

The Quaker

A high school tradition for years.

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Salem Senior High School

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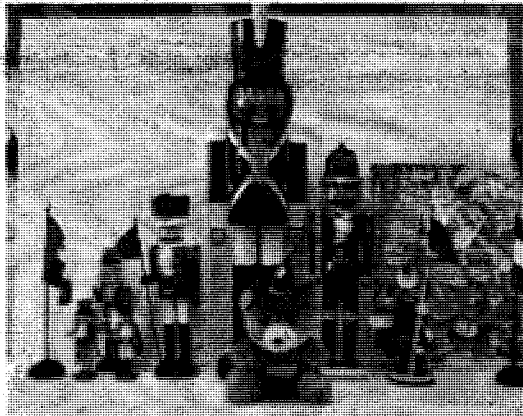
German NHS

By Rosalyn Washam

The German National Honor Society and German classes are very busy this year. German III and IV students are going to the Christmas Market in Akron, and the German National Honor Society, in affiliation with the German Club, is trying to get a recycling project off the ground.

German III and IV have the opportunity to experience German culture at the third annual Christkindlmarkt in Akron, Ohio. This year the market began on November 24 and ends on December 31. Akron is able to host this event because of its sister city of Chemnitz, Germany. About 60,000 people visit this attraction to get a taste of German culture. Visitors can eat delicious food such as bratwurst, sauerkraut and German Christmas bread. From the many booths of vendors, people can purchase toys, nutcrackers, smokers, and pyramids. In addition to the wonderful food and homemade gifts, there is an ice skating rink and a live band.

The German National Honor Society is a selective program that requires three full semesters of German, at least a 3.6 GPA in German and a 3.0 GPA in other classes, and signatures from two teachers. Members earn an extra cord at graduation and a certificate to prove membership. This year the German Honor Society is in the process of beginning a recycling program at the high school. A few of the students as well as the advisor, Mrs. Carter, noticed that a great deal of paper is wasted at our school. Hopefully the honor society can work with this idea and reduce the amount of paper thrown away.



A few of the novelties from the German market.

Midterm madness

By Colton Jones

It's the most wonderful time of the year. With Christmas and New Years right around the corner, there's not much that can bring the students at SHS down. That is, until January 17th-18th when the dreaded midterms roll around.

When asking students their input on midterms, senior Zach Crouse says, "I hate them."

"They take too much preparation," says junior Kate Phillips. "They give you too much to think about and unwanted stress during our break."

However, there are students in SHS that look on the bright side of midterms. Seniors Kyle Simms and Quinn Hoover agreed that as long as they get out of school early, midterms are more than worth it.

Whether they're good or bad, here are some tips to make the best out of midterms. Make sure to get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast to keep your mind on track. Be sure to study a lot, but not too much. Cramming may seem easiest, but that's not what you want to do. Begin to study your notes once January arrives, and pay attention to review sessions in class.

Other than these few tips there's not much else I can tell you. Good luck to everyone.



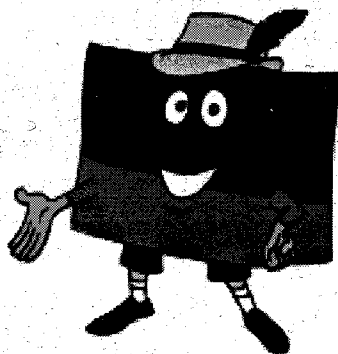
German trip

By Randy Woods

Mrs. Carter is planning a trip at the end of the 2008 school year. This trip will take place some time in June although no final date is set yet. The trip will last fourteen days. The group plans on going to see Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. The cost for this fourteen day trip is about \$3,400, and this includes all transportation, air fair, motor coach, all hotels, meals, admissions to sights, and a full time guide.

Some of the places they are planning to visit on this trip are Neuschwanstien in southern Germany which is the highlight of the trip. The Neuschwanstien castle is a popular tourist attraction. They are also planning to go to Munchen, and Dachau where they will be stopping to visit the concentration camps. Their first stop will be Miderol, a town of Rothenberg. In Austria they will also plan to see salt mines near Butches Garter. The tour group will also travel to Italy, Venice, Verona, and Switzerland. They also plan on seeing the Alps in Luciene, Switzerland.

Mrs. Carter would like to see this trip take place about every three years. There is a possibility that a trip may even be considered for next year's spring break.



Sticks and stones

By Jordyn Hissom

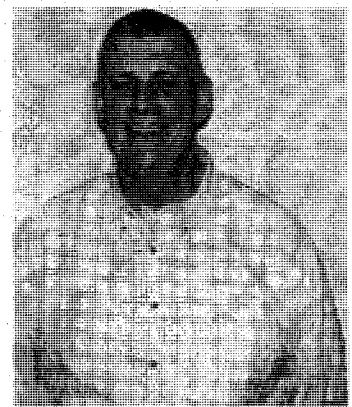
"It felt like they were finding my sore spot and just constantly picking at it, making me drop my guard and getting depressed." These are the words of a junior boy that walks the halls of this school. This boy in particular was told to kill himself. It is understandable to be depressed about treatment like this - right? Another Salem High School student said it "...just made me afraid to be myself I guess. I mean teasing now I just shrug off. But from when I was younger it really affected me." Growing up we were always told the saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." In all reality, some words hurt more than those "sticks and stones."

Bullying is the reason for the Starfish Program. The program was started by Mr. Denny Barger who said his life was changed when a girl in a peer leadership group began to cry just two minutes into her sharing. She thanked the group for saving her life, for helping her recover from her attempted suicide just a year earlier. Barger has spoken to thousands of students and adults about bullying and how they can help. The program aims to end bullying before it starts. It hopes to end self destruction and violence at its core. The events that lead up to self destruction and violence are the simple put downs, threats, and insults we have come to believe are meaningless. Bullying really affects those bullied. It leaves them feeling anxious, less confident, insecure, and many have low self esteem. Some of these people even become suicidal. Oftentimes these students

believe school is an unhappy and an unsafe environment.

At Salem Junior-Senior High, the guidance counselors have chosen fifty students from grades 7-10 to serve as mentors in the Starfish Program. They will begin training on December 11. Mr. Washinko, junior high guidance counselor, would like to believe that the recent school assembly put the program into effect.

The same junior boy mentioned above also admitted to being a bully at one point. He called being bullied karma. He said he felt in control and better about himself when he put others down and that he did it because they annoyed him. This student felt they might pick on him if he didn't pick on them first, so he would beat them to the punch. The boy in this article learned a lesson. He was a bully, and then he too was bullied. He had this to say about what he learned, "Someone shouldn't take happiness away from someone else just to make themselves happy."



Mr. Barger loves to smile.

Are we there yet?

By Shane Endicott

As students anxiously await the final approval and a date set for the New York City trip, they are all still asking questions.

The New York trip has existed at Salem High School for about five years since Mr. D'Angelo brought the opportunity to students when he started teaching here. The trip has been very successful over the past five years with about forty-eight students attending each year. The trip traditionally begins on a Friday morning with students leaving Salem and missing the full school day. They return to Salem Sunday night. The students that attend the trip must attend school the following Monday. This year there is a lot of confusion over the trip and whether the trip has been approved or denied.

In a meeting with Mr. Ramunno, Salem's interim superinten-

dent, it was made known that he has some standards for the trip. It is approved but certain guidelines have been established. Students going to New York are attending school the day of the trip and departing at 12:30 P.M. giving them all a full day. The other option is to take the trip over spring break. With these standards the trip is going to be rather hard to accomplish with families going on spring break or other reasons. The reason for these guidelines is that Mr. Ramunno wants the students to be counted for a full day in school rather than take a full day off and lose a voucher. "If it was a school tradition it would be a different story, but I'm still giving a cushion."

Mr. D'Angelo gave his input on the trip and what he thought about the plan by saying, "It's an inconvenience to leave so late in the

day; students would be wasting money for a dead night in a hotel!" Leaving so late in the day would make the trip almost pointless with no time to get the activities done Friday as planned.

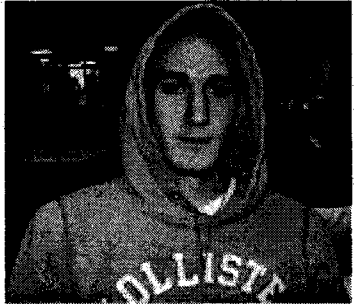
This trip is a fun experience and something to remember. There is normally a waiting list for spots to open during the time the trip date is set until the final day to collect money. It is only open to high school students and costs over three-hundred dollars. This includes the stay, activities, and some food. It is very well planned with chaperones and activities. Students should definitely attend with the approval we are all waiting to hear.

For any more information about this trip to New York, contact Mr. D'Angelo.

Opinion

War of the Words By Erik Cibula

What's the worst present you have ever received on Christmas?



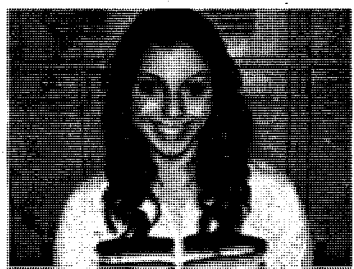
Bobby Spaulding
Senior

"Whitey Tights!!!"



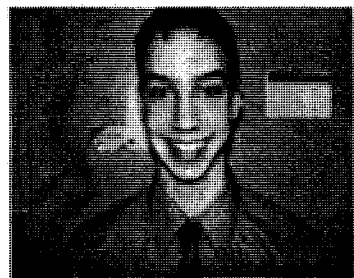
John Adams
Junior

"A couple of years ago my sister thought it would be funny to get me a red, sparkly pair of underwear."



Amy Franklin
Sophomore

"When I was eleven, my cousin gave me a packet of shredded cheese which melted all over my shoes when it opened."



Kyle Costal
Freshman

"I got a bag with baby powder-like cologne from my grandparents when I was ten years old."



Mrs. Bosheff
Staff Member

"A Matchbox 20 CD"

Opinion

Point counter point The great Santa debate

By Derek Hale and Theo Keniston

Derek: I believe Santa Clause is real. I am Derek Hale, and Santa Clause is real.

Theo: How can you leap to a premature conclusion of adolescent faith based entirely on a fictional bias and state that your reservations in a belief of a mystical bearded character are at all relevant or justifiable? Would you not assume that one in such a position as to traverse the globe in one night's time would use the ability for a purpose far surpassing that of giving presents to children of which the majorities deserve them not?

Derek: Are you contending the idea that I am, in fact, Derek Hale? If this is the case I do believe I have adequate documentation right here. For the record I am presenting my driver's license issued to me by the state of Ohio to Theo Keniston.

Theo: (Theo strokes his beard) Dude, that's not even Santa.

Derek: Well, if you insist on forcing this article to focus on Saint Nicholas then I guess I will just have to go along with it. Dude, I pose you this question: How, pray tell, do you believe the idea of Santa has made its way into the hearts of Americans, Germans, and even the Dutch? The idea is basically the same in all of these countries. Do you believe that this is some sort of conspiracy? If you do believe it to be a conspiracy then how could it manifest itself in America? The American government couldn't cover up Watergate; how could they cover up a fat man breaking and entering into American houses once every year?

Theo: Undoubtedly, it is impossible for the American government to cover up any useful conspiracies, but see, one time I stayed up all night long one Christmas Eve. Needless to say, I saw no jolly fat fellow whisking his way magically through the chimney I didn't have. Instead - along came a spider, sat down beside her, and my dad brought the presents from a bag. Where's your Santa now?

Derek: Is it possible that maybe you are taking the idea of Santa too literally? Maybe Santa is a metaphor for your father, and not just your father but everybody's father or even mother. I don't know if Santa is a palpable being as much as he is an idea. I agreed to debate the Santa issue because I believe Santa is real. He may not be a person but he is real. The idea that Santa Clause can be our mother or father means freedom. Isn't freedom what we need? Don't you think our parents would know us better than a fat man? This notion gives our parents freedom to choose what a child deserves and what they don't, and if you ask me freedom is what America is all about!

Theo: What say ye to thine own imposition herein, whether be to art thee known a false priory? Upon inquiry, doth the child not claim in vain thine inverse, and forthwith provide cause for one in body? Doth the child then not reveal that thee in body doth need, yay many, a helper, consequently in enacting the eve of Christmas day? Would this not, moreover, and of lesser more than less, negate your opposition, and forthright submit to my objection of said initial belief?

Derek: So what you are saying is almost everyboy takes believes in Santa the man and I am the only person that would take Santa as an idea and that this jeopardizes my case? Could I not make the case that I am right, and everybody is inherently wrong? I am Derek Hale, and I believe I am not wrong but rather the extreme commercialization on such a sacred holiday is. I think my ideas are lost on anybody who has become a slave to the commercialization. Furthermore, if anybody has become a slave to the commercialization, they are in essence ruining such a pure and beautiful holiday.

Theo: Yeaaaaah, but that still doesn't prove there's a Santa. I mean, there isn't even a North Pole. There are numerous South Poles. There's the one that's really southward and pole-esque, and there's the clothing company. There isn't even one North Pole. Plus, one time I visited the mall Santa, and I asked for a new Fairly Odd Parents Limited Edition Frisbee for Christmas. I'd been a good boy and still didn't get it. This was last year, very well soon enough to still be true.

Derek: Maybe you should have asked your parents for it. Another thought hits me: If Santa has been around for ages and only gives presents to good little boys and girls, maybe he judges good and bad in an antiquated way using old definitions of good and bad. Maybe you are a bad child when judged by Santa's rules. I also submit that there is, in fact, a North Pole! I am referring to the northernmost point on the Earth. I don't think we have enough time to discuss geomagnetism so this will be my only use of the word North Pole. Who says Santa lives at the North Pole anyway? Why would somebody as infinitely wise as Santa let his location be revealed? If everybody knew where Santa's workshop was then that would open him up to vandalism and industrial espionage. His workshop could be anywhere, and if he is judging children with such an old system then maybe he doesn't have any more good children for whom to make presents.

Theo: My brother wanted a life-size Barbie. He got one.

Derek: ...

Theo: And anyway, where the heck would some random bloke find a

flock of deer in the middle of nowhere? Not to mention deer that fly and have fluorescent smellers?

Derek: Reindeer my friend, and only one has a shiny nose, maybe Santa is some sort of clandestine geneticist. Who says Santa uses reindeer? Has anybody actually seen him with flying reindeer?

Theo: Has anybody seen him ever anywhere in all time ever?

Derek: You don't need to see him to know he is real. There are many indicators that prove Santa's existence. Who, pray tell, eats the cookies I leave out?

Theo: Your parents.

Derek: Fair enough... Good show!

Theo: Indeed!

Student Health - First in a series

Gym class vs. obesity

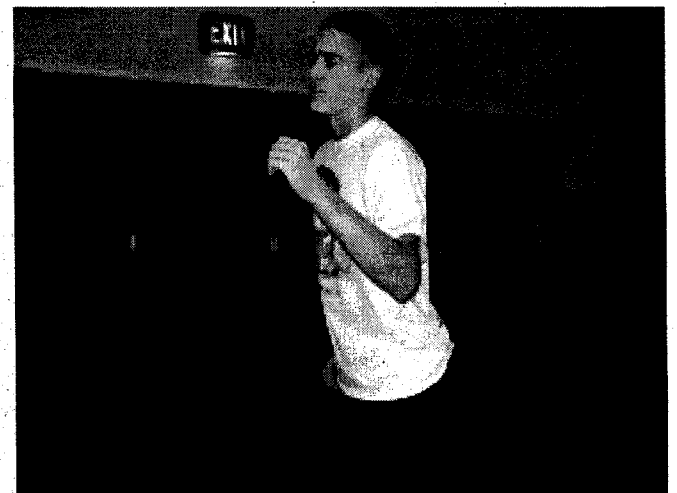
By Kathy Ellis

Gym class is required in most schools from elementary up to the high school courses. How much exercise are students really getting in gym class? Chances are it's not enough to prevent child obesity. In Salem High School, gym class is every day for a total of fifty minutes. Summer gym is also offered to high school students which lasts a total of two weeks and gets the required hours that regular gym has but crammed into two weeks. Summer gym is offered for students that want to take more classes that will help them toward college. It is also a way to not have to go to gym class and be sweaty for the remainder of the day, every day.

So how active are students in gym class anyway? There are unlimited amounts of activities that students can do in gym in order to keep moving and have a good time, but during volleyball or mat ball half the time the students are sitting anyway. There are some activities like running or hockey that keep the students constantly moving, but this isn't every day. It is recommended that the average person gets thirty to sixty minutes of exercise per day. Yes, students can possibly get this during gym class, but what about after they get the credit for that class? Students may or may not want to stick with that daily exercise. If someone is struggling with obesity then they may just give up after that gym class is finished.

Summer gym requires a lot of activity. There are twenty-five to thirty minutes of running when the students first arrive. There are tons of activities to do including Tae Bo, volleyball, mat ball, ultimate frisbee, golfing, bowling, and more. The usual day consists of five hours of activity. The days that the students go golfing or bowling are for a longer amount of time, and the students also get a break. Summer gym requires more stamina out of students, and chances are if a student does well in summer gym, then they aren't inactive out of school.

So the real question is if gym helps students avoid obesity now or in the future. It most definitely helps to have students at a young age realize that they can have fun being active. It will most likely help students remain active later on in life even if they don't get the thirty to sixty minutes after they are out of gym. If students do not want to be active in high school gym, then that may mean they are at risk for obesity. Most likely those students are not going to go home after school and head to the gym. As long as there are exciting activities to do in gym, it should keep the students engaged and it won't feel so much like working out. Regular gym class without doubt lowers the rate of obesity, but summer gym may also due to the increased difficulty of the activities.



December at the movies

By David Price

In this upcoming winter holiday season there are many things you can do especially on your Christmas break. Watching movies is a great way to pass the time on the days you don't want to do anything other than sit back and relax. There are numerous movies that will debut in December. Some big names in these movies are stars

such as Johnny Depp, Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Jack Nicholson, and Mike Cera.

First let's start with genres. Some of the most interesting movies are from a variety of genres such as drama, comedy, sci-fi, and action-adventure.

Some dramatic movies that are coming out are *The Great Debaters* (not yet rated) starring Denzel which is a top choice in my book. Also *Charlie Wilson's War* (not yet rated) with Tom Hanks seems to be another fan favorite.

Next are the comedies. Who doesn't love a good comedy especially when it stars Jack Nicholson. *The Bucket List* (PG-13) is just that. Also, if you like the movie *Superbad* with Mike Cera, you might just enjoy this winter's comedy *Juno* (PG-13).

Now let's throw some sci-fi/horror genre into the mix. Who hates Johnny Depp? I can honestly say I haven't watched a movie with him in it that was bad and hopefully *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (R) won't ruin it for me. Let's revisit Will Smith and his acting career because the last time we saw him was in *i-Robot*. His upcoming movie *I Am Legend* (pg-13) puts Will into the roll of a scientist with an uncontrollable virus he has created. And finally for the sci-fi lovers, we look toward *Alien Vs. Predator: Requiem* (R), the sequel to the original *Alien Vs. Predator*.

Now we go to the single-handed most anticipated family movie of the year. *Alvin and the Chipmunks* will have parents remembering how good their childhood was.

Hopefully all of these movies will be great winter movies that will end cliffhangers, start new ones, and make the fans want more in their holiday season. Also, credit goes to

www.rottentomatoes.com for giving me incite on the ratings of these movies.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Good Guys

Streetlight Manifesto

By Bridget Szabat



Have you ever taken the time to listen to Streetlight Manifesto's music? If not I can guarantee you are missing out. These boys do not produce the typical sounding music many are familiar with. They are a straight up ska-punk band. Ska is a very unique style of music. It has a different twist included which other bands don't typically seem to have. When you think of various bands you may think of guitar, drums, bass and vocals. That is all included in this band's lineup, but so is much more. Unusual as it may seem, they also produce their sound by including alto, tenor and baritone saxophones along with trumpets and trombones. That's weird though, right? Though strange to some, this is what separates them from all the rest. Their loud brass instruments are what keep the energy pumping throughout the songs.



Streetlight came right out of New Jersey. In 2003, these men finally got to debut their music. It's not an easy trip to getting famous, though. In fact, this band had trouble starting out. In October of 2005, during a performance while on tour, their van was robbed leaving them with \$80,000 of property stolen. That's a huge chunk of change that left them in a rut, but this didn't stop them from carrying on. Not too long after, yet again in Europe, they were robbed again. As you may notice, good luck was nowhere near their side, and this led to a tremendous amount of stress. Did they give up and give in? No they didn't, and thank goodness for that!

Through all the struggles of starting out, these guys have accomplished becoming well known and bringing about a new genre of music. Even though they only have three al-

bums out, they are slowly rising to the top. Even if you don't typically prefer punk music, you should be sure to give them a try. I'm sure they would give your ears a pleasant surprise.

If you have never listened to them before and want to check them out you can find them at www.myspace.com/streetlightmanifesto.com or other music websites.

Forever In Terror

By Jessica Watson

BAD GUYS

Formerly known as 7th Plague, five friends formed a heavy metal band in Streetsboro, Ohio (about thirty miles from Cleveland) during their eighth grade school year. Within three years they changed the name of their band and the members until they found the perfect name and line up.

Forever in Terror consists of Nate Marti on rhythm guitar, Josh Owen playing bass, Nick Borukhovskiy pounding on the drums, Chris "Nitro" Wiles on lead guitar, and finally Chris Bianchi screaming the lyrics. They don't just stick with one sound of guitars or vocals like a lot of metal bands do, but they slide in some acoustics and melodic vocals whether it is screaming or singing that you don't usually find on a metal CD.

The guys played local shows all over the place until they caught the attention of Hardcore Marketing, a well known concert promotion and band management firm. After talking with Forever in Terror, they booked them a show to play at the popular venue in Cleveland, The Odeon. This quickly got them recognized and they were instant favorites. They played with very popular bands after this show including Uneath, Trivium, Machine Head, God Forbid, All That Remains, Devil Driver, Mushroomhead, and Chimaira. Their most treasured concert was opening for Chimaira, a huge heavy metal band that came from Cleveland.

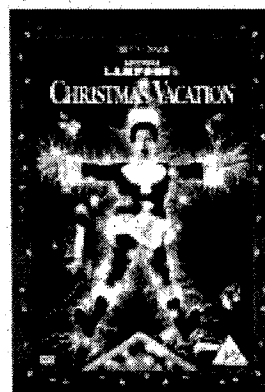
After these shows they went into the studio to record their first demo. In January of 2006, all of their dreams came true when Metal Blade Records offered them a chance. Forever in Terror happily accepted this offer. At the time of the signing, the members of the band were only seventeen years old.

After signing with Metal Blade Records, they were able to release their first album, "Restless in the Tides." On the album they have help with vocals from Mark Hunter from the group Chimaira and the art work is completely done by Derek Hess, a famous Cleveland artist. You can check out their myspace to hear their music and also to check out their clothing and other items. www.myspace.com/fitmetal



December winner

This month's award falls, again, to the Good Guys. Both bands are quite good which was surprising to this particular editor. The award this month was based entirely on diversity. While Forever In Terror is a noticeably gifted group of musicians, they simply fit the cliché genotype of many a metal band before them. On the contrary, Streetlight Manifesto is quite unique in their spin on alternative rock, mixed with the moving rhythm of punk music, amplified to an extreme by mixing ska into it. I know many of you are thinking it sounds bad, but believe me, for anyone tired of hearing the "same old thing," they are a breath of fresh air.



Top ten Christmas comedies

By E.J. Kataro

It's the time of year for mistletoe and holly, and the time for Christmas traditions and institutions to play themselves out while families cozy themselves up and watch holiday spirit scroll across their vibrant television screens. What's more enjoyable than sitting down and watching a funny holiday movie after you've opened your presents and eaten until your heart's content? I decided to poll some students to see what their favorite holiday comedies were. The results were very shocking to me.

1. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)
2. *Elf* (2003)
3. *Christmas with the Cranks* (2004)
4. *Bad Santa* (2003)
5. *A Christmas Story* (1983)
6. *The Santa Clause* (1994)
7. *Mixed Nuts* (1994)
8. *A Muppets Christmas Carol* (1992)
9. *Scrooged* (1988)
10. *Jingle All The Way* (1996)

I am honestly amazed at the popularity of the older movies within our age group. There are a good variety of other movies that were mentioned that didn't manage to reach the "elite" Top Ten status. Such movies include *Prancer* (1989), *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000), *It's A Wonderful Life* (1946), *I'll Be Home For Christmas* (1998) and *Ernest Saves Christmas* (1988). Many movies have reached out to us in our youth and even in our older years or else we wouldn't have such an admiration for the Christmas movies that have become woven into the culture of our society.

Feature

Let them eat cake ...fruitcake that is By Theo Keniston and Chad Dotson

It was in early Rome that one of history's most reveled and debated holiday delicacies would be born. Fashioned from a barley mash with pomegranates, raisins, and nuts throughout, the first fruitcakes were soaked in rum or a brandy that would help it to remain preserved over long periods of time. This was something quite useful for hungry Roman centurions campaigning through early Europe. When the middle ages came to pass, the fruitcake took a slightly more enjoyable turn (in theory), having honey, spices, as well as assorted preserved fruits added to the concoction. Because of a fruitcake's longevity, early hunters and crusaders carried them on long voyages, spreading the baked legend's reputation far and wide.

The modern view toward fruitcake is that it possesses a mystery unknown to other (semi) edible treats. As far as anyone knows anymore, fruitcake is invincible, disgusting, and impossible to eat. Flush with curiosity, I set forth on a mission to see the world beyond the box - to get inside the workings of the fruitcake. Accompanied by none other than the courageous Mr. Chad Dotson, we embarked on a journey of discovery that either no one, or an incredibly large number, have gone on before. Herein lies the discoveries made along the journey to find the truth behind the mystery of the great fruitcake.

Myths that need busted

- Rats won't eat fruitcake
- Fruitcake can bounce
- Fruitcake could survive a nuclear holocaust
- Fruitcake is physically inedible
- Fruitcake toilet flush

The first test to discover the true weaknesses of fruitcake was to see if one could bare the weight of a small car. If this were so, then fruitcake would indeed be physically impossible to eat, a conclusion many have stated in the past. After placing one half of a rectangular cake in front of the tire of a green Chevy Cavalier, and driving over it only once, the cake was no more than a stain on the pavement. Seeing as this was slightly unfair, we decided that having close friend and baseball connoisseur Phil Devine assault a fruitcake with a baseball bat. It's obvious from the before and after photos that whether it's a little boy or Barry Bonds, fruitcake doesn't have a chance. Consider fruitcake's strength busted.



Can fruitcake survive the wrath of a Chevy?

The second test presented to fruitcake's reputation was that the taste and smell are so horrible that even a rat wouldn't eat it. Though this idea is plausible to some, we had reservations toward it. There simply are some things that a rat won't eat that perhaps people would, such as Charleston Chew for example. So rather than a rat, we thought we would present a fruitcake to a domestic albino frog. No one would eat anything an albino frog would eat, let alone something one wouldn't. Upon inspection, the albino frog deliberately turned up its nose and had nothing to do with the fruitcake, a clear sign that this food was not meant for humans.



The albino frog didn't find the fruitcake very appealing.

Another myth about fruitcake is that its consistency is such that were someone to throw it at a wall, it would bounce back. Phil Devine volunteered to help test this notion by allowing a small cake to be thrown at him. Phil is probably tougher than a wall and in theory would produce an equal, if not greater, bounce. After a few misses, the fruitcake struck home in Phil's upper thigh and nearly buckled his legs. Though the cake didn't bounce, the fact that it could buckle the tree trunks beneath Mr. Devine, slightly attests to the overall strength of fruitcake.

A fourth test was to see what would happen if a fruitcake were flushed in a toilet. It would be best not to go into detail and just say that fruitcake does not flush.

The final fork that we stuck to the many fruitcake myths was the idea that, for lack of better words, a fruitcake could withstand no less than a nuclear holocaust. We contacted the Department for Homeland Security, only to find after a lengthy FBI interrogation, that it would indeed be impossible for us to test a fruitcake in an authentic nuclear holocaust, so we set about making our own. The first step in creating our own nuclear holocaust was to provide the initial nuclear explosion, which we substituted by filling one large fruitcake with countless smuggled explosives. Two packs of firecrackers, fourteen bottle rockets, and six Roman rockets were the combination used to recreate a nuclear holocaust. Needless to say, the revered cake failed to live up to its promise. The brave Mr. Dotson then proceeded to taste test the remaining cake, much to the chagrin of those closest to him. After coughing and gagging for a minute or so, Chad settled in saying, "I think the fireworks actually made it better, and it was still the worst thing I've ever eaten."



Chad, Theo, and Phil about to recreate a nuclear holocaust.

No more "ho's" for Christmas?

By Tim Howard

The politically correct police are at it again. This time thirty trainee Santa's at a Santa course in Adelaide, Australia were told not to use the term "ho ho ho" because the term is also a derogatory term for female prostitutes in the U.S. It was also stated that the "ho ho ho" might frighten children, due to the deep tone of the "ho's", so they were told to say "ha ha ha" instead.

Westaff, the recruitment company urging there Santa's to change the phrase, is the largest supplier of Santa's, 550 nationally to be exact. Personally, I think this is ridiculous. I mean, are we going to start using garden ha's and start eating ha ha's, just because some over exerted politically correct

people have to take offense to something that has been a Christmas tradition for as long as it has existed? This will never go through as "ok" with the general public, and all of this "politically correct" nonsense will be blown over by next year.

The next thing you know they'll be wanting Santa to slim down as to be a role model to be skinny and healthy. Oh, and maybe change the color of his coat so that the traditional red is replaced with a less dangerous looking blue. It's not really a big deal, as all of it is nonsense and the general public will see that and not let it happen. In the mean time, enjoy the holidays, relax, and "ho ho ho" all you want.



Scrooge By Brittney McCollum

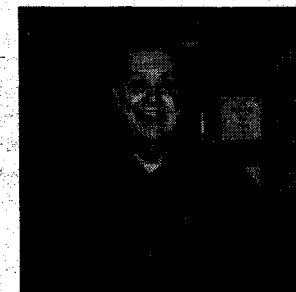
I'm sure once in your life you've either seen or read Charles Dickinson's "The Christmas Carol." If so then you are probably familiar with Ebenezer Scrooge. He is a cranky old man who likes to suck the life out of Christmas. He seems to miss the whole point of it. So do many people in today's world. Christmas isn't about gifts or money. It's about spending time with the people you love.

I don't want to sound like a parent, but it is very true. To a lot of people Christmas only means presents. Yeah, those things are nice, but it's not the point of the holiday. It's about family, friends, and loved ones. Make the time you spend with them count. You never know how long you will have with them. Senior Jordyn Hissom says, "What I love most about Christmas is eating a home cooked meal with my family."

Your idea of the best holiday season might not be spending the evening with your grandparents or going out with aunts and uncles, but it sure does mean a lot to them. It seems that one person's poor feelings toward the holiday can put a damper on it for many. How about this Christmas not just making sure you have a good time, but try to make someone else's day just as pleasant as yours.

Students at work By Chad Dotson

Occupational work experience is a class offered to juniors and seniors. The class allows students to go to school yet get out and go to work and get credits for working. Mr. Jeckavitch is the instructor for the class. There are a lot of things that we do in the class. The class is about thirty minutes a day. You learn about the job force and new and upcoming jobs that are going to be there for our generation. The class is thirty minutes a day if you have it fifth period like I do. After class is over you depart and go to work.



Mr. Jeckavitch, the OWE teacher.

You get two grades in OWE. One is for the actual class and the other is for keeping your job which is the lab portion of the class. Mr. J will help you in your search for a job. He is a tremendous help. He helped me find my job down at Firestone Sheet Metal. He gives you the lead you just have to follow it and go put in the application.

The requirements for the class are that you must be a junior or a senior. You must have a job or be willing to get a job. You must keep your job. If you get fired or if you quit without giving proper notice you will get a failing grade for that nine weeks. The class is a piece of cake. But the main idea of the class is to ensure the students graduated. If you want to get out of school early and make some money join Salem High Schools OWE program. As Mr. J says "The only thing we know about the future is that it will arrive, and if you don't prepare for it you will be in the same place you are today."

Don't be a jerk... be considerate

By Savanna Klass

direction and the right in the opposite direction. Please pay attention to where you are in the hallway. It is an inconvenience for everyone to walk around you.

Third, don't be arrogant. There are other people in the hallways. If someone is walking toward you, move over.

Fourth, don't be immature. Don't scream the latest gossip across the hallway. First of all,

Top ten things to do during winter

By Emily Washam

Winter break is one of the best parts of the school year. Not only do we get time off of school but Christmas is celebrated as well. I have compiled a list of ten things that you don't want to miss out on this winter.

1. Go shopping
2. Go sled riding/snow boarding
3. Have a movie night.
4. Watch *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
5. Have a gift exchange with friends
6. Drink LOTS of hot cocoa and eggnog
7. Have a snowball fight
8. Buy a new book and read in front of the fire
9. Make your own Christmas card to send out
10. Bake cookies

Whether you are able to do anything on this list or not, you are sure to have fun this holiday season. After all, who doesn't like days off of school? Enjoy the holidays!

Student of the Month December

By Luke Shivers

I must admit that I have been humbled. I thought that receiving Student of the Month would be an honor for any student. I was terribly wrong. He did not even crack a smile when I told him he won the award. I was initially angry, but he had good reason to be indifferent. I am honored that he accepted the award, and I have prematurely predicted that Chance Eichler will probably be the best student of the month of all time.

Chance is only a sophomore at Salem, but he has already won Student of the Month six times. The number six that is synonymous with Takeru Kobayashi and Michael Jordan is now synonymous with Chance. When I crestfallenly asked Chance if he felt any tingle of happiness from winning Student of the Month, he nonchalantly responded, "Not usually." Chance attended United until the sixth grade and racked up five SM's there. Chance assured me that SM awards at United were randomly chosen, but I am convinced the United Student of the Month Committee saw the same qualities in Chance that I have seen.

The ultimate test

By Savanna Klass

It has been said that old holiday traditions have been fading throughout the years. Due to this I have decided to put this opinion to the ultimate test by asking a universal, yet mind-stumping question. After careful thought the question was decided to be, "Can you name all of Santa's reindeer?"

It seems like a ridiculous question, but it is remarkable how difficult this really was for the majority of teachers and students who were asked. For example, several people were absolutely shocked to learn that Rudolf was not one of Santa's original reindeer. Early in the surveying process it seemed as if this scrooge attitude toward holiday traditions was a reality. Until, I encountered the pinnacle of cheer, Frau Carter and her partner in this frenzy of holiday cheer, Aubrey Moore. Both Ms. Moore and Frau Carter were able to rattle off nearly all of the reindeer when asked.

Although this survey ended on a sweet note it also offered much disappointment including Jay Bates who displayed his complete disregard for holiday trivia and Liz Dorn who is the ultimate scrooge of holiday cheer. Thankfully they have realized the error of their ways and will study up on their holiday carols this year.

I believe that this myth of vanishing cheer has been proven false. I would like to congratulate Frau Carter and Aubrey Moore on their reindeer knowledge and encourage the disappointments of this survey to follow Frau Carter's remarkable example. Happy holidays everyone!

Gifts on a budget

By Richard Myers

Have you ever had to buy presents for somebody? Was it on a budget that your parents gave you? There are some of the places you can go to buy things that are inexpensive. There are some things that you can buy that may be generic, but they will save you money. They can also be better than the name brand.

If you have your Mom on your list, go to Dollar General and just look around. Sometimes you'll find some really good deals around Christmas time. Some of the gifts could be a music box or a figurine of

Chance says his favorite cereal is Golden Grahams, which now seems poised to take over Wheaties as the breakfast of champions. In the times when he is not winning SM's, Chance likes to mountain bike and bowl. I asked Chance if he will bowl a three-hundred in the near future; he facetiously responded, "Maybe in thirty or forty years." Chance may have thirty or forty SM's in that period of time. He likes to read the James Bond series, and we concurred Sean Connery best portrayed 007. Both Chance and Sean Connery can be forgetful sometimes. Chance could not remember his favorite teacher from freshmen year and said, "Uh, I forget his name." He told me it was a history teacher, and we were able to deduce the nameless teacher. Hint: it is the only teacher in the school with an apostrophe in his or her surname.

Chance loves to play

poker, and you can bet this will not be the last time you read about him. He plans to go to ITT Tech and become a game designer after graduation. He is self-described as "Kind, caring, and nice to others." In his closing remarks Chance said, "Thank you for the honor." Chance may be numb to winning awards, but



Chance listens to rock and likes to crowd surf. he is not oblivious to other people's feelings.

Top ten reindeer names

By Savanna Klass

If you could rename Santa's reindeer what would you name them?

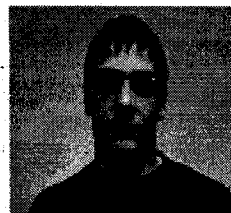
1. Jasper- Aubrey Moore (Aubrey had several entertaining names on her list.)
2. Suzy Q- David Price (David insisted on naming most of his reindeer after his favorite snacks.)
3. Bambi- Jay Bates (Jay named several reindeer after Pokemon characters.)
4. Roodie- Liz Dorn (Liz put a lot of thought into her name choice.)
5. Mary-Jane- Frau Carter (Can you tell what generation Frau was born in?)
6. Rover- Bekah Dolan (Bekah has always wanted a dog named Rover.)
7. Wilbur- Shane Endicott (Shane has always been a fan of Charlotte's Web.)
8. Melvin- Drew Jones (Drew has always taken a liking to the name Melvin.)
9. Rosie- anonymous
10. Spot- anonymous



December poet's corner

In the Pits of Hell

By Joe Hamilton



I run until I can't breathe
Everyday and still I don't want to leave.

Relentless, never stopping
My sweat, my blood, their tears
Always idolized in the eyes of my peers
I put the hard work in here so it pays off out there
Some call it a sport and just don't care
I call it my life and put everything into it.

Some say I am good, some say I am great
This is my last year, so I hope it's not too late
One thing is certain and that is FATE
I AM A WRESTLER

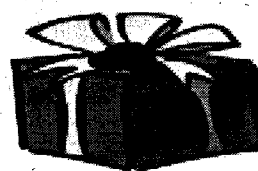
Watch where you're going

By Bekah Dolan

I'm sure you have all noticed how chaotic the Salem High School parking lot can be. Most of the students are good drivers, but there are some who don't take into consideration the other drivers on the road. Even though there have been few accidents in the parking lot, many people have had to avoid a collision with careless drivers. This has been a problem for many years at Salem High School, but the thing is, not many people have tried to do anything about the driving conditions.

Though many find that this is not a big deal, others want a major change in the driving habits of the students. There are two sides to this issue: some think that there is no problem with students driving carelessly, and some think that there are many things that could be changed in the school parking lot. I asked Savanna Klass what she thought about the driving in the parking lot. She said "Wanting to be 'cool' is no excuse for driving unsafely." I also asked Mr. D'Angelo what he thought. He said, "Based on how fast they drive, they must really want to get to school." Mrs. Neapolitan said, "If I try to leave the same time the students are leaving, I can't get out. And because I work at the high school my insurance is higher because of the students driving carelessly."

Most of us understand that this is a big problem, so why have none of us done anything about it? Is it the students' responsibility to change the little things? It is not only the students that are careless drivers. Some adults have become accustomed to driving as if they are the only ones in the parking lot or on the road. By just watching what you are doing while you are driving, you can make a difference and possibly save a life. It is time we take a stand against careless driving, not only in our school parking lot but also all over our country.



Sports

December Senior Spotlight

By Lauren Stone

Chip Hank
Soccer



How long have you been playing this sport?

Thirteen years

What is your favorite sports memory?

A comeback tie against Poland and denying them of a MAC championship

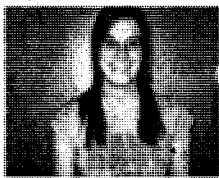
Do you play any other sports?

Baseball

What position do you play?

Midfield/forward

Danielle Mullins
Cheerleading



How long have you been playing this sport?

Twelve years

What is your favorite sports memory?

Cheerleading camp

Do you play any other sports?

Track and field

What is your goal for the season?

To enjoy my senior year with the squad.

Heather Hergenroder
Cheerleading



How long have you been playing this sport?

Six years

Do you have a favorite warm-up song?

Of course! The "UCA Warm-up"

Do you continue playing in the off season?

Yes, I'm on a competitive squad as well.

What is your goal for the season?

To have fun with the rest of the seniors and get lifting approved again!

Lindsay Kennedy
Cheerleading



How long have you been playing this sport?

Twelve years

What is your favorite sports memory?

Winning the top banana at camp freshman year!

Do you play any other sports?

Track and field

How did you become interested in this sport?

Watching the cheerleaders at my brother's little league football games.

Sarah Conrad
Soccer



How long have you been playing this sport?

Thirteen Years

What is your favorite sports memory?

Beating Boardman back to back, tying Poland with one second on the clock, and all of the soccer camps.

Do you have a favorite warm-up song?

No, but at all of the home games in the locker room the varsity girls "Bob" which is dancing ridiculously insane and singing very loud. We would put our hair on top of our head, tuck our jerseys in and pull our shorts up as high as they go and dance and sing. Afterwards, I would put on my iPod and focus.

What position do you play?

Goalie

Sarah Yerkey
Cross Country



How long have you been playing this sport?

Six years

What is your favorite sports memory?

Winning back to back state championships

Do you play any other sports?

Track and indoor track

Who is your team's biggest rival?

Any private school is a rival!

Tyler Evans
Golf



How long have you been playing this sport?

Twelve years

Who is your favorite professional athlete?

Robert Neubecker

Do you have a favorite warm-up song?

"Shama Lama Ding Dong" by Otis Day and The Knights

Do you play any other sports?

Competitive fisherman...very competitive

Good Luck Winter Athletes



SHS basketball preview: Girls' and boys' basketball

By Matt Faulkner

The girls' basketball team had a terrific season last year. They went to the playoffs, but unfortunately they lost in the first round to Hubbard in an overtime game that devastated Salem. In an interview with Coach Andres, he addressed some issues about this year's season.

"What are your views on the upcoming season?"

"The MAC will once again be a very competitive conference. Canfield is the clear favorite with everyone but one player returning from a first place finish last year. Howland will be very good again, and Struthers will be much improved. We have an extremely tough non-league schedule that includes Akron Manchester, West Branch, Lake, and Cardinal Mooney all on the road to start the season. We are also looking forward to participating in a great weekend of basketball along with some of the top teams in the state at the Classic in the Country in Berlin Hiland where we will face a very good Lima Bath team. Although we lost some very good players to graduation, we have some very talented play-

ers returning that will hopefully contribute to reaching our goals of a MAC title and a long tournament run."

"What did it mean to you when you lost three seniors last year?"

"I felt that the three seniors that we lost last year were all very good leaders in their own unique ways. Although good leaders and experienced players are always hard to replace, I feel confident that our group of seniors this season will rise to the challenge of leading our team to yet another successful campaign."

"How do you think your team will respond to last year's overtime loss in the first round of the playoffs?"

"Hopefully we have learned a very difficult lesson that you can never take anything for granted, and we will enter the season and tournament with a more focused approach. Through that scenario, we gained valuable experience and hopefully it will make us a better team in the end."

"What do you think the team strengths are going to be this year?"

"As I stated before, we have some very talented players returning, and I feel that we have good senior leadership in Kelly Roelen, Katie Scullion, Emily Washam, and Kasey Wolfgang which are both very important to having success. We have most of our statistical leaders returning from last year and several players that can score points. Defensively, we strive to be the defensive team in the MAC, a goal that I think that we will reach as the season progresses."

"If there is any other information you would like to tell me, please do."

"In addition to a very talented team, we also have the best support staff in the Tri-State Area in our announcer, Mr. Goddard; our statistician, Josh "Night" Maher; our scorekeeper, Liz "Lizard" Dorn, and our Video Taper, Matt "Diesel" Faulkner."

The boys' basketball team had a rough season last year. However, the boys did make the playoffs and won their first game. Unfortunately, they lost the next game and ended a rough season. During the off season some of the boys worked hard and are much improved this year. Coach Klucinec shared some information about the team in a recent interview.

"What are your views on the upcoming season?"

"We are looking to improve from the last season. We have played well in the pre-season our chemistry is continuing to improve."

"What did it mean to you when you lost the two seniors last year?"

"Anytime you lose seniors its difficult. We lost a lot of leadership from Greg and Sean. Hopefully, the seniors this year (Austen Hutton, Zac O'Brien, Brandon Holland, and Nick Anderson.) Will carry the torch and place the program in a better situation. And continue our

progress further."

"How do you think your team will respond from last year's season?"

"We have to learn from our mistakes and improve on them and move forward. Our goal is to get better each day."

"What do you think the team strengths are going to be this year?"

"We are going to have a lot of guys who will be able to contribute. We need to be focused, consistent, and disciplined to advance the program."



From left to right are Coach Klucinec the boys' coach and the girls' coach, Coach Andres. They are both hoping to have a great season this year.

Quaker Board

Winter driving tips

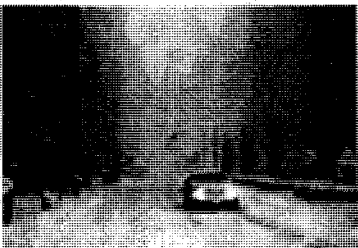
By Louis Scott

With snow starting to fall and Christmas being just around the corner, many people are starting to feel the joy of the holiday season. And with so many places to go and so many gifts to buy, people are also feeling the stress of it as well. But it's during this time of year when many people are injured and sometimes killed in automobile accidents. Many times it's nobody's fault. A patch of black ice can be nearly invisible to the naked eye, and people never know when their brakes are going to lock up. So it's always best to take special precautions to avoid these unfortunate mishaps.

First, ALWAYS wear your seatbelt. Though basic, wearing a seatbelt can mean the difference between life and death. Make sure to take your car in for any maintenance problems it may have. Check all of your fluids, and make sure your battery is fully charged. If you're having battery issues, it would probably be a good idea to invest in a new one. Try to keep your gas tank as close to full as possible. When stranded, your car will be your main source of heat. Also check the condition of your tires. Buying a set of snow tires would be a good, safe investment. Always drive carefully in winter with at least three car lengths in between. No one can know if their brakes will lock up, and it's good to have enough room just in case. Be especially careful when driving on bridges or on an overpass. Ice melts slower on these due to the cold air passing underneath them.

Just in case your car does break down, it's always good to have a blanket and some warm clothing to keep from freezing. A cell phone can be a lifesaver in these situations. Another hazard during this time of year is deer. Never try to swerve and avoid hitting the deer because most of the time it only makes it worse. It's safer to just hit the deer rather than putting yourself in more danger avoiding it. Always be on the lookout.

No matter if you're a skilled driver with years of experience, or if you're an eager teen that just got your license, driving in winter is always dangerous. So be especially careful when driving during harsh conditions this year. You never know, you could be saving someone's life as well as your own.



December 2007

The perfect job

By Andrew Jones

Ever wanted to make a living playing your favorite video game? Well, your chance is upon you with the growing popularity of the sport of professional gaming. Major League Gaming (MLG) is the largest organized league and international sanctioning body for the sport of professional gaming. MLG's ongoing professional video gaming tournaments have attracted competitors from over twenty-eight countries. The very best players at their respective games will sometimes be signed to pro management contracts with MLG. This is an agreement that the player enters into with MLG that allows them to be represented by the company who acts as an agent/manager to them. MLG will seek media exposure, sponsorships, endorsement deals, celebrity appearances and more for their signed players. Most people have been seeing many of MLG's signed players breaking into the mainstream media and attracting a great deal of attention (Tsquared, Team 3D, Zyos and Lil Poison, to name a few). As pro console gaming continues to grow, so will the level of their celebrity, which is all part of being a signed player with MLG. As of November 2007, there are fourteen players under contract by MLG all making \$250,000 a year.

MLG is one of the most under appreciated sports or cultures in the public eye today. MLG boasts an impressive 3000 person attendance rivaling most professional Major League baseball games. With time this tiny side attraction has become a large season type event which is held in some of the most major cities in the United States such as Orlando, New York City, Chicago, Dallas, Charlotte, and the Grand Final in Las Vegas. MLG has a few different games that it supports including *Halo 2*, *Gear of War*, *Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas*, *Shadowrun*, and *Super Smash Brothers Melee*. The life style of an MLG is a very sheltered and dedicated lifestyle. Professional Halo 2 Gamer Tsquared actually broke up with his girlfriend of two years because his lifestyle demanded at least fourteen hours a day on Halo 2. Most professional gamers rely on the ever growing popular energy drink craze to keep them going, which can be hazardous to the body and organs. Energy drink companies have even taken an interest in the league and major energy drink company Red Bull spends almost five million a year to keep the events going. Many amateur teams are also looking to the energy drink world to get their up and coming team to the highly anticipated events.

No matter what you think about the lifestyle or how these individuals choose to live their lives, they are doing what they love. They are making large six figure salaries playing video games, something that most adults frown on. Now the next time your mom or dad comes into your room yelling at you to get your face

out of your video games, you can throw this very paper at them and spread the word of the ever growing culture of professional gaming.



Dr. Strangelove

By Derek Hale

This month I bring you another of my favorite movies. This movie is *Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. It was made in the mid-sixties, and it reflects those times. The effects are laughable, but so is the plot.

The movie takes place during the Cold War and tensions are high. A paranoid U.S.A.F. commander is convinced that the Soviets are behind his infertility and authorizes a wing of bombers to attack the U.S.S.R. with nuclear force. The rest of the movie centers around the action of the U.S. government's attempt to stop this from happening. The stakes are high (total nuclear holocaust), and no matter which side loses, we all lose. While trying to find a solution, the United States decides to enlist the help of the title character, Dr. Strangelove. He is a paraplegic, former Nazi scientist whose gloved right hand tries to kill him. This movie is possibly the wackiest take on the exceedingly grim idea of nuclear holocaust.

This movie is certainly a little dated, and it might not be for everybody. However, if viewers like spoofs and parodies then this may be just the movie to see! It is certainly toward the top of my list, and I hope it makes it to yours too.

The overlooked holiday

By Erin Griehs

It's the day after Christmas that no one really knows about. It appears on calendars all over the world, and most people don't give it a second glance, especially because it's not celebrated in America. What is this holiday you might ask? Why it's none other than Boxing Day!

There are many theories as to the origins of Boxing Day. Some think it was the day when the lords of the manor would present their serfs with boxes filled with grain, tools, and cloth. December 26 was always the date because the serfs were required to work on Christmas, but they were given the day after off. Others believe that this day started when serfs were permitted to box up the left over food from the lord's Christmas parties and take it home to their families. Still others believe that Boxing Day started when the money contributed in the collection box in England's churches was distributed to the poor on the day after Christmas. Any way you look at it, though, Boxing Day involves some type of a box, not boxing as throwing punches at one another.

Believe it or not, this holiday is still celebrated in some countries. In Canada and Great Britain, Boxing Day is the day when retailers put all of their Christmas merchandise on clearance. These sales are as hectic as Black Friday is here in the United States. Boxing Day is also the beginning of some sports' seasons. Two major hockey championships are held on this day in Canada, while fox hunting, soccer, and horse racing start in England. All soccer teams play their biggest rivals on Boxing Day in Northern Ireland.

Even though Boxing Day isn't a United States holiday, it's still interesting to know why the day after Christmas is significant in some other countries. Now you know that this day isn't about improving your left hook, but about giving to the needy and being with your loved ones.



Staying stress free during the holidays

By Bekah Dolan

The holidays can be a very stressful time. With family visiting, the crazy shopping season, and many holiday outings, you can find yourself being overtaken by the holiday stress. This often makes it impossible to have a good Christmas. Usually Christmas is a time for hope, love, and joy, but with all of the stress people overlook the little things that make the Christmas season a wonderful time. There are many people who give into this holiday stress. If you are one of them - don't worry, there are certain ways to help you get through this time of year, so you can have an outstanding Christmas.

I researched tips on how to stay unstressed during the holidays. A few resources had the same results, which in my opinion can really help to make an unstressful Christmas. One is to have an attitude of gratitude. You can not be happy if you are not thankful for what you have and the people who are around you. The next tip would be to listen to some Christmas music. Next you should plan low-cost, fun holiday activities. If you are too concerned about spending a lot of money you should make things simpler. Another tip would be to get all of your Christmas shopping done before the holiday rush. The final tip I have found is to give yourself a break. You need to get away sometimes, and the holidays are the perfect time.

When people get stressed during the holidays, they often forget how to have a good time with their family and friends. Although many people think that the holidays are a time when everything has to be perfect, it is often the times when it does not turn out perfect that you have a great Christmas. If the holidays come around and you are one of the people who get stressed, it's okay. Just follow a few of the tips given above and also follow what you think is right. You will have a happy, "stress-free" holiday.

Quaker Clips

