



David Clasen/DN

## Santa brings good cheer to Lincoln

BY KRISTEN ELIAS

He may be just a fat, jolly old man who delivers gifts and visits with children at the mall, but the SouthPointe Pavilions Santa Claus takes his job very seriously.

*"To me, Santa Claus is a jolly, old guy with a heart of gold, and a person that kids of all ages look up to."*

**Santa Claus**

wraps until the season ends.

The SouthPointe Santa will begin his second holiday season at the mall on Wednesday with a special tree-lighting ceremony at 5:45 p.m. Santa will ride up in a

He said he sees his role as Santa as a great opportunity.

"To me, Santa Claus is a jolly, old guy with a heart of gold, and a person that kids of all ages look up to," he said. "There's a lot of negativity floating around in the world, and he's the gentleman that can make it positive."

To retain a bit of the mystery surrounding the holiday season, Santa asked to keep his true identity under



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**ABOVE:** Santa and his elf, Edith Keon, try to get Shayla Lee, 3, and Jesse Lee, 5, to smile for the camera Sunday at Gateway Mall.

**TOP:** Santa Claus greets Nathan Olsen, 5, Nicholas Olsen, 4, John Olsen and Jacob Olsen, 2, at Gateway Mall Sunday afternoon. Santa will be at the mall until Christmas.

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## Demystifying Santa equals bad memories

■ For many children, finding out about St. Nick can be painful.

BY JILL CONNER

There were no more half-eaten cookies and milk on the kitchen table. Being "naughty or nice," wasn't a factor and staying up all night had lost its excitement.

The year many children found out their parents had slightly lied to them about Santa Claus stands clear in their minds.

"I was crushed," said Kim Kunz, a sophomore secondary education major. "Some friends told me and I was like, 'Uh huh! First the Easter Bunny, now Santa?'" said Kunz.

For many students, the knowledge that Santa Claus was a myth was acquired with age.

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