

The Quaker

A High School Tradition for 90 years.

Volume 90, Number 3

Salem Senior High School

December 2002

'Tis the season to be giving

BY CASSIE NYKTAS

Giving truly is better than receiving! This is the attitude that has been portrayed by many of the clubs and classes at Salem High School during this holiday season. When students are willing to give up their free time to help others then they are truly getting into the holiday spirit. "These students are very, very, generous and will be lifting the spirits of many in our community this holiday season," says a pleased Mrs. Schneider, instructor of the CBE and IBE students.

Students in CBE (Cooperative Business Education) and IBE (Intensive Business Education) programs have been very busy also this holiday season. With the help of Miss Marr's classes, they have collected canned goods from students and teachers as well as money, which will be used to buy more food. Mr. Viencek's classes also made a monetary contribution. They will then be making food baskets from the food bought and collected. They are working in cooperation with the Salvation Army, and any food items that are left over will be donated to their food pantry. The students are also involved in the Christmas Dress-A-Live Doll program. The Salvation Army also

sponsors this. As a part of this program, students will choose from homes of children ages two months to eleven years and will become the child's sponsor. They will then buy the designated child an entire outfit for Christmas. This year the IBE and CBE classes were able to sponsor sixteen children. The business classes will also be playing Santa and visiting nursing homes throughout the community. In addition to delivering gifts, they will be singing Christmas carols to the residents living at the nursing homes. The Salvation Army provided all gifts.

The American Field Service (AFS) has teamed up with St. Paul's Catholic Church and the Salvation Army to participate in a food drive. There were a total of ten boxes of food collected. Students involved wrapped the boxes of food and then delivered them. The boxes will be delivered to needy families in the community. A pizza party was given as an incentive for the time and effort students put into helping. This is the fifteenth year that the AFS has participated in the annual food drive. Mr. Martinelli is the advisor for AFS.

The Key Club participates

in charitable activities throughout the school year. This holiday season they were involved in the Create a Smile Foundation. Students brought in new, unwrapped toys to donate to children. These were collected in the room of Key Club advisor, Mr. Jared Stratton. The toys were then sent to Kent State, Salem campus and were wrapped by the people who attended the divisional meeting on December 7.

The Woods Technology classes, under the direction of Mr. Ken Peters, decided to spread holiday cheer this year by building "giving trees." It was the students' decision to build the trees. The class made two trees, one for non-perishable food items and one for mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks. A goal was also set to collect 2003 food items and 100 articles of clothing before this Christmas. The wood classes were hoping that SHS students as well as staff would reach or even exceed this goal. In order to reach their goal, students are also collecting items from friends and family. Once the goal has been reached all the items gathered will be distributed by the Salvation Army and used to help local families.



Pictured above left to right: Jessica Nutter, Elvira Ward, Kim Dolan, Heather Joyner, Erica Davis, and Danielle Taylor.



The giving tree presented by Woods Technology Classes



Pictured front row: Touching Little Lives Reps., Nadine Mishler, and Darlene Strader. Home Ec. students left to right: Savannah Young, Drana Mayer, Matt Lovk, Jerrica Price, Heather Mann, Tiffany Jones, Amber Hoover, and Danielle Zeiler.



Pictured above left to right: Jackie Geist, Ross Helmick, Mr. Stratton, Amy Boyer, Nick Fithian, and Jessica Crawford.

Touching Little Lives presents at SHS

Touching Little Lives representatives Darlene Strader and Nadine Mishler recently visited the classroom of Salem High School home economics instructor Mrs. Devon Johnson. The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate to students how to make a quilt. Students in the Home Ec I classes will sew at least one quilt for this non-profit organization. The fabric squares will be provided by the organization. Students will create their own design.

Little Lives provide over 30,000 items for sick and needy Ohio premature babies, newborns, and their families. Touching Little Lives volunteers not only make quilts but also diaper shirts, sleepers, gowns, and bereavement layettes. Mrs. Strader and Mrs. Mishler are always in need of any donation, whether it is construction materials, monetary donations, or volunteers. Those interested may contact them at dstrader@touchinglittlelives.org, or at the main office in Circleville, Ohio 43113

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News

Midterm mania

BY JONBUCKOSKI

Before you know it, it will be that time again. Time for less sleep, more stress, and the word every student hates to hear ... mid-terms!

Once January arrives you may start fretting over how you're ever going to pass all seven mid-terms or six if you're lucky enough to have been awarded option period. Remember the easiest way to prepare for a midterm is to start early. Early doesn't mean three P.M. after you get home from school the night before the test. Try starting a few days or even a week earlier to study the material from the beginning of the year, as this material will probably be your weakest area. Also, keep in mind to take advantage of any study sheets teachers may pass your way as these will be valuable guidelines on the material you should know for each midterm.

Now that you understand how to be prepared for the test here are some suggestions on test day itself. If you're one of those diehard up until midnight cramers, remember to try and get at least seven to eight hours sleep before the test as this has been proven to lower stress and improve concentration. And for those of you who steer clear of breakfast and feel hungry toward second or third period should try and grab a bowl of cereal or something to satisfy your appetite before you head out the door. There's nothing worse than taking a test on a growling stomach. Remember to come prepared because the worst thing is to get to school and find out you have to scrounge for a pencil or calculator. When you actually receive the test listen to or read the instructions carefully and then try to answer the questions you are sure of, and then move on to the harder ones. Try not to spend too much time on each question as you don't want to run out of time. If you're lucky enough to get a scantron or bubble sheet test remember to fill in every bubble even if you have to guess. And for those of you with the dreaded essay or fill in tests, try and include everything you know about the subject of the question. Finally, if time permits go over the test for a last minute check to see if you answered everything that is being asked.

Since there is no way around taking these unwanted tests, try to focus and ...study, study, study!



Four minutes and counting

BY CHRIS HRITZ
(GUEST WRITER)

Last school year brought on much change. We lost a period, but gained a minute to get to each class. The allotted passing time in Salem Senior High School during the 2001-2002 school year was five minutes. It was nice.

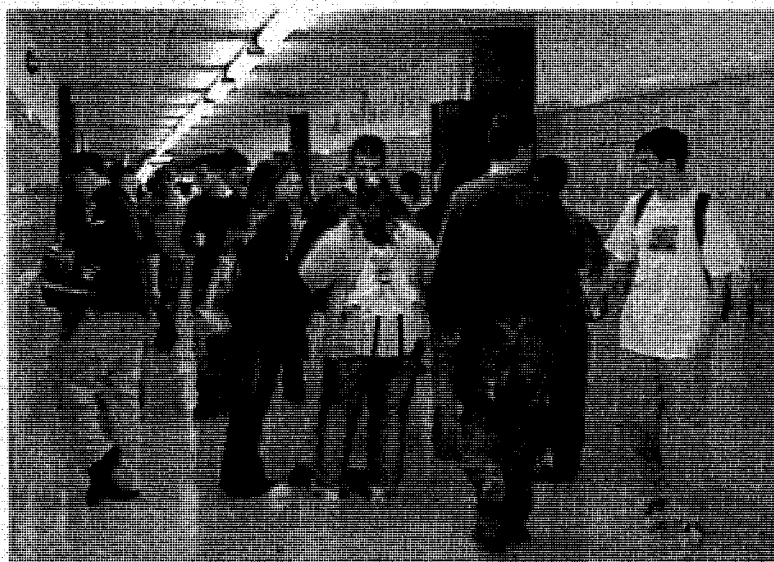
Years before, passing time was four minutes. This was considered adequate and most people had no problem with it. The high school is big, but you could plan for it. One way to plan was to carry a book bag around so you wouldn't have to go to your locker after every period. This was a popular fashion during those times. In the past few years, people quit using back packs and had to visit their lockers more often. When the five minute passing time came into effect, I think everyone was happy.

Passing time is a time to get ready for your next class. It's a time to tell a joke with a friend, and relieve the stress of the day. It's a nice short break. It also acts as a buffer for when class runs over that extra

30 seconds. This year, one minute of that time was taken away from us each period. The school argued that we had too much time and all we were doing was talking. Of course we were talking, it's nearly a required thing between classes.

Four minutes of passing time is not enough time to get to class when you start at the science wing and end up at the end of the math wing. It causes unneeded stress and takes away from our positive school attitude. I myself end up breaking school rules to get to class on time. I often run, because I'm pressured for time and have a biology class that runs over often.

I hope in the future, the school will go back to the five minutes. Even if the students get out several minutes later, I think they would all be willing to make that sacrifice. It is time that we need. I think it will only have positive benefits, except for the occasional crowded hallway, a problem we still have today with the four minute passing times.



Clubs and classes

This month the Spanish Club is holding a candy selling fundraiser. On December 12 there was a Spanish Club meeting and on December 15 the members ate at El Caballo Bayo, and then attended a movie. On December 20 the Spanish Club worked the concession stand at the Salem vs Poland game. Members brought in items to sell and were decked out in their club t-shirts.

On December 3 German Club held a meeting in room 210 at 7:25am. December 12 was their Christmas party with German foods served, and the movie Mr. Deed's shown at Joel Getzinger's house.

The TACT Christmas party was held on December 15 at the Presbyterian Church. In February TACT will be holding a sled riding party.

The French Club Christmas party was held on December 16 from 4pm until 6pm at Mimi's Café.

Key Club sponsored their annual toy drive this month. Students brought in an unwrapped toy, and the toys were then donated to the Create-A-Smile foundation. Thank you for all your help.

A.F.S. held an important meeting on December 10 in room 110 after school where all members were required to turn in their dues.

Foreign language clubs will be holding a ski trip to Peek n' Peak on February 14th. The cost of bus reservation which is \$18.00 will be due to Mrs. Reed by January 10th. Checks should be made payable to Salem High School German Club. Checks for ski packages should be made out to Mrs. Reed and are due by January 28th.

Bulletin board

- December 23- January 6 Christmas Break
- December 21 HS Elks Youth Group Shoot
- December 27 White Christmas 6pm-11pm, Salem Golf Club
- January 9 Junior Assembly- Making the College Search Count
- January 16-17 Midterm exams
- January 17 Basketball Homecoming
- January 18 Basketball/Sweethearts Dance
- January 20 No School, Martin Luther King Day
- January 21 Second semester classes begin
- Seniors order caps and gowns



Dear readers,

This December issue of *The Quaker* features the amusing artistry of Mandy Brayn, a guest article written by senior Chris Hritz, and an improved backpage that has taken the appearance of a collage. Also included is the addition of class projects to the "Club news" area which is now called "Clubs and classes."

The staff of *The Quaker* would like to wish all of the staff and students at Salem High School a safe and happy holiday.



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

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**Advisor: Mrs. Dye
Principal: Mr. Beatty**

G.P.A. system needs revision

BY JON BUCKOSKI

Have you ever wondered why your borderline A-B 93% is equal in G.P.A weight to the student who slacks off most of the semester or year and at the end manages to pull off an 85%.

Most students would agree that to get an accurate G.P.A an 85% should somehow calculate into 85% of your G.P.A while a 93% should somehow calculate into 93% of your G.P.A. Using this logic you would surmise that your G.P.A with a few 93% grades would average to be considerably higher than that of the student who has a few 85% grades. This is untrue in many of today's grading systems meaning that your 93% over the other kids 85% is just that percentage points. In G.P.A jargon anything between an 85% and a 93% is a B which translates into a 3.0 being calculated into your G.P.A. Bearing this in mind then how can anyone grasp a 93% student having tried harder than the person who scored an 85%.

Using the approach of all A's equal 4.0 and all A/B's equal 3.0 and so on is antiquated considering that there is no possible way a person, college, or scholarship committee can tell whether you maintained near A's during school or whether you plowed along with borderline B/C's. All that they are able to distinguish is that you earned B's in general.

There also seems to be problems in areas of standardization as some schools don't even utilize the 4.0 scale as their method of grading. Schools have the possibility of choosing a multitude of other grading systems including the "True" G.P.A system, systems other than 4.0, pass/fail system, and the ABCDF with or without pluses and minuses.

It is then with great consideration that someone should correct these inadequacies of the U.S. G.P.A system and replace it with a variation that is more standardized and reflective of a student's own abilities.

The facts about the true grade point average systems

BY JON BUCKOSKI

G.P.A systems are not all the same. Considering one may just be a generalization while the other may make an accurate portraiture of your ability. Below are explanations of the four most commonly used systems for calculating a G.P.A.

The "true" G.P.A system used by mostly colleges consists of a baseline of 4.0 where by all grades are reflected onto. The breakdown consists of anything between a 100% and a 95% equaling a 4.0 while grade variably decline based on a decimal system of .5 being subtracted from 4.0 for every 5% decrease until zero grade points

are reached at 55%.

The 4.0 scale used mostly by high schools is base on an average of percentiles. This system encompasses a wide area of percents and makes a broad generalization over a student's ability. The 4.0 begins with an A equaling a 4.0 and then for each letter grade drop the student encounters an equal one number drop.

The A+D- system is another college based system which is rarely seen but is seemingly the best at accurately portraying a student's ability. The system begins on a 4.0 scale but branches of

into decimals covering small increments of percentages such as a B+ would equal a 93% or a 3.333 in grade points. This system also uses a baseline where by an A+ would equal 4.333 and an A would equal 4.0 which account for those having percentages over 100%.

The AD system is another system using the 4.0 base and is similar to the A+D- system but eliminates the use of the A+ and D- feature which would eliminate the possibility of anything over 100% or under a 1.0 grade point for a D-. This system is also more commonly used at the college level.

Bitten by the spirit bug

BY LIZ TUSSEY

As we all know the little spirit bug thrives in school during the autumn months. It lives in the colorful banners strung in the hallways and in cheering fans in the stadiums. It is present at all the pep rallies and in the display of school colors. This little bug seems to be everywhere during football season. But as many have noticed, the spirit bug seems to be hibernating during the rest of the year. What exactly is it that scares this little bug into hiding? Maybe it can't find enough spirit in half empty stands; maybe the sight of banner-less halls depresses it. The school was a much warmer place with this little bug flying around.

It is up to the student body to bring the spirit bug back out during the winter. There are many exciting sports and other school events to attend during the winter, and all of them could use the support of the student body. Boys' and girls' basketball games and wrestling could all use some more banners

and better game attendance. The athletes in these sports are every bit as worthy of the spirit bug as the fall athletes.

So what can we, as members of SHS's student body do to bring this wonderful little spirit bug out of hiding? Show your support by attending some of the games. After all, many of the winter athletes gave their support by attending football and volleyball games in the fall; they deserve the same respect in return. Students can show school pride by wearing the "red and black" or participating in the spirit day activities. This school is full of talented students, whether they show it through sports, band, cheerleading, theatre, choir, clubs or any other activity, and they do a wonderful job of representing Salem High School. If we stand behind them and give them our full support, we can bring the spirit of Salem out in full force this winter season. Come back spirit bug....Buzzzzzzzzzz.

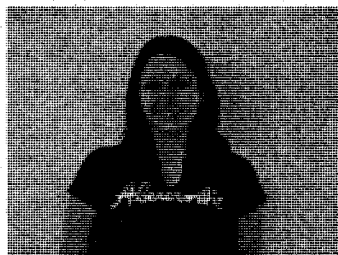
"True" GPA	ABCD (4.0)	A+D-	AD
100%	4.0	A+	4.333
95%	4.0	A	4.000
90%	3.5	A-	3.667
		B+	3.333
85%	3.0	B	3.000
80%	2.5	B-	2.667
		C+	2.333
75%	2.0	C	2.000
70%	1.5	C-	1.667
		D+	1.333
65%	1.0	D	1.000
60%	0.5	D-	0.667
55%	0.0	F	0.000

Chart obtained from www.mcm.edu/~christej/plusminus/node2.html

War of the Words

What do you think of school spirit for the girls' sports?

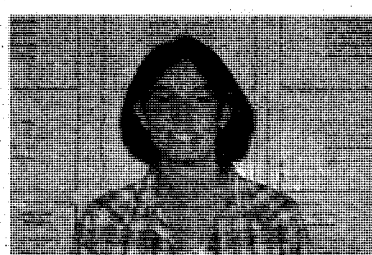
BY SEMIRACHOWDHURY



Devon Carey (9) "I think that spirit for the girls' sports should be expressed more."



Ryan McCallister (10) "I think that school spirit for girls is alright. Some girls' sports have more spirit than others."



Alyson Cotter (11) "I think school spirit for girls' sports is pathetic considering the success of girls' sports."



Craig Karafa (12) "I believe it is not expressed well. People don't show as much for girls' sports and spirit as guys."

Feature

Parking lot lament at SHS

An inside look at hazardous conditions in our school lot

BY RACHEL FINK



Recent incliment weather shows SHS parking lot at it's worst

Students who drive to school all need to be aware of the following: **Park at your own risk!** Many cars are hit each year in the SHS parking lot, and even though it wasn't the owners fault he or she is still the one paying for the damages of a "hit and run" accident.

There are an estimated three to five hits in our school parking lot each year. Out of those, half of the people actually get what they should have coming to them, money. After having a little chat with Mr. Beatty and Mr. Kirkland, I have found that there are currently two cameras covering that area, but SHS is "looking" to add more. Mr. Beatty explains, "The cameras can cover all the rows in the parking lot if they are moved."

SHS is trying to help solve this problem by adding digital, 360-degree zoom cameras and the highlight that every one loves to drive over - speed bumps. If a student's vehicle has been hit on school property they should report it immediately to the office, and then file a report with the Salem Police Department. "Students can protect their vehicle by driving slower and being more cautious," Mr. Beatty and Mr. Kirkland informed me.

So, why is parking in a big parking lot so hard for some people? During the nice dry weather, there is absolutely no excuse for the way people drive. First of all we all need to take it a little bit slower, and definitely be more cautious. Secondly, be aware of every one and every thing around you. During cold icy weather other problems do occur. When the drive is slippery because of the snow people are sliding into parking spaces, and then when the day is over they realize that they aren't even in a parking space at all. The driveway here at school needs to be completely plowed before we get here so that we could cut down on the slipping and sliding action a little bit. To students who drive, mastering a parking space is your responsibility, just as mastering the weather conditions is the school's responsibility.

BY BRAYN



Proficiency help available

BY BETHANY BILLHAM

In 1987 the proficiency tests were first administered to Ohio high school students to test their abilities in areas such as reading, writing, mathematics and citizenship. The science proficiency was added later. It is also a requirement to pass all of these sections of the proficiency to graduate.

Passing the ninth grade proficiency tests can be a struggle for some SHS students. There are various ways a student can receive help to increase their chances of passing. Tutoring and teacher help are two of the most recommended ways to boost your proficiency passing skills. Also you can get study materials from the guidance department such as practice tests and flashcards.

Three of the most troublesome areas for Salem students are citizenship, science and math. The best advice for passing the proficiencies would be, utilize the practice materials, get help from teachers and do your best!

The students that took the proficiency in the fall will receive their results end of December or early January. The next proficiency testing dates are March 3-7. There is also a special May 1-10 testing session for seniors. Also there will be a summer intervention July 7-28, providing the students with an opportunity to get help on problem areas and the opportunity to take the test again after intervention.

Of mice and men

BY BETHANY BILLHAM

Oh no, it's an uprising, save yourselves, the mice are taking over the school! Soon they will be attending class with you, and further crowding the lunch lines. Maybe the mice are to blame for the occasional flickering of the lights or maybe they called in the bomb threat in early November! Just kidding! It does make me wonder about what else could be residing in the small crevices of SHS. The mice sightings began last year; all so far have been in the cafeteria.

The mouse, *Mus musculus*, is a very gregarious animal enjoying to be around it's own kind and people if domesticated. The common brown mouse is mostly bred in pet shops for snake food yet can be used as a pet. The English Fancy mouse, generally white in color, is more commonly used for pets. They have a life expectancy of one to two years. Mice enjoy a variety of foods such as bread, cooked pasta, barley, oats and rice; the mouse also enjoys fresh produce.

Now that I have provided more information than you ever dreamed of wanting to know about mice, I'd like to close with a final note: I don't know if it's safe to let our little furry friends stay but I hope that no harm comes to them.

Science pupils and pulleys



Mr. Stratton's science class hard at work on a project. Pictured left to right: Erika Linam, Chris Morrison, Aurora Leguard, and Meredith Shivers.

Holiday blockbusters

BY LIZ TUSSEY

The holiday weekends have always been a busy and profitable time for the movie industry. This year should be especially exciting, with blockbusters and big stars taking up the screen this Christmas and New Year season.

Gangs of New York - December 20: Leonardo DiCaprio makes his return to the screen after a two year hiatus. In *Gangs of New York* he plays Amsterdam Vallon, and the movie follows his life from 1846 to 1863. It takes place in New York's five points, the worst area of the city at the time. It tells a historical account of the violent fighting between the white New York natives and the Irish immigrants that have recently moved into the area.

Chicago - December 27: Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones star in the movie version of this Broadway hit. It takes place in 1920's Chicago in the dancehall scene. The story of Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly is told through songs and well-choreographed dance numbers.

Maid in Manhattan - December 13: Another tale of poor girl- rich guy. Jennifer Lopez stars in this latest take on *Pretty Woman*. Jennifer Lopez plays a maid employed in a first class New York hotel. While trying on a wealthy occupant's clothes, a political candidate, played by Ralph Fiennes, meets up with her. He falls in love, thinking she is a wealthy Manhattan socialite. Jennifer Lopez then has to find a way to keep up the charade.

Catch Me If You Can - December 25: Yet another Leonardo DiCaprio film coming out this holiday season, this movie is based on a true account of a high school con artist. Leo plays Frank Abagnale Jr., a master of identity. He manages to con 1.3 million dollars out of his victims, all while successfully convincing people that he is a doctor, pilot, and lawyer. Tom Hanks plays the FBI agent who pursues him.

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers - December 5: Frodo and Sam return in the second installment of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. This time they have to travel to the land of Mordor to ensure the destruction of the ring.

Feature

Things to ponder

BY BETHANY BILLHAM

Christmas is celebrated in places all over the world, and just as every country is different so are their traditions. Here are some interesting Christmas superstitions from all around the world.

"To have good health throughout the next year, eat an apple on Christmas Eve."

"Eat plum pudding on Christmas and avoid losing a friend before next Christmas."

"On Christmas Eve all animals can speak. However, it is bad luck to test this superstition."

If you refuse a mince pie at Christmas dinner, you will have bad luck for the coming day.

If you eat a raw egg before eating anything else on Christmas morning, you will be able to carry heavy weights.

"Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green."

In Greece, some people burn their old shoes during the Christmas season to prevent misfortunes in the coming year.

In the Swedish countryside, from rooster crow to daybreak on Christmas morning the trolls (wicked elves) roam about.

"The child born on Christmas Day will have a special fortune."

"Wearing new shoes on Christmas Day will bring bad luck."

In Ireland it is believed the gates of Heaven open at midnight on Christmas Eve. Those who die then go straight to Heaven.

"Place shoes side by side on Christmas Eve to prevent a quarreling family."

"A clear, star-filled sky on Christmas Eve will bring good crops in the summer."

"A blowing wind on Christmas Day brings good luck."

www.santas.net/christmasquotesandsayings.htm

Twas the week before Christmas

BY JONATHAN BUCKOSKI

Twas the week before Christmas,
when all through our school
not a student was absent, not even
my soul;

The yellow slips were hung by the
elf with care,
I hope that Mrs. Wilms would not
be there;

The children were all snug asleep at
their desks,
while nightmares of calculus kept
me from rest;

I spied a desk right near the rooms
lock,
and just settled down near my back-
lock,

When out in the parking lot I heard
great clatter,
I jumped from my desk to investi-
gate the matter.

I ran toward the window as quick as
I could,
I slipped up the blind not knowing if
I should.

The lights illuminating the snow
covered cars
brightening the parking lot like the
twinkle of stars,

When, what to my eyes that I should
see,
eight brown reindeer looking
back at me,

I noticed the driver, he jumped so
quick,
I thought who would it be but old Saint Nick.

More rapid than lightning he jumped
down,
hooting and whistling as he ran to
his sleigh;

Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer, Prancer
and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner
and Blitzen!

Up to the top of the lunchroom! To the
top of the gym!
How dash away! Dash away! Don't
look so grim!"

The snow had blown into a wild
whirl,
but the bell soon rang and all were
dismissed,

Up through the clouds I saw him
pass by,
a dim blurred sight as he let out a
cry.

Soon on the roof I heard a great chat-
ter
I ran to find Mr. Hays and to get a
ladder.

I ran to the boiler room with all my
haste,
And who would be sitting there all
red faced.

He was dressed all in fur, with snow
on his beard,
I slipped through the doorway and
slowly I neared;

He turned around and we stood
face to face,
My jaw dropped slowly my feet
stuck in their place.

Soon a crowd had amassed not far
outside.
I offered him a tour and I be his
guide.

I saw his cheek so rosy they
seemed,
I showed him into the hallway his
smile was gleam;

We neared the cafeteria looking for
something so sweet
Found neither milk nor cookies - just
pizza to eat!

His chest heaved far out, as did his
belly,
To my surprise - it did look like jelly.

He was chubby all over as you can
guess,
He looked at me blankly, as I must
confess;

Thinking it was time for our tour to
end,
I walked him to the door around the
last bend;

He spoke not a word, as he looked
down,
His lips were crossed; he now wore
a frown,

He ran to outside as I followed not
far behind,
His reindeer were outside harnessed
in two line;

I watched in amazement as he
jumped into his sleigh,
Since he had no parking pass, he
was up and away.

And all that I heard as he lifted into
flight,
"Thank goodness for reindeer, gas
prices are a fright!"

Do you still believe in the magic?

BY CASSIE NYKTAS

If you still believe in the magical Santa Claus and his toy making elves, then turn your eyes away from this survey. As many of you know Santa Claus is not real. So who is it that leaves those great presents under your Christmas tree? I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but it's your parents! Unfortunately these SHS students had to find out the hard way that their hero was just a ploy that their parents used to get more cookies. The following students shared their "How I found out" experiences:

Mandy Brayn (12) - "I was looking out my window Christmas Eve and saw a flashing red light and I was convinced it was Rudolph. The next morning I looked out my window again and realized it was a radio tower. My world came crashing down."

Derek Bender (11) - "At five years old my mom told me Santa Clause died a long time ago."

Nancy Daley (9) - "When I was four years old I set cookies out that night and then I went to bed. Waking back up to get a drink I heard a voice. Hoping it was Santa, I peeked around the corner, only to my dad munching on my cookies and putting presents under the tree. My parents tried to explain to me that Santa took the night off, but that couldn't fool the ever so smart four-year-old. I cried, yes, but soon got over it. Scarred for life."

Tom Spack and Aaron Berger (10) - "What?! There is no Santa?"

Rachel Eynon (12) - "I never really believed in Santa Clause because I have four older siblings. Although one day when I was in the first grade I decided to tell my classmates there was no such thing as Santa Clause. Needless to say that evening my parents received a call from my teacher."

Courtney Nannah (10) - "I was mad at my parents since they lied to me for all those years. So I called them Tom and Wendy Clause to make them feel bad."

Alexis McKee (10) - "I argued with my mom since about pre-school that it was impossible for Santa to exist but mom always contradicted me and claimed there was a Santa. Then finally when I was in the first grade my mom admitted the fallacy and said Santa didn't exist. I started crying my eyes out and then yelled at her for telling."

Danielle Coontz (12) - "I already knew because my step-sister told me, but once in third grade my teacher really got angry at our class and yelled, 'Well, I hate to burst your bubble but there is no Santa Claus...or the Easter Bunny!'"

Chris Girty (12) - "One Christmas my mom lied to me to get me to go to bed because Santa wouldn't come unless I was asleep. So I lay down and went to bed. A while later I heard noises. I ran out to see what it was and I ran into my mother with all the presents! We spent the night in the emergency room."

Then and now

BY LIZ TUSSEY



This teacher graduated from Western Beaver Junior-Senior High School. She has been teaching at SHS for six years and previously taught at the middle school for fourteen years.

Her favorite hobby is gardening.

Some of her most memorable moments are watching students become successful - seeing the light bulb go on in their heads when they "get it."

One of her favorite movies is *Out of Africa*. She enjoys all romance movies and hates scary movies!

The teacher pictured above took these pictures to church when her friends in Sunday school said there was no Santa. She knew there was because she had visited Santa at the North Pole and had the pictures to prove it! As you can see, there is a North Pole and there is a Santa Claus. So there...all you non-believers!!!

Entertainment

Scared, Potter?

BY DANIELLE COONTZ

"Pff! I'm too old to read books written for eleven year olds!" is a motto I often uttered in the last two years, and then without warning and before I could protest, I was sucked into a world of muggles, wizards, potions and owls named Hedwig. That's right, as ashamed as it makes me, I love Harry Potter. How did it all happen, you ask? A few weeks ago I sat down to watch *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with the soul intention of gathering ammunition to make fun of my friends later. I didn't expect to be charmed by three adorable kid actors and a fantastic cast of adult supporting roles, with a special place growing in my heart for Professor

S n a p e . Giving other fantasy movies a run for their money, the only weak point in the movie was the feeling that the special effects and other details of the film were rushed. The three children played by Daniel Radcliff (Harry), Rupert Grint (Ron), Emma Watson (Hermione) and Tom Felton (Draco) make their motion picture debuts in the Harry Potter series. Alan Rickman ensures us he's just not done assuming the roles of the evil but loveable villains as he takes on playing Professor Severus Snape, headmaster of Slytherin. Maggie Smith plays a rigid Professor Minerva McGonagall. Others cast in the positions of Hogwarts teaching staff are the late Richard Harris as Headmaster Dumbledore and Robbie Coltrane as Hagrid.

The excellent casting in both *The Sorcerer's Stone* and *Chamber of Secrets* is credited to author J.K. Rowling, who not only insisted on an entire cast of British actors, but hand-

lected most of them as well. Even if I tried, I couldn't mock this brilliantly constructed story line and the vivid scenes duplicated from it in the movie versions. The cinematic counterparts are highly entertaining, and the books are possibly more so. After all, it's hard *not* to commend something that has finally encouraged children to start reading again instead of sitting in front of the television. The language and writing style is done in a way that is comprehensible but not talking down to the reader. This is a fine line most children's writers stumble over when writing something enjoyable for all ages.

J.K. Rowling's wildly original imagination is an inspiration to anyone wanting to write. The idea came to the England native while living on public assistance and raising her child. Writing only while her baby took naps, a masterpiece of children's literature was formed.



Harry and Draco, two main characters and enemies at Hogwarts School



Professor Severus Snape, potions teacher and headmaster of Slytherin

Books for the kid sisters of Generation-X

BY DANIELLE COONTZ

Francesca Lia Block is a contemporary young-adult fiction writer who makes others in her genre pale in comparison. Her writing is both magical and amazing. She weaves together the innocence and beauty of our favorite, childhood fairy tales with the posh urban atmosphere of southern California. Her work is hailed for its simplistic at times, but always-poetic nature.

While with time some writers only become jaded, Block improves greatly. Her novels and short stories each have new and refreshing tales to tell, whether it comes in the form of a new spin on old fairy tales a la *Rose and the Beast: Fairy Tales Retold*, or *Violet & Claire*, a touching account of best friends.

A California native, she credits her parents and her own ex-

posure to the written world for her inspiration. "I think I knew when I was very young that I wanted to be a writer," she says. "I always loved to write. I loved poetry. I kept journals and took writing classes. And I read a lot. My dad read me fairytales and Greek myths. I was very lucky to have parents who gave me lots of encouragement." Currently, Francesca resides in California with her husband and her dog, Vincent Van Go-Go Boots.

Francesca broke into the writing scene with *Weetzie Bat*, a cult classic in the reading world. It's a story of two alternative dressing teens that end up living almost enchanted lives with lots of surprising and altogether peculiar twists along the way.

Others in her group of works include *The Hanged Man*, a

story of a girl coming to terms with abuse. The book is full of surprising characters influenced by tarot cards and plot you can only understand fully after finishing. *Echo* is a book of love and love transcending every plane of existence. *Girl Goddess #9* and *I Was a Teenage Fairy* both prove that every girl, no matter what her circumstances can be a goddess in her own way. Such empowering concepts are rare in a society that teaches young women to be perfect.

To date, Block currently has had over ten books published (two of which are now out of print) and has collaborated on two others. A truly touching and honest writer, she is an inspiration to many. Her latest book *Guarding the Moon* is set to come out in March of 2003.

The world is a stage

BY LIZ TUSSEY

So you want to be an actor? Well, in case it isn't obvious, Ohio is a long way from Hollywood or New York. However, if the stage lights are beckoning, there are many opportunities for aspiring actors and actresses right here in the local area.

One of the best and most convenient places to learn and experience drama production is right here at Salem High School. Mr. Viencik's theater class is an excellent course to take if students are interested in such a profession. The class touches upon virtually all aspects of a theatrical career. From acting and making costumes, to dancing and stage makeup, theater is a fun, hands-on approach to drama.

As far as school productions go, there are two opportunities each year to try out one's acting skills. In early November, SHS hosts a fall drama. Auditions and rehearsals usually begin in September and carry through until opening night. For the more musically inclined, there is the spring musical. Both plays take a great deal of time and dedication. However, it is very rewarding to see the finished product.

If one would like to get involved in theatrical production beyond school, there are two excellent theater groups in the local area. Salem Community Theatre has been staging plays for twenty-five years. The Salem Community Foundation, season ticket holders, patrons, and individual ticket sales fund the Salem Community Theatre through the community. The theater puts on an average of six to seven plays in a year. The Salem Community Theatre, also known as SCT, provides a youth theater class. This month they are performing the wonderful seasonal play *The Best Little Christmas Pageant*. They have an extensive costume and prop collection, which they have generously shared with SHS's drama department. The theater is equipped with a large rehearsal room, and the stage also has its own trap door. Anyone interested in participating in a production at Salem Community Theater should stop by and pick up a bulletin. It will list all audition times and lighting and sound jobs. Upcoming plays are *The Miracle Worker*, *GYPSY* and *Hank*.

Another wonderful troupe in this locality is the Stage Left Players, who run their productions in Lisbon. They traditionally do musicals, most recently *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Cabaret*. Also, Stage Left usually presents a summer production of Shakespeare, which is delivered in Memorial Park at the outdoor stage. Mrs. Candace Cleland usually directs the plays, with Adam Roberts as the choreographer.

Theater is a rewarding and creative way to express oneself. Anyone who is interested in acting, lighting and sound, or any other aspect of drama production should look into these great programs.

Everyone's favorite Christmas marathon

BY DANIELLE COONTZ

Christmas is probably the cheeriest, perkier, and most festive of holidays. Christmas is a time of giving, family, and...Red Ryder B.B. Guns. *A Christmas Story* is rival to many others specializing in yuletide hijinks, like *National Lampoons Christmas Vacation* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. But the big difference might just be that the other shows don't get their own twenty-four hour marathon.

What makes us love this film so much? It really is a rare Hollywood look into Christmas and family life in the 1940's. Narrated by Jean Shepherd, the wry, witty sense of humor is something all of us can relate to, even if it took place long before most of our parents were even born.

Many memorable moments have come out of *A Christmas Story*. Who hasn't been left wondering if they could get their tongue stuck to a metal pole or receive from your aunt dreaded pink bunny pajamas with ears and a cotton tail? We've grown up watching Ralphie and Randy struggle over and over with their snowsuits. We've chuckled with many of the other antics brought on in this Christmas tale. How many times have our own parents uttered that infamous phrase, "You'll shoot your eye out!"? It's probably happened at least once or twice. Few can resist watching this one at least in bits and pieces throughout the marathon every holiday season.



Ralphie of *A Christmas Story*

It's only just a game

BY CHRIS FRANK

I hope that it comes as no surprise to anyone that sports are one of the most popular forms of entertainment in the world today. Some sports such as football, basketball, and now soccer are being showcased worldwide. Sports are a way to bring people together from all over the nation, such as the Super Bowl and the NBA Finals, or, in the case of the World Cup and the Olympics, a way to bring people from all over the world together. Now more than ever, college athletics are captivating the nation. Whether it is NCAA football and the race for the Heisman or NCAA basketball and the road to the Final Four, college sports are taking their place in the national spotlight. Whatever level you are at, sports are always a way to entertain a person for hours on end. It doesn't matter if you are playing in a game, watching a game, or even playing on X-Box. I think sports are a great way to entertain, but that is all that they should be used for - entertainment.

All over the world, sports have a reputation of turning violent, a reputation that dates back as long as sports have been around. Hundreds of soccer fans are killed each year overseas by rowdy hooligans, fans that come to games ready to start a fight whether they win or lose. Violence can be just as bad after wins as it can be after losses. With their recent win that sent them into the Fiesta Bowl, a small group of OSU fans turned over cars, set fires, and caused trouble on the OSU campus. I don't think that this is necessary; it's good that the team won, and it's good that they are going to the national championship, but it's

not right to destroy property and other possessions just because of this. There are more important things than sports, and I think that there are too many people that have yet to realize this. From all levels, once the game is over, that's it. There's no going back and changing the outcome, whatever it was. As heart-breaking as a loss may be, as hard as an outcome may be to handle, or as tantalizing as a win may be, it should be left at that.

Sports are supposed to be friendly and fun, not destructive and deadly. Sports have given us many great moments but also many dark moments. Over the years players have been mugged, shot, stabbed, and killed in many gruesome ways by angry fans. The list of sports violence grows every year, and it is not just all over the world, but close to home. The recent incident at OSU shows this. The only thing we can really do about it is understand that sports are for entertainment. How would you like it if you were shot because you made a mistake at a job you thought was just for fun? Would you like it if you were a computer programmer, programming games for a living, and some angry fan shot you because you didn't make a car go fast enough on your game? We all make mistakes and other people just have to accept our mistakes.

Next time you are watching or even playing a sport, take this into consideration. Just go out and have fun, like you are supposed to. You will win some and you will lose some, just accept the outcome and move on. Trust me, it's in the best interests of everyone.

Senior Spotlight

Kim Walker-Cheerleading



Gary Colian-Wrestling



Abby Markovich-Girls' Basketball



Chris Sedgewick-Boys' Basketball



New season brings promise for boys' basketball

BY CHRIS FRANK

All through this past off-season, the Salem boys' basketball team told everyone that this season was not going to be a repeat of last year. The 2001-2002 season for boys basketball didn't go so well for the Quakers. Everyone has heard of the misfortunes the team went through: a 1-20 record, a 19-game losing streak to end the year, and the worst season in the 93-year history of boys' basketball at Salem. The team came into this season with an enormous weight on their shoulders and with a lot to prove. Many doubted that they would do much better this year, and not many had respect for the team... except the team itself.

Every single player that I talked to talked about one day - November 29 and one place - John A. Cabas Gymnasium. This was the day when they would take the weight off of their shoulders; this was the day when they would begin to prove that they could play and earn back the respect they lost last year. This was opening day, against Youngstown Chaney. The fans were out in full for the opener, one that was predicted to be close and exciting. The guys didn't let anyone down, playing an exciting game that came down to the wire. The crowd gasped as Chaney threw up one last-ditched attempt to win

the game, and then cheered as the shot sailed harmlessly into the arms of a waiting Salem player. The game and the losing streak were over; the new season had begun with a win. A road win over Marlinton followed the win, and the Quakers were off to a 2-0 start. The team was brought down to reality somewhat in their next game, a 75-54 loss to East Liverpool. Next up was Kent Roosevelt, a good team that they played hard but came up short against. Despite the losses, I think it's safe to say that the weight has been lifted just a little. The team has already proven a lot, and they still have a good amount of the season left to prove more.

Girls' basketball on track to have great season

BY CHRIS FRANK

After a disappointing opening-night loss to archrival West Branch, the Salem Lady Quakers now boast a 4-1 record with wins over Beaver Local, Austintown Fitch, Canton Central Catholic, and Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas. The girls began their season with a heart-breaking loss at home on opening night. John A. Cabas Gymnasium was packed as the girls played somewhat sub-par against the Lady Warriors. In a game that saw sloppy play by both teams, the girls had a chance

to win in the waning moments, but a few missed opportunities cost them in the end.

Since then, the girls have been on a roll, winning four straight to put them back on track to have a great year. Their streak started on the road against Beaver Local, a game which was not even close in play or in the final score. Next, the girls recorded their first home win of the year against Fitch. The team took their winning ways on the road against Canton Central Catholic and

dominated that game also. Their fifth game of the year against St. Thomas Aquinas was by far their best game of the year. The team has been getting production from many players including juniors Allyson Cotter and Lauren Teal, seniors Tiffanie Heestand and Abby Markovich, and sophomore Sarah Hamilton. The team looks to continue their string of successful seasons this year and hopes to contend for and win the MAC championship.

Wrestlers of Salem off to a good start

BY CHRIS FRANK

The Salem wrestling team opened up their season on December 7 at home in a quadrangular match against West Branch, Alliance, and Hubbard. The Quakers wrestled well but unfortunately lost all three matches because of various forfeits. The highlights of the day were senior Brandon Bowers winning all three of his matches by virtue of pinfalls, senior Gary Colian winning two of his matches despite

a nagging injury, and sophomore Sonn Hostetter going 3-0 by virtue of pin, forfeit, and by decision.

Despite the forfeits, the team did extremely well. If they had not forfeited any matches then they would have won all three matches, but unfortunately forfeits are part of the sport. Everyone on the team mentioned the fact that the freshmen class performed extremely well in their first varsity matches.

On December 14, the team competed in the North Canton Hoover Holiday Tournament. They did well and finished sixteenth out of thirty-two teams. Overall, team members seem to be fairly happy with their performances so far this season, but they won't be totally satisfied until the wins start to pile up, something that hopefully won't take long.

Salem cheerleaders showing their school spirit

BY CHRIS FRANK

I recently interviewed Emily Gagnon (fall) and Kim Walker (winter), two of the brightest cheerleaders here at Salem High. They gave me some great insight into the "sport" of cheerleading. Here is what they had to say:

Q. What are the major changes on the squads this year?

A. A new advisor, attending competitions, and new uniforms and pom-poms - Very exciting!

Q. What are the squad's expectations?

A. We want to be able to perform the basket-toss reload elevator extension.

Q. What is the squad's record?

A. Hello, we are cheerleaders! (basketball team was 2-2 at time of printing)

Q. Who is part of the squad?

A. Kim Walker, Angela Ventresco, Aubrey Bailey, Allie Rich, Erica Lottman, Kelly Ventresco, and Amanda Coy are the winter cheerleaders; Juli Maurer, Kari Kyser, Emily Gagnon, Amanda Benson, Kelly Wolford, Sara Zimmerman, Trisha Heestand, and Ashley Woods were the fall cheerleaders. Miss Kerri Johnson is the advisor.

Q. Finally, is there anything else you would like people to know about the squad?

A. We work a lot harder than all of 'yins think!!

Quaker Clips

