



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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Here Come the Holidays

Savanna Foor

It seems like just yesterday that we were laying by the pool, catching the sun's summer rays; however, there are two major signs that point to the fast approach of the winter holidays.

The first sign that this new season is approaching occurred yesterday, November 24th, when the Selinsgrove downtown shopping district received its annual decorating by the high school National Honor Society.

Downtown decorating started early Monday morning (9am) and ran until around noon. National Honor Society Vice President, Anne Coyne noted the unseasonably warm temperature yesterday; however, it didn't damper any spirits. "Even though it was warm, putting up the decorations really made me excited for the holidays!"

Additionally, the highly anticipated, Tree Lighting Ceremony, will be held on tonight, November 25th, at 6:30 p.m. in the downtown commons across from the public library.

Market Street manager, Mary Bannon, explains: "Fourth graders will be performing Christmas carols and Jay Mueller's family will also be performing. It is a sweet and magical night." The event is open to the public and people are encouraged to come and celebrate this festive night with the town!



Photo by Anne Coyne

National Honor Society President Catherine Lucchi and Senior Jenna Clark help to decorate the outside of the Kind Café in Selinsgrove during the Downtown Decorating event.

Angel Tree Up and Ready for You

Markie Reiland

The Selinsgrove Area High School Student Council's annual "Angel Tree" event, in which students and/or faculty buy gifts for less fortunate members of the community is currently underway.

Angel-shaped ornaments are strung upon the tree with the age, gender, clothing size, and gift preference of the child receiving the donation. Students and faculty are encouraged to take an angel and purchase the gift listed, dropping it off in the donation box for distribution.

Student Council members worked on decorations for the tree during

their lunch in preparation for this event. When asked why she felt the need to take part in making the tree, freshman Violet Ivankina stated, "I felt bad for people who can't afford simple items such as clothes. It feels good to give to other people. We're helping to make the community a better place."

Kirsten Scholl, another freshman, expressed her opinions about the tree: "something needed to be done to help the kids get Christmas presents. We're getting all kinds of presents and they aren't getting any," she said.

Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

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The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on Tuesday, January 6, 2014 in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

Several Seals Say, “Konnichiwa!”

Anne Coyne

Six students and two chaperones from Selinsgrove Area High School recently returned from Japan, where the students stayed with host families, attended Senshu High School, toured attractions in Tokyo, and visited Kamakura.



Photo by Anne Coyne

Our student ambassadors strike a Japanese pose!

The trip lasted from November 10th to the 17th and included Seniors Anne Coyne, Rachel Daku, Johanna Kantz, Desha Reinfeld, Michael Wolever and Sophomore Paige Hepner. The Selinsgrove faculty was represented by Mrs. Traci Hepner and Mrs. Kerry Moser.

Although study abroad programs have become commonplace at colleges, exchange programs like Selinsgrove's are rare for small high schools. The opportunity was not wasted on the group from Selinsgrove. Senior Desha Reinfeld gushed, “Japan was the best experience I've ever had. I loved meeting new people and making friends.”

Selinsgrove High School and Senshu High School have partnered for several years on the exchange program, and many students have created lifelong friendships. Sophomore Paige Hepner was excited to visit Tokyo because it would afford her the opportunity to reconnect with a student she had hosted. “It was really exciting to make new friends but also great to reunite with old ones,” Paige said of the experience.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the visit to Kamakura, a coast town full of history and religious sites. A giant Buddha, many shrines, and a beautiful view of the ocean all made the trip to Kamakura a rich cultural experience for

the students. Senior Rachel Daku remarked, “The great culture of Kamakura inspired me to travel and experience as many different cultures as possible.”

However, the students found that the most memorable parts of the trip were not the cultural experiences. Seniors Anne Coyne and Michael Wolever agreed that the friendships formed between Selinsgrove and Senshu students truly made the trip amazing. Mrs. Tracy Hepner, a chaperone, said, “The cultural experiences were outstanding, but the people made it memorable.”

Students bonded with their hosts by going out for ramen, shopping in trendy sections of Tokyo, trying new foods, and discussing dating and life. As junior Johanna Kantz noted, “I'm so thankful I was able to go on this trip and everybody was amazing.”



Photo by Anne Coyne

Mrs. Moser and Mrs. Hepner, with a faculty member from Senshu (affectionately known as Mr. Perfect by the Seals girls), in Kamakura.

The exchange program between Senshu and Selinsgrove was an opportunity not only for fun, but also for cultural understanding and goodwill. Although many of the Selinsgrove students were worried about the drastic cultural differences, they conducted themselves well and formed lasting bonds with Senshu students.

Mrs. Kerry Moser, a chaperone, said that she thought “the Senshu High School students were great, but I'm also really proud of the Selinsgrove students.”



The whole gang at a Japanese Tea Ceremony in tradition outfits known as kimonos.

Our Town Comes to Our School's Stage

Dan Napsha

The Selinsgrove Drama Department brought small town life onto the stage this year with a production of Thornton Wilder's 1938 play, *Our Town*.

Set between 1901 and 1913, the play is split into three acts-- Daily Life, Love and Marriage, and Death and Dying, with each act having a different Stage Manager who provided commentary to the story. The play chronicles the story of Emily Webb and George Gibbs as they fall in love, get married, and struggle with death.



Emily Webb (senior Gigi Troppe) marrying George Gibbs (sophomore Will Lapetina) in Selinsgrove's production of *Our Town*.

Senior Gigi Troppe did an outstanding job bringing emotion to the stage while playing the female lead, Emily Webb. Sophomore William Lapetina performed opposite of Troppe as George Gibbs, making his debut on Selinsgrove's stage. William described the theater experience as "fantastic," even though he had his ups and downs during rehearsal since he is new to acting.

Junior Zach Lentz and senior Brooke McEvoy played Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs, George's parents. Junior Logan Horst and sophomore Lexi Hoffman portrayed the parents of Emily Webb. When Lexi was asked to reflect on her cast mates, she said, "Being a part of a team that works so closely together is a great experience." The scenes with these four actors were said to be some of the best in the play.

Per the playwright's request, the play was performed with minimal scenery and no props so that the audience could use their imagination. As a result, everyone used hand motions. The pantomiming from Brooke McEvoy and Lexi Hoffman were especially impressive.

The role of the Stage Manager was split between three actors, sophomore Jonah Roth for Act 1 and seniors Jacob Hillbolt and Jessica Eyster for Acts 2 and 3, respectively. Despite the number of lines and their complexity, they delivered them without a stutter.

A terrific ensemble complemented the main characters, with the performances by sophomore Raechel Council and junior Cameron Colyer being particularly good. Both roles provided comedic relief in what otherwise could have been a dry play.

From the cast standpoint, the general consensus was that the end result was worth all the practices and hard work. As the Act 1 Stage Manager Jonah Roth put it, "the practices were exhausting but I got to hang out with my friends and make new ones." Kudos to everyone involved for putting on a splendid production!

FFA Members Return from Louisville

By: Nathan Moyer

From October 29th to November 1st, the Selinsgrove FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter attended the 87th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Juniors Kevin Dressler, Kyle Sassaman, and Erin Beaver, along with Sophomores Michael Huggins, Alyssa Landis, and Kayla Shaffer were the six students that travelled with Agricultural Advisor, Mrs. Valerie Fry, to the convention.

The six students spent four days in Louisville to sightsee, shop, learn, and earn awards relating to FFA. The first night at convention was spent at the Opening Session with guest speaker Nick Vujicic, a motivational speaker who has Tetra-Amelia Syndrome (a rare disorder characterized by the absence of arms and legs). Alyssa Landis said, "He was amazing. He's the best speaker I've ever heard."

The second day was spent at the career show where students explored different opportunities in the agriculture world. The students also attended workshops during this time. They could not resist the FFA shopping mall where they purchased the latest FFA apparel.

The evening ended with the second session where the Selinsgrove Chapter earned the Three Star National Chapter Award (an award that is earned by chapters receiving a gold rating by their state FFA associations).

The third day consisted of a tour of the University of Kentucky and their farms. It ended with dinner at Mark's Feed Store (a popular BBQ-style restaurant in Kentucky). The next day the students made their way back home.

Overall, National Convention was a success for Selinsgrove and the students enjoyed themselves. Junior Kevin Dressler said, "The best thing at convention by far was when I met Orion Samuelson (American broadcaster,



Our team with the 3 Star National Chapter Award

most widely known for hosting the U.S. Farm Report). I actually shook his hand and held a conversation with him!"

Advisor Mrs. Fry said, "Seeing 60,000 blue and gold jackets in one place is enough to inspire anyone!" National Convention had an all-around positive impact on thousands of individuals including the members from the Selinsgrove Chapter.

Thanksgiving...More than Just a Meal

Anne Coyne

This Thursday, Americans come together to celebrate the Thanksgiving of 1621, a harvest celebration which took place between pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe. Although the basic facts are well known, many aspects of the story have been altered in our collective understanding of the day.

In fact, the 1621 gathering may not have been the first harvest celebration between Native Americans and settlers. Incidents like the meal of 1621, have been recorded almost a full century earlier than the Thanksgiving we recognize.

Many of the dishes at the Plymouth Rock Thanksgiving would be unrecognizable to Americans today. It is unclear whether or not turkey was served, but four deer brought by the Wampanoag were consumed, in addition to lobster, seal, and swan.



merriment and bounty present at the 1621 Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving seems like the most American holiday (aside from the 4th of July, of course), but it wasn't celebrated widely or in an organized fashion until the mid-1600s. Abraham Lincoln designated that Thanksgiving be held on the last Thursday of November in an effort to bring the nation together in healing (due to the Civil War) and thanks.

Until then, Thanksgiving had been sporadically celebrated. Each state celebrated it at a different time, and Thanksgiving celebrations in the South were exceedingly rare. Gradually, Thanksgiving became a favorite American holiday, gradually losing its religious connotations as it became more of a celebration of family and love.

While Thanksgiving is a beautiful holiday, it is important to note that it is tinged with blood. The relationship between the Wampanoag tribe and the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock is one of the only peaceful relationships between settlers and Native Tribal Americans.

Many modern Americans use Thanksgiving as a way to gloss over the tremendous bloodshed and hurt suffered by the Native Tribal Americans, as if a single meal can erase a genocide. Thanksgiving has been designated a day of mourning by Native Tribal American activists, a day to mark the horror inflicted upon Native Tribal Americans and a call for recognition.

So as you sit down to eat your pumpkin pie, contemplate the complexity of the holiday. Yes, it's a day celebrating the beauty of friendship and nature, but it also masks a great wrong. Be thankful as well as thoughtful this Thanksgiving.



Pies, cakes, and pastries were absent from the 1621 Thanksgiving because the pilgrims' supply of sugar had been depleted. Neither the pilgrims nor the Wampanoag seemed to mind about the lack of desserts, though. Multiple accounts note the

National Honor Society's Penny War Results

1st Place: Mrs. W-Z and Switzer—\$171.25

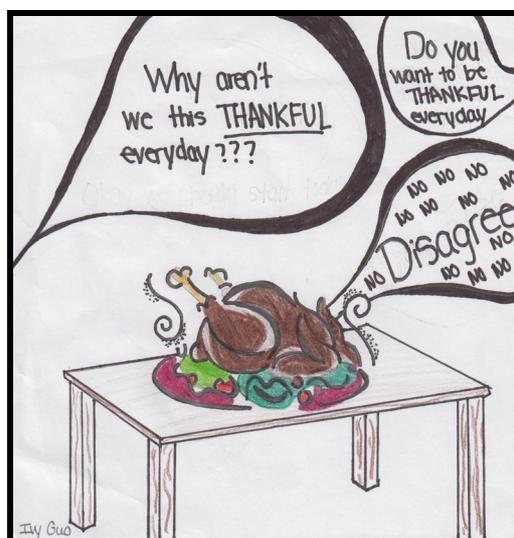
2nd Place: Mr. Tressler—\$91.13

3rd Place: Mrs. Doak—\$39.46

4th Place: Mrs. Burns—\$27.27

5th Place: Mrs. Scruggs—\$26.10

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of this fundraiser!



SPORTS

Seals Field Hockey Finishes with Gold

Angelo Martin

The Selinsgrove Seals Field Hockey team was 21 seconds away from their season being over in the District IV semi-finals.

In a game against Line Mountain, the Eagles were better than the Seals for 59 minutes and 39 seconds. A loss would have meant no state playoff appearance and an end to the Seals district title streak. But most importantly, it would have capped an embarrassing finish to a season marked with very high expectations.

Fortunately, the Seals were saved by the heroics of senior forward Emily Klinger. With 21 seconds left, Klinger tapped in the game-tying goal to send Selinsgrove to overtime. In overtime, senior back Megan Wetzel sent a laser shot from the top of the circle to grant the Seals a 2-1 victory over the Line Mountain Eagles. Selinsgrove was headed to the District IV title game once again.

While the Seals were expecting to face arch-rival Lewisburg in that game, they ended up facing a streaky Bloomsburg team known for its suffocating defense. But the Lady Panthers were no match for the Seals. Selinsgrove was led by the brilliant effort of junior star forward Lexi Horst. Scoring a hat trick, Horst helped the Seals clinch their 10th consecutive District IV title in a 3-0 win over Bloomsburg.

With another piece of hardware under her belt, Coach Keiser's team was not quite done yet. Selinsgrove moved on to the first round of the PIAA AA State Playoffs where it took on a talented Twin Valley Team.

In that game, forwards Lexi Horst and Brooke Zeiders knocked in two early goals to make it 2-0. Twin Valley roared back and ended up sending the game into overtime at 2-2. In overtime, junior mid Tesa Hoffman sent a rocket into the circle where it was tapped in by none other than Emily Klinger.

"When I sent that pass into the circle, I had all the confidence in the world that one of our forwards would tap it in. Our forwards are so good at tipping, so I knew if I placed the ball in the right spot, we would get the goal. Emily did a great job of getting in position, and we scored," said junior Tesa Hoffman.

After knocking off Twin Valley, Selinsgrove moved on to the state quarterfinals against perennial power Crestwood. The Seals gave the Comets everything they had, but unfortunately it wasn't enough. Selinsgrove's season ended in a 3-2 heartbreaking loss.

While the Seals will return standout juniors Lexi Horst and Tesa Hoffman next year, Selinsgrove will miss a very memorable senior class. Forwards Emily Klinger and Brooke Zeiders will continue their field hockey careers in college. Klinger plans to take her talents to Penn State while Zeiders will be playing at Shippensburg. Passionate senior captain Nora Aucker also plans to continue her field hockey career but remains undecided as to where she will end up. Fellow senior captain Megan

Wetzel plans to attend college next fall and senior standout goalie, Courtney McCartney will be attending Arizona State University on a track and field scholarship.



Photo by Michael Wendt

Senior Brooke Zeiders takes a shot against Crestwood

"The whole team will miss this senior class. Whether it's Emily's strong work ethic, Megan's hustle, or Nora's leadership, we will definitely be at a loss heading into next year. While they leave for college, their legacy will still live on and will have a big influence on next year's team," noted Hoffman.

Although the Seals were disappointed with the finish of their season, the winning tradition of Selinsgrove field hockey has continued. Doing what no other program in the high school has ever done before, the Seals 10th straight District title serves as a proud accomplishment for Coach Keiser's team.

Football Finishes Fantastic Season

David Klinger

Selinsgrove football wrapped up their season this past Friday after suffering a heartbreaking defeat to Somerset in the first round of the PIAA AAA state playoffs 42-14. The Seals finished their season 9-4.

The Seals ended their regular season with a loss to Southern Columbia 28-21, which taught them lessons in preparation for their playoff run. A last 2

-minute drive engineered by freshman Logan Leiby led the team down to the red zone, giving them a chance to send the game into overtime. Unfortunately, Leiby was picked off by the Tigers defense in the final seconds of the game giving Southern Columbia a 28-21 victory.

Story continued on page 6.

Football Finishes Fantastic Season continued

After the loss to Southern Columbia, the Seals prepared to rebound in a first round of the District IV playoffs against the Shikellamy Braves. Quarterback Logan Leiby led the team to an astounding victory 31-17, having a touchdown run himself.

After defeating the Braves, the Seals looked to achieve gold in the District IV AAA championship. It would be a rather difficult feat, having to face the 11-0 Jersey Shore Bulldogs.

The Seals arrived in Jersey Shore to play. It was a struggling defensive battle between the two teams for the entire game. The Seals came up with a huge defensive stop in the third quarter that ended up saving the game. The Bulldogs brought the ball down within inches of the end zone, but were unable to score and turned the ball over on downs at the half yard line.

Senior Isaiah Rapp had a huge game on defense with two interceptions. Junior Juvon Batts ended the stalemate when he broke off a 68 yard run, bringing the Seals down to the Jersey Shore red zone. Senior Zach Adams was then able to punch it in from the 7-yard line to give Selinsgrove a 6-2 lead with 10 minutes left. Selinsgrove was able to hold on from there to win 6-2.



Photo by Tari Rapp

The Seals celebrate the District IV championship postgame

The Seals would have to face the Somerset Golden Eagles at the Richland Rams stadium in their first round state playoff game. After a three hour drive to Richland, the Seals stepped onto the field and sprung out of the gates with a touchdown run by Juvon Batts to take a 7-0 early lead in the first quarter.

Leiby was replaced at quarterback by Isaiah Rapp after suffering a concussion, and Rapp tried his heart out one last time as quarterback for the Seals, throwing his last touchdown pass to Adams late in the first half. Unfortunately, the effort by Rapp and the Seals wasn't enough. After being down 7-0 to start the game, Somerset scored 27 unanswered points and won 42-14.

"It was an amazing year, despite all the ups and downs. I had a lot of fun playing with these guys the last three years and I'm really gonna miss it," said senior leader Isaiah Rapp.

While Selinsgrove certainly wished to advance in the state playoffs, their loss didn't take away from the great accomplishments they had. The Seals were able to win three games more than they did last year, and took home a District IV AAA championship for the first time since 2012.

Wrestling Looking to Pin the Competition

By Angelo Martin

With several key wrestlers returning and a strong group of underclassmen in the wing, Selinsgrove wrestling head coach Seth Martin is excited for what should be a good season for the Seals.

Selinsgrove will be led this year by senior Nathan Bingaman and junior Andrew Boob. Last year, Boob and Bingaman were 2nd and 3rd on the team in pins with 13 and 11 respectively. Oddly enough, they were also 2nd and 3rd on the team in wins. Boob finished the year with 25 wins and earned a spot at the PIAA state competition after going 4-1 at regionals and taking 3rd place. Bingaman had 24 wins, and won his first district title as well.

"The difference between Boob and Bingaman and everybody else is that they believe they can beat anyone. Every time they step on the mat, they believe that they have a good shot at winning," said head coach Seth Martin.

Selinsgrove will also have a strong group of underclassmen returning as well. Sophomores Bryce Reichenbach, Garrett Campbell, and Gabe Ludwig will all be looked upon to make big contributions on the varsity team this year. As a freshman, Ludwig was 5th on the team in takedowns and Reichenbach was first on the team in reversals.

"It's important to have our underclassman be able to win spots on varsity and contribute as 10th graders. The experience they have as sophomores helps sets

them up for their junior and senior seasons," said Martin.

The Seals first dual match of the season will be held at Milton on December 9th. Until then, Selinsgrove will continue to work hard and make improvements before they hold their first match. Head coach Seth Martin was quick to recognize senior Brent Benfer for his hard work and improvement from last year.

"Benfer has made leaps and bounds from last year in terms of his improvement. I'm really excited what he can do this season. While the team overall has made a lot of improvement, Benfer has stood out the most," said Martin.

With plenty of talent, the Seals have all the pieces in place for an exciting season.



Photo by Laura Long

Junior Andrew Boob grabbles with his opponent at last year's Regional Tournament

Bright Future for Seals Bowling

By Grace O'Malley

The Selinsgrove bowling team will enter the season with high expectations for the 2014-2015, thanks to many key bowlers returning from last year's squad.

On the girl's side, the Seals tied for second overall in the conference with a record of 17-11 last year and have nearly the entire squad back. With that experience, Selinsgrove will have its eyes on a league championship for this year.

The boy's team will look to improve on last season's record of 6-22. The Seals will be led by senior Aaron Dues, who made it to the individual District IV competition last year as junior. Dues will be looked

upon to lead a young Selinsgrove team.

The girl's team will have almost their entire team back and will be led by seniors Katie Spriggie, Amber Kreitzer, Moriah McIntyer along with juniors Paetyn Klinger and Katie Pauling. Klinger and Kreitzer made it to the individual District IV competition last year and have a strong chance of doing so again this season.

"I think we have a really great chance to win the league title this season. We also have a chance to make it to state playoffs this year and I couldn't be more excited," said junior team captain Paetyn Klinger.

Lady Seals Tips-Off a New Season

By Jonah Markle

The Lady Seals Basketball team will begin their 2014-15 season on December 5th when they face the Line Mountain Eagles. With many key players returning, the Lady Seals are expected to show a lot of improvement from last year.

Selinsgrove will look to improve on a 2-19 record during their 2013-14 campaign. After a strong offseason and playing in a few tournaments over the summer, the Lady Seals are primed for a huge rebound from last year.

Senior captains, Nicki Krebs, Jessica Kerstetter, and Sara Reibschied will be pivotal in the success of the Lady Seals this season. Additionally, Selinsgrove has a strong group of underclassmen, with six freshmen and sophomores coming out for the team. This provides the squad with an ideal mix of experience and young talent.

When asked about the upcoming 2014-15 season, Junior Emily Breheny offered nothing but excitement to get on the court. "I am really looking forward to this season. We have good players in every grade. I would love to make this a

winning season for the seniors and I think we have the talent to have a successful season," said Breheny.

Led by head coach Mr. Tim Lauer and new assistant coach Ms. Katie Strickler, Selinsgrove will be expecting to make major improvements from last year.



Emily Breheny muscles her way into a rebound

Boys BBall Preps for New Season

By Lindsey Trusal

The Seals Boys' Basketball team enters their new season with hopes for a strong rebound from last year. Coached by Mr. Mike Stebila, the Seals are heading into this season with a newfound confidence.

Although the team lost key players Andy Ryan and Quinn Reiland to graduation, they hope to fill those shoes with new talent. "Although we don't have Andy Ryan and Quinn Reiland this year, we still have the talent to win a lot of games this year. With Juvon Batts coming back and the improvements that we have made in the off-season, we can really go a lot of places this year," said senior leader Jin Zhang.

The Seals are expecting junior Juvon Batts to return this year after sitting out all of last year due to medical issues. Batts will be joined in the backcourt by senior Ethan Fadale. The 1-2 combo will give opposing defenses much trouble.

"From what we have seen so far, no one is being selfish with the ball and we're playing like more of a team than last year. We're like a family, always picking each other up, no one puts anyone down," Zhang said.

The team is looking to drastically improve their previous season's record of 4-18. Returning seniors include Ethan Fadale, Tommy Lamont, Angel Figueroa, Isaiah Rapp, Andrew Sickle, and Jin Zhang. All are hoping to make major contributions to the varsity team's success. Other potential varsity players include juniors Juvon Batts, Ben Kuhns, Jacob Strickler, and sophomores Brice Harro, Griffin Kirchner, and Hunter George.

With a strong senior class and a promising underclass, the Seals are hoping to contend for the District IV AAA title and make a huge statement with their physical, aggressive play.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Dillon Baumbach, Senior

What has been your most memorable moment in the high school? *Prom!*

What is your dream vacation? *My dream vacation is to go to France.*

What is your biggest fear? *To fail.*

What is one word you would use to describe yourself? *Quiet.*

What is your favorite thing to eat during Thanksgiving? *Turkey!*



Nour Hajmabrouk, Junior

What has been your most memorable moment in the high school? *Seeing Anne Coyne's face everyday junior year.*

What is your dream vacation? *My dream vacation would be to go Bighorn Sheep hunting in the Rocky Mountains.*

What is your biggest fear? *Heights!*

What is one word you would use to describe yourself? *Stoic.*

What is your favorite thing to eat during Thanksgiving? *Sweet potatoes.*



Sophomore, Steph Mengle

What has been your most memorable moment in the high school so far? *When Mr. Myers posted a picture of Keanan Wolf as a carrot on his door.*

What is your dream vacation? *Disney World is my dream vacation!*

What is your biggest fear? *Snakes!*

What is one word you would use to describe yourself? *I would use the word energetic to describe myself.*

What is your favorite thing to eat during Thanksgiving? *Macaroni and Cheese!*



Freshmen, Paul Oyster

What has been your most memorable moment in the high school so far? *The first time we played Sparkle in French Class.*

What is your dream vacation? *Bahamas!*

What is your biggest fear? *Drowning.*

What is one word you would use to describe yourself? *I would describe myself as outgoing.*

What is your favorite thing to eat during Thanksgiving? *My favorite thing to eat during Thanksgiving would have to be cornbread.*



Annie's Answers

If you have questions or problems that you would like "Annie" to answer, just email them to anniesanswers@seal-pa.org or put them in one of the boxes located in the library or main office.

Dear Annie, What is the most sure-fire way to get a girl to laugh? Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I know it sounds cliché, but absolutely nothing will be funny if you aren't confident. Conversely, nothing is a bigger turn-off than a guy who keeps telling awful, raunchy jokes long after it's clear that the girl isn't interested. In order to become confident in yourself and your humor, you need to first find out what you think is funny.

Watch Monty Python, Mr. Bean, Amy Schumer, whatever. Just figure out what type of humor you connect with. Once you've done that, it will be much easier to make a girl laugh. Of course, if you find obscure military jokes from the 1600s the funniest thing in the whole world, you may have to find another topic both you and the girl can laugh about together.

So, once you've figured out what makes you laugh, you need to figure out what makes the girl laugh. The best way to do this is to have relaxed conversations with her. You'll get a good sense of her humor by engaging in casual talk with her.

If you're too nervous to do that, you can always lurk when she's with her friends to find out about her sense of humor, but I wouldn't recommend that. It's easy to become Mr. Creep instead of Mr. Hilarity if you take the lurking route.

If you aren't asking about a particular girl, just girls in general, the key is to be casual. Start off with a normal conversation. Both of you are more likely to have fun if you're comfortable. An easy way to seem funny is to build off of something the girl said. If she complains about a coach,

make a similar, funny remark, building upon what she said. You can also relate funny incidents that have happened to you, but this is tricky. Make sure your story has focus and is short. As Shakespeare remarked, "Brevity is the soul of wit."

Stay Golden, Annie

Dear Annie, I'm going away to college pretty far away from this guy I'm crazy about. Please help! Confused and Tormented

Dear Confused and Tormented,

First of all, you have made the right choice by going to the college you want to go to. Under no circumstances should you EVER let a boy become more important than your education.

That being said, what you're going through is absolutely horrible. I've seen friends and family members struggle with this situation, and there's no easy way out. If you do decide to stay together while you're apart, be prepared for many lonely nights. Also be prepared for jealousy and temptation, as fire and brimstone-esque as that sounds.

Make sure you understand the risks. Very few couples survive the change. Both of you will be having so many new experiences and making new friends: a lot of common ground will be lost, and you might grow in separate ways. I'm not saying that your relationship is doomed, I'm just saying that it's very unrealistic to expect it to last.

If you choose to make a clean break of it and go to college a free and single person, it will be tough at first: very tough. Not only will you be going through the many uncertainties of starting college, you will also be recovering from a breakup. Once you recover, though, there's a whole world of smoking' hot scholars, knowledge, and activities for you to sink your teeth into.

Stay Golden, Annie

Love it or Leave it, Holiday Music

Jake Hilbolt

It seems that the country divides itself into two types of people each year in late November.

Firstly, there are those who love holiday music. You know exactly the type: those who prance down the hallways singing carols, pop covers of Christmas ballads, and the occasional Chanukah song or two. Cheerful people. Chipper people. Like little citizens in Whoville. They usually begin this before Thanksgiving has even passed.

Secondly, there are the Grinches, the Scrooges; the quiet folk (some

downright lugubrious people). Yes, as much as they may like to sing, one would be surprised to find out how many people don't sing holiday tunes. They are the ones wearing earmuffs to avoid hearing the merry gentlemen who wish to sing for thirty days straight.

Many may not like the holiday music; however, if it truly does add to the spirit of happiness and genuinely arouses the great love and compassion of many people the world over, who are we to judge? Sing your songs or plug your ears. Either way, let it lead to peace and harmony.





My Turn by Isabel Bailey

Words like slut have been a term reserved for women for far too long. Why? Because women are supposed to be pure, angelic, uncomplicated dolls that sit around waiting for men and keeping to themselves. Men can do what they want without being shamed as a slut or other unethical and crude words.

Tired of hearing the phrase “boys will be boys”? Well then, if you are a woman reading this paper never say the word slut again. The more woman say things like “maybe they will think I’m a slut” or “I don’t want to be seen as trampy” they are putting themselves in the category of unjust objectification. Women are the first step to making this go away.

As Olympe de Gouges (18th century women’s rights activist) would say, “Women, wake up!” The point is, the more women use words that are offensive to their own gender, the more the male society and others think it’s okay. They will begin to think that women don’t mind the slut-shaming or the backstabbing remarks saved only for them. If women themselves didn’t ever use these phrases, words like slut could go away.

So how do we do this? How do we make the slut-shaming stop? Women, every time a friend or someone you’re near says the word “slut” or any term reserved to shaming women, call them on it. A simple “why would you say something like that?” can do the trick more often than not.

Don’t worry about what they’ll think because if you stick up for your gender you are not only rejecting the dent that has been made in female respect, but you are making a difference. Little by little these words will be seen the way they should be: as wrong.

To the males reading this paper, I can say nothing more than to take time and imagine what it would be like to have to think every time you have a relationship that you might be called a slut or some

unthinkably repulsive name that insults only your gender.

Keep that in mind, the unfairness and cruelty in that and carry it with you everywhere you go; the conversation with your friends in which slut shaming is the theme of the day, the way you see women, the realization that women have been treated unfairly for centuries. Take this sensitivity and don’t speak down to women.

Correct your friends and acquaintances when they do. The first step is realization and the second step is stopping yourself from slut shaming and others around you. If everyone did their part, society could stop this shaming directed at women.

Males don’t feel this way about being put down in their gender because they have never had to worry about the

harmfulness of it. Women let themselves slip into the folds of words like these because they haven’t had the willpower to push against them as of yet.

Society has defeated women of this willpower, but if everyone tried, put a little effort into back-

ing against slut shaming, our society would be less judgmental and tormented by one-way thinking.

The next time someone says the word slut, tell him or her to stop, and tell them why. It doesn’t have to be rude (getting angry makes it worse) but use the knowledge and the caring sensitivity of what woman have gone through to overpower their words of slut shaming, because intelligence rules over ignorance every time.

Slut shaming is something that can be eradicated, and although it is hard to make a change in society, we have come too far to allow the shaming to continue; “Women, wake up!”

Women, wake up...aren’t you tired of the phrase, “boys will be boys”?