



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

In this issue:

- School News
- World News
- Club Updates
- Sports
- Student Profiles
- Entertainment
- Looking for Love?
- My Turn

Senior Aaron Dues named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

Dan Napsha

Senior Aaron Dues is one of 16,000 semifinalists in competition for a National Merit Scholarship awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Cooperation (NMSC).

Established in 1955, the NMSC is an “academic competition for recognition and scholarships,” according to their website. Over 1.5 million high school juniors enter the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Of the 1.5 million, approximately 50,000 of the test’s highest scorers receive recognition by the NMSC. From that pool, two-thirds qualify as a Commended Student, with a Letter of Commendation, while 16,000 students are Semifinalists for an official scholarship.

Aaron is one of the 16,000 semifinalists vying for one of only 8,000 finalist positions, which carries with it a \$2,500 scholarship. The NMSC requires every applicant to have a strong high school academic record and score highly on both the PSAT and SAT, as well as recommendation letters from the applicant’s school, a personal essay written by the applicant, and information about the student’s activities and leadership.

When asked about his initial reaction, Aaron admitted that “at the time I didn’t really know what it would mean for me, or much about it at all, but after some research I realized it was a

semi-big deal, and that was exciting.” When only 50,000 of 1.5 million test-takers are recognized, it *is* a big deal.

As Aaron reminds, though, the score is not everything. “I don’t want people to think it takes [a good test score] to go to a great school, though. Quality involvement in extracurricular activities and evidence that you’ve put a lot of work into what you’ve done are both more important than a test score. It’s just one piece of the puzzle.”

Due to their tuition packages for NMSC qualifiers, Aaron applied to the University of Alabama and the University of Oklahoma, along with Pennsylvania State University, Stanford University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago, and Harvard College, “as a real big reach,” Aaron added.



Photo by Dan Napsha

Senior Aaron Dues pauses on his way to the library to study.

Regarding the recognition, Aaron’s guidance counselor, Mr. Lupolt, said, “Aaron did very well on the NMSQT, scoring in the top 5% in the state... Over the past two or three years, Selinsgrove has been fortunate to have representatives in the competition. I attribute that, not only to dedicated students, but great instructors.”

For Aaron’s advice for doing well on the PSAT and SAT Tests, see page 4

Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

- News Editor:** Savanna Foor and Dan Napsha
- Sports Editor:** Angelo Martin
- Opinion/Editorial Editor:** Isabel Bailey
- Public Relations:** Dan Napsha
- Photography Editor:** Claire Oreskovich

The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, cartoonist, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on Monday, February 2, 2015 in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

Important Dates to Remember...

February 12: Snow make-up day (B day)

February 13-16: No school for February break

February 18: Winter Cabaret concert, 7:30 p.m. at middle school auditorium

February 24: Second semester Open House and graduation projects presentations, 7:30 p.m.

February 28: Snow Ball, 7:30-10 p.m.

March 6: Snow make-up day (A day)

Students Throw Snow Ball to Raise Awareness

Dan Napsha

On Saturday, February 28, 2015, the Sadie Hawkins styled dance is making a comeback at Selinsgrove with the *Snow Ball* as juniors Brianna Imholte and Johanna Kantz are teaming up for their graduation project to sponsor a winter formal.

When asked how they came up with the idea, Johanna answered, "It started when Brianna and I were watching the *Perks of Being a Wallflower*. We were interested in female empowerment and looked up the origins of the Sadie Hawkins dance. So, we decided to collaborate on our graduation projects and host one."

As opposed to Homecoming or Prom, with a Sadie Hawkins dance, girls are empowered to ask the boys to the event. The dance originated in a comic strip in the 1930's called *Li'l Abner* by Al Capp.

In the comic, a father, Hekzebiah Hawkins, is so concerned about his 35 year-old daughter Sadie Hawkins's unmarried status that he declares Sadie Hawkins Day, when unmarried women chase after the town's bachelors. The dance received popularity at colleges, high schools and even middle schools throughout the 20th century.

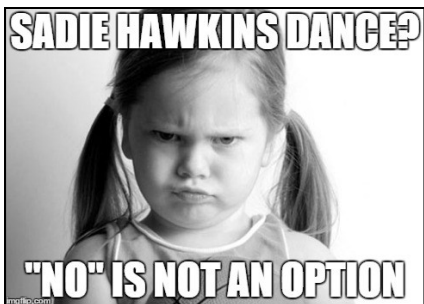
However, the aspect of female empowerment for this dance goes further than the Sadie Hawkins tradition; the dance is being held to benefit Transitions of Susquehanna Valley, which houses domestic violence victims, providing them with shelter and clothing. Johanna and Brianna chose Transitions because "they're a local organization that helps the community," Johanna said.

"Go to support a great, non-profit organization." Brianna encouraged. The dance will take place in the school cafeteria on Saturday, February 28. Tickets are \$5.



Photo by Dan Napsha

Juniors Johanna Kantz and Brianna Imholte stop their busy dance planning to snap a picture.



Students Perform at District Chorus

By Markie Reiland

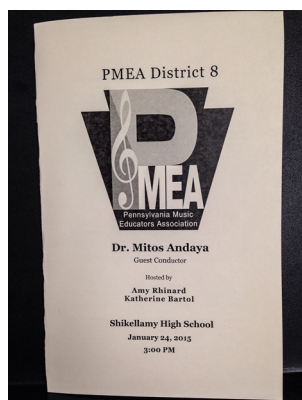
Chorus students led by Selinsgrove music teacher, Ms. Kathy Bartol participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 8 Concert conducted by Mito Andaya.

Students selected by Ms. Bartol went to blind auditions months ago to see which students were fit for singing in the district chorus show. Out of the many who auditioned, seniors Hannah Hook and Jessica Eyster, and sophomore Raechel Council qualified as sopranos. Sophomore Emma Lewis, junior Emma Muller, and senior Brooke McEvoy qualified as altos. The tenors from Selinsgrove who qualified included sophomores Rowan Miller, Kyle Mertz, and Jonah Roth. Senior Brandon Deans and sophomore Keanan Wolf rounded out our representatives as bass qualifiers.

This year's concert was held at the Shikellamy High School in Sunbury, with Selinsgrove co-hosting the event. Students

were supposed to spend their day at the Shikellamy High School on the 22nd and 23rd of January, then perform on the 24th. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions, it was decided the concert would be held the night of Friday the 23rd. Participants spent the majority of their days, from 9 am to 9 pm, singing and rehearsing their songs, with breaks for meals and snacks.

The songs performed in the show included "Domine ad Aduivandum" by Isabella Leonarda, "Magnificat" by Antonio Vivaldi, "I Love My Love" by Gustav Holst, "The Gallant Weaver" by James McMillan, [Story continues on the page 3](#)



District Chorus Concert Program

Students Perform at District Chorus continued

“Lullaby” by Daniel Elder, “The Spheres” by Ola Gjeilo, and “I’m a Rollin’” by Paul Rardin.

District chorus participants also auditioned for Regionals while at the high school. A committee decided which songs from the show each voice part would sing for their audition. The students from Selinsgrove who will be attending Regionals in Milton include Jessica Eyster, Raechel Council, Emma Lewis, Brooke McEvoy, Kyle Mertz, and Jonah Roth. Rowan Miller was chosen as a first alternate.

Selinsgrove students shared their views on the practices for the concert and the days spent at Shikellamy. When asked about the experience of practicing for the concert with Ms. Bartol and the other students from Selins-

grove, Brooke McEvoy responded, “I had actually been an alternate... I got the music three weeks before we went so it was pretty stressful. Ms. Bartol is good at helping you to learn quickly and so I was able to get it down. For the most part, practicing was simple.”

Brooke also gave her opinion on what trying out for regionals was like. “They decided not to test us with difficult Latin... so I think the general consensus felt significantly less anxious than usual,” she claimed. Participant Rowan Miller shared his favorite part of districts, “Meeting people,” he said. “There are lots of cool, mature people there that are easy to bond with. New friendships are formed quickly and old friendships are renewed.”

Student Housing Needed for Guests

By Markie Reiland

This springtime there will be many opportunities for the families of Selinsgrove students to host visiting students from across the region and even the world.

Exchange students from Japan will be coming to Pennsylvania to spend ten days learning about American culture and schools. The Student Council also needs families to host students attending the Student Council Conference at the Selinsgrove School District.

Hosting students from different areas with diverse backgrounds is the perfect way for Selinsgrove community members to make new friends and expand their knowledge on the lifestyles of others.

Exchange students from Senshu High School in Tokyo, Japan are coming for their annual visit in mid-March. Students will spend a week living with their host families and attending school with their host brothers/sisters.

Families will be responsible for feeding their guest and providing them with a place to sleep and transportation. Exchange students get to share their customs, stories, and sometimes cuisine with their new family. Anyone with the proper living space, time, and hospitality is encouraged to house a Japanese exchange student.

Sophomore Paige Hepner hosted a Japanese exchange student in the spring of 2014. “It was incredible to host an exchange student. It was interesting to see the differences that we had in culture and behaviors around the house. The language barrier was tough but with the help of a translator app it became easier as the week went on. It was fun to see her experience things that we have in our everyday lives that we may take for granted but she found exciting,” explained Paige.

Being involved in housing a student this spring is especially good for

Selinsgrove students wishing to travel to Japan this coming November. Selinsgrove students will be able to make new friends to revisit when they go to Japan and might even be able to find a host brother/sister. Forms for housing will be available soon.



Would you like to open your doors and welcome a new friend?

The Selinsgrove School District’s Student Council asks members of the community to offer their homes to guests as well. The Pennsylvania Student Council District 7 Conference will be held from March 20th-21st, 2015. During this time, student council delegates from all over the area will come to Selinsgrove to listen to speakers and attend workshops and a dance. The delegates from other schools will stay at the high school and middle school for the majority of the days they are here.

Only one dinner and breakfast will need to be given to the delegates by the host family. The school will provide lunch at the China House Buffet and snacks. The visitors will need transportation to and from the schools in between conference days as well. Housing is needed for approximately 100-150 student council members from various schools who will attend the conference. Anyone in the community is invited to house two delegates at the least. Forms for housing the student council delegates are currently available in Mr. Edwards’ room.

Selinsgrove Represents at Farm Show

By Nathan Moyer

On January 9 and January 12, members of the Selinsgrove Area High School Future Farmers of America competed at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in six different Ag-related contests.

Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 300 commercial exhibits. Students from state wide FFA chapters travel to the Farm Show to compete in contests and earn recognition for their chapters.

The Agriscience Fair was held on Friday the 9th. The Agriscience Fair is a competition where students essentially create an agriculture related science project. The students then present the research and data found during their experiments at Farm Show. Four of Selinsgrove's students participated in this event. Seniors Megan Wetzel, Erica Mowery, and Emily Klingler, and Sophomore Paige Hepner competed. Megan Wetzel took first place in the contest with her topic of Treating Mastitis.

Two students participated in animal showmanship. Senior Alexis Kline took 3rd place in Senior Showmanship for showing her rabbits. Sophomore Kayla Shaffer took 3rd place as well in Senior Showmanship for showing her dairy cattle. Kayla also received 5th place in the 4H youth class and 9th place for her dairy heifer.

Senior Anthony Kratzer received his Keystone Degree, the highest FFA degree awarded in Pennsylvania. The

Selinsgrove Chapter itself received recognition for two contests. The PA Department of Agriculture recognized the Selinsgrove FFA Chapter as a 3 Star Chapter. The Chapter also received 11th place for its Maple Syrup Window Exhibit.

Five students also conducted an Agribusiness presentation, earning the chapter \$1,000. Junior Kyle Sassaman says "It felt really nice to put all of the hard work into that presentation and earn the chapter that money." New Holland sponsored the event which consists of local schools creating a display, video, and presentation all focused around different areas in agriculture.

Overall, Farm Show proved to be a successful two days for the Selinsgrove FFA Chapter. Students worked hard to achieve the best possible outcomes in their competitions and had fun in the process.



Photo courtesy of Alexis Kline

Senior Alexis Kline poses for a picture with Judge John Graybeal and one of her rabbits .



Terrorists attack “Charlie Hebdo in Paris

Dan Napsha

On Jan. 7, 2015, 12 people were shot and killed at the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French satirical publication, by two masked Islamic terrorists.

The gunmen targeted the magazine’s staff, including some of the country’s most beloved cartoonists, after it published controversial depictions of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad. Ten staffers were killed execution-style while they were in an editor’s meeting. The terrorists shouted, “*Allahu Akbar*” (Arabic for “God is greatest”).



Marchers in Paris on January 11 to support freedom of speech in light of the Charlie Hebdo attacks

“Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula”, a branch of the al-Qaeda terrorist group, took responsibility for the shooting shortly afterwards, along with four other attacks in and around Paris that ultimately caused the deaths of 21 people and 22 who were injured.

In response, President Francois Hollande declared Jan. 8 an official day of mourning. Mass vigils were held through the week, culminating in the largest public rally the city of Paris has ever seen. On Jan. 10-11, 3.7 million supporters rallied across the nation to honor the victims of the shooting and to protect the freedom of speech.

Around the world, from New York City to Rio de Janeiro, people participated in their own marches as well. Marchers carried posters and wore clothes bearing the phrase “*Je suis Charlie*” (I am Charlie), signifying their allegiance to the right of speech and expression and the freedom of the press.

Through it all, the remaining staff at Charlie Hebdo went to work on the magazine’s upcoming issue the day after the attack. Released on Jan. 14, the green cover

features Muhammad holding the Republican marches’ protest slogan, “*Je suis Charlie*”, with the phrase, “*Tout est pardonné*”, (“All is forgiven”) below the title. An estimated 7 million copies of the “survivors’ issue” were printed and sold around the world, compared to the usual 60,000 copy, French-only print of the magazine.

Along with citizens, world leaders joined the protests as well, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel. While neither President Obama nor Secretary of State John Kerry participated in the marches, both released a statement.

The President said, “France is America’s oldest ally, and has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the fight against terrorists... Time and again, the French people have stood up for the universal values that generations of our people have defended. France, and the great city of Paris... offer the world a timeless example that will endure well beyond the hateful vision of these killers.”

Now, close to four weeks from the attacks, France is still on alert as the war against terrorism continues.

Selinsgrove’s French teacher Madame Bunting-Specht talked to students about the terrorist attack. Speaking to the *Grove Gazette*, she said, “This tragedy hit at *le cœur* (the heart) of French society. Many of the people who died were icons in French culture because they were cartoonists not only for Charlie Hebdo but also for many newspapers and even for children’s publications. They were highly recognizable voices of the French people. This attack also fueled the fire of several controversial issues in France, most notably immigration. It will require time, reflection and understanding before France is able to heal.”



The cover of the latest edition of Charlie Hebdo

Aaron Dues Advice for Success on the PSAT and SAT

- ◆ Read as much as you can.
- ◆ Review concepts from Geometry and Algebra 1 and 2.
- ◆ Stay calm. (Getting sick from being too nervous never helped anyone.)

Mr. Lupolt adds, “For anyone aiming for the scholarship, I advise them to challenge themselves with advanced classes, higher-level literature and math.”

High School Club Updates are a Big Hit

Catherine Lucchi

Interact Club:

Your community service doesn't have to be limited a small town in central PA—expand the community you impact by joining Interact Club. International action is the aim of this brand-new group. As a Rotary sponsored organization, the club is committed to both local and international community service projects.



Interact Club offering ice cream and kettle corn to Grover the Seal at the Market Street Festival

Advisors Ms. Scruggs and Ms. Whary plan to form Skype relationships with Interact clubs around the world, along with organizing various fundraisers throughout the year, one of which includes hosting a 5K run in Selinsgrove.

The club also works closely with the Seals Den; Interact meets every Seal's Café Friday at lunch in Room 1. If you are interested in taking international action, please visit Ms. Scruggs or Ms. Whary in Room 1.

Video Game Club:

You won't be able to hate the player OR the game at this fresh club. One of the newest (and still developing) clubs to come to Selinsgrove High School is the Video Game Club. The club meets every other Day 2 in advisor Mr. Belier's room.



President Matt Santa, vice president Vinny Barbati, and club treasurer Logan Horst, will be posting a sign-up sheet outside Mr. Beiler's room prior to each meeting if you're interested. The club spends their time exchanging their views on the latest releases and playing games on the school's laptops.

This group has even bigger plans on their agenda; the new electronic policy will allow students to use electronics during the lunch hour thus expanding the horizons of Video Game Club. If you are interested, contact Mr. Beiler or one of the club's officers for more information.

French Club:



Everyone deserves a kiss this Valentine's Day—just leave it to French club to spread the *amour*. From February 2nd through February 6th, French club will be selling bags of Hershey kisses during the lunch hour. Give a kiss to a friend, significant other, or a stranger. Proceeds go to the French Club, and all kisses will be delivered on February 12th during announcements. Help French club spread the love!

Future Business Leaders of America:



This Valentine's Day is going to be a cold one! Keep yourself and your significant other warm with FBLA's stylish scarves for sale. These red and blue scarves cost \$12.50, and they will show your school spirit. Keep in mind that FBLA is also staying sweet this holiday. The club is selling giant candy bars for \$1.50 each and chocolate lollipops for \$1 each. These heart-shaped sweets are a great treat for yourself or that special someone.

All proceeds go to the club to raise money for the State Competition in April. FBLA meets the first Thursday of February, contact advisor Mrs. Gavitt if interested.

SPORTS

Lady Seals Basketball District Bound

By Angelo Martin

Coming off a dismal 2-19 season the year before, the Lady Seals basketball team has made a tremendous rebound this year by notching their 11th win on January 23 over a scrappy Mid-West team in a 51-45 thriller and clinching a spot in the PIAA District IV playoffs.

The Lady Seals are led by a stand-out sophomore backcourt duo in Sam "Slam" Rodkey and Savanna "Money" Foor. The two Selinsgrove guards have been key in the team's turnaround success. Rodkey leads the team in both points and assists. The one-two Rodkey-Foor combo have been much of the source of the team's offensive efficiency so far this season.

With Rodkey and Foor leading the backcourt, the offense has also been sparked by great "big man" play in seniors Nicki Krebs, Jess Kerstetter, and Sara Reibschied. Krebs has played huge all season for the Seals and has been almost automatic from downtown when left open. Reibschied and Kerstetter have been stellar on defense all season long and are 1st and 2nd on the team in rebounds respectively. In January 23rd win over Mid-West, it was Kerstetter's 15 points that was monumental in their district playoff-clinching win.

"The difference with our team is that we don't just depend on one player to carry us. We have a complete team.

Whether it's me and Sam leading the fast break, Nicki's sharpshooting ability, or Sara and Jess controlling the boards, we have the total overall makeup to go far. When we get tired, Emily (Breheny) and Abby (Wolfe) have been absolutely perfect off the bench," noted Savanna Foor.



Photo by Kathy Schmouder

Senior Jess Kerstetter breaks down Jersey Shore

With five games remaining in the regular season, the Lady Seals will hope to continue to build momentum going into the District IV playoffs. Facing a lighter schedule down the stretch, the Lady Seals have a great shot at winning out and going into the playoffs red hot with a six-game winning streak.

"Next to our talent, a key factor that has gotten us this far has been our determination and love with playing with each other. We are a tight-knit group, and every night I feel like we carry that onto the court. As we head into playoffs, it's simply going to be about who wants it more," said Foor.

Seals Bowling Rolling Along

By: Grace O'Malley

Led by Coach Jeff Herman, both the Selinsgrove boy's and girl's bowling teams have been having great seasons thus far. While not always in the spotlight, the bowling team has been quietly doing some big things in the alley.

On the boy's side, Senior Aaron Dues and Sophomore Steven Pomykalski lead the Seals. Dues bowled an impressive 197 this year, a team high. Not far behind him is sophomore Steven Pomykalski, who bowled a 171 earlier in the season, an impressive feat for an underclassman considering that a perfect game is scored as a 300.



"Steven is an up-and-coming bowler and I have faith that he can carry our team next season after losing a ton of

our seniors," said coach Jeff Herman.

For the girl's team, the Seals are hoping to secure their spot in the regional competition. Key bowlers for the girl's team this season have been Senior Amber Kreitzer and the one-two combo that are the Klinger sisters.

Junior Captain Paetyn Klinger has been instrumental in the team's success, and bowled a team high 191 for the Seals. Behind her has been Senior leader Amber Kreitzer, who bowled a 183 this year. Third on the team has been Freshman Piper Klinger, with a 178.

"I'm so proud to see my little sister doing so well her freshman year. If this team didn't feel like family before, it sure does now," said Paetyn Klinger.

In their last match, the girl's bested their previous team high of 999 with a match-high score of 1,024. With a tremendous season so far, the Seals look to finish the season even stronger.

Senior Aaron Dues on his way to strike down all Seal opponents

Boy's Basketball Shooting for Districts

By: Lindsey Trusal

Despite their 7-9 record, the Selinsgrove boy's basketball team is moving forward with their season led by Junior Juvon Batts, Senior Ethan Fadale, and Senior Isaiah Rapp. Their most recent win on January 22nd moved the team one step closer to the District IV playoffs.

Junior sensation Juvon Batts has returned this year for the Seals and has not missed a beat. Batts seems to not have fallen behind in skill nor court presence after missing all of last year due to a health condition. As the team's starting point guard, Batts has been controlling the game well with a total of 102 points and 30 assists.

Senior Captain Ethan Fadale and Senior standout Isaiah Rapp have been huge for the Seals all year long. Both players have provided excellent backcourt play and have complimented Batts nicely on the court. Through 16 games, Fadale is the leading scorer for the Seals with 165 points with Rapp closely following with 159 points.

Some of the team's most recent wins include January 22nd's 54-47 win against Mid-West, January 14th's 56-37 win against Greenwood, and January 9th's 60-42 win over Mifflinburg. To obtain a guaranteed spot in District's, the Seals must have a .500 record. To do so, they need to win at least four more games for a

total of 11 wins. While qualifying for Districts is an uphill battle, the Seals are staying optimistic.

"Coach Stebila has this saying, 'westward we move,' that he uses to encourage us to continue working hard no matter the score was of the previous game. I think if we keep this in mind, we have a definite shot of making it to District's and making some noise," said Captain Ethan Fadale.



Photo by Lindsey Trusal

Senior Isaiah Rapp takes on a double-team

With their season hanging in the balance, the Seals will be looking to finish the season strong and notch the necessary four wins to qualify for District's. Their next home game will be on Saturday, January 31st at 2:30pm against Central Mountain High School.

Wrestlers Making Noise on the Mat

By Angelo Martin

Led by head coach Seth Martin, the Selinsgrove Wrestling team has been putting on a show this year. While the team's overall record may fool you, the Seals have had some incredible individual performances this year on the mat.

"Our record is not as bad as it looks. It doesn't show how well we have done as a team. We have lost a lot of close matches this year, and besides that, we are having a good year," said head coach Seth Martin.



Photo by Laura Long

Senior Nate Bingaman ready to take down an opponent at the Seals Holiday Tourney

This year, the Seals are led by senior standout Nathan Bingaman and the notorious Boob brothers (Andrew

and Aaron). Bingaman has put together an impressive senior campaign so far, and hopes to be a contender in the District and Regional competition that can clinch him a spot at the State competition in early March. Bingaman is second on the team in wins with a record of 16-6, including 8 pins. At the Penn Manor Tournament, Bingaman placed 2nd, the highest on the team.

Along with Bingaman, the Boob brothers have been dominate on the mat this season as well. While Andrew is normally the one to be the spotlight, his brother Aaron has made huge strides and is putting together a very impressive Junior season as well. Next to his brother, Aaron is second on the team in pins with 11 and has compiled a record of 14-7 in the 195-pound weight class.

When it comes to Selinsgrove wrestling, Andrew Boob's accomplishments this year have not gone unnoticed. Compiling an incredible record of 22-2, the older Boob brother is first on the team in pins with 16. Having

Story continues on the page 9

Wrestlers Making Noise on the Mat continued

competed in the PIAA State Championships last year as a Sophomore, Andrew hopes to repeat that same feat this year as well as be able to beat some of the top wrestlers in the state.

"The biggest key for me is going to be staying focused going forward. I have all the confidence in the world that I can get back to State's and be able to wrestle at a high level. I have to continue to practice and get better and just wrestle my heart out when it comes to the matches," said Junior Andrew Boob.

Andrew Boob was also able to take 1st place at the Selinsgrove Holiday Tournament as well as 5th at the Penn Manor Tournament in the 220 pound weight class. To Andrew, his Selinsgrove Holiday Tournament victory was one of his most memorable moments of his career.

"The final match at the Selinsgrove Holiday Tournament was easily one of the best moments of my wrestling career. I was matched up against Ben Cerney, ranked 14th in the state at the time. I was able to beat him 5-2 and for me, it gave me a lot of confidence that I can wrestle with the best of them," said Boob.

Not only have the Selinsgrove upperclassman been impressive, one cannot look past the individual achievements of the underclass as well. Along with Andrew Boob, Sophomore Bryce Reichenbach was also able to take 1st place at the Selinsgrove Holiday Tournament in the 120-pound weight class. Reichenbach is also second on the team in wins with a record of 15-6, and has made enormous strides from last year.

Another fellow Sophomore Gabe Ludwig has also stepped up for the Seals and has been able to make huge contributions as well. Wrestling in the 132-pound weight class, Ludwig has compiled a record of 12-11, with 6 pins.

"Coach Martin has pushed us all this year and has prepared us both mentally and physically for our matches. We can not give him enough credit for our success," said Junior Andrew Boob.

With only a few matches remaining before the postseason, the Seals hope to continue to shine on the mat.

Super Bowl: Patriots vs. Seahawks

By Jonah Markle

The matchup is set for Super Bowl XLIX with the AFC's No. 1 seed, New England Patriots, taking on the NFC's No. 1 seed and defending Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks.

This will be only the 11th time where the top seeded team in each respective conference will meet in the Super Bowl since 1975. Out of those 11 games that have been played, the AFC champion has only won twice.

Even though history may not be on their side, the New England Patriots come into the "big game" showing great form after a huge 45-7 win over the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC championship game.

Although the win was extremely convincing, the game has been surrounded by controversy with the discovery that the Patriots were using footballs that were under-inflated. This is sure to be a controversial topic all the way up until kickoff.

The Seattle Seahawk road to the Super Bowl was nowhere near as easy as the Patriots. The Seahawks made a magical comeback in the NFC Championship Game that included a fake field goal touch-down, an onside kick recovery, and a two-point conversion. Trailing 19-7 with about four minutes remaining against the Green Bay Packers, the Seahawks pulled out the unthinkable and were able to beat the Packers in overtime 28-22 in a game that



Brady vs Wilson...Pocket Passer vs Speedy Runner

will go down as one of the greatest ever in NFL history.

When asked to give their predictions, Senior Anne Coyne, was not making her Super Bowl picks off stats, records, or even Tom Brady's GQ cover, but her gut feeling. "Based on personality alone, I'm going with the Seahawks," said Coyne.

Junior Andrew Hayes also made a prediction, but he had the four-time Super Bowl champs coming out on top. "With deflated balls or not, Tom Brady is the best in the league and he is playing at the top of his game right now. He is going to lead the Pats to victory."

This will be the eighth Super Bowl appearance for the New England Patriots and the third for the Seattle Seahawks. The two conference champions will meet in Glendale, Arizona at 6:30 PM EST, on February 1. The game will be nationally broadcasted on NBC.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Megan Wetzel, Senior

If you were throwing a dinner party, what famous names would be on the list? *Channing Tatum, Zac Efron, Bernie White, and Joan Rivers.*

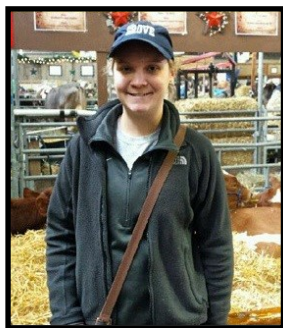
What is your viewpoint on technology? Does it reap all benefits or not? *I think it is very beneficial, especially in terms of advancing in research.*

If the sky was not blue and the grass was not green, what color would you want them each to be? *I would want the grass to be orange, and the sky to be purple.*

You have three children. Two boys and one girl, what are you going to name them? *I would name them Owen, Oliver, and Faith.*

If our species could turn nocturnal, would you want it to? *No, I like the sunlight and being able to go out and do things in the daylight.*

What is one thing you could not live without? *Hot college boys.*



Romeo Patterson, Junior

If you were throwing a dinner party, what famous names would be on the list? *Morgan Freeman, Kevin Hart, Martin Luther King Jr., Will Ferrell, and Meagan Good.*

What is your viewpoint on technology? Does it reap all benefits or not? *Technology is good it makes everything easier to do and more efficient.*

If the sky was not blue and the grass was not green, what color would you want them each to be? *I would want the grass to be blue and the sky to be green.*

You have three children. Two boys and one girl, what are you going to name them? *Lamont Romeo Valentino Patterson Jr., and Delsean, and Katie.*

If our species could turn nocturnal, would you want it to? *No, that wouldn't be fun.*

What is one thing you could not live without? *Shoes*



Maggie Frymoyer, Sophomore

If you were throwing a dinner party, what famous names would be on the list? *Miley Cyrus, Laverne Cox, Hilary Clinton, and Nick Jonas.*

What is your viewpoint on technology? Does it reap all benefits or not? *I'm not very good with technology but I do find it useful.*

If the sky was not blue and the grass was not green, what color would you want them each to be? *I would want the grass to be white and the sky to be a light magenta, not purple!*

You have three children. Two boys and one girl, what are you going to name them? *The girl would be named Spencer, and the boys would be Benjamin and Grant.*

What is one thing you could not live without? *My planner!*



Zachary Rankin, Freshman

If you were throwing a dinner party, what famous names would be on the list? *Pele, Michal Jordan, Christian Benitez, Tom Brady, and Lionel Messi.*

What is your viewpoint on technology? Does it reap all benefits or not? *Technology is good because you can do anything with it. It's great for socializing.*

You have three children, two boys and one girl, what are you going to name them? *Rocco, Cody, and Angela.*

If our species could turn nocturnal, would you want it to? *Yes, it would be easier to play manhunt.*

What is one thing you could not live without? *My phone.*



What's With All the Superheroes?

By Nathan Moyer

Some may have noticed that over the past five years, superhero films have become increasingly popular and seem to dominate the film industry. There is a reason why that is the case.

Ever since people have told stories, they have involved feats of great and powerful characters. Yet only since the early twentieth century have there been super heroes. In just a short amount of time however, they have become an iconic part of the cultural landscape, especially in Hollywood. Superman, Thor, Spiderman, and many others seem to have become a permanent part in modern media.

Many film writers have been asked the question: "Why are superhero movies so popular right now?" Screenwriters Christopher Marcus and Stephen McFeely, the writers of *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* attempted to answer the common question recently. McFeely said, as quoted by IGN, "Why are comic books so prevalent? Why are these movies doing so well? In some ways, we've become a genre that you can do well now given the world of computers and perhaps it's also just a time in the sun. You went to the movies in the 50s and 60s you went to a western. So at this point, you're going to a superhero movie. It's taking over that same black hat, white hat myth-making surface. I don't have a much smarter answer than that."

Marvel is finding huge success in the cinematic universe surrounding the Avengers, also with films in the works all the way through 2018. DC plans to expand its

spectrum as well with superhero films being released until 2020. Upcoming continuations of popular films include *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* (being released in May 2015) and *Captain America: Civil War* (being released in May 2016).

Taking a look at the box office, it doesn't seem that studios like Marvel are going out of business anytime soon either. Marvel grossed a total of \$623.3 million from the first premier of *The Avengers*. Warner

Brothers studios grossed a total of over \$982 million for *The Dark Knight* and *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Part of the appeal to these films could also be based on the same attraction toward adventurism and escapism that speaks to certain classic storytelling traditions and mythology. Sophomore Noah Wise believes these films are so popular because

"film makers are creating fantastic real-life depictions of everyone's favorite childhood heroes."

Some of the highest grossing films are part of franchises with built-in mythologies and heroic arcs involving quests and special destinies for people who thought they were just ordinary people. Examples of these include *Thor*, a Norse god, and *Captain America*, who's "just a kid from Brooklyn."

Whether the popularity behind these films is because the genre is currently in a spotlight, or because people crave the adventurism in the films, superhero films have become a consistent and ever-present part of cultural life.



The superhero buzz has even caught on at Selinsgrove Area High School. Many students over the past three to four years have invested both time and money into realistic and accurate costumes to look and feel like their favorite superhero.

CONTEST: The first 10 students who can correctly identify the Senior in this picture will win a prize. Stop by Mr. Switala's Room (Room 222) in-between classes or at lunch with your guess and earn your prize!

Book Review: *Election*

Isabel Bailey

A satire that will provide the twisting emotions of personal and political conquest, Tom Perrotta's novel, *Election*, is a five-star read.

Portraying the high school election of the all-too-eager candidate, Tracy Flick (who knows what she wants and gets it), Perrotta indulges in a humorous and twisted campaign that gets folded under the emotions of several characters.

Along with Tracy, characters include Tammy Warren, a haughty, sexually confused teenager with a sporty brother who gets thrown headfirst into the election, a teacher who is all too mixed up in Tracy Flick's red dress, and a girl who has made it around the block twice, this time with a little more confidence.

To keep this election in a whirlwind, Perrotta rounds out the characters with an-

other teacher, Mr. M, who adds even more intrigue to the voting than the student body thought possible.



Narrated by all the characters separately, the story revolves around this eclectic group's involvement in the quest for class president. Tracy Flick, the obvious candidate, who has been working up to the election for years, isn't about to back down from Paul Warren. Everyone at Winwood High School knows Paul Warren is an unlikely candidate; however, what he has that Tracy doesn't, is the assistance of Mr. M. From there, everything gets a twisted.

With a spiral of spontaneous surprises, the novel *Election* not only focuses on students but also the inevitable mischief of adults. *Election* will leave a reader laughing, crying, smiling, and shocked at what a small High School Election can come to and the price people are willing to pay for victory.

DVD Rental Film Review: *Stand Up Guys*

By Gus Troppe

If you're tired of watching old re-runs of *Breaking Bad* on the weekend, watch the impeccable *Stand Up Guys* (available on Netflix and Amazon Video).

This film is one of many that received half the credit it deserved. Equal parts heartwarming, funny, and thrilling, *Stand Up Guys* is not one to be missed. Seeing three big names on the publicity poster mentally prepares you for some kind of beautiful five-star film about organized crime and the meaning of life, but don't let that fool you- *Stand Up Guys* is three old men wandering around a boring city looking for stuff to do.

When a convict named Val (Al Pacino) is released after 28 years of prison, his old friend and co-worker Doc (Christopher Walken) is hired to murder Val by 10 o'clock the next day. Doc decides to take Val out for one last night on the town, resulting in antics such as stealing cars, robbing a drug-store, and springing their old friend Hirsch (Alan Arkin) from a nursing home. Watch as the old trio wander throughout a sad nameless city, dishing out as much trouble as an old threesome of stickup men possibly can in one night.

Like every film, it has a few flaws. In this case it is some painfully bad lines and the occasional puttering dialogue (fueled by Pacino's scratchy voice). I'd be lying if I told you I didn't cringe at the bad writing when a

character said something about the ballet and the Nutcracker before whacking a poor fellow in the testicles with a baseball bat.

That being said, I'd also be lying if I told you I didn't laugh when Val snorted catarract and hypertension pills off a bar counter. It really did have some genuinely hilarious moments, like Val trying to woo young women and Doc talking on the phone with his employer.

Being a Christopher Walken fan, I must say this was a win for him because it showcased his fine acting and ability to strike up emotion, all while being his zany self. Pacino, one who I am less familiar with, levels the playing field and dims things down by dragging half the movie's script with dull ambiguous statements and vague references to his impending death. As for Alan Arkin, his name is one I see and think "Yeah, that guy from *Little Miss Sunshine* (excellent film)" so I always appreciate it when he pops up in a movie.

To conclude, the film as a whole is driven by the three acting legends constantly looking back into the glory days. Although the three "titans" make you respect the past while ultimately loving the present, every performance in the film is great.

I'd give this movie a 6.8 out of 10; my final word being that *Stand Up Guys* is not to be overlooked.



Gus Troppe predicts the Oscars

Gus Troppe and Dan Napsha

It's that time of year again! Hosted by actor Neil Patrick Harris, the 87th Academy Awards Ceremony will take place on February 22, honoring the best of film in 2014, from the set designers to the directors to the actors.

Though the year in the real world was considerably awful at times, in the theater, cinemagoers were delighted with fresh pictures and new faces. Watching the nominees, comparing them in competition, a few performances particularly stand out. Here are my predictions for the winners in the "Big Five" categories: Picture, Actor, Actress, Director, and Screenplay, the last of which is split between original and adapted pieces.

Best Picture: The Oscar's most prestigious award, Best Picture, will clearly go to *Boyhood*. Filmed over 12 years, it is an awesome cinematic experience, with outstanding acting and phenomenal directing. It evokes every possible emotion from the viewer; happiness, sadness, anger, laughter -- the list goes on. Simply put, the Academy would be blind not to award this film.

Best Actor: Four of the five nominees in this category play historical figures; it's a tough choice. All have been praised for their roles; newcomer Eddie Redmayne took home the Golden Globe for the *Theory of Everything*; Benedict Cumberbatch has a huge fan base; Michael Keaten has been in the business for 40 years. However, I choose Bradley Cooper, who gave a great performance as Chris Kyle, the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. Cooper is young, attractive, and has been nominated twice consecutively, last year and the year previous. How can he not win?

Best Actress: Nominated five times, Julianne Moore finally has it secured with this perfect and complex Oscar-bait role. In *Still Alice*, Moore plays a linguist professor named Alice Howland, who starts forgetting words. She is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and the film chronicles the character's downfall as a depressed, married mother of 3. Setting the audience (and Oscar voters) for a terrific sob story, it's easy to say that she'll be the one

holding the award.

Best Director: In 2002, Richard Linklater started filming a story about a boy and his family. Using the same actors, he filmed the group for 12 years, creating an intense, tender, and emotional drama about life itself. The idea was visionary and the final product is brilliant. Honestly, Linklater deserves an award for just coming up with the *idea*. So, this one goes to *Boyhood* again.

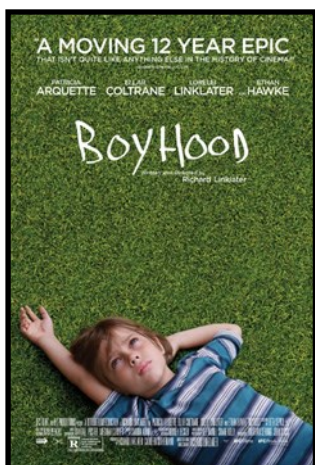
Best Original Screenplay: This one is a no-brainer: *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, written by 3-time nominee Wes Anderson, was a delight. Packed to the brim with tongue-in-cheek humor and sharp, witty writing, *Grand Budapest* had a screenplay to be proud of. Having read the screenplay myself, I can confidently say that it is most certainly deserving of an award.

Best Adapted Screenplay: I have no idea what it's adapted from, but Damien Chazelle wrote and directed *Whiplash*, a film focused on Miles Teller being upset and playing jazz percussion. The intensity of the film was astounding, and it takes talent to write such brutal insults for J.K. Simmons to scream into crying people's faces. The screenplay for the film was surely solid, and deserves the award.

Other categories to watch: Best Supporting Actress will go to Patricia Arquette, who gave the performance of her career in *Boyhood*. Her performance redefined the image of the do-it-all-herself single-mother and her aging over the course of 12 years is mesmerizing. • Polish-made *Ida* will take home Best Foreign Film. It was a refreshing look at the Holocaust from the perspective of a nurse who lost her family in the genocide.

Finally, take note at Best Film Editing; Sandra Adair will surely be awarded for her work on *Boyhood*, combining more than a decade of footage to fit in a movie under 3 hours. Talk about being a slave for 12 years...

The 87th Academy Awards will be broadcast on ABC on Sunday, February 22 at 8 p.m.



Match the image
to Gus's
Predictions...



Be Mine: A History of Valentine's Day

Anne Coyne

The origins of Valentine's Day seem pretty simple at first glance: a holiday of love is named for a kindly saint who married couples in defiance of a Roman emperor; however, the history of Valentine's Day is much more complicated than that.

Just as Christmas and All Saints Day were scheduled to replace pagan holidays, Valentine's Day is in February to replace the holiday of *Lupercalia*, which honors the harvest as well as Romulus and Remus, the brothers who founded Rome.

giving sweet cards and romantic gestures. During the 15th century, the idea of a greeting card or token for Valentine's Day came into vogue. By the Victorian Age, Valentine's Day cards or "valentines" were wildly popular. In addition to handmade valentines, store-bought cards were distributed.

This increase in the popularity of giving valentines can be attributed to cheap postage rates, crowded cities, and the famously repressed emotions of the



In addition, *Lupercalia* was a holiday for marriages. Women were gently slapped with bloody strips of goat hide to increase fertility and men would find potential brides by drawing names from an urn. Sadly, *Lupercalia* and its good ol' meat slappin' ways couldn't survive after Pope Gelasius replaced it with St. Valentine's Day at the end of the 5th century.

However, it still took quite some time for Valentine's Day to be associated with

Victorians: giving a card professing love is much easier than telling somebody face to face.

Today, Valentine's Day is celebrated in countries ranging from the US to Australia to Mexico. It comes in just after Christmas as the second largest card-sending holiday, with women driving approximately 85% of the valentine purchases. Although Valentine's Day has been criticized for becoming too commercial, it could be worse: better a box of candy hearts than a strip of Lupercalian blood-soaked goat flesh, eh?

Are You Lonely and Looking for Love!

Sydney Reibschied

If you are single and looking for someone to spend Valentines Day with, you are in luck! On the next two pages, you will find a superb assortment of singles, ready to mingle, as the season of love arrives. You better ask them out quickly, because once everyone realizes that these hotties are available, things are going to get crazy! Everyone listed below is single and looking for a love connection!

Meredith Lemons

Freshman

She is looking for an intelligent guy with a sense of humor, outgoing personality, and is fun to be around. She enjoys spending time with friends, family, playing with her dogs, reading, and traveling. Her idea of a perfect date includes a simple dinner followed by baking deserts and watching hours of *Friends* or horribly cheesy movies. If Meredith seems like your type of girl, feel free to contact her at lunchtime in the halls.



Patrick O'Malley

Freshman

He is looking for a funny gal who loves to watch movies, but dislikes emotional talks about the movie, *My Sister's Keeper*. His interests include extreme bongo drumming, watching Netflix, skiing in July, collecting mustard jars, and playing basketball. His idea of a perfect date includes spear hunting elephants followed by a romantic picnic. Don't like emotional talks about the movie *My Sister's Keeper*? Maybe you two will hit it off. Contact him at lunchtime in the halls.

Are You Lonely and Looking for Love continued

Steph Mengle

Sophomore

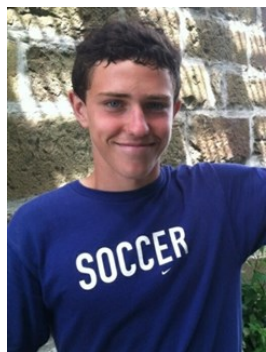
She is looking for a really chill guy who likes cats and is into music (older rock, in particular). "He definitely has to be older than me... and funny!" She's big into cats, watching Netflix, playing guitar and likes anything music-related. Aesthetically, her ideal man would look and smell like Adam Levine. "He cannot have blonde hair," she warns. Do you bear a stunning relation to Adam Levine? Check Steph out at lunch



Dawson Klinger

Sophomore

His idea of a perfect date includes a 76ers game, or hanging out and watching a movie. He is looking for someone athletic, clean, easy to talk to, relatively smart, and someone to joke around with. His interests include anything involving sports (specifically soccer and basketball), playing Xbox, social media, eating, Philadelphia sports teams, chorus, hanging out with friends, and homework. If Dawson seems like the one, you can contact him in the cafeteria over lunch.



Katie Pauling

Junior

She is looking for that special someone with an outgoing personality as well as athletic. Her interests include watching movies, bowling, and playing tennis. Her idea of a perfect date would be a nice dinner followed by some ice-skating. If Katie seems right for you, you can meet her at her locker outside of Mr. Heiser's room any morning.



Logan Sears

Junior

He is looking for someone who is very attractive, but also has a good personality, is athletic, smart, and has a good work ethic. He also specifically is attracted to short girls with black hair. His interests include watching movies, playing sports (specifically golf, baseball, and basketball), working out, and just having a good time. His idea of a perfect date includes going to dinner then catching a movie. If you bear similar resemblance to Logan's girlfriend, track him down during school hours.



Cathy Lucchi

Senior

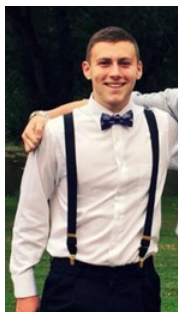
Cathy is looking for someone who has a sense of humor and a nice beard. She's interested in slam poetry, equality between the sexes, and the art of seduction. Her idea of a perfect first date -- "You, me, and an open road." If you're a man of quality who supports gender equality, contact Cathy at clucchi19@aol.com. "If you're into twins," she says, "stay away."



Tommy Lamont

Senior

He is looking for someone who is humorous, has good looks, and shares common interests. His interests include taking selfies, playing basketball, and binge watching Netflix series. His idea of a perfect date includes going to dinner, then watching some television. If Tommy interests you, feel free to "hit him up" during school hours.



Poetry by Ryan Kuhn

Lost in the stars of a winter's white light
 Frozen by snow but I still put up a fight
 Freezing to death
 About to give up
 But then I found you
 And I know that is enough
 My body is warmed
 By the heat of your presence
 My heart opened wide to you and what I can call my new home
 I thank you a lot
 For I am so grateful
 For you may have saved my life
 to my woman in white
 you have helped me win this long strike

Advice Columns

Annie's Answers

Dear Annie,

I really want to get my girlfriend something nice for Valentine's Day, but I don't want to be cheesy or creepy. I also don't have that much extra money. Any ideas?

-In Love and Out of Ideas

Dear **In Love and Out of Ideas**,

First of all, you sound like an awesome partner. I wish more people went non-traditional for Valentine's Day! Why waste the one day you have to show your love and not embarrass yourself by purchasing the same stuffed bear that everybody else will buy?

Your lack of spending money will actually help you: you'll have to be creative and come up with a heart-felt gift. Home-made gifts are both super-sweet and fairly cheap, so if you have any skills (painting, woodworking, music), give him or her a project that you've made. Even if you aren't an artist, you can still make your partner a cute valentine. Just cut out a heart and decorate it with pictures of things they love, stickers, funny quotes, or a poem.

Instead of a material gift, you could take them on a mini trip. Get delicious candy and go for a walk, a drive, a skate, or whatever. You could even turn it into a scavenger hunt: hide clues relating to your relationship or something you have in common and

have the grand prize be one of my suggested gifts or more food.

If none of my suggestions have appealed to you so far, that's because I'm saving the best for last: a mix-tape/playlist. This is great for so many reasons: songs can help you express complicated emotions, show them your sweet taste in music, and give your partner a way to understand you better. It also shows that you really care by putting time and thought into the gift.

I recommend Tom Waits and the Avett Brothers if you want intelligent, romantic music that they probably haven't heard before. If you really want to go all out and show your undying and totally passionate love, decorate the case for the CD. You can print out pictures, bedazzle it, or even paint the cover. You can also give them a list of all of the songs and a short reason why you included it.

You don't need to spend extravagant amounts of money on Valentine's Day to make your partner realize how awesome their choice to date you was. All you need to do is give a gift that you've spent some time thinking about, and watch their little heart melt. Now off with ye, Romeo!

Stay golden,
Annie

Protect Yourself from Credit Card Fraud

Brooklyn Williams and Paul Young (guest reporters)

We are learning about credit cards and Identity theft in Personal Finance class and want to share this information with our fellow students:

People can help reduce the risk of identity theft if they follow these four ways listed at www.ftc.gov.

- ◆ Know with whom you share information.
- ◆ Store and dispose of your personal information securely, especially information with your Social Security number.
- ◆ Ask questions before deciding to share your personal information.
- ◆ Maintain appropriate security on your computers and electronic devices.

Credit card companies have the technology to protect you against Identity theft; however, the credit card companies don't want to pay for the infrastructure to change over because it is too expensive.

In the mid 1990's, a new innovation was introduced called Europay MasterCard and Visa or "EMV". The credit card companies continue to issue the magnetic stripe cards instead of chip and pin cards that are standard with EMV. The chip and pin cards require a pin number from the user at purchase and the card has a microchip on it where information is stored.

Because the U.S still uses the easier to steal magnetic stripe cards, hackers focus on breaking into our system. The credit card companies don't think the customers would want the chip and pin cards because it would be a hassle to remember their pin numbers.

In Europe they have EMV's, which make it harder to steal the numbers. With the cards that we have now, we give Identity thieves the advantage of hacking and/or stealing numbers through thermal imaging, saving card imprints, or just plain writing down the number with a pencil. The metal stripes on our cards make it very easy to hack into our information and take whatever a thief wants.

We feel Americans would like to keep their credit information safe and secure and would adjust to the new way of using their credit cards.

Will you help to secure your personal information on your debit and credit cards by writing to your bank or credit card company and asking them to switch from magnetic stripe to Pin and Chip cards?

Take action today! Your identity depends on it!



My Turn by Isabel Bailey

There comes a point in time when people think that their life is getting a little boring.

Either the coffee they made that very morning tastes like sour water or the job they work at every day is getting to be nauseatingly routinely. Maybe Margaret is never able to cook dinner for her family because she burns the meal in the oven every time. Hannah is having trouble finding something to do after school other than eat boxes of Ritz crackers. David can't imagine any girl in the entire school ever having a love affair with him but his horoscope and his soap operas tell him otherwise.

I'm not here to tell whomever is reading this that I have the magic solution to these, what I like to call "unfortunate normal realities". I don't know if Margaret will find the answer on the oven timer so that her macaroni casserole doesn't always burn to the crisp.

I'm also not here to tell whomever is reading this that everything happens for a reason — that Hannah is going to become manager of Ritz company crackers since she eats an inordinate amount of them. I am here to say that I just don't know. So then my reader may ask, "What in the world is the point of this article?"

There is a special used bookstore downtown called *DJ Ernst Books*. Throughout every day, there may be one or two customers. The books in this store price anywhere from one dollar to ten dollars, with a few nice old hard copies of the "greats" in the range of fifteen to twenty. You get my point. But that is the surface point. What is the reality point? What is the moral point? What is the humanitarian point?

These questions are strictly an affirmation of the different angles of the prospect of success. In reality, the owner sits at his desk in the back where the cash register is so old it could probably break if someone tried to pick it up. The owner maybe doesn't earn more than five dollars a day. It's possible that he's a little lonely sitting in there all day without anyone to talk to but the odd animal head that hangs above the cash register.

This owner has provided the world with literature, books that have a life. Why do they have a life? Not just for the stories that are filled with Margarets', Hannahs' and Davids', but for the way that they have traveled.

It's possible that the copy of *Franny and Zooey* by J.D Salinger first

belonged to a young woman who read a chapter every night and then tucked the book under her pillow before she went to sleep. She then passed that copy on to one of co-workers, who meant to read it but stuffed it into his bookshelf and forgot about it.

Years later, while moving out of his apartment he gave it to the old woman next door and after it took her only two hours to finish it she put it out on the table where she was having dinner guests. The book wound up here in Selinsgrove, in the left corner of the little used bookstore downtown. What does that say about this bookstore? It's filled with life, in both the words printed on the page and the fingerprints of the people who have read it formerly. Not so boring anymore huh?



Let's not forget the humanitarian point to all of this. Here is the owner who sits in a bookstore, reading anything from the *Red Tent* to *Gods and Generals* because, as we've already established, he doesn't get many customers. But of course that's not true. This owner is surrounded by life. By the realities of books, by the realities of past ownerships.

Let's go back to the cash register again. The description was old, possibly falling apart old. Now take that image of the cash register and turn it into the beauty that it is. See the old keys, the #2 key that has black dust around the edges, the "clear" key that is a little bit dented in the side corner. The "open" key that triggers off a little *ding* every time the money drawer opens. The money drawer - a few five dollar bills with a slit in the top of one. A twenty-dollar bill with some red paint splashed on Andrew Jackson's face.

Where did it get that red paint? From a life that someone might be a little bored with. From a construction worker who was painting the same kitchen wall, the same red color, for the same neighbor who asked him for the same free discount to repaint it again this year.

This isn't imperfection, it's not even boring, even though it seems like an "unfortunate normal reality." It is life. It is a story of life.

It is a book -- a book that lives in the bookstore downtown that is filled with the opportunity, the reality of something so magnificent it's hard to describe in words. Life can never be boring. Life is a passed-down book.