

Helping the Grinch rob Okemos of its timely Cheer

Cameron Muzzall
Staff Reporter

We are coming up on the 51st anniversary of one of the greatest heists ever committed. Thousands of dollars in contraband were taken all in one night.

I am of course talking about the infamous Grinch, a man who can be best described with three words: “Stink. Stank. Stunk.”

Say what you will about the wayward fellow, but you must admit: The Grinch’s crimes were undoubtedly impressive.

Carrying nothing but his wit and his hound, he was able to rob an entire town of their Christmas decorations in a single night. The only thing he didn’t steal that night was their boundless holiday spirit.

These last few weeks have been a journey I thought I would never take. It all started as a look into the crimes the Grinch committed.

My question is one that has been yelled into the void countless times, and until today has remained unanswered: How many people would you need to commit them again? My odyssey ended in the back of a police cruiser. I began my journey by delving into the crimes the Grinch committed. Looking at the original 1966 movie

you can see there are very few houses, but many decorations. So while the Grinch was able to attain lots of decorations, he was only able to commit his dubious deeds due to the bucolic nature of Who-Ville.

I knew one thing going into this: it would be impossible for one person to rob an entire town of its Christmas decorations by himself. I needed a team. Sadly I am not familiar with a group of Christmas crooks, so I looked to my classmates instead. I’m sure if one spent more time planning a heist similar to that of my own, they would be able to find much better bandits. I ended up getting the help of six friends: Carter Haugen (11), Jack Hertefeld (10), Lucy Potter (12), Luis Borrero (12) and two others who will remain anonymous.

Now we had to find a time and a place.

I decided to rob my own house, due to the fact that I did not want to serve prison time. After finding a night that would not conflict with any of my swindlers schedules’ (a challenge in its own), the planning was complete. To rob a house of its Christmas decorations, the house first needs one thing: Christmas decorations.

To keep this as scientific as possible, I decided to decorate my home in moderation.

The robbing took place on a cold

December night; with shaky breaths my team assembled. They knew the risks going into it, but they did not hesitate, they did not falter. They ransacked the place. The robbery was a success with no ornaments broken and no police called. In just under 13 minutes they were able to deprive my house completely of holiday cheer. So if a team of five were able to rob one house in 13 minutes, it would take roughly 127 people who did not stop robbing for all 15 hours of Christmas Eve night to commit the Grinch’s crimes in Okemos.

As you may have noticed, I was never arrested during my criminal escapades. I was one of the lucky few.

To illustrate what can happen if you decide to rob a house of its Christmas decorations I emailed the head of the Meridian Police Department and asked him if I could be photographed in the back of a police cruiser. He said yes.

The real reason I delved (back) into the field of criminals and felons was to share with you, the people of Okemos, how and when the heist can be committed.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Mr. Owl and his tootsie pop, and Jamie Hyneman/Adam Savage and their myths for the limitless inspiration.

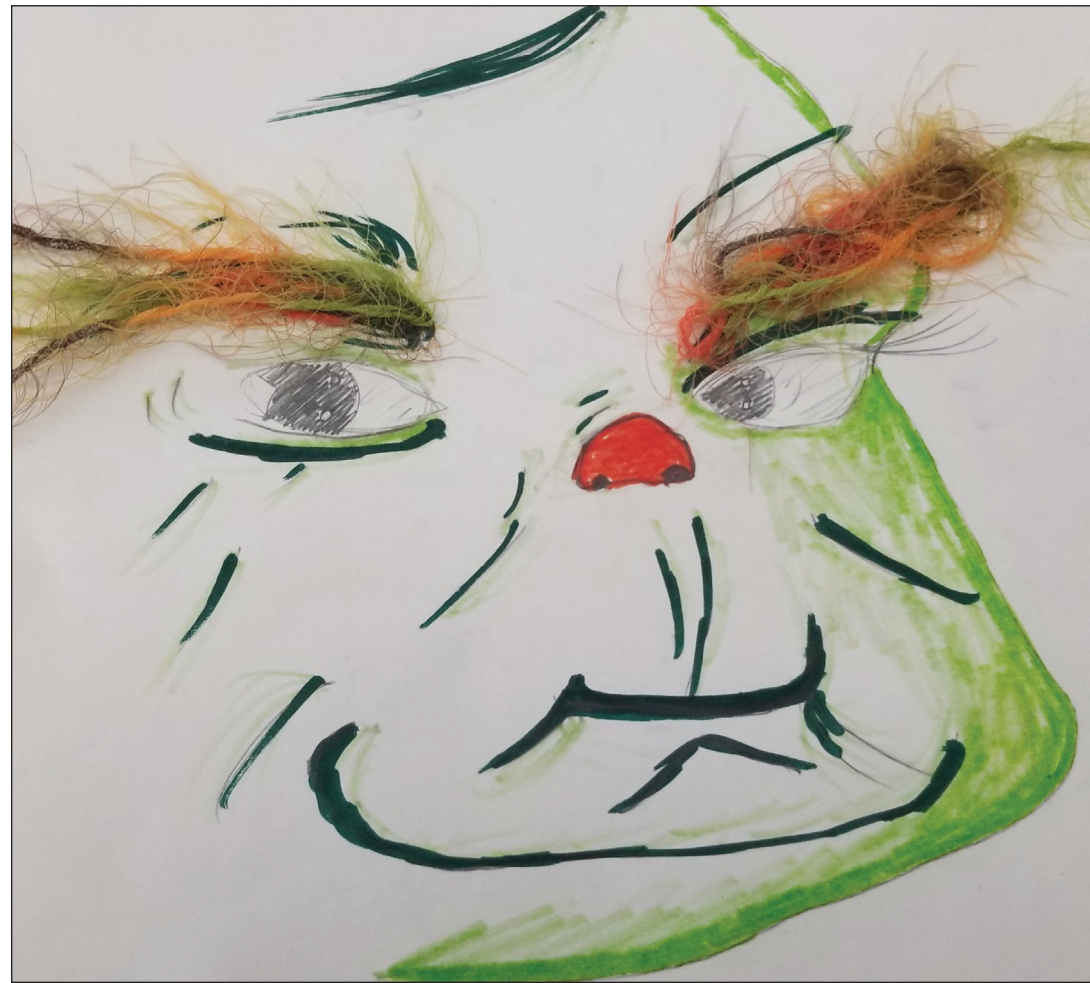


Illustration by Bernice Gajda

Where’s Santa Claus? Holiday mystery solved

Luis Borrero
Editor-in-Chief



Illustration by Luis Borrero and Benjamin Hopper

A question asked by generations among generations throughout time—Where is Santa Claus?

There is only one answer to the universal mystery that has maliciously screwed with the minds of children for far too long: The truth? A network of santas run the show.

Modern Kris Kringle died with the birth of telecommunication and mechanization; I’m referring to of course, your Iphone.

Smart technology began its booming when Santa was at his peak influence, adding limitations to Santa’s once openly liberated realm. The immediate accessibility of cameras, recorders and widespread media outlets restricted Claus’s clout in the free world, as the masses made it their goal to catch a documented glimpse of our fictional hero.

Soon enough, scads and scads of kids demanded that Santa and his elves bring them these little devil devices, stripping the attention and satisfaction away from Santa Claus and—against his best wishes—he had little choice but to briefly retreat from the public eye. Thus, a little magic is lost.

Smart technology only continued to perform in the global market of industrial science, and Santa, through his own benevolence, unleashed his very own team who is suspected to have been passed down the task to shed magic on our sorry world.

Given identities and positions which play respective roles in society, the team is composed of three distinct figures: Steven K. Bannon, Sulaiman Abdul Aziz Al Rajhi and Matt Mathias Guthrie, serving as Santa’s inheritors.

The Santasticulars:

STEVEN K. BANNON - A special member of the team, before Bannon was in cahoots with demons, he was actually a close companion of Santa’s and a momentous figure who would fill in for Kringle if he had such desire to hang up his reins. Bannon not only fits the build of Clause—the belly, the dream-like eyes and wispy, angelic hair—but he also suits various key components of the character: he works surprisingly well with children, is an exceptional example of imaginative and, above all, is nuttier than Santa’s top tier fruitcake. Bannon—for reasons unknown—left Santa’s magical ministry in search of a scene more fitting to his desire to relieve the world of woe and dysphoria. Though instead, he joined Breitbart. Bannon now lives his life with no reprise of enchantment, damning jauntiness a bewitchment—a mournful coal receiver developed by his own will.

MATT GUTHRIE - Yes, the burly man himself was handpicked by Santa Claus to carry on the critical duties of Christmas. Off season, Matt spends his time at Okemos High School as an honorable narc, preserving and protecting the lives of the students who grace these hallways. Have you ever strolled through the downstairs office halls and felt a sense of compassion and undying fidelity strike you where you stride? Well that feeling is Matt, and that means he’s got his eye on you, carefully deciding your placement on the nice or naughty list. Guthrie has the build, the beard and the heart required for a strenuous job like so, and the extensive work he puts into meaningful student relationship never slips unnoticed. The burly man—the angel that he is—gifted us with his arrival when the school needed him most. Matt continuously operates the halls and ensures a quality environment in a mannerism as legendary as Santa himself, and we thank him for forcing the Christmas spirit into our delapidated hearts.

When asked about the position, Guthrie remained modest. But that comes as no surprise.

“Santa did not tell me I was his successor,” Guthrie said. You gosh darn charm, Guthrie.

SULAIMAN ABDUL AZIZ AL RAJHI - The Saudi Arabian businessman and billionaire philanthropist also shares ties with the great St. Nick. The best looking Santa-ite, Al Rajhi radiates in his jolly mannerisms profoundly. He holds position number six of Business Insider’s 20 most generous people in the world, donating an immense \$16 billion to various charities, proving his unadulterated heart, a key element to a benevolent character. Al Rajhi has spread his seed 23 fold—that’s 21 more children than the fertility rate in Saudi Arabia per maternal woman, according to the CIA world factbook, meaning he really likes kids! Furthermore, of the trio, he is the only successor who bears a beautifully flowing silver beard. Considering Al Rajhi’s massive fortune, he has been known to stay financially modest in his affairs, a trait fitting for such a convivial character. It’s no surprise that Al Rajhi was called upon to bring joy to the world, Suleiman translates to “man of peace” in Arabic, rightfully entrusting him the duty to inch about peace through good spirit. And sure, there *may* have been some under-the-carpet funding to Al Qaeda, but today our focus is festivity. And for that, we can thank Sulaiman Abdul Aziz Al Rajhi, Santa’s especially opulent little helper.

Now you’re aware of Santa’s helpers, but you see, Santa isn’t simply dead and gone—oh no, he’s *very* much well and alive, watching each and every one of his lost, blinded followers through the lenses of their pockets, spinning the “jolly” threads of Christmas behind the scenes in his either wicked or well-mannered fashion, but whether he acts in good conscience is up in the to decide really, but stay vigilant: it’s no coincidence that “Santa” rings to a similar tone as Satan... right?

The journey to the creation of a true Chistmas Tale

We asked staff reporter Anna Alegi to review her top Holiday movies, in her trademark irreverent style, she went in a different direction. True genius never follows guidelines.

Anna Alegi
Staff Reporter

In light of recent scandals, it would be too difficult to write a story about movies that don’t involve a pedophile or five, so I provide you a simple tutorial to make your holiday season amazing with your own Christmas movie.

Writing a movie about Christmas can be hard because it’s difficult to grasp the concept of how a tree could grow.

The first thing I have to do is help you understand how something so unique and amazing could happen!

First, you will notice a seed. Usually the seed will be in the shape of a star, just like the one in that story about Christmas. It’s important that you acquire this seed before Easter, otherwise you won’t be able to hatch your tree in time.

Global warming provides the heat for the next step. Preheat your oven to 420 degrees and make sure this

takes place before the 4th of July, or else you won’t be able to harness the true power of Christmas in your tree, American patriotism. Now you should be able to feel the bliss of an Americanized tree within moments of entering the oven and, yes, in order for the tree to grow correctly, you must step into the oven with the seed. In some cases, a sauna at the correct temperature will suffice.

A UV flashlight will be helpful next, as UV stands for Unique Sweet, and that is exactly the kind of sweet sounds you’re going to need in your Christmas carols if you want this bad boy tree to grow! Simply insert a few Mariah Carey CDs into the Easy-Bake Oven and you will have completed a part of the process. Next, you must find any information about Mariah Carey’s real birth year and yes, to do this, you must retrieve her birth certificate from the Christmas paradise she was born in.

Now, the hardest part of the tree-growing-process is attaining Michael Buble’s voice. The only way to complete the first cycle is to find the cave Michael Buble hides in all year when

Christmas music isn’t appropriate. Russia is a likely location, but my personal belief is that he lives inside a maple tree in Canada. Of course, finding such a talent can be difficult, but if you can acquire a few items, he can easily be drawn out. Hopefully, you can capture him and put him in the tree area.

The first item you will need is quite obvious, a hockey stick, but the composition is more diverse than most could ever imagine.

In this order, please dip the stick in pure maple syrup then accompany the freshly dipped maple stick with a cup of Tim Horton’s coffee. The forces of attraction in this recipe are scientifically proven to charm, so if you don’t screw up the steps, Michael Buble will appear. A rather unknown fact about our northern neighbor Michael Buble is that his spine is actually made of hockey pucks. This was confirmed by a source that requests to stay anonymous.

As promised, the MB step is the hardest, but providing your tree a proper diet can also be difficult, as the country is in drought right now.

Of course, I have devised a loophole in our food shortage that also happens to be vegan! (you’re welcome liberals!). Simply get into your mid sized to large sized SUV (Subaru Forester or larger) or truck (All but Nissans and Honda Ridgelines, come on) and start cruising down some back roads until you see any roadkill on the street. Package up your new friend and place gently into the carrying area of your vehicle then speed off into the sunset. How Romantic and festive!

You will notice upon your return to the secure tree growing location that all of your key ingredients have vanished. Don’t fret, this is simply because they have been swept away to complete the final festivities for Christmas which involves a deep immersion in the Rent soundtrack and 12-inch lift on the 185 horsepower Pontiac Aztek that just showed up next to the light-up reindeer santa placed in your yard without consent last year.

If these steps have been followed to the liking of the man who dispenses Christmas trees, you will receive your fresh pine on Black Friday, and you

can get started on the movie. Obviously, the tree requires airbags in the vehicle at all times, but in the words of Bruce Jenner, “You must use seatbelts in conjunction with airbags for maximum effectiveness.”

Time to get to work on the DIRTY stuff, get excited!

Filming location can be difficult, and with a tight budget of \$19.95 plus shipping and handling, you may not be able to afford the best selection of actors to fit your film. To remedy this, I suggest you head on over to your local Walmart and wander on over to the hunting section where the camo clothing is always on sale and trade with the people in the general area for their acting skills by offering them the roadkill you have from earlier. Most people from Michigan know that it’s hard to resist a fresh roadkill, so they will almost certainly comply. If they don’t say yes, you offer to buy them a Realtree camo wedding dress, and that should certainly get their juices flowing, prompting them to agree to be in your film.

Getting your holiday masterpiece on Blu-Ray or DVD can be a real

challenge, so I recommend carving the main scenes into stone, like the Rosetta Stone, which is on sale as of right now for a very low price, link in bio.

Adding fragrance to the box is a prime way to entice potential buyers to your product.

To do this, stop over at Yankee Candle and bring with you a handy dandy ice cream scooper and a few tupperwares and begin scooping all the Christmas fragrances you can think of. If you can resist the temptation to eat your delectable mixture, you can then season all of your DVD copies with it, and people will surely buy them by the thousands. You know what those crazy people say, mass production and consumerism is the blood of capitalism!

This simple recipe has the potential to TRANSFORM your family holiday dynamic by bringing everyone together without the harmful side effects of a Nutri Bullet blender which can only transform your figure, not your marriage.

Thank you for your passion and pleasure, I always appreciate it.