

The Quaker

A high school tradition for years.

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Salem Senior High School

February 2007

Welcoming the student teachers to Salem Senior High

By Victor Dufresne



Miss Blockinger



Miss Orth



Mrs. Santini



Miss Stillwagon

Salem City Schools is currently hosting four student teachers in a different variety of subjects. Being a student teacher is the final step before becoming an actual teacher. As we all realize, teaching is not an easy profession. In fact, it can be a very stressful job due to such work as grading tests, homework, projects, and keeping organized. We would like to welcome these four student teachers for as long as they are here and wish them well in their future.

Miss Stillwagon is currently working with Mr. Andres. She is a student of Mount Union College, and she wishes to teach math. Miss Stillwagon says that she has wanted to become a teacher since she was a little girl. She was inspired by the teachers that she had when she was in school. After being a student teacher, she will be licensed to teach math from grades seventh to twelfth. Stillwagon was involved in a lot of extracurricular activities during her high school years. She was in the National Honor Society and played volleyball.

Miss Orth is currently working with Mr. Krauss. She is also a student of Mount Union College, and she wishes to teach in the music department, preferably band. Growing up as a child she wanted to become a vet, but she progressed through high school her band instructor influenced her incalculably. Miss Orth wants to become a band teacher because she loves children and wants to have an impact on what they may become later in their lives. She is interested in teaching seventh grade up to twelfth.

Miss Blockinger is attending Youngstown State University, and she is currently with Ms. Kerry Johnson. Miss Blockinger is involved with home economics and feels that teaching is a rewarding job. She has always wanted to become a teacher since she was a young child. In her high school years, Miss Blockinger was in the National Honor Society. She succeeded in graduating with a 3.8 grade point average. She says that she has always liked school. She is interested in teaching grades ninth through tenth. Miss Blockinger has a very strong passion about being a teacher and would like to make a difference in the lives of her future students.

Mrs. Santini is currently attending Kent State University, and she is with Mr. Klucinec. Mrs. Santini wants to teach history from grades seventh through twelfth. She did not always want to teach history. Her first major was business management until one day she realized she didn't like office work as much as she used to. Mrs. Santini wishes to communicate with students, and she also hopes to get the students enthusiastic about history. When Mrs. Santini was in high school she was in the National Honor Society and graduated ninth in her class.

Staff cheerleaders take to the court

By Will Fithian

On February 7, 2007, the Salem girls' basketball team played their final home game left on the schedule. The opposing team was Campbell. During the first half of play, eleven of the Salem Junior and Senior High School staff led the "razies" in cheers. Those eleven teachers were the following: Mrs. Bako, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Hrvatin, Mrs. Kirkland, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Rich, Mrs. Brock, Mr. Shivers, Dr. Shivers, Mrs. D'Angelo, and Mr. Klucenic.

The voting system for this event was very simple. The teachers that were willing to participate in the cheering surrendered their names, and each name was assigned

to a container. Students placed money in the container that corresponded with the teacher they wanted to see on the sideline. The teachers with the most money in their container won the prize of cheering at the basketball game.

The money raised went to a worthy cause. The money was donated to the "Cruisin' for Hunger" food drive. At the end of the count, students and staff had donated \$743.00 to benefit the food drive.

The teachers appeared in matching attire including black pants and t-shirts. The first half was full of exciting cheers featuring two time out routines on the floor. An eleven-

man human pyramid was created in front of the student section by the entourage of cheerleaders. But, the students' hands down favorite occurred soon before the cheerleaders left the floor. Mr. D'Angelo was lifted and sent to the fingertips of the first two rows of Quaker Crazyes and began "crowd-surfing." The teachers then retired to the stands and watched the remaining minutes left in the game.

Project prom

By Emily Washam

Even though it is only February, people are already preparing for prom. Girls have started shopping, guys are renting tuxedos, and everyone is looking for a date. This year Salem High School has also started early preparations for prom. Project Prom, started by Holy Trinity Church, is a way for students to attend prom at a lower cost. Various schools such as Salem, West Branch, United, and Sebring are all collaborating and collecting prom dresses and tuxedos to have a major "dress drive." Salem High School alone has collected seventy-five dresses so far, and Mrs. Bosheff reports that she expects to receive over one hundred by March 1, the last day to donate the dresses. So far, Salem has only received dresses, but United is collecting shoes and accessories as well.

Many from Salem have donated their dresses. If you have a dress you would like to donate, but want it back, there's an option

for you too. When you sign in your dress, you can either choose to donate it, or you can get it back after the dance. Either way, you are bound to make someone's prom night special.

In addition to being able to get a nice dress for almost nothing, various local merchants are helping out the cost of prom too. Kolby's of downtown Salem is giving

discounts to anyone renting a tuxedo, and they have agreed to donate a dress with accessories to Project Prom. The hair salon Images is giving discount up-dos and manicures. Anyone who wishes to use these discounts needs to go to the Salem Community Center on March 3 from one to five p.m. That is the distribution date for the dresses, and you can also

pick up the vouchers for the various discounts. Only adults will be working distributing the dresses at the Community Center, so students are encouraged to attend.



Juniors Erin Grieths (left) and Lauren Stonebright (right) admire one of the gowns donated to Project Prom.

Opinion

War of the words

By Kaitlyn Fedyna and Anna Zimmerman

Q: What's the best Valentine's Day present you have given or received?



Senior
Natalie Davidson

"Breakfast in bed from my lovely boyfriend Tyler Pierce, along with flowers and a big bag of candy. Oh yeah, and a million dollars!"



Juniors

Emily Winn, Sarah Brobeck, Erika Smith

"Chocolate cake and a glass of milk."



Sophomore
Amanda Jury
"A hug."



Freshman
Amy Scullion
"A hug."

Point - Counterpoint: Senior privileges

By: Sarah Humphrey

Senior privileges have never been officially recorded, but they have always been understood. It's more a matter of tradition than a matter of rules. Seniors are the oldest of the students; it's their last year in high school. They have the most work ahead of them. Seniors get to enjoy some things that underclassmen do not such as using the courtyards, decorating lockers, getting front row seats to sporting events, coming up with the Quaker Crazy slogan, attending the senior picnic, and getting out of school earlier for graduation. All of these traditions have been going on for many years.

It has been recently brought up that seniors should not get special privileges. The people that believe this also say that everyone works just as hard as seniors, so everyone should be treated equally. In my opinion, senior privileges should be reserved for the senior class ONLY! It is a reward for being in school the longest and accomplishing the goal of graduating. And no, everyone does not work as hard. Seniors have worked the hardest, the longest, not to mention the ACT and SAT tests, college applications, graduation requirements, and just simply figuring out what to do with their lives. These are just a few examples of things that seniors have to do and underclassmen do not. Sarah Conrad, a junior, makes an excellent point about senior privileges. She asked, "If seniors don't have certain, special privileges than what's to look forward to your senior year?"

Senior privileges are a reward for "finally making it" to your senior year. Every senior had to wait three years to enjoy these benefits, so it is only reasonable that all underclassmen wait the same amount of time. Freshman Amy Scullion says, "Senior privileges are so sweet because you have to wait three years to get them!" Amy is one hundred percent correct. Everyone will get their turn (if they make it that far). Just be patient and wait. Kaitlyn Fedyna, a senior, commented by saying, "Some underclassmen need to just simmer down and suck it up. Wait your turn, and you'll feel the same way." So, senior privileges are for seniors only. This is the way it has always been, and this is the way it needs to stay. Everyone will get their chance. Just relax, enjoy your high school career, and when you are finally a senior those privileges will be that much sweeter!

Bad rule of the month: Facial/body piercing

By: Erik Cibula and Anna Zimmerman

By now you have probably witnessed a student getting interrogated for having a facial or body piercing. Why is this such a big deal? When asked, teachers say that it's the rule. When asked why this is the rule, they will explain to you that it is a distraction, possibly taking away some students' attention from their class. When asked, Mrs. Carter said, "Students should not be allowed to wear piercings such as a tongue or eyebrow because it is distracting. And it's difficult to understand some students if they have their tongue pierced." But when a student is asked, "Some teacher's clothes distract me more than a stud in the nose" is one of the responses I got.

As a student I will tell you that the people who have any kind of piercing are the last thing I am looking at during class. More than anything, when I am sitting in class I notice my certain classmates wearing clothing that tends to reveal too much, and you may end up viewing a very decorative tattoo or brightly colored undergarments. But some teachers seem to be cautious when it comes to bringing up clothing factors because it is uncomfortable for a teacher to tell a student that they are revealing too much. I am also distracted in class by many other things that are not against the rules, such as writing on shirts that are made by our sports teams or school clubs. I find myself staring at dangling earrings or bright colored nail polish. Many people agree with this. For example, when I asked Bridget Szabat she said, "I personally think students should be allowed to have whatever they want pierced as long as it doesn't get in the way of their learning experience." and freshman Angie Brown said, "I think they should be allowed to have their belly button pierced because you can't see them and the stud in the nose is fine." Students have told me that cracking backs and/or knuckles, bright colored clothing, etc. are distracting. So why is it that piercings (other than ears) are the only thing that we aren't allowed to have?

When asked, several students said that a piercing on another student's face is not that distracting. In fact, some say that the clothes that teachers wear are more distracting than a piercing. But if you ask a teacher, they will still defend the school and say that it is distracting. I believe that we deserve a better explanation of why these are not allowed.

By Jessica Watson

In the library and in the cafeteria we all know that the seniors get to go outside when it's nice out. They work hard all year, and they have for four years, therefore they deserve it. Although, what about the rest of the student body that works hard all year? Why shouldn't we get rewarded too?

I understand that this is a tradition for all the seniors, but look at all the traditions that they have. They are allowed to decorate their lockers, they get out of school before the rest of us, and they get out of school for the day for their senior picnic. Why is it such a big deal for underclassmen to use one of those privileges when the seniors are not using them? Now all seniors please note that I am not saying that underclassmen should get to have all the privileges that the seniors have and that you should have to share them.

I am only saying that when it comes to the courtyards, if there are no seniors in the courtyards why can underclassmen not be allowed to be out there? Now at the end of the year when seniors are out of school juniors are allowed out in the courtyards, but I still think that the courtyards should be for everyone. I honestly don't think that it is very fair to underclassmen. I think that we are being punished for how old we are, but there are many under classmen that work harder than some of the seniors. However, they get no privileges. Now that you think about it, is that really fair?

When it comes down to this issue, the thing that irritates me the most is that when it was brought up to some seniors, they stated that if underclassmen worked as hard as they did then we would be seniors. We can not help how old we are.

Reasons for the restrooms

By: Bridget Szabat

Have you ever been to the restrooms in our school and noticed that we have automatic hand dryers? In some bathrooms, including the locker rooms, there are slim amounts of paper towel dispensers. Why are the paper towel dispensers only in the locker rooms and in a few bathrooms? Why have the automatic hand dryers taken over the restrooms? Many say that paper towels are way more convenient because you can just grab, dry, and go instead of having to stand in line and wait for the heat to dry them. If this is so much easier than why have they seemed to disappear over the years?

Many years ago students liked to terrorize the

bathrooms rather than respect them. Students did things like stuff the commodes full, light the paper towels on fire then place them in the trashcans, and even wet them and throw them at the ceiling so they would stick. After little and not so humorous stunts like these, schools had to take action and rid the paper towel dispensers from bathrooms. Who ever knew that such a little paper piece of material could turn into the main object of some students' devious plans to damage the school?

It seems that our school bathrooms are not the best. Yes, many may think that they are disgusting and we need new seats, urinals, sinks, etc., but at least we are able to actually utilize them. People always tend to look at the negative aspect of things, but it is important to also consider all of the positives.

Do you remember last year when the main bathrooms were locked up and could not be used? In order to use the restroom students had to walk all the way down near the

main office.

Then students were required to sign in at the office. This year we are able to use them all around the school; we are not limited. In fact, I think too many of us

take advantage of our restroom privileges. There are some schools that have absolutely no restroom privileges at all. Not only do students abuse the facilities in some schools, they are also not safe places to enter. Even if it was an emergency, those students would have to wait until they left the school to use a restroom. This could cause some serious issues with people. We should all be glad that we are able to use the restrooms once, twice, even three times a day. So instead of whining about them, start appreciating them.



Senior Chelsy Kaley uses an automatic hand dryer in the science wing restroom.

Entertainment

The film reviews

By Ryan Newell

Battle of the Bands

Bury Your Dead

By Katy Birtalan

Bury Your Dead (BYD) is a metal/hardcore group from Boston, Massachusetts. Their label is Victory Records, which also records bands like Between the Buried and Me and Darkest Hour. Anyone who has heard his band before has to agree, they are awesome!

In the past, BYD have had some rocky times. They have disbanded and reformed, plowing through fourteen band members. Their transportation over the years has caused them some troubles as well, making the number of cars that have died on them nine. However, they insist that they are now "stronger than ever."

BYD is most notable for their

clever ways of titling their songs. On their 2004 album, "Cover Your Tracks," every song title was named after a Tom Cruise movie like *Top Gun* and *Risky Business*. Following this tradition, BYD named their latest album, "Beauty and the Breakdown" after fairytales like Twelfth Stroke of Midnight and Mirror, Mirror. According to Castillo, the drummer, the album came surprisingly easy, "We went in expecting to work it, and it just came naturally."

Although everything was going well for the band, the lead singer, Mat Bruso, quit in order to pursue his career as a teacher and focus on his "upcoming marriage." The other band members have stated

that they are not angry but upset that they are "losing a piece of the family." Because of these recent events, BYD is on the search for a new lead singer. If any of you think you can throw down some wicked vocals that could rival Mat Bruso's, you can send an audio/visual tape to P.O. BOX 650 Marstons Mills, MA

Despite the recent events, I still recommend that you check out Bury Your Dead. Even though the lead singer is no longer a part of them, their music is still on CD's. Like Pantera, you don't have to see the band in order to "rock out" to them.

Skindred

By Sarah Humphrey

Bands are often scared to be different. They produce songs with popular sounds in hopes of increasing record sales and making it in the big time. So, it is refreshing to hear a band that prides itself on creating a new sound. The band Skindred does just that. Skindred mixes sounds like rock, metal, regga, punk, and hip hop. Their unique sound has become known as "regga-punk." Despite their "dare to be different" attitude, Skindred is on its way to becoming a very well known band to rockers and hip-hoppers alike!

The band was formed by former Dub War singer Benji Webbe and bassist programmer Daniel

Pugsley. Both of these men hailed from South Wales. Jeff Rose played as the guitarist for the band and Martyn Ford was on drums. The band was signed to the RCA label and produced their debut album entitled "Babylon" in 2002. Despite the good outcome of the album, RCA dropped Skindred. With this, both Rose and Ford quit the band.

These unfortunate events did not stop the rest of the band. In 2003 two replacement members joined the band. Mikey Dee became Skindred's new guitarist and Dirty Arya took over the drums. Later that year the band was signed to the Bieler Bros. label. The band re-released Babylon with more amazing

tracks. The album did incredibly well, mainly because Skindred already had a large following of fans.

Since then Skindred has toured with such bands as Sevendust, Papa Roach, Soufly, and H.I.M. The band is also currently working on their next album. They hope the album will be a big hit, just like the first. Skindred's goal is to unite music lovers of all types. All of the band members grew up in widely mixed areas, and their music reflects that. This band has done amazing things for music lovers already, and I am sure that there is more to come.

The Academy Awards Preview

By Ryan Newell

It seems that dreams have become a nightmare for *Dreamgirls*. Despite being nominated for eight Academy Awards, the highly acclaimed film failed to pick up nominations for Best Picture or Best Director. The five films nominated for Best Picture were *Babel*, *The Departed*, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, and *The Queen*. Four of the five nominated films also earned Best Director nominations, they are the following: Clint Eastwood, *Letters from Iwo Jima*; Stephen Frears, *The Queen*; Paul Greengrass, *United 93*; Alejandro González Iñárritu, *Babel*; and Martin Scorsese, *The Departed*.

Nominees for Best Actor are the following: Leonardo DiCaprio, *Blood Diamond*; Ryan Gosling, *Half Nelson*; Peter O'Toole, *Venus*; Will Smith, *The Pursuit of Happyness*; and Forest Whitaker, *The Last King of Scotland*. Whitaker's performance as Ugandan dictator Idi

Amin has won him the Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards for Best Actor.

The Best Actress race, as in the lead actor race, has one person viewed as unbeatable. The nominees are as follows: Penelope Cruz, *Volver*; Judi Dench, *Notes on a Scandal*; Helen Mirren, *The Queen*; Meryl Streep, *The Devil Wears Prada*; and Kate Winslet, *Little Children*. The leader in this race, of course, is Mirren for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II, winning the same prizes at the Globes and the SAG awards.

In the category of Best Supporting Actor, some surprising nominees are present. The five nominated actors are the following: Alan Arkin, *Little Miss Sunshine*; Jackie Earle Haley, *Little Children*; Djimon Hounsou, *Blood Diamond*; Eddie Murphy, *Dreamgirls*; and Mark Wahlberg, *The Departed*. Shocking here was the absence of a nomination for Jack Nicholson's evil turn in

The Departed. Winning at the Globes and SAG awards was Murphy for his comedic turn as a singer similar to James Brown.

Four of the five nominated actresses in the Best Supporting Actress category should consider their nominations the best they will get. Jennifer Hudson, winner of the Golden Globe, SAG, and just about every other award around, will no doubt take the prize for her performance in *Dreamgirls*. In addition to Hudson, the four other nominated actresses are as follows: Adriana Barraza, *Babel*; Cate Blanchett, *Notes on a Scandal*; Abigail Breslin, *Little Miss Sunshine*; and Rinko Kikuchi, *Babel*.

The hit Spanish film *Pan's Labyrinth*, to which I gave an A+ review, was nominated for six Academy Awards including Best Foreign Language Film and Best Original Screenplay for Guillermo del Toro.

Venus - A

To describe Peter O'Toole's performance in one word, only one word comes to mind - masterful. O'Toole plays Morris, an elder man who although he was once a well-loved leading actor has now been quietly forgotten. Ironically this story falls similar to the true life story of O'Toole himself. Morris falls for Jessie, a girl nearly sixty years his junior, an aspiring model he calls "Venus." As the two grow closer, so does Morris' obsession with Jessie, only to come to a shocking turn when Morris learns a shocking revelation.

Nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor, O'Toole is considered to be the most possible candidate to take the prize from Forest Whitaker's *Idi Amin*. Currently O'Toole is tied with fellow British screen legend, the late Richard Burton, with eight Oscar nominations and zero wins. Despite having already received an honorary Oscar, O'Toole has stated several times that he still feels he could win an Oscar straight out.

In the end, with or without an Oscar, O'Toole has managed to put himself back into the limelight of Hollywood once again. The seventy-five year old thespian has given what is simply one of the best performances of the year. With that said, this tragic and hilarious film is easily one of the best pictures of last year.



Academy Award nominee Peter O'Toole and Jodie Whittaker in *Venus*



Forest Whitaker Academy Award Nominee for Best Actor in *The Last King of Scotland*

The Last King of Scotland - A-

From the moment Forest Whitaker first appears on a stage as Idi Amin, the first thought that comes to mind is the Academy Awards. This is the role that Whitaker was born to play. Viewed as the frontrunner in the Best Actor category at the Academy Awards, there appears to be no doubt he will follow his Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild wins. Haunting can describe how masterfully Whitaker has brought to life the late Ugandan dictator.

The story follows the fictional Nicholas Garrigan, a young doctor, who is asked by Amin to be his personal physician. Garrigan, wonderfully played by James McAvoy, spends a while enjoying the high life thanks to his high powered new friend. It's only after a period of time that Garrigan learns of just how many things may be wrong with being this close to this man.

Kevin Macdonald has woven an excellent tale that combines the fictional story of Nicholas Garrigan with the real life story of Idi Amin. Jeremy Brock, the talented writer behind *Mrs. Brown* and *Charlotte Gray*, adapted Giles Foden's novel into one of this year's most well written and entertaining screenplays. In the footsteps of Philip Seymour Hoffman's dead on Truman Capote, Whitaker's performance will go down as yet another dead on portrayal of a real life figure. An excellent film and an excellent performance, *The Last King of Scotland* is a film not to be missed.

Feature

National Foreign Language Week

By Erin Griehs

In case you aren't aware, March fifth through the eleventh is National Foreign Language Week. Many people don't know that there is such a week, let alone its purpose and origin. Believe it or not, studying a foreign language is more important than you think.

Sister Eloise Therese started National Foreign Language Week in 1957. She was the president of Alpha Mu Gamma, a society that's all about foreign languages. President Dwight D. Eisenhower endorsed her idea, and every President since has done so. Famous cartoonist Bruce Russell designed the posters for National Foreign Language Week until his death in 1963. Each of the different weeks has had a theme that the week and the poster have been centered around. The theme for 2007 is Languages: The Key to Common Understanding.

Most students take a foreign language because it's a college requirement and because it can fill up a period during the school day. However, studying a language that's different from English can benefit you in many ways. It can improve your math and English abilities as well as boost your ACT and SAT scores. Foreign language study can improve your critical and cognitive thinking. It also looks good on college and job applications. Did you know that eighty percent of federal government agencies want people that can speak a foreign language? Just by taking a foreign language and applying yourself while studying can give you advantages over people who didn't take French, Spanish, German, or Latin, in high school.

One of Salem's own French teachers, Ms. Romeo, thinks that National Foreign Language Week is a great idea because it "promotes the learning of any foreign language." When asked about the importance of this week, she had this to say: "We live in a great country, but we are really behind when it comes to our citizens being global communicators. In many countries the citizens speak two, three, or even several languages. I think it's wrong for Americans to say 'We're the greatest country in the world- let everyone learn English.' Our refusal to embrace a multi-language culture means that we will be giving many career opportunities to people of other countries who are multi-lingual. We need to adjust our thinking about learning foreign languages. Hopefully students will become more interested and not feel that a foreign language is an obligatory course just because they are college-bound." As to what our school is doing to promote this week, she said that the foreign language classes are sponsoring a poster contest. The posters must display the importance of studying a foreign language. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best ones. You must turn in your creation by March first to your language teacher.

Whether you choose to say, "au revoir," "adios," "auf wiedersehen" or something in another language, foreign language study is important to being a good student as well as being a well rounded citizen. If you haven't studied another language, it's never too late to start. National Foreign Language Week might just be the motivation you need to begin.

Lupercalia: precedent to Valentine's Day

By Robert Hergenroder II

February is typically a month devoid of holidays- a rare entity in our calendar. People liken these holidays to days of rest, yet do not know the origins of the seemingly myriad of traditions. Valentine's Day is no different, the origins being Lupercalia, a Roman holiday.

Many years before the founding of the great city of Rome, the indigenous peoples would have a celebration in the name of Faunus, who is also known as Lupercus. These shepherds would hope that these offerings would fertilize the land for the upcoming season.

All the young men, known as the crepi, would travel to the Palatine hill, where a sacrifice would take place. They would kill a few goats and a dog; they would collect the blood in a wool cloth and mix it with milk. This concoction they would wring out on two men's foreheads, a tribute to the ancient religions traditions of human sacrifice. The laughing adolescents would skin the animals and make whips and descend the hill into the city of Rome.

Once in Rome they would hit (although it was more of a gentle touch) any bystanders that they saw. Women would eagerly line up with the hope that being hit would increase their fertility and ease the pains associated with childbirth.

In 496 C.E. Pope Gelasius abolished the holiday in favor of a feast in tribute to Saint Valentine. This was a century after Romans practiced this cherished day, even though pagan rituals were illegal.

The Romans had a great impact on our current society, and Valentine's Day is just one example of this. So hopefully next year you can diversify your actions and whip everyone that you see.

Cartoon Corner

By Alyssa Nelson

How to be your own Valentine

By Caitlin Costal

As February slowly drags by, many of us in the female population find our minds filled with visions of pink candy hearts, small stuffed teddy bears, and overweight cherubs chasing down their next unfortunate victim. Small red hearts are carefully cut out by second graders, and middle-aged lovers renew their vows on long awaited trips to paradise. Ah, love is in the air, meaning only one thing: Valentine's Day is here. Some love this holiday and some despise it. Which category do you fall into?

For the hopeless romantic, all of February is simply a time of preparation for this self-proclaimed day of love. For the V-day hater, it is a dreaded season that demands our all-hailing attention as the national colors seemingly change to red, white, and pink. And for the single girl, well this holiday is the worst of all holidays. Countless hours may be spent moping in front of the television watching sappy chick flicks while eating gallons of rocky road at a time.

My advice this month is for all girls, regardless of whether you love the season, completely abhor it, or cry at the sound of the word "valentine." Instead of getting caught up in all the festivities this year, make this holiday about you. I have provided a list of what I believe to be the top ten ways to be your own valentine. Even though the actual date has passed, these ways of pampering yourself can be used all year long.

- 10.) Treat yourself to your favorite chick flick (bucket-loads of popcorn and bonbons are necessary).
- 9.) Try something new: take a dance class, learn how to play the guitar, etc.
- 8.) Send a bouquet of fresh-cut flowers to a friend who will spend the holiday alone.
- 7.) Learn a new recipe. Crème brulee anyone?
- 6.) Engage in a random act of kindness (i.e. help your elderly neighbor shovel his or her driveway or teach your little sis how to tie her shoes).
- 5.) Get together with your girl friends and give each other pedicures to beat the winter blues.
- 4.) Keep your body stayin' vicious: Be up in the gym workin' on your fitness.
- 3.) Buy a giant box of chocolates and share them with a friend.
- 2.) Take a long, hot bubble bath while reading the latest Melody Carlson novel (fantastic author if anyone is looking for someone new to read).
- 1.) Make a list of all the things you love about yourself.

So there you have it: the top ten ways to be your own valentine. Regardless of whether you'll be spending the season with a significant other or just kicking it alone this year, make sure to take the time to treat yourself right. You'll find yourself more relaxed and have a great time doing it. And really, who doesn't love crème brulee?

Hello there! How are you? Feeling nervous about your booster shots?

Nah, it's just a little pinch. No big deal!

Very true! And it's important to have your shots nowadays...

...What with all these wierd illnesses flying around. We've got to take extra-special precautions, don't we? Even at the cost of a little pain...

Got to make sure you keep safe! Now, take a deep breath, dear, as this will sting a bit. But we can't have you risking the health of the nation, can we now?

It's easier to shove him off a cliff

By Jessi Howells

Every girl out there knows getting her man to watch a romance movie is next to impossible. We have a better chance of getting them to ride a skateboard off a treadmill or some other incredibly stupid stunt. In honor of Valentine's Day (I know it has passed; just bear with me), I compiled a list of romantic movies and sent out surveys to ten teachers and twenty students from each grade level to get an idea of what movies the girls and guys can agree on. The movies were ranked from one to ten, one being the best. The following is the outcome:

10. *Brokeback Mountain*- I realize I opened myself and *The Quaker* up for controversy when I added this movie to my list and, not surprisingly, it came in last place. For those who haven't seen it and ranked it number ten because of all the negative rumors, suck up those insecurities and see this movie. Yes, it does have a different subject matter, but just try to give it a chance before judging it. *Brokeback Mountain* is about two ranch hands who fall in love one summer up on "ol' Brokeback" and how they move on with their everyday lives once the summer is over.



Yeah, you guys probably don't want to watch this, but remember, the girls like it when you watch the chick flicks with them.

mantics this movie is as good as it gets. The classic tale of two "star-crossed lovers" who give up everything for each other is the romance little girls dream of.

5. *Gone with the Wind*- In a world torn apart by civil war, a beautiful, manipulative young widow (Scarlett) and a roguish rebel (Rhett) carry on a scandalous affair. After a series of unfortunate events, Scarlett makes up her mind that she loves Rhett and goes to tell him, but it is too late. A lesson for us all: Don't say "I love you" unless you mean it, but if you mean it don't be afraid to say it. All in all this is a good movie.

4. *West Side Story*- This musical movie (that's right, I said musical) brings Romeo and Juliet to 1950's New York where members of rival gangs have fallen in love. *West Side Story* is the stereotypical "love will see us through anything" movie, but with a young talented cast, catchy tunes, and dance sequences that must be seen to be believed, this movie is a must.

3. *Chocolat*- France in the 1960s is full of close-minded people. When a woman and her young daughter move to a small town and open a

chocolate shop across from the local church just before Lent with Sunday hours, the townspeople act as if she has committed the ultimate sin. But her sweet personality and delectable chocolate creations lead people to change their minds about her, including a man named Roux who visits the store.

2. *What Women Want*- Let's just face it, girls, we can be extremely confusing, and most guys would kill to know what we are thinking. In this romantic comedy, Mel Gibson plays a chauvinistic ad exec who, in a freak accident, gains the ability to hear what women think. Using his unexpected gift to gain the advantage, he manipulates people and events, mostly the new exec Darcy, to get the promotion he's been fighting to get for years. His plan works better than he ever imagined until love gets in the way.

1. *The Notebook*- Words cannot describe how happy I am that this movie came in first place. In the opening scenes of *The Notebook*, an old man in a nursing home is reading a story to an old woman with Alzheimer's. The story he tells her is of the everlasting love of two people, Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton, how it began when they were only teenagers and withstood the test of time and separation. It's a beautiful story. Ladies, be sure to keep tissues handy!

Really guys, watching a romantic movie with your girl is not going to kill you. Give some of the movies on this list a chance if you haven't already. Who knows? You might even like them.

Inner Nerd

DRM

By Wesley Lindberg

How many of you out there own an iPod? Ever used iTunes? Now, how many of you use iTunes but have no iPod? My guess is there are a couple of you out there without iPods who download music off of services similar to iTunes, and by now you've probably noticed it. There are too many rules such as "You can only play it on this computer," "You can't back it up," or "It won't work on your MP3 player." This is what's known as DRM, or Digital Rights Management, and it's restricting your use of your property.

DRM is almost like BESS in many ways. It is software that controls how and what you can do with your music that you've purchased. It protects the artists responsible for our favorite songs and movies; however, in its valiant quest to quell piracy it has kept the common person from using their music however they wish. Download a song from iTunes, and just try to play it on an MP3 player other than an iPod. It won't work because of DRM. That song that you bought with your hard earned money won't work on your nonApple MP3 player because Apple says so. Do they have a right to tell you how to use what you've bought?

So, we can't play music the way we want to, can DRM be any worse? Yes, it can, and it has been before. Sony's music division got in some big trouble in 2005 over their DRM that acted very similar to a "Rootkit," or a program used by hackers to gain a backdoor entrance to a computer. Certain CD's from Sony were shipped with not just music but a program called Extended Copy Protect or XCP. When you ran the music through Windows Media player, this happy little XCP program

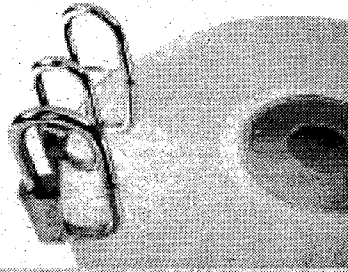
would install itself in the background without you knowing it, installing itself with the misleading "License agreement."

This program would basically take over your CD drive, preventing you from ripping music from CD's without using a designated CD ripper. This was also hidden from Windows, and made impossible to uninstall. Attempts to remove the physical files that made up XCP would result in your CD drive becoming inoperable due to registry changes made by XCP.

The worst thing the program did was make your computer even more vulnerable. Numerous security holes were within it, and viruses and other programs could piggyback onto it and stay hidden as well. Adding insult to injury, the "uninstall" program that Sony put out on the internet is believed to open even more holes.

DRM Free music comes with much greater freedom; however, it is harder to find as most big record labels will not sign up with a company without a DRM present to prevent copyright infringement. A large selection of DRM songs is offered at www.emusic.com; however, you must still pay for them and due the DRM free nature larger record companies won't sign with them.

DRM is there for a good cause which is to protect the rights of those who make their living off of the music and to prevent copyright infringement. However, in protecting those rights they've infringed upon our rights to play our music the way we want to. DRM is a way for the music industry to treat everyone as if they're pirating music. Do you like being treated like a criminal?



The online music industry is putting your music on lockdown.

Too young for love?

By Courtney Mercer

Do you remember your first real relationship and how incredible you felt when you were around that special someone? Remember how even the sound of their name sent butterflies to your stomach? Do you remember when they broke your heart, and you thought you were just never going to go on? So you spent your weekends at home moping around, eating pints of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. Your parents brushed it off as another silly teenage breakup, but to you it was the end of the world. You couldn't fathom why they could not understand your pain. After all, you lost the love of your life.

However, is it even possible to fall in love in high school or it just merely deep infatuation? Most parents and cynics would say yes, it is just nothing other than silly puppy love, a stupid high school crush and that a teenager couldn't possibly understand what true love feels like. Are they wrong? Are teenagers too immature and irresponsible to feel such an emotion? Those who have been or are in love would disagree completely.

"What does maturity and being responsible have to do with being in love?" asked senior Katy Birtalan. However, it surprisingly has to do with a lot. It takes a great deal of maturity to be in a stable relationship and to put your complete trust in another person. You must learn to not jump to conclusions and not only do what is best for you but do what is best for your significant other as well. You have to be responsible enough to experience the things that relationships will throw your way.

Even though, maturity and responsibility play a big role in a relationship, it could still be possible to fall in love in high school. Over the years you have experienced the love of your family, your friends, and your pets. Granted the love you have for a member of the opposite sex is certainly very much different from loving your family, but it is still love. If you can love your family then you can love someone else in a relationship. The question is, though, are you mature enough to handle a relationship? If you are, then anything is possible...even love at the age of sixteen.

Sports

Senior Spotlight

By Chelsy Kaley



Jenni Frederick

Track

How long have you participated in track?

— Four years

What influenced you to start throwing?

— I started throwing because I love the thought of being a part of a team that your individual effort is vital.

What is your most memorable moment while being on the track team?

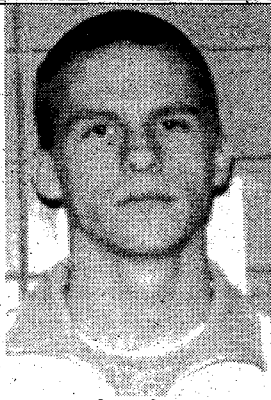
— All my throwing companions and the "love rub."

Do you want to continue after high school?

— It is very unlikely that I will continue.

How does it feel to be a senior leader?

— It feels really rewarding to be a part of such a wonderful group of people and to lead them to victory would be indescribable.



Jon Lee

Track

How long have you participated in track?

— Since seventh grade.

What influenced you to start running?

— My friends always told me I was fast and that I should try out for the team.

What is your most memorable moment while being on the track team?

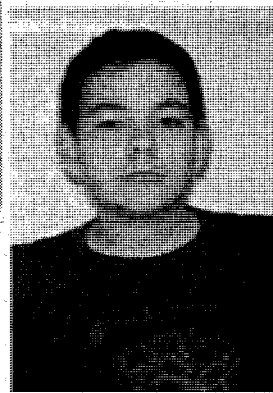
— I went to state my freshman year in the 4x200m relay team.

Do you want to continue after high school?

— Yes, I plan to walk on at the University of Akron.

How does it feel to be a senior leader?

— It's nice. I've been waiting four years to get here, and now I'm going to help the underclassmen just as the seniors did when I was a freshman.



Steve Durham

Tennis

How long have you played tennis?

— Four years.

What influenced you to start playing?

— Anna Kournikova.

What is your most memorable moment while playing tennis?

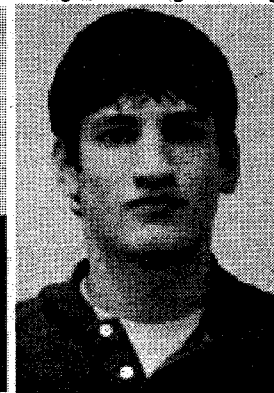
— Freshman year, Dan Huston and I were playing doubles and when the other team wasn't looking he served the ball and hit the opponent.

Do you want to continue playing after high school?

— Yes, most definitely.

How does it feel to be a senior leader?

— Well let me see, AWESOME! It is so much fun being in charge.



Dan Anderson

Tennis

How long have you played tennis?

— This is my third year

playing tennis.

What influenced you to start playing?

— Andy Roddick

What is your most memorable moment while playing tennis?

— Missing school for sectionals, then going to get Chinese instead of going back to school.

Do you want to continue playing after high school?

— I plan to continue playing in college.

How does it feel to be a senior leader?

— It feels great...



Brittany Gregory

Softball

How long have you played softball?

— Eleven years.

What influenced you to start playing?

— My dad started working with me when I was very young, and I fell in love with it.

What is your most memorable moment while playing softball?

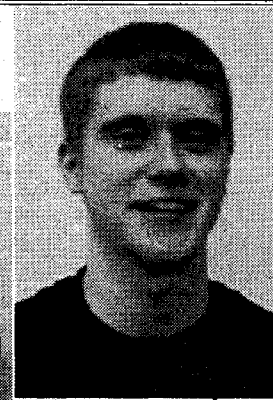
— Hitting a two run homerun at the Field of Dreams.

Do you want to continue playing after high school?

— Maybe.

How does it feel to be a senior leader?

— I love it. I'm the only senior this year, and everyone looks to me for advice. I love helping the younger girls.



Justin Skiba

Quaker Sam

What influenced you to become Quaker Sam?

— What influenced me or as I like to say attracted me to the position of being Quaker Sam is my overwhelming passion towards being lazy. I couldn't see myself committing my time and patience toward a fall or winter sport such as football or basketball. I still wanted to keep myself busy, so mascotry sparked my interest.

What is your most memorable moment while being Quaker Sam?

— I would have to say it was when I was getting the snot beaten out of me by the cheerleaders at practice. The top two "mishaps" made me bleed while everyone else walked away just fine. One was where Erin Drotleff and I tossed a girl up in the air, and when we caught her Erin's chin and my flip connected with the result of a large, fat, bleeding lip on my end and Erin walking away with no injuries. The other was a practice before a game in United, and it was where I caught a girl after a toss and got a nasty cloth burn all down my arm. The bus came right after, and I went to the game bleeding and burning.

How fun is it to be Quaker Sam?

— It's not that bad being Quaker Sam. It's easy and it's pretty fun. You get into all the games for free, and you get to watch the entire basketball game but not all of the football games. All in all, I'm glad I did it.

All American Conference

By Adam Swiger

Before I even begin to write this article, I will tell you that nothing about this conference is official at this point in time. As many students now know, the MAC is considering a merger with the Trumbull Athletic Conference. The name of the new conference would be the All American Conference. This new conference would have sixteen schools. It will have three subdivisions - the red tier, the blue tier, and the white tier. These divisions cannot be equal in size as there are an odd number of tiers for an even number of teams.

As of right now, the division with the largest schools, the red tier, would possibly have these schools; Beaver Local, Canfield, Howland, and Poland. East Liverpool would have been in this tier, but they have elected to leave and head back to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC). Beaver Local is also rumored to be looking to join, leaving the Steel Valley Conference (SVC). All these schools are either in Division II or Division III.

The division with the middle size schools, the blue tier, would possibly have these schools - Niles, Salem, Hubbard, Lakeview, and Liberty. All of these schools are in Division III.

The division with the smallest schools, the white tier, would possibly have these schools; Girard, Newton Falls, Champion, Brookfield, LaBrae, Struthers, and Campbell. These schools are all Division IV and Division V.

Earlier in this school year, Salem, Niles, Struthers, and Campbell were invited to join the TAC, along with four other schools. While this was about to happen, TAC superintendents voted against a merger. I personally do not know why the first merger didn't happen, and I don't know why this second merger ever came up. I did try to ask our athletic director a few questions about this merger. I could not get any answers because, as I stated at the beginning of the article, nothing is official. If the merger does happen, the only thing left to say is this...Welcome to the All American Conference in 2008.

New Trophy Cases

By: Ryan Bell

Have you been down in the gym hallway lately? Have you taken some time to look at what our school has accomplished over the years in sports? There are some really cool trophies in the gym hallway. There might even be some trophies that are down there for the things that you've done. Well, I think that it is time to support those trophies and put them in some newer, nicer, less crowded cases.

These old cases that we have need to be reconstructed and reorganized. The cases need to be sanded down and stained to give them a new look. We need to create a new look for the cases. Maybe a new design will take people by surprise. This way, when we have a game in the gym, people can look at the trophies and fondly remember, "That was my class." There are so many trophies in some of the cases that it is hard to read the engravings or plaques. The trophies are so close together that you cannot see what an award is for or who it went to. Some of them you have to look at from a ridiculous angle to decipher. The trophy cases need serious help.

There is more than enough room down in that hallway to put up some more cases. There are a few walls that just have a picture or two on them. Those walls could be cases holding shining awards with more than just a picture decorating them. We could use the space to put other cases up and make space for our accumulated accomplishments. There are a lot of accomplishments down in the gym hallway. We really should take some time and look at them. It is very hard to do that with the cases how they are. There's a pop machine down there, but food and drinks aren't allowed in the gym. Why do we even have it there? Take that out or move it somewhere so that we could have more room.

We do need to do our part to make this school look nicer and attractive. If a parent were to come into the school and see the crowded clutter of trophies that we have, they might be a little worried. Let's make some new room for all of the accomplishments that we have and the others sure to come. Let's plan for the students in the future.



The Quaker Board

Seeing SHS in a different light

By Kathy Ellis

As most students look around our school, we seem to notice all of the things that need changed and the horrific decisions of our school administration. We seem to focus on the negatives and completely bypass anything good in our school. We don't think of the time that is taken to make our school a better place for everyone.

Mr. Hays takes the time to take care of the plants in the front hallway. It makes the entrance way more inviting. Some of the teachers bring in their plants, and Mr. Hays takes care of them during the winter. It makes our hallways more decorated and not so plain to look at. Mrs. Wrask puts together the attractive showcases in front of the library. She stated, "With the help of Mrs. Erath, I just go through the calendar to think of ideas. One of my favorite displays was a quilt that I made with mice in it." This gives the students something to look at while walking through the halls. Mrs. Evans and the yearbook staff have a display outside of the library as well.

Also, the third lunch line that was put into our cafeteria this year helps students get their lunches faster. The athletic office has a bulletin across from their office that has newspaper articles about recent sporting events. It lets all the students in our school know what is going on with sports and who is do-

ing well in their sport. Also, there are updated pictures of the student council members next to the office every year. Our school has participated in a food drive and collected many food items for the less fortunate. Project Prom is a great way for our school to get involved. They have collected many beautiful gowns for students who would like to take a look at them. Some of the dresses were donated, and there are also some that are going to be borrowed.

For many students the school delay system is not their favorite because they would rather have a snow day. Even though a snow day would obviously be nice, we are still getting to sleep in and should take advantage of that. We did, however, have a few snow days recently, so the delays do come in handy. If we were to have had snow days in the past, we might not have had enough snow days when we really needed them. Therefore, we might have had to make up some of the snow days at the end of the year, and no one wants to do that.

Personnel in our school have done a good job of keeping it looking nice and being involved with all of the donations and fundraisers. Students should take the time to notice the positive things that are going on around the school instead of everything that needs changed.

Secrets in our school

By Anna Zimmerman and Erik Cibula

Take a walk around our school with nobody else in the halls and you will feel a flash back from 1960. This makes sense because our school was built in 1958. So let's go back in time for a quick trip through the years. Did you know that not so long ago when you went to a sporting activity you could pay a quarter and have your jacket hung up for you? The coats were hung in the room by the trophy cases. Let's go back even farther to when the school was first built and realize that we didn't even have a gym! We did not have an auditorium and even the locker alcove across from the office did not exist. We did have lockers in an alcove in the hallway connecting senior lockers to the English wing. So many things have changed over the years.

When we were assigned by Mrs. Dye to explore the school, we discovered many unusual rooms and accessories that we did not know were there. In the hallway next to the photography room, we found a

women's rest room which looks like it came right out of the movie *Saw*. There is one toilet and one room with just a curtain for a door, but it looks like you're entering locker room showers. The ironic thing was this restroom was once a studio for photography. There is also a teachers' lounge in the wood/machine shop wing of the school. When you walk in it, it feels like you are stepping into the '70's. It seems more like a storage room, but there is a refrigerator and a table. I don't think it is used very often though.

It is amazing how many things have changed since 1958. We have built more, moved things around, and blocked things off. Our school has matured with the times. So next time you're walking around the school building, take a good look around and see if you can notice something you haven't ever noticed before. Oh, and P.S. - Dear thief, stop stealing Mr. Peter's tea, you now owe him 6!

Cell phone stunner?

By David Price

Have you ever been in a restaurant and the person on the other side of the room is babbling away? How about a movie theater? In most cases every person in America has been annoyed by a person who has pulled out their cell phone during dinner or a movie and has started gabbing. Well, there is a device created to stop people from doing just that. It's called the cell phone jammer. This item works by blocking anyone within a certain radius from using their cell phone which makes it perfect for the restaurant or the movie theater.

What the device does is destroy the signal from being able to enter or exit the cell phone. The bad part about this item is that it is highly illegal in America. If you get caught with one of the jammers, you can be fined up to \$11,000 and a year in prison. The reason they are highly illegal in many countries (even importing these goods to America is illegal) is because you pay for the airwaves, and if a person is hurt or dying you need to use a phone to call for an ambulance.

If you are able to find one of the jammers in the United States it will cost approximately two thousand dollars. Importers from Europe send these to America, and the import checks don't even know what they are.

Schools in Europe and many other legal countries use the jammers in schools, theaters, churches, and in restaurants/clubs. Also the companies that make the cell phone jammer give these to schools and churches for promotional purposes. Buying a cell phone jammer would cost in the range of £159.00-£300.00, which is \$194.00-\$388.00 in US currency.

Some good reasons to have a cell phone jammer would be it disconnects all cell phones from receiving or sending any type of call, text message, or Ethernet use on the phone. Some of the bad reasons would be that if caught with one, as mentioned earlier, you are doing something illegal and some of the jammers only have a range of thirty feet.

In my opinion, American schools and churches should be able to use these. It will stop the cheating on tests and cut down on the teachers yelling at students for using cell phones. In some schools teachers tell their students to put all cell phones and pagers on their desks to prevent cheating, but with this piece of technology it would make it possible for time to be saved and used on a test or a quick review.

Students: You do have rights!

By Sarah Conrad

"It's not fair. I have the right to have my nose pierced! It's my body; I'll do what I want with it." "I have the right to wear jeans with holes in them! I have a job, and I've saved up enough money to buy them." "I have the right to have purple hair. I'm expressing myself and teachers can't stop me." These are just a few quotes that students always state whether it is in the class or wandering through the halls.

We as students have rights, but sometimes we don't feel like we have any. Let's

consider the next scenario, the one where you turn eighteen. You are considered an adult. As we know, being an adult comes with many responsibilities. On top of those responsibilities we also have hefty decisions weighing on our shoulders such as what we want to do with the rest of our lives. After all, once you

are eighteen you must have some sort of plan in mind for your future. That is a great deal of responsibility with so many decisions to make. On top of this all, males must register for selective service in the military.

When the "No Child Left Behind Act" was established in 2001, it required that all schools make available to local recruiters students' phone numbers. The military knows how the average eighteen-year-old thinks and how their mind is filled with trepidation. Soon enough, you may have the military calling your house trying to persuade you into joining the armed forces. "You don't know what you want to do for the rest of your life? Oh, well then you should really consider joining the Armed Forces. Your education is free, and you will be part of our family here in the military, and you will also travel abroad!" This makes the military seem so attractive and infallible. Maybe some students who are uncertain of their futures might feel pressured into joining the military by such annoying yet persuasive phone calls.

However, there is a solution to all of this madness. The solution is called an opt-out form. If you

want to get away from all of those annoying phone calls then one should complete an opt-out form. It is quite a simple procedure; all you need is a signature. If you are eighteen or older you may sign it yourself, but if you are under age then you must have your parent or guardian's signature. It is a form that prohibits the school from revealing your personal information to the military if you want to maintain your privacy. The opt-out form will relieve some of the pressures the military might

put on your plate during high school. You won't feel obligated to sign up for the military because you are confused with your life and the direction you would like it to take.

Two members from the local

Columbia County Peace Makers, Sarah Weaver and Arline Sekely, recently came to discuss the form with this writer. It was their purpose to provide information regarding this important yet little known form so that every student has an understanding of his/her rights to privacy.

Students, you do have rights. And one of those many rights is the right of privacy; so do your best to protect it.

A copy of the opt out form.

Event Calendar

- March - 2007-2008 Scheduling
- March 10 - SAT testing
- March 12 - 16 - OGT testing
- March 16 - Band heads to NY to march in St. Patrick's Day Parade
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - Academic Challenge Finals
- March 23 - End of third 9 weeks
- March 27 - Junior Career Day

Quaker Clips

