



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

In this issue:

- School News
- Halloween
- National News
- Photography Contest
- Sports
- Student Profiles
- My Turn

Don't Shave, Save Lives

By Markie Reiland

The National Honor Society is once again hosting “No Shave November” this month to help raise awareness for prostate cancer and other male health concerns. The Society asked men who could grow a beard to not shave his facial hair, and welcomed anyone unable to grow facial hair let their leg hair grow until November is over.

Here is how it works: those who do not normally grow out their hair will be asked, “Why are you letting your hair grow out?” The participant would respond, “I am doing No Shave November in order to raise awareness for prostate cancer.” This conversation will remind the asker to schedule an exam with a doctor in hopes of preventing another case.

Klinger has been growing his beard out for the month and knows it is for an important reason. He commented, “We should be raising more awareness for male cancer. There is breast cancer awareness month and everyone wears pink but not as many people do something for the cancers males get so less people are aware of them.”

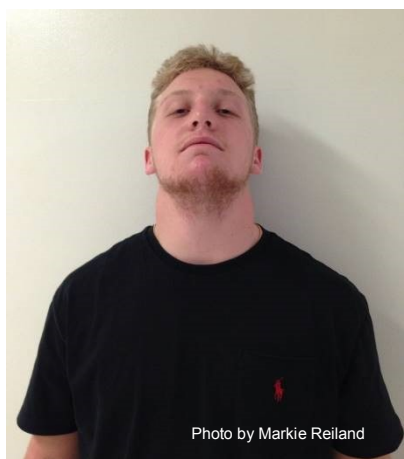


Photo by Markie Reiland

Senior David Klinger shows off his beard for “No Shave November”.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers among men, and about one in seven men are diagnosed with it. In the United States, 220,800 cases have been diagnosed in 2015 alone. Though most men will not die from it, early detection is the best way to make sure the cancer does not become fatal.

Several students and teachers in the Selinsgrove High School are participating in “No Shave November”. Senior David

“No Shave November” not only raises awareness for the disease, but National Honor Society is able to raise money to go to the cancer research. At the end of the month, tin cans will be set up in the cafeteria with the names of the participants on them. Students are welcome to vote for whom they think has the best beard by placing money in the can, and the person with the most money in their can wins a box of doughnuts. All of the collected money will be donated to the American Cancer Society.



Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

News Editors: Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

Sports Editor: Angelo Martin

Opinion/Editorial Editor: Isabel Bailey

Graphics Editor: Lindsey Trusal

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 **Friday, December 4, 2015** in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

Twenty-Four Short Hours a Day

Sydney Reibschoid

Twenty-four hours seems like a pretty large chunk of time; however, many students can build up a lot more stress than people imagine.

As a student with four core classes this semester including two AP courses, I now understand how to make the most out of my time. Time management is a key skill that applies not only to educational purposes, but also to everyday life events.

It can be the difference between a letter grade on a test, extra practice for a sport, or being able to memorize lines for the play. Good time management skills will lead to greater productivity and efficiency, less stress, and an overall easier way to live.

The most useful skill that I use to manage my time is merely a list. Lists are key to understanding a simplified version of what you need to get done in a certain amount of time. As soon as I get home, I create a list of priorities for the day and another list for optional activities.

The priority list includes my assignments due the following day or assignments that I would like to get a head start on. I figure out an estimate of how much

time it will take me to complete, and then I start right away. Procrastination is never, and I repeat never, a method you should follow. The more you push things off or simply say "I'll do it tomorrow", the more stress builds up.

Personally, I have a five-day rule: start studying for tests at least five days before the exam. It is much more effective to break down what you are studying then to study it all in one night. Even if it's only for thirty minutes, it will make a difference. I am always much more efficient when I do

the most difficult or time-consuming task first, before the easier ones.

There are few feelings better than the feeling of relief after you finish a hard task. Once the biggest assignment is completed, then all you have to worry about is the

shorter simpler ones. This ordering is very effective with schoolwork.

If you create lists of priority, do not procrastinate, follow the five-day rule, and do the hardest task first I guarantee that your time will be spent more efficiently. Not only will you see an improvement in your stress levels, but your grades will improve too. These simple tips govern my study habits and hopefully they can help you as well.



Thanksgiving... What Is It?

By Alexis Hoffman

Every Thanksgiving people sit around eating wonderful food, showing gratitude for all that they have, but not many people know the history behind this holiday.

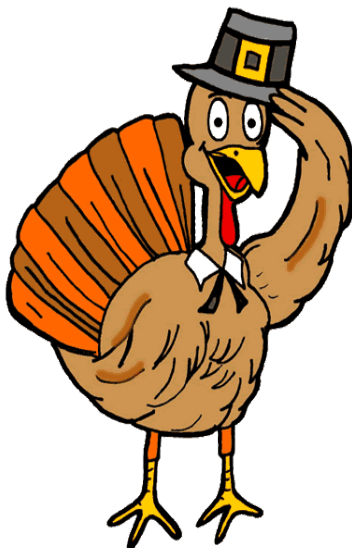
In September of 1620, a group of Europeans searching for religious freedom, better-known as Pilgrims, traveled on a ship known as the Mayflower to the "New World." Originally the Mayflower dropped anchor at the tip of Cape Cod but after a month, made its way over to Plymouth. The first winter, for the Pilgrims, was terrifying and vicious. Only about half of the settlers survived until spring.

Surprisingly, a Native American named Squanto decided to help the Pilgrims. He taught them how to cultivate corn, catch fish from rivers, steer clear of harmful plants and extract sap from maple trees. Additionally, an alliance was formed with the Pilgrims and Wampanoag tribe with the help of Squanto.

The governor, William Bradford, celebrating the first successful harvest of corn, invited some other Native Americans which included Massasoit, who was the chief of the Wampanoag's, to a feast. This feast was known as the "first Thanksgiving." The Pilgrims were only

giving thanks for their first corn harvest and for their Native American friends.

Freshman Liz Whitmer simply declared "Thanksgiving is a holiday where everybody gets the chance to realize and show what they are grateful for." Remember there is plenty to be grateful for in this world, so be thankful!

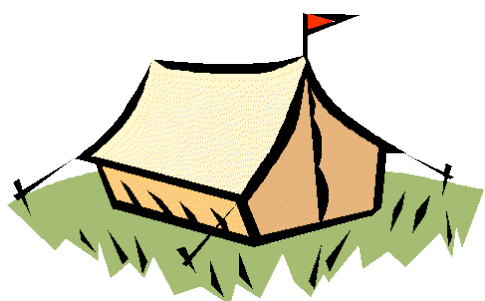


Finding Your Niche, Easier than Expected

By Liz Whitmer

Between the social benefits and new experiences that each club in the high school presents, membership in one can be very rewarding.

Although the Outdoors Club has gotten off to a rocky start with their first three excursions being cancelled due to weather conditions, the rest of the year looks promising for the group. With more than 70 members, they have many exciting trips planned, including cold weather camping, white water rafting, and backpacking.



The Key Club has been successful in helping the community by collecting over \$1,000 for Pennies for Patients, donating more than 100 pairs of socks to Geisinger Medical Center, helping out with Meals for Seals, and volunteering at the Northumberland Food Pantry. They'll also be hosting an egg hunt for students in our district and another blood drive later in the year. With over 60 members, they're always eager for new ways to help the community.

Student Council just recently attended the 79th PASC Conference in Harrisburg where Mr. Edwards was given the Advisor of the Year award. They're planning a project for Thanksgiving, and will have an Angel Tree set up for faculty members and students to donate gifts to less fortunate children for Christmas.



The Selinsgrove Student Council leaders pose around the PASC sign

The Tolerance Troupe recently wrapped up their auditions for this year, where they picked four freshmen to join the group. The Troupe will be teaming up with an organization from Lewisburg in November to look at how to help with climate change, extreme poverty, and racial justice.

National Art Honor Society has been helping paint the set and the sign for the play "Harvey," which was performed last week. They're also running a fundraiser from November 18th to December 11th where they'll be selling Butter Braid Pastries for \$13 that will be delivered right before Christmas break.

National Honor Society's "No Shave November" to raise awareness for prostate cancer is in full swing with several people pledging to not shave their legs or faces. Some members of NHS have also gone downtown to decorate the area for the upcoming holiday season.

The Future Business Leaders of America organization is doing very well this year raising money for their own scholarships and different organizations. They will be hosting regional FBLA chapters at Susquehanna University. Vice president, senior David Klinger, enthused that "...it's been a great start to what will be an amazing year in business for FBLA." Between their stand at the Street Fair and selling hats and blankets, the club is financially in the best place it's ever been.



The Forensics Team has been successful this month with freshman Zach Frey and junior Will Lapetina taking third place in novice public forum debate, and juniors Isabel Bailey and Sydney Reibschied taking fifth in varsity public forum debate. The team plans to attend a tournament at Wallenpaupack High School next month and the Blue, Maroon, and White tournament at Shikellamy High School in January.

The French Club is currently selling bonbon candies to raise money for field trips and scholarships, and an order can be placed by talking to a member of the club. You can also find the French and German clubs at the Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg on December 18th.

To have the best year possible, be sure to have fun and get involved with all the clubs available to you!

History Behind Modern Day Black Friday

By Nia Thomas

Black Friday, the day that immediately follows Thanksgiving, is an unofficial national shopping day where stores offer record discounts and sales on numerous products.

The origin of the holiday is believed to come from an unwritten rule adhered to by retailers; according to www.moneycrashers.com, consumers regarded the Thanksgiving Day parades as the official start of the holiday season and therefore the time to begin holiday shopping.

In accordance with this observation, retailers began to display their holiday deals. The decision to have it on the first Friday after Thanksgiving came during 1941 when President FDR and Congress changed Thanksgiving to the last Thursday of November.

The name, Black Friday, has a disputed origin, but there are several ideas of its beginning. A popular idea according to the Huffington Post, is that the name originated from the idea that retailers move from experiencing losses (being in the red) to experiencing great gain (being in the black).

Another rumor comes from the 1960's, where Philadelphia police officers observed increased traffic jams and pedestrian traffic and therefore regarded the day as "bleak", which evolved to "black" (www.moneycrashers.com). The name expanded past Philadelphia around the mid-1970s.

Black Friday has also caused the death of numerous people. One of the most horrific accidents happened in a Wal-Mart in Florida when 2,000 people rushed into the store after physically breaking apart the doors. A temporary employee was trampled, and while coworkers, paramedics, and police tried to help him, they themselves were trampled.

On record there have been seven deaths and 98 injuries, which includes injuries received in international Black Fri-

days, where both European and Latin American countries began the tradition.

In terms of popularity, the day has only become popular in recent

years despite being around for decades. Beginning in 2005, Black Friday became the most popular day of shopping. This is thought to be due to a multitude of reasons, including the extended store hours and the fact that many workers have the day off.. The holiday has even spread to other countries. France, Mexico, and more have begun the craze of Black Friday in their own country in the hope to increase tourist activity.

Locally there are several stores offering great deals. Wal-Mart is offering record sales on electronics, laptops and TVs, as well as more, along with possibly, opening on Thanksgiving instead of waiting for Black Friday. A notable deal from Target is their bundling, where, if a certain item is bought, a gift card is offered along with the item. For those only looking for cyber deals, look no further than Amazon.



Photo by businessinsider.com



Come to Improv/Drama Night!

Where: Selinsgrove Library
When: 7-8 pm Every Tuesday



All are welcome to Improv/Drama night, come if you want to experience some spontaneity and fun!

It is an hour of Improvisation and On-the-Spot Acting. No previous experience needed, just a willingness to have fun and act crazy!

Sponsored by the NHS

Mini Mesdames et Messieurs

By Alexis Hoffman

In today's society, language barriers are prevalent, especially in America where a second language is often not introduced until the high school setting.

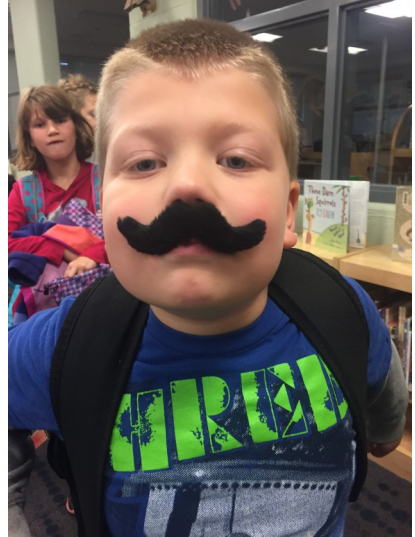
Linguists have advocated for earlier introduction to foreign languages because children are more equipped with the skills to learn a new one.

As a school district, Selinsgrove does not offer programs for young children to start a new language. Junior Hannah Domaracki has found a solution. She established a program at the elementary school for students in second grade, where they attend weekly classes taught by high school French students and learn basic vocabulary and phonics, like letters, greetings and colors.

"I participated in a similar program when I was in the elementary school, and I wanted to give the students the same opportunity to have a chance to experience another language," Hannah Domaracki explained. "Everybody should learn if they can, so I think it's great that we're getting kids interested early."

Hannah, with the help of Mrs. Bunting-Specht, decided to set up the lessons like high school French classes. On the first day, every student was given a French name to be called throughout the class. Students are rewarded with chouchou (from the French term for "teacher's pet") points for good behavior and word acquisition. Along with the lessons, the students participate in activities include playing games and making crafts.

There are about 40 second graders involved, separated into two rooms so they can have more individual attention. Seniors Fanny Mayeur and Anna Shamory assist with teaching along with juniors Jessica Smith, Madison Rice, Christopher Tirpak, Hannah Domaracki, Lauren Rowe, Olivia Fravel, Daniel Napsha, Markie Reiland, and Alexis Hoffman.



A mini monsieur poses for the camera

Junior Olivia Fravel summarized the experience as a teacher, saying, "It's really rewarding to watch the kids progress. It's amazing how quickly they learn, especially with the break between each class. They retain a lot." Recent classes have seen them teach the second graders animals and food, just in time for Thanksgiving.

This program will help the future of Selinsgrove meet their global needs.

The Big Fluffy Rabbit, "Harvey" Arrives

Dan Napsha

A big fluffy rabbit came to life on the Selinsgrove stage this month with the drama department's production of Mary Chase's 1944 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Harvey*.

The play takes place during the '40s and focuses on social climber Veta Simmons and her brother Elwood P. Dowd and his imaginary friend, a rabbit named Harvey. Elwood accommodates for Harvey

as if he is a person. This embarrasses and annoys Veta so much that she attempts to submit Elwood to a sanitarium, and hilarity ensues.

This year, play director Mrs. Knitter decided to double cast the show for 6 performances, allowing more people to participate. The show was a great way to spend an evening or afternoon!



Juniors Isabel Bailey, Rowan Miller, and Max Troppe hamming it up on stage Saturday night

Grove Gazette Photography Contest

Lindsey Trusal

The Grove Gazette is holding another photography contest for its next issue.

The winning photographer will have their photo displayed in the Grove Gazette and the winning photographer will be interviewed in that edition of the paper. The theme for the next issue will be based on the holiday season. **You must submit your picture by December 15th at the latest.** The winning photographer will be asked a few questions by a member of the photography staff to form a short description to be placed next to their winning photo.

In creating your photo, you may pick any aspect of the holiday season, whether that be Christmas, Hanukkah, or any winter theme in general to submit to the contest. Keep the holiday spirit in mind as you embark on your journey to create the perfect photograph.

To enter, submit your photo and name to Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org and the photography staff will vote on which photo is the winner. Be sure to put “**Grove Gazette Photography Contest**” in the subject line of your email.

See the example below to get started, good luck, and have fun!



An example of one type of photograph that may be submitted for the Photography Contest

Grove Gazette Caption-This Contest



Think you can come up with a great caption for this picture from Friday night's District Championship football game? Send your caption to the Grove Gazette via Mr. Switala's email: wswitala@seal-pa.org with the subject line “**Caption This**”. The winning caption will be featured in our next edition along with the runner-up caption.

SPORTS

Seals Football Goes Back-to-Back

By Angelo Martin

The Selinsgrove football team clinched their second straight PIAA District IV title on November 27th with a 24-15 win over Jersey Shore.

In the first round of Districts, the Seals took on the Columbia Montour Vo-Tech Rams, where they won handily by a score of 62-8. Selinsgrove gashed the Rams for 445 yards on the ground and sophomore Quarterback Logan Leiby finished the game a perfect five-for-five with 78 yards and two passing touchdowns.

The following week, the Seals would be set up with a rematch against the Jersey Shore Bulldogs. In an October 23rd game against the Bulldogs, Selinsgrove was able to force 5 turnovers in a 42-10 win.

“The hardest thing to do as a football team is beat a team twice,” said first year head coach Derek Hicks.

Coach Hicks’ views would prove to be right as the Seals got themselves into a dogfight with the Bulldogs in the District IV championship game. After several punts in the 1st quarter, the Bulldogs would strike first after a Seals muffed punt on their own 45-yard line. With a short field, Jersey Shore’s Levi Lorson was able to punch it in from three yards out to give the Bulldogs a 6-0 lead.

The following drive, Selinsgrove were able to march down the field and take the lead after an 8-yard touchdown pass from Logan Leiby to senior Colin Hoke. Towards the end of the half, senior kicker Joey Radel would hit a 40-yard field goal to give the Seals a 10-6 advantage at the half.

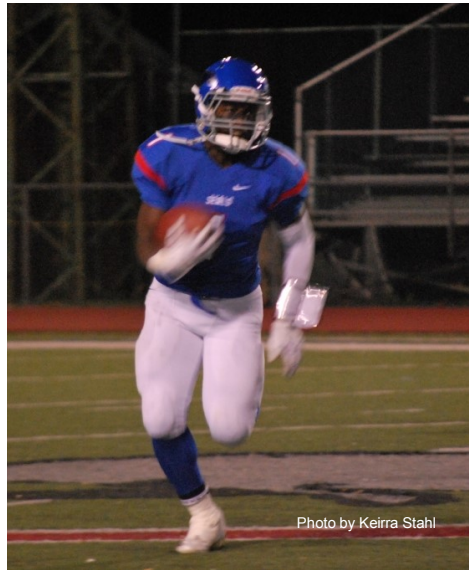
“Although we held the lead at the half, we knew that we were going to have to leave it all out on the field in the second half in order to take home the gold,” said senior standout defensive lineman Jacob Strickler.

To open the second half, the Bulldogs would successfully recover an onside kick to set themselves up at the Seals 35 yard line. Selinsgrove defense would make a stand and hold the Bulldogs to a field goal that made the game 10-9.

Two possessions later, the Selinsgrove offense again would get it-

self going with a 55 yard drive that ended with a Juvon Batts (senior) touchdown to make it 17-9. The Bulldogs had been able to keep Batts in check for most of the game, limiting him to 113 yards on 29 carries.

“Jersey Shore had a great game plan against our offense. This was one of hardest games for me as a running back that I can remember,” exclaimed an exhausted Batts after the game.



Senior Running Back, Juvon Batts, cruises down the field past any defenders

The Seals would then hold the Bulldogs to a three-and-out the next series, but another muffed punt put Jersey Shore back in business at the Seals own 40-yard line. On fourth-and-goal from the one, the Seal Curtain stuffed Lorson, but a pitch back to the quarterback would allow the Bulldogs to score. After failing the two-point conversion, Jersey Shore would still be trailing 17-15 with seven minutes to go.

After a Seals drive that would end at the Jersey Shore 26 yard line, the Bulldogs would get the ball back with 2:26 to go. However, sacks by Jack Gaugler and Jacob Strickler caused a turnover on downs, and Batts would score four plays later to seal the game.

“I am so proud of my teammates and especially my fellow seniors. It’s nice to say that our four years of work truly paid off,” said an excited Jack Gaugler.

The Seals will take on the Greater Johnstown Trojans in the first round of the PIAA playoffs at Shamokin High School at 7pm this Friday, November 27th.



Field Hockey claims 11th District Title

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove Field Hockey team won their 11th straight District IV title on November 4th at Bucknell University as they defeated the undefeated Bloomsburg Bulldogs 1-0.

As always, a variety of different playmakers for Selinsgrove have contributed to another year of success. While the Seals senior class led the way for Selinsgrove most of the season, it was an underclassman that would score the lone goal in the District IV championship victory.

With a little over 10 minutes to go, senior stand-out Tesa Hoffman shot the ball into the circle where freshman Megan Hoffman would tap it in for the goal. The Seals defense would hold off the Bloomsburg attack until time expired.

"Bloomsburg played amazing defense the whole game. When we received a corner with 10 minutes to play, I knew we had to capitalize. Megan (Hoffman) was in the exact right place at the right time as she executed the play perfectly," said senior captain Tesa Hoffman.

Unfortunately for the Seals, they would come up short, being shutout in the first round of the PIAA playoffs at the hands of Greenwood 2-0. Earlier in the season, Selinsgrove heartbreakingly lost to Greenwood 3-2 in the final minutes of the game.

In the PIAA playoff rematch, the Seals were unlucky, as the two goals given up were both off of penalty strokes. They appeared to still be in the game with what seemed to be an endless number of corners but they were unable to score past a strong Greenwood defense. Time eventually ran out, putting an end to Lady Seals season.

The season may have ended sooner than what the Seals had hoped for, but a strong underclass led by Megan Keeney, sophomore Savannah Bucher, and junior Megan Kahn will look to contend for another District title next year.



Seniors Keeley Rodarmel & Lindsey Trusal put up a staunch defense



David Klinger Leads Seals Boys Soccer

By Marley Sprenkel

The Selinsgrove Boys soccer team ended their well-played and hard-fought season with a record of 10-10, after a 4-0 loss to eventual state champion, Lewisburg High School.

Many players stepped up all season long and contributed in key situations; however, in the end, junior Dawson Klinger really stood out.

Looking at statistics from the 2015 season, the team in their entirety netted 37 goals. Along with the 37 goals scored, there were 31 assists completed as well. Without the help of Klinger's 14 goals, which was more than double that of any other teammate, and his 5 assists, the season would have ended up with completely different results if it had not been for Klinger.

"As a whole, I think this season really turned the tide for Selinsgrove soccer. We were competitive in almost every game we played and I think that will go a

long way in the years to come," commented the junior striker.

While Klinger led the team in goals and assists, the Seals will still graduate a very memorable senior class. Selinsgrove will lose their captains Jonah Markle and Andrew Hayes, and key offensive contributors Ben Kuhns and Sergei Rhoads.

"The seniors pushed us every day to not settle for mediocre. They made us competitive every time we stepped on the field and I think that will go a huge way in setting up next year," said Klinger.



Rodkey Earns Soccer All State Honors

By Dawson Klinger

Selinsgrove Lady Seals striker and *Grove Gazette's* very own Sam Rodkey earned PIAA All-State honors after the selections were released on November 10th.

A junior, Rodkey finished the season with an astounding 13 goals and 8 assists, both team and league highs.

"I could not have earned this honor without the help from my teammates and coaches. They pushed me every day and set me up with many opportunities to be great," said Rodkey.

Starting since freshman year, Rodkey has been a dominant force in District IV throughout her high school career. During her freshman year, she caught the League's and District's attention by leading the team with nine goals and finishing second in assists with six. Through three years, Rodkey has collected 58 points, and is well on pace for several Selinsgrove soccer records, including career goals and assists.

"For me, I have tried not to focus on my personal stats and instead have entered each game just trying to do whatever it takes to help my team win. While the acco-

lades are certainly flattering, my drive is to help my team win games and chase titles," explained a humble Rodkey.

Perhaps Rodkey's finest moment came this year in a match against league rival Danville. In the match, she netted a hat-trick (her 3rd in three years) that led the Seals to a huge 3-2 victory over the Ironmen.

With a record-breaking and accolade-filled senior season on the horizon, Rodkey will look to work hard in the offseason in chase of her goal of playing college soccer.



Photo by Stacy Sprenkel

Junior Samantha Rodkey blows by a Lewisburg defender

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

James Baney: Senior

How early would you get to a store on Black Friday and which store would it be? *The Trading Post in Port Trevorton at one in the morning.*

Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions? *I walk around in my moccasins.*

We have two days off for hunting. Do you hunt? If not, what do you do? *I do hunt.*

Who sparks the best conversation at the table at Thanksgiving? Why? *Me, because I'm the best.*

What would be your theme song for Thanksgiving? *Back to Back, by Drake.*



Alexis Hoffman: Junior

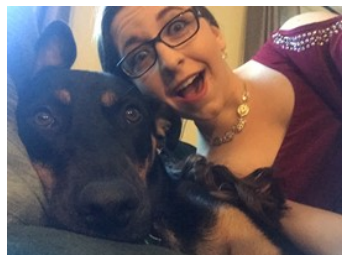
How early would you get to a store on Black Friday and which store would it be? *I would go to Barnes and Nobles as early as seven AM.*

Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions? *My family always plays bingo.*

We have two days off for hunting. Do you hunt? If not, what do you do? *No, I do not hunt. On the days we have off, I try to catch up on sleep.*

Who sparks the best conversation at the table at Thanksgiving? Why? *My cousin Kris tends to bring up the most interesting topics. The conversation often goes from movies to politics to music to just about anything else one can think of and we don't ever really stop talking.*

What would be your theme song for Thanksgiving? *We are Family, by Sister Sledge.*



Noah Hendricks: Sophomore

How early would you get to a store on Black Friday and which store would it be? *Dicks Sporting Goods, and last year I went on Friday night at ten PM to one AM.*

Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions? *My family plays football.*

We have two days off for hunting. Do you hunt? If not, what do you do? *I don't hunt, I usually hangout with my friends.*

Who sparks the best conversation at the table at Thanksgiving? Why? *My brother Zach, he has a lot of background knowledge on different subjects.*

What would be your theme song for Thanksgiving? *No Role Models.*



Kristi Kieu: Freshmen

How early would you get to a store on Black Friday and which store would it be? *Best Buy at six in the morning.*

Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions? *My family talks in the living room.*

We have two days off for hunting. Do you hunt? If not, what do you do? *I don't hunt, I hangout with friends and family.*

Who sparks the best conversation at the table at Thanksgiving? Why? *My dad because he says the random things.*

What would be your theme song for Thanksgiving? *Charlie Brown theme music.*



Politically Correct: On Point or Too Far?

By Daniel Napsha

There's a new conversation about political correctness happening across the nation.

Last month, Susquehanna University announced their decision to replace their "Crusader" nickname, which is synonymous with the university's athletics, with a new name and mascot. The administration explained that the notion, descending from the medieval Inquisition led by Roman Catholics to wipe out Muslims and Jews in Europe, was contrary to the university's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness.

Though the university faced backlash after the announcement of the change, the administration's decision is in fact not unusual at all for our time. Its part of larger discourse currently taking place on college campuses all over the United States about political correctness, injustice, diversity, sensitivity and accountability.

The discussion amplified over the past month when demonstrations swept the nation's college campuses. Students are fighting for representation, understanding, and to be heard. At the University of Missouri, the President and Chairman resigned after failing to address racist incidents on campus. Yale University students called out the administration's shortcomings in creating welcoming communities for minorities. Similar demonstrations were staged at Ithaca and Claremont McKenna colleges, and Wesleyan University.

Everywhere, the common cause is a demand for institutions to create "safe spaces" for women and minority students, including blacks, Hispanics, the LGBTQ+ community. They want more than just special interest centers which became a commonplace in student union buildings in the 1980s. Marginalized students want their schools to promote a safe environment outside of those centers and to listen to their needs.

The students' aims are entirely valid. Every student deserves a safe and welcoming learning environment, that's a reserved right. But, there is a dark extremism growing out of this activism. These extremists are too quick to renounce all critics and anyone who does not share their experience (this is true even for fellow marginalized groups). They simply refuse to listen to opposing viewpoints, prioritizing their own safety over free speech. Perhaps the most representative case occurred at Amherst College, where student protestors requested for the college to warn alumni that, "racist and critical responses would not be tolerated."

Safety, of course, is paramount, but we are a country founded on the freedom of speech; thus, people should be allowed to criticize. The students' desire to censor

racist reactions is understandable; their argument that freedom of speech should not extend to discrimination is justified. But people can still express their intolerant beliefs, regardless of society's condemnation.

This inhibition on freedom of speech goes hand-in-hand with the overuse of a recent trend in the classroom: trigger warnings. These are stated warnings that the content of a text, video, etc. contains potentially distressing material. There are trigger warnings issued for many things, including rape scenes and racist language in literature. While sensible in theory, the warnings are overused and universities have dismissed professors as a result of offended and sensitive students.

What is more, we cannot shelter ourselves from canon. We live in a personally curated world where we have the ability to choose what we want and when we want it. This should not, I believe, apply to curriculum. It's a form of censorship, and censorship of any kind is wrong. It leads to more ignorance, which is the opposite of what our culture needs now. Excluding ourselves from distressing content to avoid our anxieties only exacerbates the problem and leads to agoraphobia.

Instead, let us read, watch, interpret and critique as expected. De facto, we need to implement the psychotherapy practice of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, which, by assisting sufferers in facing anxiety, allows them "to view challenging situations more clearly and respond to them in a more effective way," according to the Mayo Clinic. Let the classroom serve as the model for the rest of the university as a welcoming place and a safe space where we can understand the context of it all.

For millennia, higher education has been the incubator for liberal thought, so it comes at no surprise that these issues have arisen at the university. In the same way, it's easy to compare this wave of student activism to that in the 1960s. But I see the baby-boomer activists as this generation's more liberal ancestors. The boomers fought discrimination also, but while they sought assimilation, for inclusion, this radical undergraduate population wants nothing to do with the existing system. Coming of age during society's enlightenment to racial, gender, and socioeconomic disparities, they want to uproot the whole white patriarchal order altogether.

Before anything, we need to check ourselves. We need to find a better solution to trigger warnings, like therapy, and we need institutions that promote safe communities. Above all, we need to return to a long held practice of listening to each other: in the classroom, on the green, in the government. Let us be wary of bigotry on both sides. Let us heal.

A Quick Conversation with Miss Switzer

By Dan Napsha

Finish this sentence: If I was not a teacher, I would be... *Unemployed.*

What is the last book you read? *Divergent.*

What is the one book you would recommend to all your students? *Harry Potter, obviously.*

Dark or milk chocolate? *Dark.*

Dress or pantsuit? *Dress, obviously.*

What's a skill you will never master? *Skiing.*

What is your favorite TV show to binge watch? *Currently, the West Wing.*

What is your favorite restaurant? *Marley's in Bloomsburg.*

Who is your favorite person to talk to in the world? *My mother -- no, my fiancé.*

If your life was a song what would its title be? *"People Think I'm Cooler than I Actually Am."*



My Turn by Isabel Bailey

On November 13th and 14th of 2015, Paris was attacked by ISIS rebels and 130 innocent civilians were killed.

their children, their spouses; they have been tortured and stripped of everything they have known. There is no other choice for these refugees but to leave their homelands.

Upon hearing this kind of devastating news, we become disturbed and upset, then defensive, and finally scared. We do not know how we can help, and therefore we are left feeling powerless. Lack of power can lead to a feeling of desperation. This desperation has been felt all over the world, as well as in the small confines of Central Pennsylvania.

In our area and across The United States, the Paris attacks have ignited in some people a raw fear of incoming refugees from Syria and its neighboring countries. I would urge those people to rethink their sentiments--to consider what it is that our country values: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The people who want to keep out the refugees feel that these values will be threatened if we allow them in. Keeping refugees out is no guarantee that terrorist attacks won't occur on our soil. Allowing refugees in is an affirmation of the values America stands for.

People who are desperately fleeing Syria have lost their homes, their parents,

This leaves us with a moral obligation to accept them. It isn't that we won't be scared of the possibility of terrorists masking as refugees, there is always that fear, but we cannot trade these peoples' lives for our fear. Is it worse to have 100 Americans die in a terrorist attack or 2,000 Syrians die because they were rejected by The United States?

It is not a question that can be answered quickly. On one hand it is necessary to take care of ones own country first. But on the other hand, we are all human beings belonging to the same world, even if our Gods, prophets, faiths, and mores don't mirror each other.

We are a country where no one is supposed to be left behind--religious and civil equality have always been our biggest priority. Is it now, when we are needed most, that we will put a barricade between our words and our actions?

It is a risk, it's a chance, but for thousands, it's a life.