dinner, the family quickly discovers there is a live squirrel in the tree, ensuing chaos and nearly ruining the visit even more.  
Throughout the chaos, viewers can clearly see Clark’s mental stability weaken, as he almost completely destroys his own house. If he almost didn’t do it himself, certainly the completely unexpected SWAT team would. The SWAT team only came into play because of Clark’s boss, who had heard what Clark had thought about the boss cutting

bonuses. At the end, you can finally see the family coming together as they stare up at the moon outside of their house. Despite all of the violence, the ending is pretty happy and endearing.  
Overall, I’d give this movie an 8/10. The movie is very funny, entertaining, and very inappropriate. However, I really enjoyed it. The movie has a unique element of family tension that is so real, and because of these amazing actors, I felt like I was watching my own family interact on a stressful holiday. The only criticism I would have to give is that the ending didn’t really make sense to me. Sure, everything was all wrapped up and it had a happy ending, but I didn’t really get the whole “SWAT team” part. I think the movie would’ve done a better job had they substituted a different ending for that one. However, I’d definitely recommend this movie to anyone who loves Christmas movies or Christmas in general, just because it gives a little bit of insight into the chaos of what Christmas with your family is actually like.



Photo courtesy of Wonderwall.com

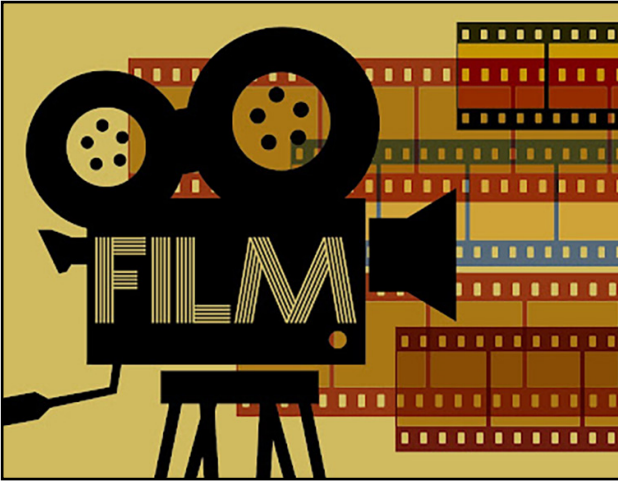


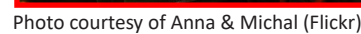
Photo courtesy of Differencebetween.net



Photo courtesy of Filmreject.com



@hicks12\_ | Staff Writer





A Sports Fan's Twelve Days of Christmas

By Sam Neiger

@lovelandroar | Sports Editor

The holidays are upon us once again, and it's the perfect time to reflect on another year well lived on planet Earth, especially in the sports world. 2021 saw the return of fans after the Covid 19 pandemic rocked our world in 2020. In this time of giving, 2021 gave sports fans around the world the greatest gift they could have asked for, a full year of competition that showed us how much we truly missed the game in this new pandemic reality.

In such a time of celebration, I'm going to combine all that we love about the Holiday season by giving thanks for 2021 in honor of sports fans through a rendition of

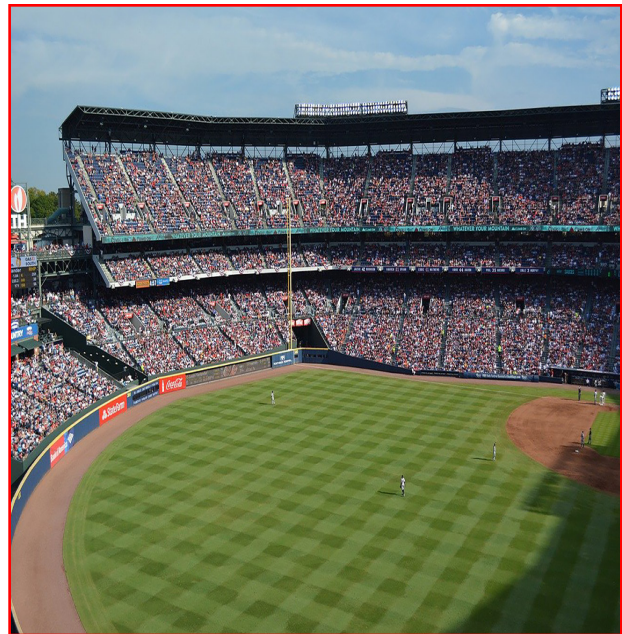


Photo Courtesy of PixaBay.  
“The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

Believe me, I know the song gets quite tedious at the end because of constant repetition, but just for you, the reader, I'm going to skip to the final verse so that you don't get bored with me. You're welcome.

So without further ado, “The Twelve Days of Christmas: Sam's Version”:

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Texas A&M gave to me: A *12th Man* performance against Bama. Zach Calzada was able to channel his inner Johnny Manziel on October ninth to lead his Aggies to an unbelievable upset against powerhouse Alabama. Jimbo Fisher became the first former assistant of Nick Saban to defeat him, and the nation rejoiced to see Saban go down.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Georgia defense gave to me: the best *11-man unit* of all time. If the Bulldogs



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.



Photo Courtesy of Buzzfeed.com.  
Tom Brady lines up for the snap in Tampa Bay. He won the Super Bowl in 2 seperate cities.  
topple the college football playoff, there's no doubt that this defense will be considered one of the best ever.

On the tenth day of Christmas, the Bengals gave to me: A chance at a *10-win season*. Under Joe Burrow, Cincinnati football has risen to new heights.

On the ninth day of Christmas, The NFL on CBS gave to me: *Number 9* calling a full slate of games. Tony Romo is on pace to be an all-time great announcer, and has found his place in the sport after hanging up his number 9 jersey.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the College Football Playoff Committee gave to me: A playoff expanded to *8 teams*. Just kidding, some of the best teams in the country are still left out of a chance to compete for a national title, but I guess I can't get everything on my wishlist.

On the seventh day of Christmas, Manchester United gave to me: A new home for *number 7*. Cristiano Ronaldo hung up his cleats at Juventus and left Italy for the bright lights of the British Premier League.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the NHL gave to me: A season where the *original 6* were just meh.

On the fifth day of Christmas, the MLS gave to me: A *fifth major sports league* in America. It's plain to see nowadays that soccer in the United States continues to grow exponentially in popularity year after year, and anyone not taking advantage of this world-class soccer league right in our backyard is missing out...

A *Final 4* with fans that didn't disappoint,  
A *Big 3* in Brooklyn,



Photo Courtesy of Wkimedia commons.  
A Super Bowl ring in *two cities* for Tom Brady,

And *everyone* is happy that the Astros lost the World Series.



Photo Courtesy of Flickr.

