

THE QUAKER

A HIGH SCHOOL TRADITION FOR 88 YEARS

VOLUME 86, NUMBER 4 SALEM SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DECEMBER 21, 1998



The Santa Claus farce

Nick Swetye and Sarah Lederle



This may come as shocking or even possibly emotionally traumatic news to many of you. It may ruin your faith in all people, especially your parents who have done their finest job to instill in you the morals of truth. Yes, friends: Santa Claus is not real; he is pure fantasy. And physics can prove it.

First, we must explore the legend that this man, Saint Nicholas, has surrounding him. He spends all of Christmas Eve night traveling the world atop a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. To keep track of all the presents he must give, he makes a list and checks it *twice*. He visits all the little boys and girls, the good children get presents, and the bad ones get lumps of coal. When he reaches the houses of the children he parks his sleigh on the roof, floats down the chimney, and with bag in hand places the presents under the tree and in the "stockings hung by the chimney with care." He lives in the North Pole, where he apparently runs this operation. Under him works a team of elves who, living in this wintry place, somehow have the resources to make and build the presents that their employer, Santa, will give out.

Now let us explore the physics behind Santa Claus. First let us assume that 35% of the world's population are "little boys and girls," and that 2/5 of these kids are those who celebrate Christmas. With the world's population at about 5 billion we can infer that Santa must visit 700 million boys and girls. Let's give the benefit of the doubt to the bulk of the world and say that all of the kids are good, since we know of more than a few bad kids who still get their fair share of presents. If each kid gets 6 presents on average then Kris Kringle must pass out 4.2 billion presents. If a present weighs about 1.5 pounds, then 6.3 billion pounds of presents must be carried on his sleigh. If one present is about one cubic foot, then we are talking 4.2 billion cubic feet of presents that must be packed neatly into a sack. Therefore his sleigh, in order to accommodate this load, would have to be approximately 11 football fields long and three football fields wide and tall!

So what about the reindeer? According to Collier's Encyclopedia a reindeer can pull a load of 450 pounds. If Santa's sleigh weighs 6.3 billion pounds,

plus 250 pounds of Santa, he would need 171 million reindeer just to get the sleigh moving. And what about this infamous list? He checks it twice, don't forget. If a normal sheet of paper can fit 30 names of children, along with with a column for "naughty or nice" and what presents he wants, then it would take over 23 million sheets of paper! If 200 sheets weighs 1 pound, then the entire compiled list would weigh more than 117 thousand pounds. If Santa takes 5 seconds to read each kid's name, decide his behavior, and memorize which presents are his, and then check it *again*, it would take him almost 222 years to check the list! America was fighting for independence when he was beginning the list for 1998!

Amazing Santa Stats

Kids Santa must visit:	700 million kids
Presents he must give:	4.2 billion presents
Weight of the presents:	6.3 billion pounds
Size of the sleigh:	11x3x3 football fields
Reindeer needed:	171 million deer
Length of list:	23 million sheets
Weight of list:	117 thousand pounds
Years to check it:	222 years



Recently the Interact club invited exchange students from other area schools to spend a day at SHS. Pictured here with club advisor Mrs. Hutson is a group of Interact members and exchange students enjoying an after-school gathering.

NEWS

Club News

Janis Rogers

Yearbook

The fundraising campaign in October was very successful. The Sadie Hawkins Dance was also a huge success. This year was the biggest turnout ever and everyone had a great time. A concession stand was held on December 4 during the first basketball game. All senior pictures for the yearbook should be submitted by Christmas break. If you have not turned yours in yet, see Mrs. Hays immediately.

TACT

TACT held a Christmas party on Sunday December 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elks.

Interact/Spanish club

On December 11 from 7-10 p.m. Interact and Spanish Club joined together for a Christmas party. It was held at 1098 E. State St. in the basement. Activities included music, dancing, food and drinks, and friends. A dance competition was held at 9:00 p.m. and the prizes were as follows:

First place-\$20/couple

Second place-\$10/couple

Dances included the swing and the jitterbug. Exchange Students shared their experiences at 8:00. Ladies brought a dozen cookies and guys brought canned foods to donate to the financially challenged.

Pep Club

Pep Club had a very important meeting December 3 after school. Any boy interested in being Quaker Sam for the basketball season should sign up with Mrs. Heineman immediately.

Key Club

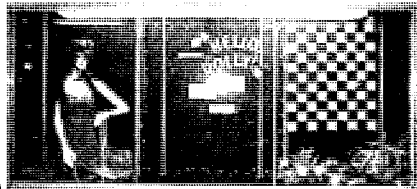
Adult Kiwanis members visited our school for the Key Club luncheon during fifth and sixth periods in the library on December 3.

Academic Challenge

On December 2 the Academic Challenge team competed in the Knowledge Master Open, a national computerized knowledge tournament. Final results were not yet available at press time, but the team scored higher than the 1996 and 1997 teams.

Hello Dolly

The school play for the '99 year has been announced - *Hello Dolly* will be performed on March 26 and 27. Auditions were held on December 15. A complete list of cast members will hopefully be available in the upcoming issue of *The Quaker*.



Mrs. Jeckavitch's display in front of the library



Christmas Concerts

Katie Yoder

The time of the year has come again for the Salem High School's chamber and concert choirs to perform under the direction of Mrs. Jeckavitch. Both choirs put on beautiful performances.

The concert choir had one major performance Sunday December 13. The auditorium was packed with parents, grandparents, and friends. The concert turned out to be wonderful, and everyone that attended had something nice to say.

The chamber choir had many performances this Christmas season. Some of them included the Salem Elementary Schools, a concert at Mt. Union College, and the Salem Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. The chamber choir brought smiles to many peoples faces as they danced and sang to many classic holiday songs.

The *Quaker* Staff would like to say congratulations to Mrs. J and all of the choirs for all their hard work and effort this holiday season.

A Candlelight Christmas

This year's White Christmas dance will be held on Wednesday December 30 at the Salem Golf Club. Pictures are to start at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Students have a choice between chicken or pasta for dinner. There will be dancing from 8:30 to 11:30 to songs played by DJ Mark/Anthony. Tickets were sold Monday November 23 through Wednesday December 2 after school in the library. Monday November 30 through Wednesday December 2 tickets were available at lunch. The cost is \$17.50/person and \$35.00/couple.

Say What?!

Weird news from around the world

Heidi Talbot



A man walked into a convenience store, and asked for his \$20 bill. While the clerk was opening the cash drawer, he pulled out a gun and asked for all the cash. After receiving the cash, he fled leaving his \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got was \$15. A 48-year-old man from Bridgeport was pronounced dead after his 500 pound wife fell on him during an argument.

A man from South Carolina entered a police station with a bag of cocaine. He attempted to persuade then to arrest his drug dealer because the cocaine that he purchased was sub-standard cut.

In an attempt to satisfy his addiction of glue sniffing, a man broke into the Gola Gola glue factory. While trying to sniff the vapors, he lost his balance and upset a vat of glue. Upon regaining consciousness, he found himself securely fastened to the floor. He patiently waited for the workers to return Monday to free him.

NEWS

1998: A year in review

Jeremy Sternagle

It's hard to believe, but 1998 is coming to a close, and 1999 is just around the corner. And that's why I was prompted to write a year in review, of the biggest news of 1998. After extensive research and reading through the archives of Time magazine on the internet, I compiled my own personal list of the top stories of 1998. As of December 16, here's my countdown of the top 20 stories, so far, of 1998:

20. **Newt Gingrich resigns-** One of the most influential people of our time, stepped down from the House earlier last month
19. **Indians sign Alomar-** The Indians enter the 1999 season with the signing of Roberto Alomar, and now look ahead at future big games against Baltimore (with Albert Belle) and New York
18. **Pope John Paul's journey to Cuba-** I'm not Catholic, but I definitely know history when I see it – and this was history
17. **Theodore Kaczynski pleads guilty-** An end of an era came for the Unabomber, as he finally got his long awaited punishment
16. **Death of Frank Sinatra-** America lost one of its true heroes. He was more than just a good singer – he was an honest, well-rounded individual
15. **Jesse ("the Body") Ventura goes Governor-** What was Minnesota thinking?
14. **New York Yankees record-breaking season-** I hate the Yankees, but they definitely deserve the recognition. The 1998 New York Yankees are one of the greatest baseball teams of all-time
13. **The Florida fires-** For a while, it seemed like Florida was a giant inferno. Wildfires destroyed thousands of homes, and sent people running for cover
12. **Crash of Swissair Flight 111-** It's a plane crash that will be debated for a long time. Was it a mechanical problem – or was it the pilot's fault?
11. **Broncos win Super Bowl-** John Elway and the Broncos dethroned the heavily favored Packers in this year's Super Bowl
10. **Bombing of the twin Embassy buildings-** Terrorism struck the U.S. Embassy buildings, when 257 people were killed and over 5,000 injured
9. **Release of Viagra-** The "miracle" drug for elderly men
8. **Glenn's return to space-** People all over the world watched in unison as Ohio's very own returned back to space for a second time
7. **El Nino-** A powerful weather system that affected all of the continental states – including Ohio
6. **The Starr report-** It will go down in history as the most famous report of all-time – made against a President
5. **Jonesboro shooting-** The nation watched in horror as this school shooting spurred a wave of others last spring.
4. **"The Earthquake"-** For those of us who felt it, we'll remember it for a very long time. The earthquake was felt by many throughout Salem and the entire Ohio region
3. **The Homerun race-** Together, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa revitalized baseball and stirred a passion for the game like nobody ever had in recent years
2. **Seinfeld's last episode-** I don't think it lived up to the hype, but it was definitely one of the most watched shows of all-time. Like Cosby was in the 80's, Seinfeld is the show of the 90's
1. **The Presidential sex scandal-** It's the biggest and most boring news our government has ever seen.

The Quaker Proposal

We, the staff of The Quaker, hereby acknowledge our responsibility to provide informative and entertaining reading pertaining to the students, staff, and parents of Salem Senior High School.

To make The Quaker a credible newspaper we will aim for accuracy and objectivity, with the truth being our ultimate goal. It is also our duty to make prompt corrections when necessary. However, we must also respect the rights of others while we gather and present news. We are not permitted to invade a person's right to privacy.

The Quaker staff encourages input from our readers in the form of stories, essays, letters, etc.

Bulletin Board

ACT/SAT dates to remember:

	<u>Test date</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
SAT	January 23	December 18; Dec. 30 late
	March 20	February 12; February 24 late
ACT	February 6	January 4; January 15 late

- ◆ **Christmas break** will be December 22-January 4
- ◆ The 1998 **White Christmas Dance** will be held on December 30 at the Salem Golf Club.
- ◆ A financial aid workshop will be held at KSU-Salem January 14 at 7:00 pm.
- ◆ Midterm testing will be held January 14 & 15
- ◆ Monday, January 18- Martin Luther King Jr. Day- **NO SCHOOL**

New holiday traditions

Rachael Protzman

1. Go trick-or-treating dressed as Santa and his elves.
2. Finish your shopping in June.
3. Hide Easter eggs.
4. Pinch people who don't wear red.
5. Wait to see if Rudolph sees his shadow to predict the weather.
6. Set off firecrackers.
7. Dress up as a turkey and parade throughout town.
8. Pretend to be of another religion and celebrate their holiday.
9. Decorate your grandma like a Christmas tree.
10. Play Christmas music backwards and listen for hidden messages.
11. Call and report an unidentified flying object in a sleigh.
12. Go to the zoo dressed as Santa and encourage the deer to fly.
13. Send Valentine's day cards to all your friends.
14. Wear a "Kiss me, I'm Irish" pin.
15. Dress as a President and visit Mt. Rushmore.

Christmas commercialism

Rachael Protzman

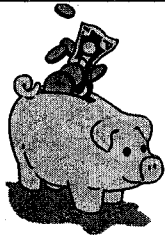
As the holiday season approaches, more and more people drift towards the shopping malls and department stores. Tension levels rise as people stress over what to buy for their loved ones and short tempers flare in long waiting lines.

As the years go by, the season stretches and adults rush to get their child the latest new toy on the market. Toy companies are quick to produce new electronic gadgets for which they charge an enormous amount.

Every year neighbors compete for the best-decorated house on the block while their children start their Christmas wish lists in July. The Santa lines grow longer and stores start their Christmas clearances before Thanksgiving. Mothers get into fistfights over a toy for their kid while parents mutter obscenities while trying to put up the tree.

Yet, I am reminded of a scene, which I saw just a few weeks ago that I will be unable to ever forget. A man sat in a wheelchair in an empty lot with a cardboard sign that read "Please Help. Down on my luck." As I handed him the few dollars I had, he uttered "God bless you," and looked heavenward. As I walked away I could not keep the tears from falling.

This occurred, not in New York or Cleveland or even Pittsburgh, but in Boardman. This year I urge you not to think selfishly, but to think of those who have nothing left but the kindness of a stranger.



The Commercial Claus

Megan Stockman



The holiday season is right around the corner and everyone is getting ready for the big day. The decorating of the tree, stringing of the lights, shopping for presents, and not to mention great sales at the mall are all just a few holiday traditions. But is that what we should be celebrating during the Christmas season?

Nowhere in the Bible does the meaning of Christmas show a man in a bright red costume and a snow-white beard. However that is how many perceive it today. Santa Claus has become the idol of the season. No one takes the time to celebrate Christmas for its true meaning. Instead, everyone is too caught up in the commercial things like buying presents, who has the best decorated house, and what kinds of cookies the children should leave for Santa Claus. The parents don't take the time to explain to



their children about the birth of Jesus or how this whole holiday even got started. Santa Claus and his reindeer have become the most popular thing to children, not to mention Frosty.

Nothing is wrong with enjoying these many traditions we've come to know and love. Traditions make the holiday season fun. I couldn't imagine life without decorating the tree or being with my family on Christmas day. But we all must also understand and praise why we do have this holiday. After all, without the birth of Jesus, we wouldn't be getting gifts, or buying trees and lights. So while opening your gifts Christmas morning, take time out and remember why you are celebrating this joyous holiday.

OPINION

All I Want for Christmas....

Katie Yoder and Cory Blankenship

As the dawn of Christmas rapidly approaches, many of us practice the same rituals to prepare ourselves for this big holiday. One very common preparation is making a "Christmas list." On this list, we write down what we would like for Christmas. Most times, though, people put down practical, normal gifts like CD's or clothes. But, how many of us go for broke



and put down the gift that would be perfect? The one gift that would be exquisite in every way, shape, and form. Well, most of us don't. But, *The Quaker* decided to give some of your fellow students the opportunity to tell their most wanted gift this year. Here are some of the responses:

Don't 'cha feel Grinchy when...

1. You don't get what you want for Christmas?
2. You hear the same carols over and over again?
3. You try to build a gingerbread house and it collapses?
4. You attempt to go shopping on the day after Thanksgiving?
5. You have 20 tests the day before break?
6. People in the mall spray you with perfume?
7. They interrupt your favorite Christmas special with a dumb news report about Clinton?
8. You have to wait in the Santa line with a younger sibling?
9. People put up their Christmas lights before Thanksgiving?
10. Someone tells you your senior year that there's no Santa Claus?
11. Stores start selling Christmas stuff right after Halloween?
12. It's 70 degrees in December?
13. Your alarm clock intrerupts a great dream?

Krysta Fornear: A ride in Coach Janofa's truck with Coach Mehno.

Jason Bricker: I want a McLaren F1.

Justin McMahon: I want to ride in JB's car.

Aileen Vogel: For Cleveland teams to disappear! The Steelers team on my tree of course!

Jenn Moser: To sit on Santa's lap all day.

Suzie Mason: Tasha Preisler under my tree wrapped up in a red bow with mistletoe.

Jenn Dean: Ken Donneley in my stocking.

Matt O'Brien: I just want a girlfriend, please!

Sarah Elder: Ty DeJane waiting for me when I come downstairs on Christmas morning.

Sarah Eynon: Jon and Duck to go to Perkins.

Ria Werner: I want to be as cool as Matte.

Jocelyn Bezeredi: I want to be as cool as Ria.

Amy Anderson: An extra week of vacation.

Ron Vickers: An operation that will reduce the size of my thumb.

JJ: Money

Mr. Viencek: A full time gardner.

Stephanie Helms, Abbi Yuhanick,

Julie Manis and Anne Roberts:

Peaches and pickles with Mr. Powers.

John Hull: A five gallon bucket of hair gel.

Mike McKinney: Kim Simon.

Nate Rasul: Sarah Rice and Rose Salvino.

Jeff Weiss: Georgia Pavon.

Mitchel Elder: Puberty.

Mike Flaata: Underwear.

Carl Anderson: The worlds biggest skate park in my back yard.

Dan Fennema: Monica.

Chuck Mix: Pamela Anderson covered in whipped cream.

Ryan Papic: Matt O'Brien's macking skills.

Lantz Bricker: O'Brien's calves.

Casey Crawford: O'Brien's peach fuzz.

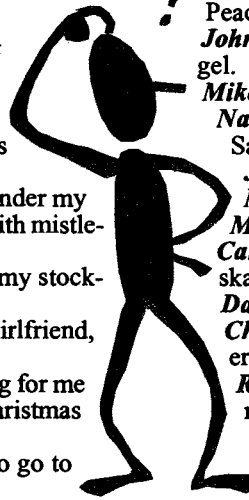
J.P. Fritz: O'Brien's buzzcut.

Reuben Dunlap: O'Brien's pigeon toes.

Kevin Bush: Tyra Banks in a bikini.

Mr. McShane: Peace on Earth.

Mr. Washinko: Good will to men.



With all those responses in mind, I hope all of you will take a step towards Christmas-wishing-liberation and go for broke the next time you pen out what you want for Christmas.

Happy
Holidays!
from
The Quaker staff



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Opinion of the Month

Holiday shopping tends to bring out the worst in people.



From Gold to Coal...

The Worst Christmas Gifts of the Year

Megan Stockman



As the holiday season approaches I often find myself taking forever just to pick out one person's present. It's so hard to find that perfect present that you know your friends and relatives would love. Most of the time it comes down to the last second, and I'm still shopping on Christmas Eve. It is nearly impossible to find the perfect gift; everyone knows that. Usually though, we get presents we are happy with. And then there are those times when we get presents we aren't so fond of that end up collecting dust somewhere in a closet. We all know grandparents are notorious for doing that. I asked the students what their worst Christmas present ever was, and here is what they said...

Jen Grubuagh (12) – A Barbie from my grandma when I was 16.

Tom Myers (11) – When a beautiful woman popped out of a giant present and said "Merry Christmas Steve!"

Lindsay Craik (11) – A training bra.

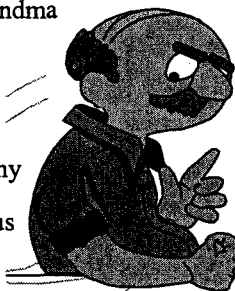
Drew Palmer (9) – getting a My Little Pony when I was 11.

Amanda Smith (11) – A ceramic Santa Claus pin.

Joe Eritz (12) – MY CAR!

Kelly Straub (12) – A box of fruit-rollups, nothing compares to GUSHERS!

Amber Thorne (10) – A picture of Barney.



Jenn Palmer (12) – Canned peaches that were put there by a man, in a factory downtown. And that's all I got. I DON'T EVEN LIKE PEACHES!

Jason Morris (11) – A gift certificate from Goodwill.

Liz Karlis (11) – The Chicken King from Zanesville with a bow around him.

Kristen Marshall (11) – a stocking full of potatoes.

Sarah Eynon (11) – A leopard thong from J.W.

Kelly Paxson (11) – None. I love all my Christmas gifts.

Sarah Loudon (11) – A buck toothed Indian that can't act!

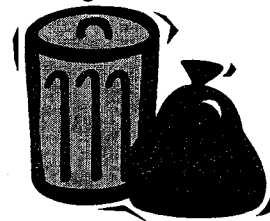
Even though many of you didn't like your presents just remember that it was the thought that counts. Almost any present is better than a lump of coal! (Well, almost any....)



Trash

In a can, not on the land

Cory Blankenship



I was just recently on a hunting trip and something I saw on my way really bothered me. What really peeved me was all the litter strewn on the highways and on the roads I took to get there.

Mind you, I am not a tree worshiper. I don't condemn the throwing of garbage, such as gum wrappers, out the windows of cars. What really got me was all the trash bags, tires, and all the large amounts of refuse that should be dealt with in another manner. Trash bags are my main complaint.

Why is it that people take their bags of trash and dispose of them on the highways, side-roads, and all other cleared paths designed for travel? Why don't people give it to B.F.I. or their local trash collector instead of using Mother Nature, as beautiful as she is, as a personal landfill to distribute their trash?

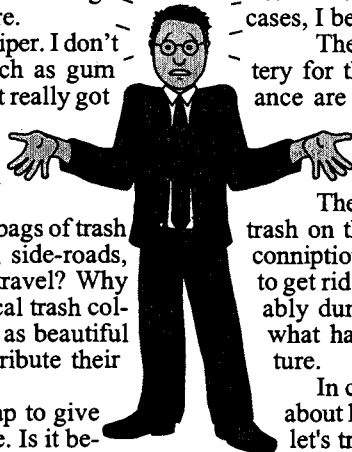
Is it because they are too cheap to give their trash to the local collector? Maybe. Is it be-

cause they feel that it is too much to work to haul it to the end of their driveway where it is supposed to be collected? Possibly. Or is it just sheer ignorance? In most cases, I believe that answer to be true.

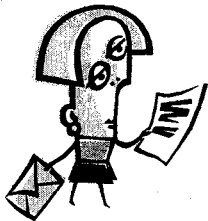
The real answer is one that is shrouded in mystery for those who decide to deface nature's appearance are usually closet litterers. If they were to say openly that they dump their trash on the side of the road, they would most likely be turned in and fined.

The funny thing is, if people decided to dump trash on the litterer's lawn, the litterer would go into conniptions because people put trash on his lawn. Then, to get rid of the mass amounts of trash, he would probably dump it on the side of the road. So, no matter what happened, he would still dump trash into nature.

In conclusion, I hope you feel the same way I do about littering in Mother Nature. She is a real beauty; let's try to keep her that way.



FEATURE



Up Close and Personnel

The bearers of the clipboards

Mrs. Alma Fields and Mrs. Lori Brooks

by Lisa Butch



For all you poor delinquents who are accustomed to smoking in the bathrooms, this year might prove difficult for you. Mrs. Alma Fields and Mrs. Lori Brooks are additions to the faculty who spend each day monitoring the halls, restrooms, gym, and doors to keep the school the safe haven it is. The ladies report offenders of any school rule to the office where they are dealt with by either hanging or a trip to the guillotine, depending on the offense. Since the ladies can not go into the boy's restroom, they sniff in the door. If a problem is detected they will find a male member of the faculty to take care of the offender.

Fields and Brooks both have been monitors since the end of September.

Fields will soon return to work in the cafeteria where

Liverpool High School. Currently, however, she is



Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Fields

she previously served on call for four years.

Fields spent most of her free time working while she attended East

married and has two sons who, in raising, were a job in themselves. Fields also collects carousels and enjoys country music.

A Salem alumna, Brooks graduated in 1982. During her high school career she was employed at Murphy Mart and helped with the handicapped children.

Besides being a monitor, Brooks is a scorekeeper and president of O.A.P.S.E., the union for classified school employees. Brooks has a collection of Santa Clauses and has a cat and a black lab.

Married, Brooks has two daughters, Jessica, a senior here at Salem High School, and Ashley who is in the third grade.

Fields and Brooks say that overall most students are pretty good, but if everyone acted like teenagers they wouldn't have to be here.

Author of the Month: John Steinbeck

by Nick Swetye

John Steinbeck is considered one of the finest writers of the 20th century. He had won many awards, including the Nobel Prize for Literature, before his death on December 20, 1968. John Ernst Steinbeck was born in the Salinas Valley in California on February 27, 1902. His father served as county treasurer and his mother was a school teacher. It is from his mother that he learned to love reading and writing. After high school graduation he was accepted to Stanford University. How-

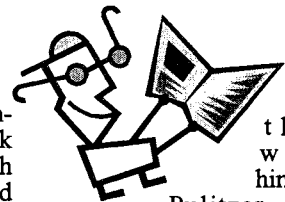
ever, his attendance was poor at best and he left the University to pursue his writing career.

After a number of poorly accepted novels by the literary community, he returned to California and married his first wife, Carol Henning. They moved to a small city on the Pacific coast called Pacific Grove where he got most of his material for his first great book, *Tortilla Flat* (1935). Over the next five years he

wrote many other novels including his greatest work *The Grapes of Wrath* which was published in 1939 and later won the Pulitzer Prize.



Steinbeck is most known for his stunning realism, he was one of the first authors to do real-life research on his topic. He lived among immigrant families during his gathering of notes and inspiration for *The Grapes of Wrath*. This led to the graphic details he portrayed



that won him the

Pulitzer. As

much as we are force-fed Steinbeck through the first three years of high school, most students learn to not only enjoy the books we need to read but go on to read others.

A few of his major works include: *Tortilla Flat*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Travels with Charlie*, and *Cannery Row*.

FEATURE

Tasting the Power

the fourth part in an on-going short story by Nick Swetye

Jake found the keep at the height of the tower, crept inside and read the ancient tome, cover to cover.

The book had changed him. Inside, something was different. Things he saw, things he smelled, things he ate. But mostly what had changed within him were the things he heard. At first he thought that he was imagining things but over time he came to realize that it was something more. But this power had its limits. It was sporadic. Jake could not use it at will. It controlled him and this was one of the first things he learned. The first day he returned to school he had a math test, algorithms. He had not even looked at the homework. He'd had no weekend to study, and so logically he should have failed that test. But no. He saw the work on the paper, in tiny translucent red letters. He heard the answers in his head over and over again, whispering in the air. Jake turned in his test twenty minutes before anyone else. His teacher had been amazed, she thought he cheated and so she made

him retake the test after school. This time there was no help from the power he had discovered within himself and his teacher watched him as he failed the test miserably.

Once the power he had had been tested Jake only wanted more. He hungered for it. He thought of it night and day for three weeks until it came again. He was walking down the hall with his best man, Steve Nash. Steve had a girlfriend named Kim, and although the Steve and she had not been getting along well lately, Kim was still crazy about her boyfriend. Steve on the other hand had no desire for her, but he was faithful nonetheless, or so Jake had thought until in the blink of an eye he saw his friend with another girl at a party Jake had not attended. The power coursed through his veins once again - this time more powerful than the last. Jake confronted Kim then and by simply listening to her knew what she wanted. He knew when she wanted it, Jake knew exactly what to say, and he knew that no matter what Steve wanted and no matter how crazy she was about him that Kim

would belong to Jake. O the power he held in his hand. He used it when he could, consumed it, and when he was without it he was like a naked boy.

To this point all of the power that Jake had benefited him, and it was the cunning of the power that did this. It lured him in, addicted him to its will and testament, and when its host could think nothing of it would show him. It would change him forever. It was the truth that the power commanded, and it was that truth that Jake was fed. For two months Jake was given things by the power - women, intelligence, money, even fame. And then, when the last snowfall melted away in early spring, Jake was given the first taste of what the power was. He sat on his sofa in the television room with his parents, watching the news. It was a calm day for him, for everyone. The weather was unusually nice outside, some of the birds had returned to the warmer climes, and the sun was just beginning to set. It was that day that Jake felt the true scope of the power for the first time, and the last time for some months. In his chest rose a

huge anxious bubble, and a lump appeared in his throat that swelled and choked him like an oncoming tear. And when the pain began to frighten him he saw it, a hundred thousand people crying in a pain so terrible as to wake the very dead. They lay beneath rubble and were choked by fumes and smoke. There was utter destruction and it seemed that each of them cried out for him, and Jake jumped from his seat and unthinkingly fell to the floor on hands and knees, gripping his neck and chest. The pain waned after a few seconds and was gone. His parents were terribly frightened but a news flash interrupted their fears with terrible shock. An earthquake had struck Japan, killing thousands in the capital. Jake watched in horror as the faces in the TV corresponded to his vision, and countless thousands of others reappeared in his mind. He held back a yell of sadness and ran to his room. He never wanted to feel the power again...

Happy Holidays!!!



College Corner Engineering

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio
private
SAT- 640-740M, 600-710V
ACT- 27-31
STFR- 8:1
Application deadline- 2/1
Tuition- \$17, 100
telephone- (216) 368-4450
www.cwru.edu

Franklin University
Columbus, Ohio
private
STFR- 20:1
Application deadline- rolling
Tuition- \$5,152
telephone- (614) 224-6237
no on-campus housing

Ohio Northern University
Ada, Ohio
private
ACT- 24
GPA- 3.4
STFR- 13:1
Application deadline- 8/1
Tuition- \$18,870
telephone (419) 772-2260
www.onu.edu

FEATURE

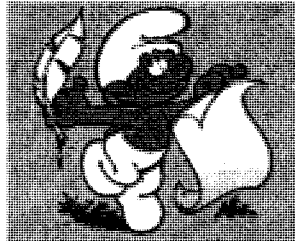
La la la la la...

Facts and History about everyone's favorite blue midgets

by Sarah Lederle

When I was growing up in the 1980's, each of my days had a definite routine. Probably my favorite part of the day was in the afternoon, when I would watch first *The Smurfs* and next *Scooby Doo* on channel 43. I was (and still am) shamelessly obsessed with the little blue men. My collection of Smurf paraphernalia was impressive—I had a Smurf wristwatch (which, alas, no longer fits), a Smurf guitar, a Smurf television set, a Smurf Big Wheel, Smurf figurines, stuffed Smurfs, Smurf books... ah, fond memories of childhood!

The Smurfs began their rise to popularity in the Dutch magazine *Le Journal de*



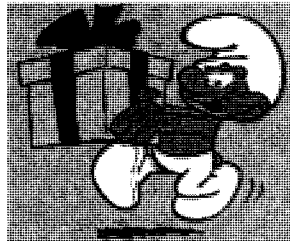
Spirou. Pierre Culliford, a cartoonist (a.k.a. Peyo), inserted them as guest characters in his comic strip "Johan & Peewit." Called

"Schtroumpfs" (Flemish for "whatchamacallit"), they soon began appearing in their own comic strips and books. But their real rise to the top began with the release of the film *The Smurfs and the Magic Flute*, which was an international blockbuster.

The Smurfs (in case you are not familiar) are little blue men, "three apples high." They live in mushroom houses in an enchanted forest. Visits to the Smurfs are strictly by invitation only, and Johan and

Peewit (pronounced "peewee") were the first humans to enter the forest. The evil wizard Gargamel,

with his cat Azreal, attempts many wicked schemes to gain access to the Smurfs, but he always fails. Except for Papa



Smurf, who is 542 years old, all Smurfs are 100, and oddly enough, they never get any older. Originally, all Smurfs were identical, until the arrival of the Smurfette. Smurfette, believe it or not, was created by Gargamel to spy on the other Smurfs. But, as always, his cunning plan failed miserably, and now the lovely Smurfette lives in the Smurf village in her own purple house.

The first Smurfs to reach the U.S. were plastic figurines, manufactured by the Schleich toy company. These figures were originally gas station giveaways in Belgium but have set off an international collecting craze that is still going strong. The Schleich company has made 100 different figurines each year since 1978. The enormous success of the figurines is what

A Smurf by any other name...

Smurfs around the world

- Les Schtroumpfs—Belgium, the Netherlands
- Los Pitufos—Spain
- I Puffi—Italy
- Smerfy—Poland
- Smurffit—Finland
- Smurfana—Sweden
- Smurfies—South Africa
- Smrcki—Slovenia
- Sumafu—Japan
- Lan Jing Ling—China

prompted the creation of the Smurf television show. In 1981 the Hanna-Barbera animation company bought the rights to the cartoon for NBC. Hanna-Barbera created many unique Smurf individuals, including Brainy Smurf, Handy Smurf, Poet Smurf, Farmer Smurf, and Astrosmurf. A total of 256 episodes were produced, which are now shown in roughly 30 countries.

Things to ponder

Christmas

In the United States Christmas has become the rape of an idea.

-Richard Bach

The approach of Christmas brings harassment and dread to many excellent people.

-Mark Twain

Fruitcakes make ideal gifts because the Postal Service has been unable to find a way to damage them. ... The easiest way to make a fruitcake is to buy a darkish cake, then pound some old, hard fruit into it with a mallet. Be sure to wear safety glasses.

-Dave Barry

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FOCUS

December Decisions

Suzie Mason



Whenever we think of December, we always associate it with Christmas. Well, what about all of those neglected December holidays? We all seem to forget about those and focus on what we're going to get our friends and family for Christmas. I decided to ask the student body to create their own non-Christmas December holiday and perhaps we will all one day celebrate them!

Courtney Gallo - A whole week off of school when it snows for the first time

Scott Guappone - My birthday, Dec. 7, sing in my praise

Doug Tullis - A day where you can do anything for a week and everything is legal

Tim Verhoek - Christmas...oh wait, nevermind.

Angie Petrackoff & Leslie Rogers - Salt Day, because Angie puts too much salt on her fries!

Jeff & Ruby - Celebrate tattoos and piercings

Joe Clutter & Susan Tkatch - Dodo Day for Leila and Aileen

Bo Rottenborn - Rolling Stones Day... Week... no, Year

Pam Williamson - Bo Rottenborn Day, because Ventura already made a Stones Day

Teresa Huzyak - National Teachers Buy Presents For All Freshmen Day

Joe Eritz - National Aaron Helmick Day, because he is the man, and has his own fan club. Chicain!!

C Lunch Junior Girls Table - Naked Day, all towns become nudist colonies for this day. If you go the entire day without clothes on, you get a special treat from the

Nakedfairy. *Dan Fennema* - I agree.

Eric Davidson - Chris Farley Day, Dec. 18

Ray Burger - National Trip Day

Perry Bailey - National Bud Day, for all my friends

Dave Panezott - National Elvis Day

Dan Miller - Global Troll Day

Sean Argentino - "Suzie Mason Day" Party at Suzie's Dec. 15 (Just to set the record straight, please don't really come over, guys)

Tom Myers - National Conrad Day, everyone shall wear Abercrombie and go out with as many girls as possible to commemorate this sacred day

Suzie & Randee - National Holiday for all of us to bow down to Tom Myers, because we all know Steve doesn't compare to him!

Aileen Vogel - National Pittsburgh Steelers Day

Junior Girls 5a, 5b, & 5c Lunch Tables - National Junior Class Day!

Brad Bowlin - National make fun of Bowlin because he's a loser day

Abi Willeman - National Don't Ask Me A Survey Question Day

Sarah Loudon, Melissa Mullen, Mary Bauman, Jill Bestic - Adults Can't Speak Day

Greg P. Huzyak & Joe C. Chamberlain - We would make a holiday on which Cari Sanchez could not speak. That way we would have at least one day a year when we wouldn't have to hear Cari say dumb things. We would call it "The Day Cari Won't Speak Day." If you like the idea, tell us about it.

The Millennium Question

Suzie Mason



You will, no doubt, be exposed in the next few years to numerous pundits and talking heads who will solemnly tell us that we have it all wrong, that the new millennium starts on January 1, 2001. There was no year 0 in the Gregorian calendar, they proclaim, so the first decade ended 10 years after year 1, or December 31, 10. Similarly, the first century ended on December 31, 100, and the second millennium started on January 1, 1001.

Well, this is all very logical, but I think otherwise. There was no year 1 or year 10, or year 100. These calendar dates were backed into by monks hundreds of years later, monks with apparently little knowledge of the Arabic notion of zero. I'm going to put off my party a year because some monks couldn't count? I think not.

Most of us, I think, tend to look upon the turn of the century as not an abstract math question, but more akin to the functioning of an odometer. (Monks never had cars, either.) When, back in college, my cousin decided to celebrate the longevity of his '63 Rambler, he did it at 100,000 miles, not 100,001. You can't tell me that when the first two numbers of the year change from 19 to 20, we've not yet reached the millennium. It's counterintuitive!

The ever-erudite Stephen Jay Gould has pointed out that a millennium is whatever you call it, that there is no cosmic proctor to declare that a particular theory is "right" or "wrong." He points out that the celebrations on January 1, 1901, welcoming the current century, were dictated by "high culture" pundits. Up until WWII, there was a distinction between "high" culture and "pop" culture, and the culturatti were looked to for infallible advice in matters such as these. The opinion of us peons was ignored. But now, there is no difference between high and pop, between the New Yorker and the Enquirer, between Lincoln Center and Lincoln Logs. We are culture, and if we decide that 2000 is it, that's it!

So Prince had it right, the big party is on December 31, 1999. Those high culture types will show up a year late to find the party over, the food eaten, and the Mylar balloons stuck in the rafters.

FOCUS

Hanukkah

Leigh Peterson



Judaism is one of the oldest, longest surviving religions in existence. With millions of people practicing Judaism in the world today, it's surprising that there are so few in our community. But that's no excuse to live your life in ignorance. Jews celebrate a holiday in December that holds as much importance to them as Christmas does to Christians. Here it is, F.Y.I., the Hanukkah story.

About two thousand years ago, Israel and its Jewish inhabitants fell into the hands of the Syrians and Greeks. Jewish rituals and worship were outlawed, and the new way of life became known as Hellenism. Ideals of outward beauty and strength replaced the emphasis the Jews placed on truth and morality. In the village of Modi'in, the Greeks set up an altar and commanded the Jews to bring a pig sacrifice to show obedience to the new king, Antiochus. As one Jew approached the altar to do so, he was struck down by the sword of Mattathias, an old priest. Mattathias and his five sons fled to the mountains, and in alliance with friends and followers, began a war against the Greeks. Mattathias died before the end of the war, and his son Judah the Maccabee took command. Eventually, Judah and his followers defeated the armies of Antiochus and liberated Jerusalem. They reclaimed their temple and lit the menorah. They had only enough oil to burn for one day, but it is said that a miracle occurred and the menorah burned for eight days. To this day the Jews have celebrated Hanukkah to remember the victory of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil.

Today, Hanukkah is celebrated over eight nights. Each night, candles are lit – one on the first night, two on the second, and so on – and blessings are read from the Jewish book of worship, the Torah. Then families exchange gifts, sing Hanukkah hymns, and enjoy traditional Jewish food. Children collect their Hanukkah gelt (Hanukkah money) and play with their dreidels.

Judaism has a fascinating history and its followers enjoy a rich culture and strong beliefs. Because there are very few Jews in Salem, many of us are unaware of Jewish culture and customs. Sometimes this lack of knowledge can result in prejudice, tension and even hatred. Keep an open mind and make an effort to learn about people who have different beliefs than you. You might learn a great deal and find your attitude about many things changing.

Everyday is a Holiday

Emily Gibson

There are many holidays that are openly recognized during December. I wanted to find the holidays that most people don't know. During my search I discovered that everyday is a holiday of some sort. Here are the ones I found for December.

December 1...National Pie Day and Eat A Red Apple Day

December 2...National Fritters Day

December 3...National Roof-Over-Your-Head Day

December 4...Wear Brown Shoes Day

December 5...National Sacher Torte Day

December 6...National Gazpacho Day and Mitten Tree Day

December 7...National Cotton Candy Day

December 8...Take It In The Ear Day

December 9...National Pastry Day

December 10...Festival For The Souls Of Dead Whales

December 11...National Noodle Ring Day

December 12...National Ding-A-Ling Day

December 13...Ice Cream and Violins Day

December 14...National Bouillabaisse Day

December 15...National Lemon Cupcake Day

December 16...National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

December 17...Underdog Day and National Maple Syrup Day

December 18...National Roast Suckling Pig Day

December 19...Oatmeal Muffin Day

December 20...Games Day

December 21...Look At The Bright Side Day, National Flashlight Day, National French Fried Shrimp Day and Hamburger Day

December 22...National Date-Nut Bread Day

December 23...Roots Day

December 24...National Egg Nog Day

December 25...National Pumpkin Pie Day

December 26...National Whiners Day

December 27...National Fruitcake day

December 28...Card Playing Day and National Chocolate Day

December 29...Pepper Pot Day

December 30...Festival Of Enormous Changes At The Last Minute and National Bicarbonate Of Soda Day

December 31...Unlucky Day

Have a Happy Non-Christmas Holiday!





What You See Is What You Get

Adam Shoop

The Flip Wilson Show was one of the most popular and successful variety shows of the seventies. The Flip Wilson show marked the last time a variety show was successful when focusing on one performer. The show ran at 8:00 on NBC from 1970 to 1974, and featured no regular except Flip himself. Most of the show was performed on a circular stage that was surrounded by audience members, with minimal scenery. This series played host to the biggest stars around in the early seventies, and one of the few programs which featured musical guests such as Isaac Hayes the Temptations, and James Brown. Flip was famous for his character Geraldine that made the phrase "What you see is what you get" famous. Other popular characters were everyman 'Freddie Johnson' and the flamboyant 'Reverend LeRoy', the pastor of the Church of What's Happenin' Now.

The Flip Wilson show left the air abruptly, it seems as though not much has been said since. Variety shows usually never turn up in television syndication, but with the incredible success of the 'Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour' reruns on VH-1, there is a whole new audience for a form of entertainment that was once considered by many to be lost forever. Unfortunately Flip passed away recently, but ultimately Flip hasn't disappeared just yet; his show is now being available again on cable.



Holiday Fun Films

Jessica Weingart



Unless you have an all expenses paid vacation to Cancun, inevitably there will be some boredom to bust over the holiday break. When the "weather outside is frightful" and your cash stash is depleted from the shopping there aren't too many alternatives. Watching movies is probably the most popular option around. *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *A Muppet Christmas Carol* are two classic Christmas films that are this month's focus.

It's a Wonderful Life is a classic that should certainly be a top of your movie rental list. Jimmy Stuart and Donna Reed headline an all star cast of almost thirty people. Directed by Frank Capra in 1946, the movie portrays George Bailey and his trials and tribulations in Bedford Falls. Some angels stop him before he makes a big mistake. *It's a Wonderful Life* should be a definite pleaser for a (GASP!) night stuck home with your family because mom and dad are sure to enjoy the memories it will bring back (Of seeing it for the first time!), and it should get you

excited for the coming holiday. If this movie cannot get you at least a little in the Christmas Spirit, then you are just made of stone.

A Muppet Christmas Carol is a great film for those afternoons spent watching a little brother or sister. They should enjoy the muppet adaptation of this classic Christmas story. It's also a bonus for you because you will not have to sit through two hours of some cheesy "Barney" Christmas movie. You might actually have some fun watching Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, the remaining host of muppets, and Michael Caine in probably one of the most well known Christmas stories of all time.

If a blanket of that white stuff is covering the ground and you are looking for something to do, gather your friends and family and watch a movie- you'll head no farther than your nearest video store. Take the opportunity now- it's a long wait until next Christmas!

Merry Christmas



Flower Loft

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Salem's Full Service Florist



Flowers wired world wide
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1-330-332-1504
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The Worst of Winter

Katie Yoder

As the winter season rolls around, almost everyone seems to be awaiting the arrival of Christmas. Did ever think about the season that comes with Christmas? Well it's winter and I really dread it. So I came up with the top 10 things that I hate most about Christmas.

10. Tacky Christmas lights.
9. Getting into freezing cars.
8. Boring Christmas movies.
7. Relatives.
6. Shoveling snow.
5. Waking up in the morning and realizing that it's snowed, but not enough for school to be cancelled.
4. Ice.
3. Wasting all of your money to buy presents for other people.
2. Unwanted snow ball fights.
1. Old fat men that want you to sit on their lap.



Tacky Lights Extravaganza

Jessica Weingart

Remember the good old days when mom and dad would bundle you up with your brothers and sisters and take you out to look at Christmas decorations? You probably remember having a good time looking at all of the decorations adorning the houses. Inevitably, though, the trip took a turn to the house with the tacky lights. I personally will never forget seeing these gargantuan displays of blinding light, so I decided to devote myself to saluting the unappreciated people who sacrifice large amounts of time and money so that we can gawk and stare at their house every year.

The Clot family (Bill, Archy, Josh, Diane and Joshua Clot) of Pinecrest, Florida has been at the business of Christmas lights for over three decades. Their display is one of the biggest around, with over 400,000 lights and over 100 animated figures. The Clot's certainly are dedicated to their art because their Christmas display takes over 15 days and 15 volunteers to assemble. Yes, they also have quite an electric bill- \$4,000 for the month of December. The Clot family has a web address www.clotxmas.com where you can learn more about their display, take a virtual tour, and you can even get directions to their house. The donations from this tacky display of lights certainly go to a good cause - the Clots have brought in over \$250,000 for the

Women's Cancer Association for the University of Miami.

Tennessee native Chuck Smith has also put together an impressively large light display. He has 126,370 Christmas lights, 251 strobe lights, and Santa in a helicopter all connected by 5.64 miles of wire which are hooked up to 364 computer circuits. I can honestly say that even though it is so tacky, their display is by far the coolest. Organizer Chuck Smith has put together an excellent website at www.planetchristmas.com. At this website you can check the Santa schedule and see Santa will be at the Smiths, see pictures of other lights from all around the country (and even some international), chat with other people who find tacky lights interesting, take a tour (with a video or pictures), obtain directions to his home of holiday cheer, and even get Chuck Smith's own phone number if you just have to tell him what a lunatic he is.

Although I do not know many people who carry holiday decorating to the utmost extreme of the Clots and Chuck Smith, many still carry it to an extreme. Some people's Christmas spirit just overwhelms their common sense. Even so, they can still use their disturbed hobby for a good cause. If you just cannot get out this Christmas, the internet has quite a mecca of sites to satisfy your desire for all things tacky.

Do You Have Tacky Lights?

Along with the help of the ultimate tacky Christmas lights website (www.tackychristmas.com), I have put together an easy to use checklist for you to refer to if you just don't know if your lights are tacky.

- Are your neighbors kept up at night because of the glare coming through their window?
- Are people taking pictures of your house?
- Has your display caused your normally sleepy backstreet to become a major highway?
- Does the owner of the local lighting store know you by name?
- Is your house listed on www.tackychristmas.com?
- Are you only able to get decent sleep with your Ray Bans on?
- Does your house use more electricity than a small Mexican village?
- Have airplanes tried to land in your yard?



Small Bug, Big Ideas

Adam Shoop

A Bug's Life is one of the two¹ movies about insects, and is a terrific film. *A Bug's Life* focuses on the themes of individualism and self-esteem, and mixed in is a great sense of humor. The artwork to this film is composed of computerized images, so realistic you often forget that it is a cartoon. The story follows a creative, accident prone ant named Flik who sets out from his anthill to recruit mercenary bugs to help defend his colony against an oppressive group of grasshoppers. *A Bug's Life* is directed by John Lasseter, the Pixar computer-animation mastermind whose *Toy Story* opened the door for this kind of film in the first place. The sophistication of the animation here is unsurpassed. Crowd scenes with thousands of ants appear completely natural as if every single bug was animated individually. Trees and fields of grass are so realistic as to invite doubts that animated at all. Even Flik's eyelids have small wrinkles when he blinks. *A Bug's Life* isn't another *Toy Story* or *The Lion King* in terms of its ranking among animated classics, as a battle continues for cartoon supremacy between Disney and DreamWorks in which the audience is the big winner. Whatever you do, don't leave *A Bug's Life* until the credits have finished rolling because they run along side hilarious mock "out-takes," in which bugs flub their lines, crack up on "the set," bump into the camera and get clobbered by boom mikes. The movie is fun, but this bit alone is worth the price of admission.

¹ The other insect film is *Antz*.



For the December issue, I decided to write an article on the basics of amateur wrestling, because the majority of the high school is not as familiar with wrestling as with other sports. Collier's Encyclopedia defines wrestling as "a body contact sport that involves throwing and holding an opponent on the ground by means of certain specified holds." This definition doesn't tell me much that I don't already know about wrestling. Upon further investigation, I was able to find better information about wrestling.

Some basic lingo for wrestling is as follows:

That's what it's all about

Carey McDermott

Tie-ups: contact and control initiated by either wrestler

Take-downs: fundamental maneuver used to gain advantage of the opponent

Pinning: holding the opponent's shoulders to the mat,

Escapes: Any maneuver to get free of opponent's hold

Rides: Maintaining the advantage over opponent by limiting his movements

Fall: another term for a pin

In high school wrestling there are thirteen weight classes, which vary from 103 pounds to greater than 275 pounds (heavyweight). Each contestant can weigh no more than his class, but he can weigh less. Each match consists of three periods; each period is two minutes long. Each period begins with two wrestlers in a different position than the previous position(s). In the first period, the wrestlers stand facing each other. In the second position, one wrestler takes the defensive position—on his hands and knees—and the other wrestler takes the offensive position. In the offensive position, the wrestler stands at his opponent's side or with one foot behind the opponent. He then puts one arm around the opponent's waist and a hand on the opponent's elbow. In the third and final period of each match, the wrestlers switch positions from the one they had



in the second period.

Each wrestler receives points for performing various maneuvers. Another way to receive points is when an opponent commits a technical error, illegal hold, or breaks a rule. The match ends when the wrestler gains a fall by holding his opponent's shoulders to the mat for two seconds. If there is no fall, the wrestler with the most points wins by a decision.

With the wrestling season about to begin, this guide should help those of us that are "sports impaired" to get a better understanding of wrestling before we go to a match.

Free agency: The disease of sports

Chris Williams



There was once a time when professional sports were pure. When every team had a chance to win it all, even teams with little money and few talented players. Players on teams were friends with each other. Players were loyal to their teams. Virtually every athlete had a real job during the off season. If a player got traded, it was emotional for everyone within the organization. How times have changed over the years.

Now it seems as if championships are bought rather than won. Team owners with more money can pay superstar

players from other teams outrageous amounts of money and usually those teams go on to have success. This is a problem the general public has realized, but very little has been done to control the problem. Fans, owners, players, and officials of various leagues have been extremely apathetic when it comes to free agency.

Free agency started in the 1970s. If a player honestly did not enjoy playing for his team, he could sign with another team once his contract had expired. Back then, players only signed with other teams because they did not get along with other players or the coach or because they could sign with the team they cheered for as a child. A team signing a free agent back then even had to compensate for the other teams loss by giving them a player or an amount of

money. However, during the early 1980s, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner would sign players to contracts with then unheard of amounts of money. This is a possibility of how the abuse of the free agency system has begun as other owners followed Steinbrenner's example. Since then, many teams have dominated the leagues they play in year after year because they have money to buy the best players. However, not every team has benefited from free agency. In December of 1996, the Chicago White Sox signed many free agents, including Albert Belle from the Cleveland Indians for fifty-five million dollars. The White Sox were ex-

pected to win the American League Central Division and possibly win the World Series in 1997. Chicago failed to win the division, as they finished in fourth place. Despite improving to second in the AL Central in 1998, they still had a disappointing season with a 79-83 record.

Hopefully for the sake of professional sports, commissioners and other officials will do something about this problem. Perhaps they should have a maximum salary a free agent can be signed for. If a free agent can get a better contract with the team he is currently playing for, maybe that will encourage that player to stay with the team. This would really please the fans, who are the reason professional sports exist.

SPORTS

Battle of the blades

Carey McDermott



Two different people, two different sports, one thing in common-ice. The two sports are hockey and ice-skating. Two Salem students brave the chill of the rink to compete in their own sport.



Jackie Puszta is a competitive ice skater. She got her start roller-skating which she began at just 18 months old. Puszta became interested in figure skating after noticing that roller skaters were not on television and ice skaters were. She wanted to be on television too, and at age eight, decided to switch to ice-skating. Puszta trains at Winterhurst in Lakewood, and at The

Ice Zone in Boardman. She trains approximately two hours each day, five days a week.

Puszta has had two major injuries. Four years ago she was in the middle of a double jump and collided with another skater mid-air. The other skater's blade went through Puszta's boot and into her foot about two inches. However, Puszta was lucky that the blade didn't hit any bones, and she ended up with only three stitches. Her second major injury was more recent. Two summers ago, another ice-skater intentionally kicked her. A tumor developed in the tibia of her right leg. Just this August Puszta had surgery to have the tumor removed. Puszta is still recovering from that injury.

There are many aspects of ice-skating that Puszta enjoys. Her favorites include competing, winning, and hanging out with the hockey players. On the other hand, she dislikes falling, sliding into the boards and putting up with the hockey players.

Puszta has had various accomplishments. During the time frame that she roller-skated, Puszta went to

nationals. During her ice-skating career, she has competed in other high-level international competitions. In a competition in Canada, she placed second in the short program. Puszta also competed in nationals and received sixteenth place.

Even though Puszta is unable to compete right now because of her injury, she will be in a Christmas show this month and in a competition in March.

Puszta has high aspirations for her future. "I would just like to go as far as I can. I do hope to be a world competitor, but there are other aspects of the sport I would like to explore. For now, I just want

to get back into the program and see where to go from there." Maybe someday we will see Puszta on television. Salem's hockey player is Bill McElroy. Bill first became involved in hockey 4 years ago when he saw the movie *The Mighty Ducks*. He trains at The Ice Zone in Boardman and also dry land (off of the ice) at home. He trains approximately 2 hours each day for about 6 months out of the year. Two of McElroy's favorite things about playing hockey are being on the ice and hitting the other players. He plays hockey for fun and because of the violence involved in the sport.

McElroy says hockey is really as violent as it looks. McElroy's worst injury was hitting his head against the boards and getting knocked out. McElroy plays for Lowry Supply in the Midget Hockey League and competes at The Ice Zone in Boardman. Also, McElroy is part of the Midget All-Star team.

One of McElroy's strong beliefs is that hockey is underrated. He says that nobody in Salem knows about hockey and that all the emphasis is placed on football and basketball.

Whether it is on an individual basis or a team setting, both skaters put great effort into their sport. *The Quaker* wishes the best of luck to both skaters.



Paxson shows them the Wright way



Sarah Panezott

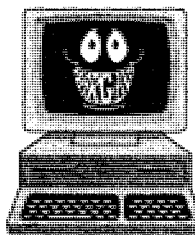
The girls basketball team is returning six lettermen, seniors: Kelly Straub, Amber Mansour, Julie Manis, and juniors: Kelly Paxson, Robyn Wright and Tracy Stapf.

The team had their first game on Saturday, November 28 but there was a misunderstanding on game times and they had to reschedule the game at Canton for December 9. On December 3 they traveled to Beaver

Local where Kelly Paxson and Robyn Wright lead the Quakers to a 60 to 32 win. Paxson had 19 points, 12 rebounds, six steals and four assists. Wright had 13 points, 15 rebounds 4 assists and 4 blocked shots. Seniors Kelly Straub, and Amber Mansour each scored seven points and had five steals.

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SPORTS

Stars of the month

Chris Williams



Shining star

In the November edition of *The Quaker*, the Ohio State Buckeyes were chosen as the falling star because of their 28-24 loss to Michigan State. This loss ruined the Buckeyes' chances of winning the national championship. Since then the Bucks have redeemed themselves by beating the Michigan Wolverines, their eternal rivals. OSU won the game by the score of 31-16. Although the national championship is virtually gone, this win has put a smile on the faces of Ohio State fans. It has also had impact on OSU coach John Cooper's contract, which will probably be extended if the Buckeyes can beat the Texas A&M Aggies in the Nokia Sugar Bowl. The game will be played on New Year's Day.

Did you know...?

Carey McDermott

...originally, basketball hoops didn't have backboards?

Originally, the spectators of a basketball game sat in balconies, which were the same height as the basketball hoops. The hoops were nailed onto spectator balconies. Since there was no rule to prevent interference of the ball by the spectators, a solution was needed. Attaching large, wooden backboards behind the hoops prevented the spectators' interference; thus backboards were introduced to the game as we know it today.

Stellers is leading them to a Spack-tacular season

Sarah Panezott



This year the varsity boy's basketball team has a new head coach, Mr. Stellers. Mr. Spack is also back helping the team. The team is led by seven seniors.

On December 4 they played Youngstown Chaney, unfortunately they dropped their season home opener to the Cowboys 66-64. Reuben Dunlap led the Quakers with 14 points. Also scoring for Salem was Steve Conrad with 13 points, Casey Crawford with 10, Ryan Gross with 9 points, Lou Angelo and Chad Copacia each with seven points. Jason Fennema

added two points. Dunlap also contributed eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Angelo had seven rebounds. Hitting three pointers for Salem were Copacia and Crawford with two apiece, Angelo and Gross each had one.

On December 4, the boys played Ashtabula city at home. The Quakers came out on top with a score of 62-42.

The Jayvees, however, beat Chaney 46-37. Ryan Drake and Brian Cushman led the Quakers with eight and seven points. The team is coached by Herman Miller.



Falling star

December's falling star consists of not one athlete, not a team, but an entire league, or according to them, a union of athletes. They are none other than the NBA basketball players, also called the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA). The players formed a lockout in June. The lockout means that no games will be played and no players will be paid. The NBPA has formed this lockout because they claim they have labor disputes with the owners of the teams. What labor disputes could there possibly be? How could there be problems in the NBA? It is not as though they are factory workers working for hours for little pay in horrible working conditions. The players get paid to play a game. They get paid salaries that many consider to be more than they deserve. The NBA has never cancelled games due to labor disagreements. NBA commissioner David Stern has already postponed games in November and throughout most of December of the 1998-99 NBA season. My advice to the players is that they should get their acts together, put their whining aside, and go out and play. Basketball fans everywhere, like me, most likely agree.

Senior Spotlight: Cheerleading

Sarah Panezott



Name

Tricia Callahan

Most Memorable Moment

Well, since I couldn't enter my first one, I would have to say J.V. Cheerleading, bus ride home, Leonardo, broken boundaries and it was not me it was the _____!

Name

Stephanie Godfrey



Melody Kolich

To tell you the truth I can not pick out one particular moment because this entire season was the best I have ever had. The other six girls on my squad are awesome and I will never forget them. (I think I also made it impossible for them to forget me) I hope they all know how much I'll miss them. (GOOTTERBEIN!)

The conversations we had on the way up to away basketball games last year. All I have to say is three things: Katie Yoder, Leonardo DiCaprio and BOUNDARIES!!