



# THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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## 'Tis the Season for Cheer

By Isabella Moles

Yesterday, November 21, members of National Honor Society, along with help from Susquehanna University and local community members, gathered in Selinsgrove to decorate the downtown business district.

Every year, Selinsgrove's National Honor Society volunteers their time and decorating skills to adorn Market Street in Selinsgrove with Christmas decorations and winter symbols. Students spent the bleak, windy

morning pinning garland to windowsills, wrapping reds bows to the greenery, and decorating the Christmas tree in Selinsgrove commons.

They worked until lunch, which was provided by the Subway and the OIP, and were back in time for third block classes.

Despite the weather, the students enjoyed the day. "I love giving back to the community, and this was a great opportunity to do that for our town," senior Hannah Domaracki expressed, echoing many students' feelings.

Many towns have their own special traditions to mark the holidays, and downtown decorating has been a Selinsgrove tradition for the past 30 years. In the beginning, a committee called the White Christmas Committee celebrated Christmas with decorating the downtown.

Proud of their work, the committee decided to continue. Originally, downtown streets would be covered with trees decorated with crafts made from elementary students. Over time, this tradition "graduated into something further," as remembered by Helen Walters, president of Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce. Today, the lampposts are wrapped in garland and lights in the shape of snowflakes hang on top.



Photo by Bill Switala

Downtown decorating is just the beginning. Tonight, November 22, at 7:30 pm, the tree lighting ceremony will take place. This ceremony marks the moment when the town turns on their lights and brightens up for the holidays. Carol Handlan, a member who has spent years helping the Chamber of Commerce,

believes that downtown decorating and lighting the town's Christmas is a "great way to kick off the holiday season."



Photo by Bill Switala

The entire Downtown Decorating team from the National Honor Society

### Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

**News Editors:** Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

**Sports Editor:** Dawson Klinger

**Opinion/Editorial Editor:** Isabel Bailey

**Graphics Editor:** Sydney Reibschied

The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on Thursday December 8th, in Room 222. You can also email Mr. Switala at [wswitala@seal-pa.org](mailto:wswitala@seal-pa.org) if you cannot make the meeting.

# School Library Gets Needed Makeover

By Kiana Brubaker

Selinsgrove Area High School is nearing the final phase of renovating its library to help increase its usefulness for students.

Principal Parise received a state literacy grant for the school and made the executive decision to offer this money to librarian Mrs. Knitter to renovate the library. When taking a look at the current library, with its hordes of outdated books and encyclopedias, it was obvious that the physical facility was outdated.

Despite Mrs. Knitter constantly making sure our library had up to date materials, she could not change the interior design of the library due to the high cost of such a project. The facilities are the same ones that have been in place since the establishment of the library in 1985. Thankfully, SAHS now has the money to renovate and modernize the school library.

Mr. Parise mainly received inspiration for the renovation from visiting other high schools and the Susquehanna University library. He also received some ideas while looking through magazines of modern libraries. His goal is to create a “higher tech collaborative space similar to professional learning spaces students will come across in college and the workforce.”

Some of this newly installed technology includes white board desks that students will be able to write on as they work. These desks are already installed

and used by the students. Sophomore Jami Guo explained, “During a WAHGLISH 2 class my teacher was able to easily provide a visual for me, allowing her to be able to share her ideas with me in a new and improved way.” In addition to the white board desks, two 55-inch white board touch monitors will be installed, as well as projectors for the walls.

The renovations started in late August and are projected to be finished before Christmas break. Simple tasks such as moving bookshelves take a lot of manpower, due to the shelves’ great bulkiness and weight. For the most part, the janitors have lent their helping hand with installing the new equipment.

Both Mr. Parise and Mrs. Knitter welcome student feedback, so if any readers have recommendations, be sure to share them. Mrs. Knitter recognizes the importance of feedback, expressing that the renovation is a “give and take, constant evaluation process.”



Photo by Owen Moyer

New white board tables add a modern feel to the library

# A Trip Across the World for Students

By Zach Frey

At 3am on Friday November 11, 2016, students and teachers from Selinsgrove Area High School began a journey to Tokyo, Japan.

Ms. Nobre de Veiga and Mrs. Hepner accompanied the group of students, including senior Sharon Lin, junior Trey Klinger, and sophomores Maegan Bogetti, Leah Hepner, and Adriana Oelberg to Selinsgrove’s sister school, Senshu High School in Japan.



Photo by Meagan Bogetti

The view of Mt Fuji as seen by SAHS students

After over 24 hours of travelling, they finally reached their destination and were introduced to experiences they will never forget. The group stayed with host families doing something different each day but always coming together for trips to

Senshu High and a temple in Kamakura.

Sophomore Maegan Bogetti, found how different, yet interesting, the Japanese culture is and described her host family as “some of the nicest people I have ever met”. She spent much of her first day getting to know them and how they live in Japan.

“I know I say it every day, but today has been the best day of my life,” Meagan joked. After her first day there, which consisted of a trip to a traditional Japanese market and a bike ride around the lake at the foot of Mt. Fuji, she said, “This would be worth every hour of fundraising I spent, every hour on that plane, and every last penny even if I had to go home today.”

The next day the whole group went to Senshu High School in Tokyo, where they joined their host students in an English class and interacted with the rest of the students and teachers. The group learned how to introduce themselves in Japanese as well as some other basic Japanese phrases and words.

On another day, the Selinsgrove group took a trip to Hasedera Temple, in Kamakurka, which is the location of a giant statue of Buddha. In the town, they walked

Story continued on next page

## A Trip Across the World for Students continued

down a long cobblestone street that was lined with small shops selling everything under the sun. When they arrived at the temple they walked through an elegant gate and washed their hands with ladles at a fountain outside the temple to "cleanse themselves" before entering.

They then entered into a clearing with the famous giant statue of Buddha. After walking in, they saw similar shrines to Buddha and the temple itself, even stopping to make offerings. They also made wishes and wrote their names on candles. It was an ineffable experience for Bogetti, who said she could not find the right words to describe it.

The Selinsgrove visitors also participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. They met a retired teacher from Senshu who had been teaching the traditional dress

and ceremony for 50 years. She and some of the students helped to dress the visitors in traditional kimonos for the ceremony, explaining the importance of the parts. As part of their education, they learned about flower arrangements at tea ceremonies, and then participated in a tea ceremony, with tea served to the people from oldest to youngest.

For most of the other days, the students from Selinsgrove went on trips with their host family individually. Some of the places that they went included Yomiuri Land Amusement Park, Yamanakako, Mt. Fuji, and the Tokyo Sky Tree.

The group from Selinsgrove returned from the trip on November 21 and will surely be bustling with excitement about their experience, the people they met, and the moments that they will never forget.

## Seals Marching Band's Successful Year

By Anna Piecuch

Throughout 2016, Selinsgrove's marching band has had abundant opportunities to play at distant sites in addition to regular local events and football games.

The talent of its members was greatly appreciated and praised by the community, which earned them many invitations to perform. Mr. Smith, the Selinsgrove band director, believes that the "great leadership in the senior class and talented underclassmen," were major factors that contributed to the band's success.

"This year, the band had a larger enrollment; all of the instruments were filled, so we were able to produce a much bigger sound. Because of this, we were also able to play at even larger venues," commented the proud director.

Recently, members of the band took off on October 15, for Canada where they played for over thirty-thousand people at a professional football game before putting on a show at Canada's Six Flags Wonderland theme park. "We played very well (at the game)," mentioned senior Keyana Zellers, whose high school marching band career has officially come to a close. "The Canadians complimented us on our performance and seemed to enjoy it."

Another unique touch to the Selinsgrove band is its group of singers, featuring sophomores Maddie Newell, Sarah Bolig, Hannah Doll, McKenna Duitch, and senior Andrew Oelberg. "The fact that the band has vocalists makes it a thousand times better," gushed sophomore Jordan Slack. The vocalists sang well-known songs such as "Dynamite," by Taio Cruz, "Shut Up and Dance," by Walk the Moon, and Selinsgrove's traditional "Mony Mony," originally sung by Tommy James and the Shondells.

The students have made unforgettable memories on the road away from home, but junior Erin Ivey also remembers how great it felt for the band to "be on TV at football playoff games, such as Selinsgrove's game against Southern Columbia." There is no doubt that the marching band students will be reminiscing about their enjoyable fall performances for years to come.

Mr. Smith is very proud of how his marching band has flourished in 2016, and is looking forward to what the coming years will bring. He says, "I am hoping that the band will grow in size next year so that we can play at bigger venues again."



Photo by Megan Hoffman

Mr. Smith prepares the Marching Band for another parade with an inspirational speech full of praise.

# Clubs and Seals—Get Involved!

By Liz Whitmer

With winter approaching, the clubs at Selinsgrove Area High School are full of activities for students to join.

Here is a look at what the organizations have recently accomplished, along with what is to come.

The **Future Farmers of America**, or FFA run by Mr. Swineford and Mrs. Fry, had a successful float in the Christmas Parade at the Susquehanna Valley mall this past Saturday, November 19. Senior, Michael Huggins is also interviewing for Northern Region Star Keystone Selection on November 22, right before the PA State FFA Officers will visit all agricultural classes. FFA will also volunteer at the Selinsgrove Center's Christmas Dinner Dance.

**Students Against Destructive Decisions**, or SADD Club run by Ms. Roush, recently coordinated to have Trooper Blair talk to the junior and senior class about safe driving and they also set up a distracted driving simulator to give students a sense of what it's really like to drive under the influence of alcohol. They are also sponsoring a sweatshirt drive for students in need.

**Student Council**, now advised by Mr. Heiser and Mrs. Rumberger after the retirement of Mr. Edwards, has made a great impression for the 2016-2017 school year so far. After a successful homecoming dance, they are discussing the idea of have smaller, less formal dances throughout the school year.

**Spanish Club**, run by Mrs. Pancher and Mrs. Bastian, has already had a meeting on November 1 to celebrate *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead. They provided food that originated in Spanish-speaking cultures, a photo booth, and masks for club members to take pictures in. Their next meeting will take place on December 13 to celebrate *Los Posadas*.

One of our very own clubs from Selinsgrove Area High School is taking a trip across the world. **National Art Honor Society** will be leaving for Italy in June of 2017, and they have been busy with fundraising by selling pastries. If you are interested in contributing to their trip, contact Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Nobre de Vega, or any member of National Art Honor Society. Not only have they been earning money for their exciting trip, but they are also helping give back to the community. At their last meeting, all members helped sand and glaze pieces of pottery that were made at the Street Fair so their owners can pick them up and take them home.

**National Honor Society**, run by Mr. Switala, recently held a coat drive, where they collected 33 winter jackets for students in the district. A Penny War took place last week during the students' first block classes, which was won by Mrs. Underhill's math class. In total, the Penny Wars raised over \$640 for the Weeder Fund. Additionally, they decorated the Selinsgrove downtown storefronts yesterday in preparation for the holidays.

**Ski Club** is planning to go to Vermont as their major trip of the year, along with two smaller trips. If interested, contact Mr. Schmitt for details.

**TSA**, the Technology Student Association, is run by Mr. Aument and Mr. Jarrett. They have meetings and Open Labs every Tuesday and Thursday during the second half of lunch and after school until 4:30 on Wednesdays. They also have meetings during the second half of lunch on Wednesdays.

The **Forensics** team has a promising season ahead of them under the advisement of Mrs. Bunting-Specht and Mr. Gessel and with the help of a group of strong underclassmen, including freshmen Luke Kantz and Josh Tirpak. They have competed in two tournaments as a Public Forum team already and won second place in the second novice tournament at Southern Lehigh High School. Freshman Luke Kantz was very pleased with his taking second place, and knows and it'll only get better from here. "I really wasn't expecting to take anything home that day," admitted Kantz, "but it did feel really great."



Freshmen Luke Kantz (left) and Josh Tirpak (right) with their second place certificates at the Forensics tournament at Southern Lehigh

If you're interested in any of the above clubs and would like to know more, contact the advisors and get involved!

**GET INVOLVED!**

# SPORTS

## Field Hockey Ends Great Season

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove field hockey team's season came to an end on November 12, when they fell to Villa Maria 5-1 in the state quarterfinal game held at Twin Valley High School.

The Seals defeated the Southern Columbia Tigers to capture the District 4 AA playoffs. The girls dominated the game, and got the result they had hoped for by defeating Southern 7-0. With that win, the hockey team garnered 12 district championships in a row.

The Seals were not done yet, hoping to compete for a state championship. They played a preliminary game against Penn Trafford, winning 8-0. The team would advance to the first round of the state tournament, where they were matched up against District 3 third place finisher Manheim Central.

This was a close game, but, the Seals won 1-0. The lone goal came from sophomore Megan Hoffman. The Seals continued to the quarterfinals, where they were matched up with District 1 third place team Villa Maria. This

was an all-around tough game as they fell 5-1, ending their season with an overall record of 20-2.

The Seals had a great season with many contributors to their success. The top three goal scorers of the season were sophomore Anna Piecuch (15), senior Savannah Bucher (13), and senior Jess Smith (13).

Savannah Bucher said that she felt, "very proud for everything we have accomplished this year as a team, and it is upsetting for me that it is over. I look forward to the continued success of the Selinsgrove Field Hockey program."



The Lady Seals after their 12th consecutive District Championship victory

## Seals Swimming Looks to States

By Dawson Klinger

The Selinsgrove Swimming team has just begun their season and look to achieve big things with few numbers.

The team consists of senior Olivia Fravel, junior Olivia Lee, and sophomore Sarah Fravel. They belong to and work out with the Sunbury YMCA club team. Last season all members of the Selinsgrove team qualified for high school districts.

Olivia and Sarah Fravel were district champs in their respective events, with Sarah winning the 50 meter freestyle and Olivia winning the 100 meter breaststroke. Olivia Lee finished sixth in the 100 meter fly and 100 meter backstroke at districts.

The Fravel sisters then advanced to the PIAA State Championships. Sarah placed 31<sup>st</sup> in the 50 meter freestyle and Olivia finished in 12<sup>th</sup> in the 100 meter backstroke. Olivia Fravel made it to the YMCA Nationals in a relay, as well as individually.

When asked about what the team goals and expectations are for this upcoming season, Olivia Fravel responded by saying "As a team we're hoping to achieve faster times and higher places at districts. If we all go to PIAA states that would be great. Individually my main goal is to finish in the top eight at states".

Catch the team in action on December 17 at the Bucknell Invitational.



Photo by Sydney Reibschied

Despite being the smallest team at Selinsgrove Area High School, the swimmers were some of the most decorated athletes last year. From left to right, Olivia Lee, Olivia Fravel, and Sarah, "Shark Fin" Fravel

# Boys Basketball Gunning for Districts

By Sam Rodkey

The boys' basketball season is underway with the first day of practice last Friday and the team looking forward to a great season gunning for a district title.

Last season the Seals had an overall record of 13-11, qualifying for district playoffs. Unfortunately, they came up short losing the first round of playoffs. They look to improving upon that record and achieving their ultimate goal of being district champions.

There are many key returners, one of them being senior point guard Brice Harro. Harro's speed, vision, and athleticism are crucial for the team offensively and defensively. Another key returner is senior "big man" Hunter George. George's height in the post makes it is very hard for opponents to stop the 6'5" center. Also returning in the post is junior Tony Dressler.

Dressler plays with passion and pure aggression that will most definitely contribute to the success of the team this season, especially in tight game situations. Keep an eye out for juniors Thomas

Kerstetter and Logan Leiby who look to have breakout seasons and contribute their athleticism, as well as knowledge of the game, to the team this year.

Hunter George explained what he hopes for in the upcoming season, "I am really looking forward to this season. We have very talented players on this team and we are looking to compete for a league championship, possibly a district title."

Overall, the guys are excited to get this season underway. It all begins December 3 when the boys will take on Mount Carmel in their first scrimmage held in the high school gym.



Senior Griffin Kirchner takes a shot in practice with seniors Brice Harro and Kyle Mertz looking to work on their defensive skills.

Photo by Sydney Reibschied

# Lady Seals Basketball is BACK

By Dawson Klinger

This year's basketball season is underway, and the Lady Seals are much improved and look to challenge for a league and district title.

Senior captains Savanna Foor, Maddie Schmouder, and Sam Rodkey are ready to carry the load and show the light at the end of the tunnel to the less experienced underclassmen. The team only lost one key graduate (Emily Breheny), but with four returning starters and a skilled bench, Lady Seals Basketball is poised to make a strong run in the district.

Even though last season's 8-15 record may not look good, there was a tremendous amount of growth and development from the younger players last

year. Key players this season not only include the three captains, but also junior Hannah Swineford, junior Courtni "Noodle" Hamm, sophomore Marley Sprenkel, and sophomore Anna Piecuch. Swineford and Piecuch are expected to pick up the minutes left by Breheny.

The team scored 35.9 points per game last year, a statistic in which the team expects to improve on. Rodkey led the squad in points and assists last season with 12.7 points and 2.1 assists per game. Captain Maddie Schmouder commented on her excitement for the season, saying "We have everything in place. The experience, the skill level, the chemistry, and the coaching. If we can just go out there and put it all together in each game, there is no reason why we can't be great".

Catch the Lady Seals in their first action on December 9-10 at Central Columbia in a tournament, or check them out on their first regular season game at home, against Danville, on December 12. Head coach Tim Lauver and the senior captains look to lead to another district championship, something the team has not won since the 2007-2008 season.



Photo by Sydney Reibschied

Senior Captains, from left to right, Sam Rodkey, Savanna Foor, and Maddie Schmouder, working through a defensive drill during the first weekend of practice.

# Bowling Strikes up another Season

By Keanan Wolf

Bowling season has just begun and the Seals believe they have what it takes to be the best in the area despite dwindling numbers on the team.

With the teams' practices having recently begun on November 18, both the girls and boys teams are optimistic that they can do something special. Both teams are coached by the combination of Jeff Herman, Karen Herman, Bill Rowe, and a newly appointed assistant coach, Tanika James.

As the Seals begin to prepare for their first match on December 17 against Milton, they are feeling very strong and confident. Nicole Mark, a junior on the girls' team, feels that "the team is looking very good this year and I feel confident that we will qualify for regionals. If all goes well, there is a good chance we can move on to states." The team certainly doesn't lack in confidence or experience.

Key contributors from last year's teams are returning for both the boys and girls teams. Juniors Piper Klinger

and Sarah Troxell are looking to steer the ship for the girls' team this year, both having past experience and skill. For the boys' team, junior Nick Heimbach and senior Preston Zeigler are returning and both are looking to help the boys' team in a big way.

As the season comes closer and closer, the outlook on the season is positive. With both teams having a very experienced group of bowlers, the thought of either team going to states is a very realistic possibility.



The bowling team seniors, from left to right, Preston Ziegler, Emily Whipple, Elizabeth Perkinson, and Kailey Cigic

# Wrestling Looking for Wins

By Marley Sprenkel

As wrestling season is quickly approaching, Coach Martin and the team are optimistic that this will be a season like no other.

Based on last year's results and wins in the season, Coach Martin says that his key returners will be seniors Garrett Campbell, Bryce Reichenbach, and Justin Schooley, as well as sophomore Shawn Matthews. Campbell, Reichenbach, and Schooley are projected captains and leaders of this year's team. Oddly enough, the roster will not feature any freshman this year.

There will be new sophomores on varsity this year, though. One of the team's strengths is that even though they are small in numbers, they can cover every weight

class, which is important so the team does not have to forfeit any matches.

A weakness of this year's team, says Coach Martin, is that most play another sport and do not wrestle year round. Other schools have more of their wrestlers participating in the sport year round.

The key matches for the Seals this year are against Bloomsburg, Dubois, Milton, Mifflinburg, and of course, Shikellamy. "I'm pretty excited about it," Martin exclaimed, "every starter has potential to have an amazing season, so it will be interesting to sit back and see what happens".

The first home match will be against Central Mountain in the high school gym, at 7pm, on December 14.



The first day of wrestling practice saw the small, but powerful, squad conditioning in the mat room

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Student Profiles

### Gavin Keller, Senior

Which store would you pick to get a great Black Friday sale in? *Hot Topic.*

What food are you most looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving? *Coleslaw.*

If you had to give all the money you own to a charity, who would you give it to? *The American Cancer Society.*

What is the first thing you would want to change about our country if you were president? *Raise the minimum wage.*

What are you most thankful for? *My friends and family.*



### Violet Ivankina, Junior

Which store would you pick to get a great Black Friday sale in? *American Eagle.*

What food are you most looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving? *Turkey.*

If you had to give all the money you own to a charity, who would you give it to? *Cancer aid.*

What is the first thing you would want to change about our country if you were president? *Lower tax rates.*

What are you most thankful for? *My family and friends.*



### Logan Wolfe, Sophomore

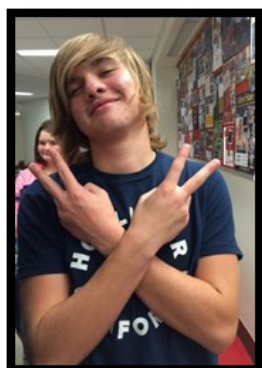
Which store would you pick to get a great Black Friday sale in? *Zumiez.*

What food are you most looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving? *Yams.*

If you had to give all the money you own to a charity, who would you give it to? *The Weeder Fund.*

What is the first thing you would want to change about our country if you were president? *Stricter border control.*

What are you most thankful for? *Having a house.*



### Johnette Reynolds, Freshmen

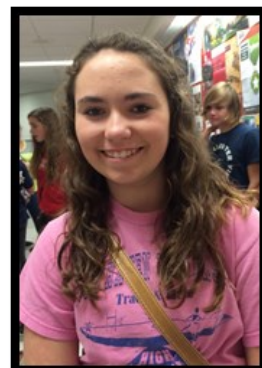
Which store would you pick to get a great Black Friday sale in? *American Eagle.*

What food are you most looking forward to eating on Thanksgiving? *Stuffing.*

If you had to give all the money you own to a charity, who would you give it to? *A soup kitchen.*

What is the first thing you would want to change about our country if you were president? *Decreasing pollution.*

What are you most thankful for? *My friends and family.*





# A Treat to Try This Thanksgiving

By Sydney Reibschied

There is no better meal than a homemade thanksgiving feast, and if you are looking for a last minute delicious recipe for Thanksgiving, one of our very own teachers has you covered

Thanksgiving is about family and friends coming together to celebrate each other and give thanks; however, for many, they look forward more to the food than the thanks.

For some, stuffing is the Thanksgiving favorite, for others it is the turkey drenched in gravy. For many, it is the endless sweets like pumpkin pie and the delicious pumpkin rolls that get their culinary juices flowing.

This year you can get into the kitchen and try to get involved in the cooking process. If you are already the chef of the family, try to make something new! Here is a sample recipe that you should try, a specialty pumpkin roll kindly provided by English Teacher, Mrs. Bollinger.

## Mrs. Bollinger's Specialty Pumpkin Roll

Pumpkin Cake Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2/3 cup pumpkin
- 1 tsp. cinnamon

Filling Ingredients:

- 1 cup 10x powdered sugar
- 1 8oz. cream cheese
- 4 tsp. butter
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Directions:

- 1.) Beat the eggs for 5 minutes. Add other ingredients (not the filling yet). Mix well.
- 2.) Grease the jelly-roll pan and then line it with waxed paper. Grease again. Pour in the batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.
- 3.) Coat a long piece of paper towel with powdered sugar.
- 4.) When the cake is done, flip it out onto the paper towel. Carefully peel the waxed paper off. Carefully roll the cake in towel for 30 minutes.
- 5.) Cream together filling ingredients. Unroll the cake and carefully spread it with the filling. Remove the paper towel. Re-roll and refrigerate or freeze. Makes 1 roll. Enjoy!



Photo by Sydney Reibschied

# One Nice Thing I Did Today Was...

By Nina Yang

"...I complimented someone's outfit."

"...I gave someone food because she didn't have any."

"...I said 'hi' to a stranger."

"...I gave someone a bag of chips."

"...I offered help to someone who was upset."

"...I helped my friend finish her homework."

"... I told someone her shoes were untied."

"...I gave my friend a hug."

"...I found a lunchbox and returned it to the owner."

"...I helped a student with special needs."



Photo Taken By Nina Yang

Kaley Mull, Junior

"One nice thing I did today was holding the door open for someone."

# An Education in Losing An Election — Views from an Editor

By Daniel Napsha

For as long as I have been politically conscious, my party has never lost a national election, so these past couple of weeks have been an education on losing.

It sucks. A lot. It's the worst thing ever. From what I've read, it's normal to feel disappointment and sadness, even anger. The fear and anxiety, I understand, is not normal. After all, this was not a normal election. Part of me values this education. It builds empathy and readies me for easier losses.

I imagine I will spend most of the next four years angry. Right now, I direct my anger at a laundry list, with the actual results of the election atop. This includes the Democratic Party messaging that neglected white voters, a candidate's ground game that excluded the Rust Belt and small towns, the voters who excused their candidate's wrongdoings but were irate at the other's, the unquestioned conspiracy theories and fake news, the alt-right, white people, liberal elitism, and of course, people who chose not to vote.

All of it infuriates me. Most of it goes both ways, I recognize that, and I recognize my complacency in most.

Beyond anger, it saddens me that Hillary Clinton's narrative ends with her defeat against a man completely antithetical to her. The most disheartening thought in the aftermath is his power to write history.

As it will be told, 2016 was the year a fraudulent, nativist authoritarian anti-patriot defeated the most qualified and accomplished person to run for President, ever, for whatever reason. Her narrative deserved to continue. But it ended, and so I grieved and continue to grieve.

Clinton once spoke with great optimism about practicing politics as the art of making the impossible possible. She declared it as the challenge of her generation in a speech to her graduating class at Wellesley College. Thinking about those words now, one can see the tragic irony in her failure to achieve the impossible, while Donald Trump did.

Indeed, his election seemed impossible to every conscious person -- hers, inevitable. Still, he managed an Electoral College victory, given the weak population distribution of the Democratic Party.

Trump managed to convince millions of people that voting for him was a patriotic act. As if they were upholding American values, they voted for a corrupt celebrity businessman, a known predator who spewed prejudice and garnered the support of anti-Semites and white supremacists alike.

Donald Trump does not care about the American people -- he hasn't shown any ability to solve problems, bring back working class jobs, or heal the country. And the complacency with him is frightening. His voters excused his crimes, his conflicts of interests, while latched rabidly onto any Clinton conspiracy theory that appeared on their Facebook feeds.

Their bondage to him, their White Knight, is nothing short of tribal. They will suffer the most, for sure, in the long run; it's a baseless victory.

In many ways, America is not that different from before. It's our usual routine of white male power, with the politburo filled with some Phyllis Schlafly's for good measure. The glass ceiling remains largely in tact, but the shield of liberal invincibility has been obliterated.

Since Al Gore's loss in 2000, the growth of liberal elitism has resulted in a generation of liberals condescending Republicans and conservatives as morally, culturally, intellectually inferior. The liberal view of America became more urban, less white, and far from the reality of many Americans.

That skewed, elitist view of America became clearer than ever in this election cycle, and revealed itself in the electoral map. The left, myself included, believed the over qualified, normally corrupt Clinton was a shoe-in, against Trump. In many of our minds, she already won. In her mind, she probably did too. When the mind falsely believes a goal has been achieved, corners get cut: entire populations of voters get ignored, the message narrows, and people don't vote.

Despite the likelihood of his reelection (given the loyalty of his followers), history will not treat him well. Trump has done worse for this country during his campaign than the worst Presidents have done in the White House.

He tapped into America's id, unleashed a beast he cannot control, and this looms over any attempt at redemption. Trump has already ruined his presidency for the ages. Or so I tell myself.

If anything is for certain, it is uncertainty. Judging by history, the opposition will grow stronger now. Clinton's majority in the popular vote speaks volumes, and her defeat woke up an apathetic country. It's time for the Democratic Party to refocus, for activists to organize, and for Americans to remember our founding values.

Time always necessitates us to take a few steps back before we leap forward, but we still progress...always.



# My Turn by Isabel Bailey

In one of my classes, there was a Swastika etched into the desk. I came into class every day, and avoided that seat. For the most part, we all turned a blind eye to it. I didn't look at it when I walked past the desk to hand in a test, yet I knew that avoiding it wasn't enough.

Just three years ago I wrote an opinion piece for this paper that expressed my concern about anti-Semitic jokes made in our school. The administration told me I wasn't allowed to publish it.

My understanding was that the article could potentially have a negative affect within the school. Although frustrated, I tried to understand the concern. But now here we are, three years later, and a swastika was etched into a desk.

I'm a senior, with six months left of high school. For almost four years, I've had to pick my battles. I couldn't argue with every boy who said that women were "weak" or who called us "feminist Nazis" when we tried to explain how we, too, wanted equal rights (think pay gap).

I sometimes let slide a "that's gay" comment, as in the call the football referee made was "gay." There were too many comments to reply to; I had to figure out.

But trig is so 2015, and now Trump is president. OK, I digress.

Ideally, I wouldn't have to spend my last six months choosing which battles I could fit in between classes; there'd be none to fight, and my skin would be clearer.

But these comments aren't just going to go away, and to make our school truly great, we need to act on the fact that we are stronger together. Picking battles alone isn't going to cut it. People, I need you.

So how do we stand up to racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, homophobic,

Islamophobic, and xenophobic remarks? It helps to ask questions to the accuser. When they make a joke about Allah, ask them, in a non-sarcastic way, what they know about Islam. Ask them what specific Islamic beliefs they are opposed to.

When boys say the word "faggot," ask them what that means to them—what are they really trying to say about another person when they use that word. What do we do when students make a joke about people of color, but then say, after a good laugh, that they're not racist?

What do we do when they say they're "just kidding" or they "have a black friend?" We know that having ten black friends does not exempt someone from being racist, and because we know this, we cannot pretend we didn't hear the comment.

In standing up for and with others, we have to be diplomatic. We cannot resort to drama, loudness, and exasperation, which only serves the purpose of getting a rise out of those who have offended. Last year, four boys wanted to "see how mad Isabel could get" if they continued to make jokes about females.

Yelling at them and calling them stupid would only make them laugh, and poor things, they might even think I was flirting with them. So we have to be methodical, thoughtful, careful. If we respond calmly, but firmly, with reasoning, we can begin to affect change.

The desk with the swastika on it has been taken out of the classroom, but not by me. We can all do better. I should have taken the desk with the swastika on it to the principal's office the first moment I saw it.

We should all think before we speak and try to better understand the severity of our words. I care because I want to live in a place where we are all respectful of one another. I want to leave the high school in an even better place than I entered it.

