



JUNE 2017 VOL. 6 ISSUE 8

OBSERVER



HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...

Senioritis Edition

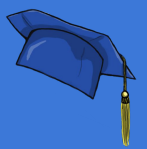
Celebrating Sixth Grade

Line up for Summer Concerts



Driver's Ed horror stories and tips for survival

Learn about your Class of 2017 Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Until Next Time...





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Mrs. Chambliss
(Missing from photo:
Alex D., Dylan G.)
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Letter from the Editors

Hello Readers! The mission of this year's *Observer* is to provide an entertaining and educational product for the benefit of the students and staff. It's been a long run this year for the journalists, bringing you many articles that entertain and inform, but here we are at the end of the year. You have stuck with us through our battle of Senioritis so far, so try to hold on for one last issue. Our journalists have stepped up their game to leave you with our best work. So, while you're deciding which summer concert to go to this year, you can also reminisce on how you felt coming into the high school for the first time alongside A-A's future 7th graders. While you're skimming the pages, make sure to check out the Father's Day page, and see how some of the fathers at AA would like to spend their days--maybe take a few ideas for your own! So readers, without further ado, we present to you the final issue of the 2016-2017 school year, and before you flip away the pages, we would like to say "Thank you!" from your 2017 journalists!

*Brendan W.
Jessica Flaitz*

Have an idea for the paper?

Contact the *Observer* staff:

Brendan Walsh
BW0236@aacsapps.com
Jessica Flaitz
JF2220@aacsapps.com
Madge Chroniger
MC0501@aacsapps.com

Mission & Vision

Have We Got News For You

It is our mission as the Alfred-Almond *Observer* to provide a well-balanced resource for the purpose of entertaining and informing the Alfred-Almond community. We intend to create an easily accessible and reliable source of both local and national news. It is our goal to leave behind a more informed and knowledgeable student body for years to come.

Observer Staff

- Editor-in-Chief.....Brendan Walsh
- Editor-in-Chief Lite.....Jessica Flaitz
- Sr. Copy Editor.....Janu Patel
- Copy Editors.....Jack Castle
Alex DeGraff
Madison McCormick
Abbey Swackhamer
- Design Managers.....Justin Berry
Owen Curtin
- Public Relations
Managers..... Madge Chroniger
- Staff Writers.....Erin Anderson
Greg Boardman
(Bill Bacon)
Kalista Calkins
Charles Elliott
Dylan Griffin
Cory Olix
Harry Robshaw



Announcements

By Cory Olix
Staff Writer

Donald Duck Day is on June 9. June 9, 1934 is when Donald Duck made his first appearance in one of Walt Disney's cartoons, "The Wise Hen." Did you know that Donald wears a sailor uniform because he was in the U.S. Navy? He also acts the way he does when he gets scared because he supposedly suffers from PTSD.

Regents start June 13 - click [here](#) to view the schedule.

Go find your inner self on June 21, also known as International Yoga Day

Graduation rehearsal is Tuesday, June 22 at 12:45 p.m.

Graduation ceremony is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24.

Members of the Senior High Band must arrive at the graduation ceremony on June 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Report cards are mailed home on June 30.

Good luck to next year's seniors!

May Photo Challenge Revealed



Left to Right: Chalkboard in Mrs. Acker's room, Eagle on Mrs. Acker's door, star from veteran's flag in gym hallway.



Class of 2017



Valedictorian

Abby Fancher *Take a look at what it's like to be top of the class* Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Valentine

How excited were you when you figured out you did this extraordinary thing?

I was ecstatic because I felt my hard work had paid off. I had actually contemplated what it would be like to be valedictorian when I was in 5th grade and to think that now as a senior I accomplished one of my main goals still shocks and amazes me.

Do you have any regrets? If so, what are they?

No, I don't have any regrets. I put a lot of time and effort in my academics throughout my high school career. I knew that if I did not become Valedictorian that I had done the best I could have academically and was proud of that. I may have missed out on some things and did not have a lot of leisure time, but to me it was worth the sacrifice.

Where will you go next year and what are your plans for the future?

I am attending Rochester Institute of Technology and my plans for the future are to become a Physician Assistant.

Is there anyone you'd like to thank?

I would like to thank my family, especially my mom, dad, and sister for always supporting me in everything I have done. I cannot stress how thankful I am that they have always been there for me, and they are one of the reasons I was able to achieve this great accomplishment. I would also like to thank my teachers with providing me with the tools to be successful.

What was your favorite class over the years?

My favorite class over the years would have to be AP US history, and not because I love history. This class really challenged me and at the end of the year I knew a ton about US history and learned new things about myself.

Do you have a specific memory at Alfred Almond that is special to you that you'd like to share?

I remember when I met my best friend Madison in 5th grade, and from then on we have been inseparable. I really don't know what I would have done without a best friend like her to have next to me throughout the years. I also consider the time spent with all my friends to be special because they are at the core of some of my best memories of high school.

What is some advice you give to younger scholars looking to the future?

I would give the advice to challenge yourself academically; don't just settle for a class because you want it to be easy. I would also say do not stress over a bad grade, because failure only makes you stronger and work harder to be successful. Finally, if you have done the best you possibly could have, be happy with the grade you received and know that you worked hard to achieve it.

Lastly, if there was one thing you could relive, what would it be?

No, I don't think I would relive anything, because it is in the past and I am living in the present and looking forward to the future.



Class of 2017

Salutatorian



Alex Degraff Take a look at what it's like to be salutatorian Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Valentine

How excited were you when you figured out you did this extraordinary thing?

I've had the same class rank since 9th grade, so I was kind of expecting it to happen for a while.

What does it take to earn such an honor like this?

Always do your homework, and make sure you understand everything on it. Few, if any, classes in this school have test questions that weren't previously covered on homework. Just do what is asked of you consistently and you'll have a great GPA.

Do you have any regrets? If so, what are they?

No, I don't have any. I could have done better in 8th and 9th grade, but I ended up fine. I do wish I had spent more time working on creative projects instead of worrying about my grades, though.

Where will you go next year and what are your plans for the future?

I'm going to Cornell this summer to study computer science. In the future I'd love to be a software developer of some sort, but I don't know what specific field I would go into right now.

Is there anyone you'd like to thank?

I'd like to thank my parents for teaching me the importance of education and all my friends, classmates, and teachers who pushed me to do the best I could.

What was your favorite class over the years?

Not gonna lie, my favorite class was AP United States History with Mr. Donlon. I've never been so engaged and learned so much from a single class before. The material was always interesting, and Mr. Donlon made it really engaging. The class also prepared me more than any other for college course loads through the reading and writing we did. Speaking of writing, this class helped me lay the foundations for a solid essay more than any other. I think this class honestly made me a better and smarter person.

Do you have a specific memory at Alfred Almond that is special to you that you'd like to share?

After the bomb threat in 8th grade, my bus drove by the bank right after it was robbed. Pretty cool stuff I guess.

What is some advice you give to younger scholars looking to the future?

Do your homework as soon as you can, and then try not to worry about it and just have fun. You only live once. Probably.

Lastly, if there was one thing you could relive, what would it be?

Well I mean if I could relive my entire life with the knowledge I have now, that would be pretty cool.



Senioritis: The Killer of GPAs

By
Harry Robshaw
Staff Writer



Me

I honestly couldn't have been bothered to type an article this issue, so here's some clipart of a guy sleeping bc that's what i was doing!! :)

Photo credit: www.thetelegraph.com

Senioritis is not typing an article this issue bc ur lazy :)



By Harry Robshaw
Staff writer

JK, Senioritis: The Killer of GPAs

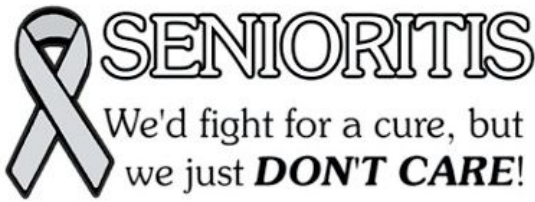


Image from: Theodysseyonline.com

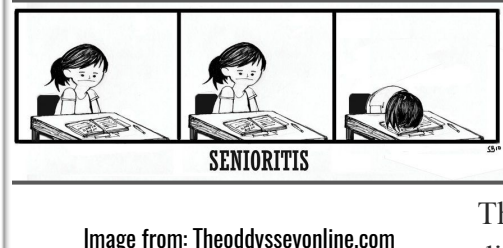


Image from: Theodysseyonline.com

Senioritis is defined by Oxford Dictionary as, “a supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance.” or more accurately described by Urban Dictionary as, “a crippling disease that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts, and sweatshirts. Also features a lack of studying, repeated absences, and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation.”

The overall cause of senioritis is the realization that seniors have already been accepted into college, and that their road as a high school student is almost over. This is also the point where seniors realize that it doesn't matter how the rest of high school goes since their college already received their transcript, so the effort is no longer needed. My personal experience as a victim of this contagious disease has been like most of the Class of 2017. Lazy. The willpower to do basic tasks like laundry and homework goes completely out the window.

It comes to the point where the main reason that you still come to school and don't just stay home “sick” is the commitment to sports teams or the pure fact that your parents won't let you stay home... again.

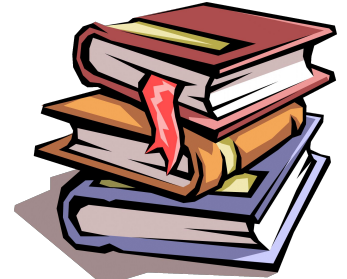
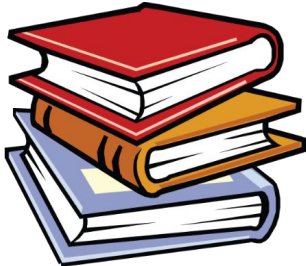
You might ask, “But why does all this high school junk still matter if you've already gotten into college?” Research by Lisa Suzuki at New York University shows that the last two semesters of your high school career teach you the most important life skills, like proper studying techniques and time management, as well as making exciting memories with friends. It has also been proven that slacking in studies and attendance show a negative effect on learning, and make it much harder for students to make the transition from high school to college. Just because you've been accepted by a college doesn't mean that your fate is sealed at that university. Most colleges even include a clause in the acceptance letters that lets them retract their offers within months after receiving an acceptance letter due to poor academic work. Luckily, there are many different ways to battle senioritis head on.

The best way to battle the contagious disease, according to the same study done by NYU, is to maintain a challenging course load. If your classes are too easy, you'll have a higher tendency to start slacking and not to the work. (Trust me, I know from personal experience.) Plus, if you take challenging courses in your senior year, some of those courses may translate into college credit. The second way to avoid senioritis is to make and keep a schedule or planner with all of your important upcoming dates on it. This will keep you on track and keep you from those “this needs to be done by the morning” three page paper hauls at 1:30 a.m. The third, and probably best way to avoid senioritis, is to simply enjoy high school! Yes, as you read that you probably rolled your eyes and said something like, “Yeah, whatever” under your breath, but once you get to your senior year, everything starts to lighten up. Teachers give you a longer leash and start treating you a little differently. Senior year is truly a different experience from the rest of high school, and as long as you don't severely contract the contagious disease of senioritis, then you definitely have a good chance of making it off to college successfully!



The Best of the Rest

By Owen Curtin
Design Manager



The top 10 are Alfred Almond's top dogs in terms of their dedication to their schoolwork. Their achievements are realized by the hard work they put in and they are honored by the school because of it. However, with this interview, I wanted to pursue a different angle. We all know they work hard, but what is all that hard work going towards? So when I interviewed a select few of the top 10, I focused on getting to know the people behind the rankings; what they do, how they do it, and their future plans. The students I interviewed were chosen based on how available they were. Big surprise, most of them are busy.

Madison McCormick

Rank: #3

What are your plans after high school?

"Go to Marietta College"

What's your major, and how long do you plan on attending school?

"History, for seven years."

How would you say you've earned your spot in the top 10?

"I worked hard and studied."

What advice do you have for the upcoming top 10?

"Don't procrastinate and keep on doing what you are doing; use Quizlet."

When you're not doing school work, how do you spend your free time?

"Reading"

Do you plan on living in the country or the city?

"Country"

East coast or west coast?

"East"

What are your best study habits?

"Don't procrastinate, Quizlet, and being in a quiet place."

And finally, which do you prefer? Pen or pencil?

"Pen, except for math."



Photo courtesy of ALCEN



Abbey Swackhamer

Rank: #4

What are your plans after high school?

"Attend University of Buffalo."

What's your major, and how long do you plan on attending school?

"Pharmacy for six years"

How would you say you've earned your spot in the top 10?

"Hard work and perseverance"

What advice do you have for the upcoming top 10?

"Work as hard as you can while spending lots of time with friends and family."

When you're not doing school work, how do you spend your free time?

"Working and spending time with friends and family"

Do you plan on living in the country or the city?

"City"

East coast or west coast?

"East"

What are your best study habits?

"Rewriting notes and getting a good night's sleep"

And finally, which do you prefer? Pen or pencil?

"Pen"



Photo courtesy of ALCEN



Aidan Looney

Rank: #8

What are your plans after high school?

“Attending college at Elon University”

What’s your major, and how long do you plan on attending school?

“Exercise science, four

undergraduate years, two years doctorate/physical therapy program.”

How would you say you’ve earned your spot in the top 10?

“I studied really hard last year”

What advice do you have for the upcoming top 10?

“Work hard and study”

When you’re not doing school work, how do you spend your free time?

“Hanging out with friends and doing it for state”

Do you plan on living in the country or the city?

“I want to live in the city”

East coast or west coast?

“East coast”

What are your best study habits?

“Summaries online and youtube videos”

And finally, which do you prefer? Pen or pencil?

“Pencil”

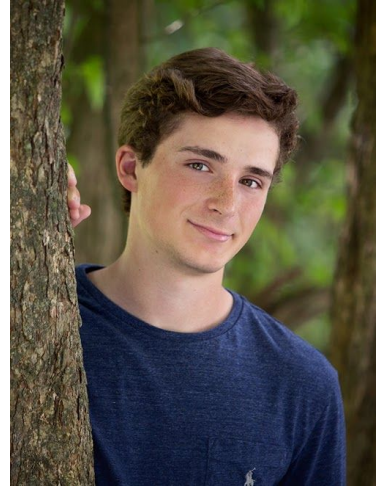


Photo courtesy of ALCEN



Mariah Hann

Rank: #5

What are your plans after high school?

“Attend Roberts Wesleyan College”

What’s your major, and how long do you plan on attending school?

“Four year nursing program”

How would you say

you’ve earned your spot in the top 10?

“Hard work, long hours, and my mother’s wonderful discipline.”

What advice do you have for the upcoming top 10?

“Continue to work hard, it really pays off at the end!”

When you’re not doing school work, how do you spend your free time?

“Working or playing sports”

Do you plan on living in the country or the city?

“Country”

East coast or west coast?

“East”

What are your best study habits?

“Visuals and rewriting important information.”

And finally, which do you prefer? Pen or pencil?

“Pencil”



Photo courtesy of ALCEN



Wyatt Ames

Rank: #10

What are your plans after high school?

“Go to college and get on the fast track to directing film.”

What’s your major, and how long do you plan on attending school?

“Currently labeled undecided because I missed the deadline for film, might have to attend for five years.”

How would you say you’ve earned your spot in the top 10?

“I didn’t, other people just stopped trying so much.”

What advice do you have for the upcoming top 10?

“Chill, it’s just grades relative to others.”

When you’re not doing school work, how do you spend your free time?

“Doodling, gaming, watching movies.”

Do you plan on living in the country or the city?

“The city.”

East coast or west coast?

“East side first, west side later.”

What are your best study habits?

Pay attention in class and cram right before the test.”

And finally, which do you prefer? Pen or pencil?

“Pen—we must live with our mistakes.”

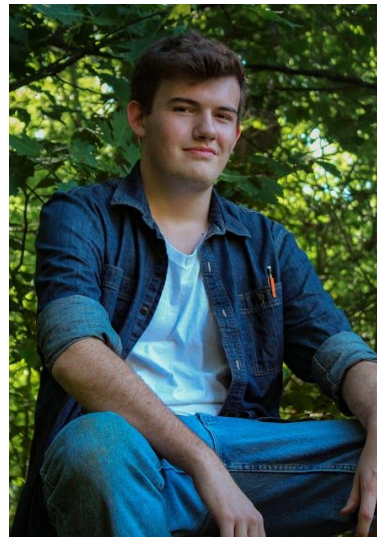


Photo courtesy of ALCEN

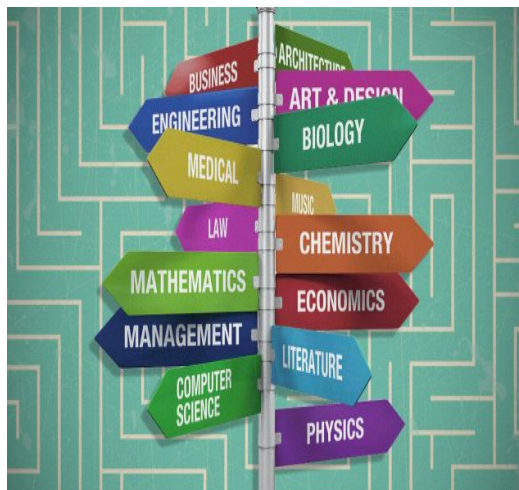


HOW TO PICK a COLLEGE major

By Alex DeGraff
Copy Editor

Choosing a major is hard for nearly everyone. According to a 2005 study, approximately 50% of incoming college freshman enter undecided on their future major, and 80% of college graduates have switched majors at least once. Navigating through the dozens upon dozens of majors available is an often overwhelming and excruciatingly long process, and the decision you make can affect the rest of your life in significant ways. Luckily, thanks to the powers of the internet and modern support networks, it is now easier than ever to get the information you need to make an informed decision about your future academic career.

The most obvious place to start is to evaluate your academic interests. If there is a specific subject you find yourself more motivated and interested in, then you will probably enjoy careers related to that field and will have an easier and more enjoyable time in college. That said, finding an academic interest in high school isn't very easy, due to the lack of variety in courses. Luckily, most other students are in the same exact situation, and nearly every college will help you assemble a schedule that will help you explore the variety of options available to you. At most colleges, you are not obligated to affiliate with a major until sophomore or junior year.



The Roads Ahead

There are a of the multitude of options facing college students.

Photo from tlearning.com

Additionally, you can nearly always switch your major afterwards, albeit sometimes at the cost of an extended graduation date if you change majors too late.

Another way to find out what major is right for you is to consider what kind of career you want. Once you find out the career you want to work towards, finding out which college majors can help you get there is a relatively easy task. However, choosing a career field is just as hard, if not harder, than choosing a college major. Fortunately, there are multiple free online tests you can take to help put you in the right direction. Career test from websites such as careertester.com, and personality tests from websites such as 16personalities.com can help you get an idea for what jobs you would enjoy. Once you narrow down your list of career fields, resources such as

the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov) and payscale.com can help you find reliable data on employment opportunities for any career imaginable.

While evaluating your academic and professional interests are great things to do, finding out what they are is no simple task. The most important part to finding the college major that's perfect for you is to do as much research as you can. Search for a list of majors from the internet, and read short descriptions of as many majors as you can. You may not find something perfect, but you can at least create a list of majors that are at least somewhat pique your interest. Finding similarities between the areas of study that you don't completely hate can help you figure out what to look for. At the end of the day, you can't choose the perfect career or major if you don't know it exists, so do as much research as you possibly can!

You don't have to find the perfect future, just one that will make you happy. Very few people find themselves on the right track immediately. On average, people in their 20's switch jobs every three years, and the average worker switches careers two to three times. While the major you choose is important, you won't be beholden to it for the rest of your life. If you find something you enjoy, go for it.



By **Madge Chroniger**  **Public Relations Manager**

John Philip Sousa Award

The John Philip Sousa award has been a tradition at Alfred - Almond since 1992. This recognition has been under the radar in the Alfred - Almond community for years. The award is given to a high school band student every year, unless there is a tie, which is a rare case and has happened only a few times at Alfred - Almond. The high school band director gives the award to the student, and over 150 schools choose to present this award. The John Philip Sousa award is presented based on superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation. Mr. Bialecki, our high school band director, has been awarding the John Philip Sousa Award since it started at AA, which was at the end of his first year of teaching. It was awarded to a clarinet player named Kristen Meisner. That year, Mr. Bialecki had only four seniors to choose from. This year, there were ten seniors in band, and the John Philip Sousa Award was given to Brendan Walsh who is a drummer in the percussion section, and is planning on attending Geneseo, to major in Biology.

Congratulations Brendan!



Kristen Meisner
*Clarinet player and JPS
Award winner 1992*



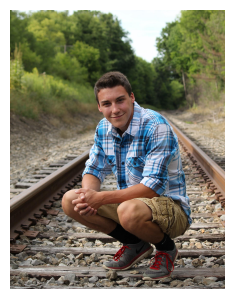
Heather Chroniger
*Tuba player and JPS
Award winner 1994*



Jonathan Mix
*Trumpet player and JPS
Award winner 2011*



Elianna Chroniger
*Oboe player and JPS
Award winner 2015*

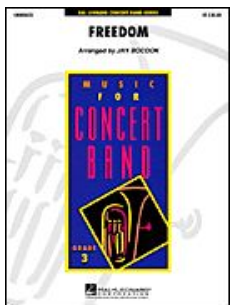


Brendan Walsh
*Percussionist and JPS
Award winner 2017*

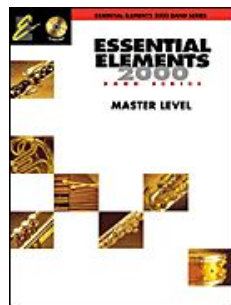
All Photos from Alfred Almond Yearbook

Graduation Music

Graduation is always a big deal for high school students, especially for the seniors, but does anyone really hear the music that is played at graduation? The hot, noisy gymnasium is usually a distraction from the sweet melodies that the band plays. Typically at graduation, Olympic music is played, including: "Olympic Fanfare and Theme," "Freedom," "March of the Olympians," and "Summon the Heroes." Along with Olympic music, "Pomp and Circumstance," (which was originally written as a coronation piece for King Edward VII), the "Alma Mater" (last time the seniors sing it before they become alumni), and the "Star Spangled Banner" are also played. In addition, every year the seniors that are in band choose a senior piece, which they have played sometime in their band career. This year, our senior piece is "Fiero;" the seniors first played this score in 7th grade. This piece will bring the seniors to the end of their high school career and send them on their way into the working world! Click on the names below to hear the song!



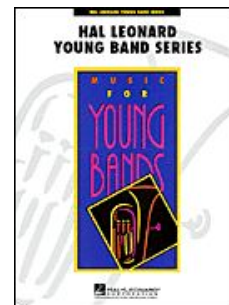
Freedom
Arranged by Jay Bocook



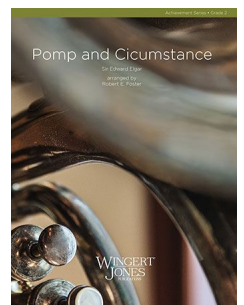
Summon The Heroes
Arranged by M. Sweeney



Fiero
Written By Steve Hodges
All photos from JWpepper.com



Olympic Spirit
Written By John Williams



Pomp and Circumstance
Written By Edward Elgar



Sixth Grade Graduates

By Kalista Calkins
Staff Writer

We made it! For my final hooray, I asked the sixth grade to look back to the past as well as look into the future. In order to achieve this, I asked: (1) **What is your most memorable experience?** & (2) **What do you expect highschool to be like?** Now you must know, I couldn't let them graduate elementary school without a cool pic in a graduation cap!



Shane D.

1. Field day in 5th grade
2. Terrible



Brenden D.

1. Meeting Shane
2. Hard



Justin M.

1. Friends
2. Lots of homework



Morgan T.

1. Winning field day
2. It will [not be fun]



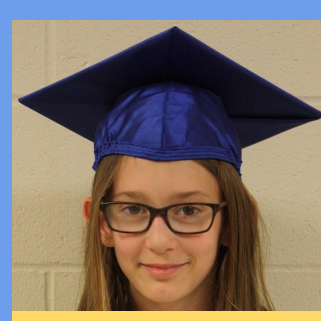
Isabella B.

1. Petting the baby chicks in kindergarten
2. Lots of homework



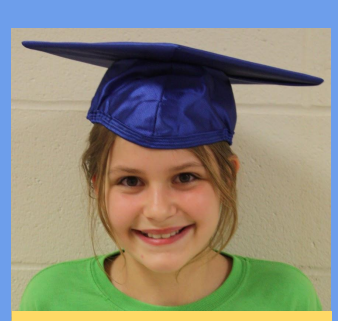
Alexandra H.

1. Butterflies in kindergarten
2. Chaotic



Summer P.

1. Art class
2. Boring



Anna Y.

1. Winning field day
2. Hard



Sarah J.

1. Meeting all my friends
2. Uh... terrible



Abigail Q.

1. Going outside
2. Rough



Micah B.

1. Eating lunch
2. Great



Sophia S.

1. Doing the legacy project
2. A little busy



(1) What is your most memorable experience? (2) What do you expect highschool to be like?



Hunter S.

1. Falling asleep in 2nd grade
2. Larger and more people



Lauren J.

1. Pre-k graduation
2. Scary because Sarah is in the high school



Chloe H.

1. Social Studies class
2. Chaotic



Kara S.

1. When Mr. Mix gave us candy at the end of 4th grade
2. Hard



Emily W.

1. Realizing it's my last year of elementary school
2. Fun and stressful



Owen E.

1. Going outside into the woods
2. Lots of fun clubs like robotics



Clarissa F.

1. The legacy project
2. Mix of scary and fun



Dylan C.

1. Field trip to Mumford
2. Larger and more people



Kaitlyn R.

1. Halloween parades
2. Very rushed and fast



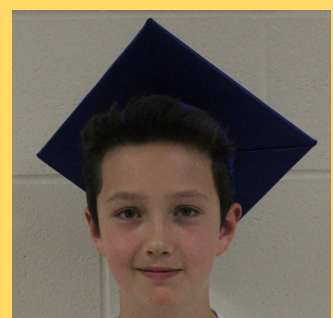
Damien R.

1. Running out to the playground
2. Annoying



John M.

1. Grossing people out by picking my nose with my tongue
2. Really fun



Lucas K.

1. Field trip to Mumford
2. More homework



(1) What is your most memorable experience? (2) What do you expect highschool to be like?



Athena C.

1. When I fell in kindergarten
2. Annoying



Delvontay D.

1. Science class
2. Exciting



Greyson A.

1. Having Mr. Mix as a teacher
2. Hard and lots of homework



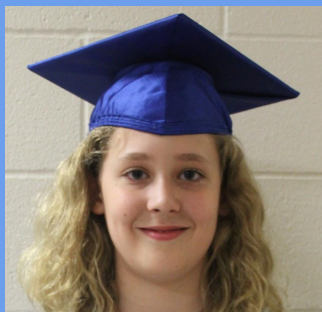
Lucian F.

1. Having Mr. Weller as my 3rd grade teacher
2. Harder but do-able



Cameron H.

1. Touching an electric fence on a field trip
2. Harder than 6th grade



Julian P.

1. Making it into All-County for band
2. Um.. interesting



Lily W.

1. Playing in the woods
2. Difficult



Brennan L.

1. Field trip to Mumford in 5th grade
2. Lots of fun but challenging



Sierra S.

1. Going to the Benjamin Patterson house in 4th grade
2. Difficult



Cheyenne F.

1. Kindergarten zoo trip
2. Tough, a lot harder and more homework



John S.

1. The time when I got a 102 on a math test
2. A little bit harder



Evan (Sam) W.

1. Cleaning out my stuff at the end of the year
2. Challenging and require more endurance



(1) What is your most memorable experience? (2) What do you expect highschool to be like?



Lacey T.

- 1. Playing sports
- 2. Scary



Caleb R.

- 1. Going to and watching the Dodgers game
- 2. Hard



Maddox D.

- 1. Transitioning to 6th grade
- 2. More organized



Blake L.

- 1. When I went to the Dodgers game
- 2. It will be [dull]



Hunter W.

- 1. 5th grade picnic
- 2. Slightly harder



Liam H.

- 1. When my dad moved away
- 2. Busy



Alex D.

- 1. Friends
- 2. Kinda hard



Aidyn E.

- 1. 4th grade
- 2. More like 6th grade last year



Chloe B.

- 1. Meeting Kaiden
- 2. Fun



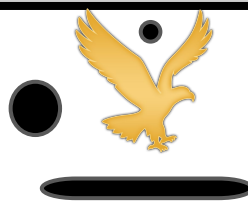
Kaiden M.

- 1. Meeting friends
- 2. Fun but kinda hard



Alexis R.

**Not pictured:
Noah Dusinberrie
Imre Hunter-To
Lily Weaver**



Alfred-Almond Faculty Group Chat

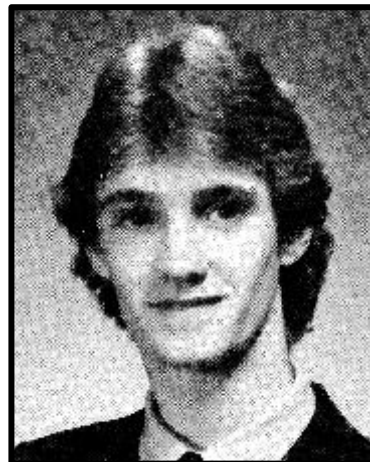
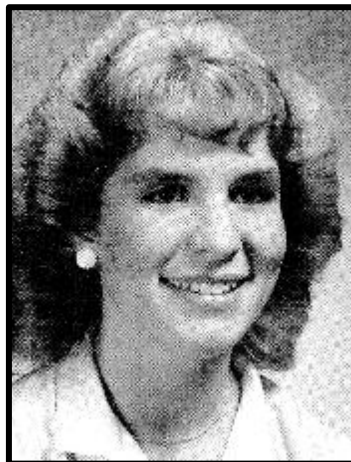
Hey guys! For issue 8 of the *Observer* I wanted to take a step back and look at what trend/activity Alfred-Almond faculty would like to bring back if they could. Can you help me out?
~Jessica Flaitz

Big hair with lots of teasing and hairspray. I actually had volume to my hair in the 80's!
~Mrs. Calkins

I would bring back record stores. I loved looking through old albums as a child.
~Mr. McAneney

Penny Candy at the corner store. It just reminds me of the innocence of childhood.
~Mrs. Decker

Time. When I was a child, I was not involved in a lot of scheduled activities. I never had homework until I was in the 7th grade and my family only had one TV. I just remember all the time I had to play, ride my bike, and read. It was wonderful.
~Mrs. Acker

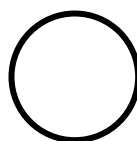


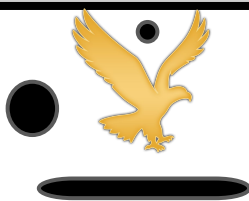
Throwback Hair Motto:
The bigger the better! Photo Courtesy of (from left to right) Mrs. Calkins, Mrs. Decker, Mr. McAneney



iMessage

SEND





A-A Faculty Group Chat, Con't...

I would bring back a childhood free from attachment to electronic devices. I remember playing outside and using my imagination daily. As much as I use my phone, I feel a certain sense of freedom anytime I forget it, don't have it charged enough, or simply step away from it. Sometimes I worry that the generations of kids growing up with cell phones will forget to look up and really SEE the world around them and the people right in front of them. ~Ms. Backer

Talking (not texting, Facebook, or Instagram messages). Staying up all night talking in person or on the phone with friends. ~Mrs. Donlon

I would bring back the activity of talking to people while looking at them, face to face. It worked by someone saying something to someone else using their mouth. Next, the other person would hear what the first person said, this sometimes prompted them to speak back to the first person. All of this was done without phones. I'd like to bring this back along with writing notes to each other in school, I think that would be fun for the youngsters. ~Mr. Donlon

Unhook the satellite dish from the TV and hook up the antennae. I could turn it towards Pennsylvania and get PBS or Buffalo and get a lot more channels. ~Mr. Barniak

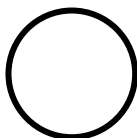
I would bring back kids playing games outside like jump rope, Kick the Can, and hopscotch, so kids get exercise and interact with each other! ~Mrs. Bain-Lucey

Thank you to our faculty for helping me out! It was super interesting to hear what you guys would like to bring back from your childhood. Also, thank you readers for tuning into the last issue of the *Observer*! ~Jessica Flaitz



iMessage

SEND





This Just Out: Keeping Up With Mae



A Chill Dude: Ms. Backer is one of the most easy going teachers I know. Photo Courtesy of Justin Berry

All Natural: Ms. Backer loves the outdoors and reading, a match made in heaven. Photo Courtesy of Ms. Backer

By Justin Berry Design Manager

Hey fellas and lady fellas, it's your boy Justin Biggity Biggity Berry. I'm coming at you with sugar, spice and **everything** nice. In... *This Just Out?* Yes, you read that correctly, this is going to be the last rendition of *This Justin* and I named it as such. Don't worry, I'm not leaving you beautiful readers hanging in this edition of *The Observer*. You're going to get a double dose of my Berry goodness. No Senioritis here, *Alex*. Enough of that, let's get into the article.

In this glorious final hurrah for the foreseeable future, I felt it would be prudent to interview someone that had an enormous impact on me as a writer and as a person in general. That individual is Ms. Backer, our Journalism teacher and the person who brought the *Observer* crew together. It's thanks to her, and Ms. Turner's, extremely hard work that this year's *Observer* has been so great.

I feel as though Ms. Backer's supportive and upbeat attitude has been very helpful for everyone in the *Observer* family. In fact, she cites an optimistic point of view as her greatest strength; anyone would describe that as an important trait for to have. She is brimming with a great deal of wisdom and life experience from her many, years of being on this planet - not that many mind you, that's reflected in the stories that she shared with me, one of which shows what not to do when you want to go on a rafting trip. In the month of April, Ms. Backer and some of her friends decided to go on a "rafting trip." I'm using the term "rafting trip" pretty loosely considering the short amount of time they actually spent rafting, and the makeshift nature of the watercraft they used. Let's just say this, if you look up the word "makeshift" in the dictionary, a picture of their raft would come up. It was cobbled together with wood and those big blue barrels people use for garbage cans at parks. There they all were, with this marvel of human

ingenuity, ready to start their voyage. Those brave sailors lasted about 5 minutes before a tragic crash of the mighty vessel occurred that was straight out of a scene out of the movie *Titanic*, just replace an iceberg with a giant piece of wood. The team morale was also very low as when given directions to row faster to turn, one of their members opted to instead row even more slowly while maintaining eye contact with the others. It was at this moment that they crashed and had to deal with the chilly April weather and murky water. Moral of the story: don't row sarcastically, because then you'll crash.

Clearly from just listening to this story, it's pretty obvious that Ms. Backer has raked up a lot of experiences that she's been able to learn from; it's also equally obvious she loves adventure and all the excitement and new perspectives included in that deal. All these different escapades and interests amounts to a collage of a human being, at least that's how she



Keeping Up With Mae, Cont'd



Mommy and the Kids: *Ms. Backer with her dear children. Photo Courtesy of Ms. Backer*



The Man, Myth and Sarcastic Rower: *This man, also known as Matt, caused the horrible tragedy. Photo courtesy of Jason Gildner*

describes it. Ms. Backer is her experiences and all of them help to create who she is, whether that's the good or the bad. Mistakes are one of the things that allow you to improve upon yourself. She also compares her multifaceted nature to a crab that collects things on it's shell. As Ms. Backer has grown as a person, she gained a treasure that has significantly impacted her life, that being two little girls. Having them has taught her an enormous amount about crucial life lessons: selflessness, the importance of evaluating long term consequences, and to cherish the little things in life. When a person needs to think about another, say a child, it can trigger significant emotional growth because their well-being is largely dependent on the parents' hard work. When someone becomes a parent, they don't just have to think about themselves, but also the little ones they need to take care of. Even beyond that, the simplistic way a child can look at the world has

significantly helped Ms. Backer when it comes to appreciating the small things in life over material possessions. Something as insignificant as a short walk can mean everything to a young child.

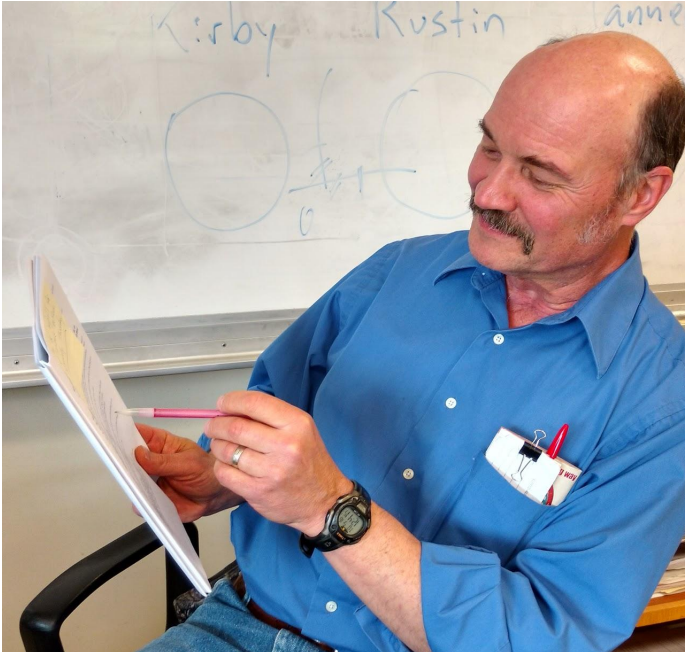
Besides all of her crazy experiences and life lessons, Ms. Backer is a very social person to say the least. She describes witty banter and laughter as one of her favorite ways to reduce stress-the bad in her life can melt away, not always of course. Having time to oneself is similarly important. Alongside her sociable personality is an enormous amount of vitality and a whole lot of moxie. One of her stories that she shared with me reflects that greatly: she had broken her arm a few days before a horse show, normally a total week ruiner, but not for Ms. Backer. After getting a cast on her broken arm, she cut open her riding jacket to accommodate the cast and continued with the horse show, like a boss. Also, like a boss she has some

pretty good life advice. That life advice is this: finding balance is extremely necessary, whether that involves your spiritual, physical or emotional health is up to you. She also gave the advice to give people the freedom to follow their own path as they should give you the same liberty.

Overall, Ms. Backer was a pleasure to interview and get to know on a deeper level. Not only that, but it was very thought-provoking, and hopefully that comes across in the article. Generally, Ms. Backer has helped me an incredible amount in regards to my writing skills, and writing for the *Observer* has in turn helped me become a much better human being. Interviewing and writing about all of these amazing people and the interesting lives they lead is something that I'll carry on forever. Thank you all so much for reading the second to last *This Justin*, I appreciate every single one of you all. Have a great day.



This Just Out: Barniak? More Like Brainiac!



Delightful Teacher: A beautiful action shot of Mr. Barniak reading.
Photo courtesy of Justin Berry



Quite The Sense Of Humor: Mr. Barniak knows how to take a joke, and he just keeps smiling. *Photo courtesy of Justin Berry*

By Justin Berry Design Manager

Hey fellas and lady fellas, it's your boy Justin Biggity Biggity Berry. I'm coming at you with some sugar, spice and- *Wait... This is how I started my first *This Just Out*. * Okay, I might have a little Senioritis. The *This Justin* formula is a tried and true one, perfected in the flames of battle, and by battle, I mean writing articles for you lovely readers. Potential Senioritis withstanding, I promised you all a *This Just Out* and like the [Insert Occupation For Comedic Effect Here], I'm here to deliver. In this final shabang for the acclaimed column by Justin Berry, I'm going to be interviewing a real class act of a man: Mr. Barniak.

I feel as though anyone who's spent time in Alfred-Almond has no doubt interacted with Mr. Barniak; he's a substitute teacher with enormous amounts of dedication to his job.

Alongside being a substitute teacher, he taught Chemistry and Physics at the school as well. It feels like he's everywhere at once. Not only that, he's there when you need him. Story time: Yay! when deciding to interview him, I was relatively bewildered. Small thoughts of hopelessness permeated my mind. "How am I supposed to get time to interview him?" or "He's probably going to be busy teaching all the time!" were my primary concerns. However, similarly to an angel above, I walked into my Activity Mod study hall and received a miracle. Activity Mod study hall was the ideal time to interview him and lo and behold, he was my substitute and any worries I had melted away. Mr. Barniak emanates a very relatable, dependable and all-around hardworking aura. Overall, he represents some of the more wholesome ideals of humanity. During our interview, I asked him to describe himself in one word. The

answer he gave me was "Human," more specifically Homo Sapien. Mr. Barniak tries to embody the more simple, often overlooked traits of human beings. Something mundane, such as trying your best and not being afraid of hard work, is a treasured commodity that most people can lose track of every now and then. These ideals embody the advice Mr. Barniak left me with to share with you radiant readers.

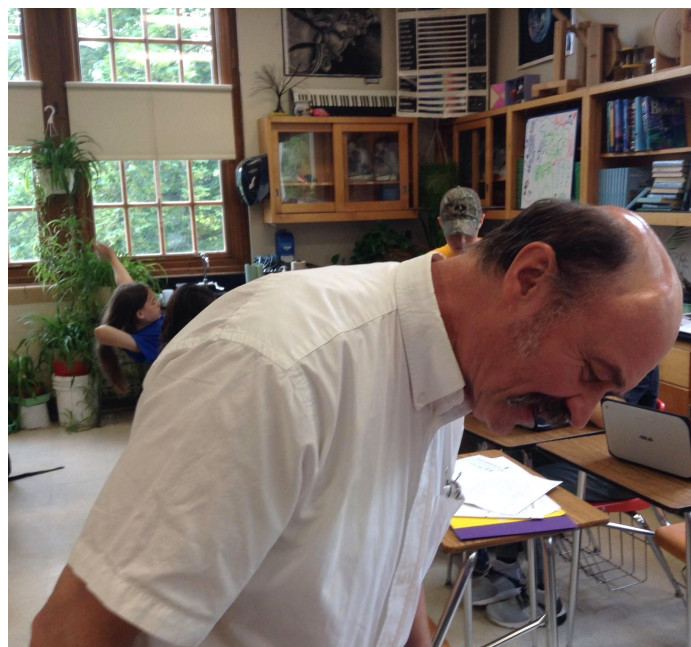
The impact that Mr. Barniak has had on the students he's spent time with is enormous. One of the stand out anecdotes he shared with me relates to this quite nicely. Occasionally, while at the supermarket or any other normal non-school related place, a previous student will walk up to Mr. Barniak and ask if he remembers who he is. Of course, Mr. Barniak wouldn't remember him because he only knows the students in the bubble of time that he taught them, and in turn,



Barniak? More Like Brainiac!, Cont'd



Sports Fan: Mr. Barniak loves to watch sports as well.
Photo courtesy of Justin Berry



Attentive Teacher: Calm, cool and focused on helping out, as demonstrated by this picture. *Photo courtesy of Justin Berry*

their age at the time. The fact that his students remember him after all that time helps to cement the fact that he has influenced these former students greatly. Not only that, but they have helped him grow and develop over the years as well, something worth its weight in gold. Mr. Barniak has had some very important influences as well. The people who have had the largest impact on him as a person were his parents; his mother and father were “strict but loving” parents, and both of them placed heavy emphasis on getting a good education, a very important thing to have, and that’s probably what lead him to pursue a career in education himself. That in turn lead to him wanting to spread knowledge to as many people as possible. Let’s just say he’s been around the block-quite a few blocks actually. He’s spread his wings and flown to six different schools over the course of his career, his favorite being

Alfred-Almond of course-he did stay, after all. I got the impression that after leaving each school, he took a little bit from it and likewise, he gave something to the school as well.

Aside from Mr. Barniak’s superb teaching history, he’s a very funny guy. He describes it as his biggest strength, a quality I can definitely appreciate. When asked about what helped to develop his sense of humor, he said his brothers. I would go on about that, but the kind of behavior that he described is most certainly not suitable for a younger audience. Older students, if you truly want to know more about it, then you’ll need to politely ask him yourself. If you’re up to it... Mr. Barniak is a pretty complete package, he’s a funny, intelligent guy. But what if I told you that he likes to cook too? Generally, creating things with his own two hands is his favorite pastime and way to reduce

Stress. Specifically, he enjoys smoking meats, brewing beverages, cooking food, such as meats, and woodworking to say a few. Mr. Barniak attributes some of this to work teaching chemistry; the process of brewing and creating new things is very interesting to him.

It was amazing to learn more about Mr. Barniak in the *This Justin* style. Overall, the process of writing my stories was one of the highlights of my senior year. Being the creator of *This Justin* was an extraordinary experience and one that I’ll cherish forever. Not only has it improved my writing style, but also my creative thinking skills and my ability to think optimistically. Just like Mr. Barniak’s interview, each and every article I’ve written has left its mark on me. Thank you so much for following my journey over this year, and thank you so much for reading this final rendition of *This Justin*. See you on the flipside.

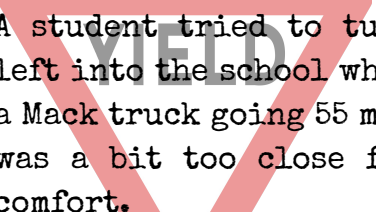


DRIVERS ED. SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR THE TENDERFOOT

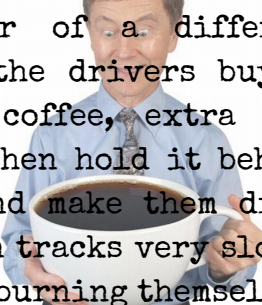
By
Charles Elliott
Staff Writer

Many of you may be taking Drivers Ed in the near future, so here are some scary stories (and some advice to avoid some of these stories) that the Drivers Ed teachers, Mr. Levey in Wayland and Mr. Brady in Almond (and Mrs. Turner), have given me to use in this article.

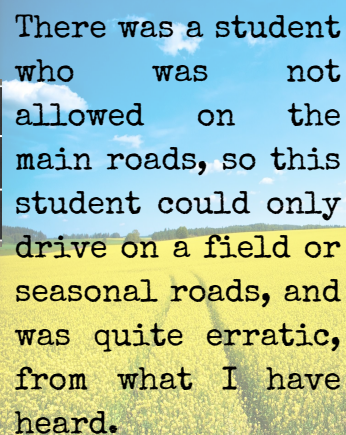
First things first, I will give you a step-by-step tutorial on how to ~~duck~~ tuck and roll. Just kidding, we don't have time for that... yet.. These are true stories from some teachers, as well as one of my own. The following stories are meant to be used as an informative collection, and shall not be reproduced by any means.



A student tried to turn left into the school when a Mack truck going 55 mph was a bit too close for comfort.



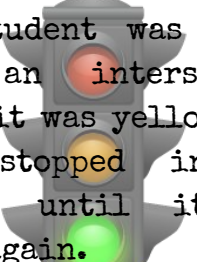
An instructor of a different school made the drivers buy "A large black coffee, extra hot, extra full," then hold it behind their neck and make them drive over the train tracks very slowly to avoid them burning themselves.



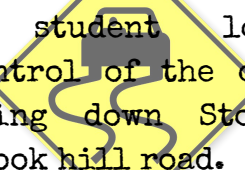
There was a student who was not allowed on the main roads, so this student could only drive on a field or seasonal roads, and was quite erratic, from what I have heard.



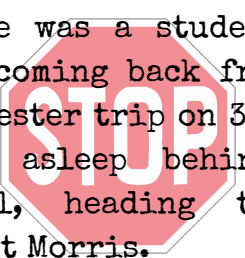
A student at Wayland was next to a tractor trailer, and the tire blew on the semi.



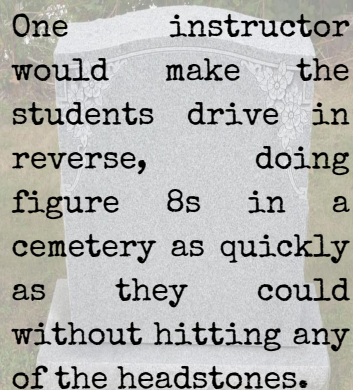
One Student was going into an intersection while it was yellow, and then stopped in the middle until it was green again.



A student lost control of the car going down Stony Brook hill road.



There was a student who was coming back from the Rochester trip on 390, and fell asleep behind the wheel, heading towards Mount Morris.



One instructor would make the students drive in reverse, doing figure 8s in a cemetery as quickly as they could without hitting any of the headstones.

Tips and advice

From Mr. Brady:

- Gradual acceleration, gradual deceleration, never accelerate going into a curve.
- Absolutely no cell phone behind the wheel while driving. Driver inattention is the number one cause of car accidents.
- Be cautious at intersections, and know right-of-way rules.
- And **never** get behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol and or drugs.

From Mr. Levey:

- Always use your turn signals when turning, check your mirrors, and blindspots as well.

There were no people and or vehicles harmed in these true stories, except for the semi's tire.



Letters of Marque and Reprisal

By
Bill Bacon
[REDACTED]

The best part about my new job as a police officer is that people finally trust me to solve their problems. I have never been so successful in getting people to trust me, even when I was an unofficial official Psychologist at Alfred University. After I got my new uniform, however, people came to me when their cats were stuck in trees, to complain about people who may or may not have secretly borrowed their stuff, and other problems of that nature. It was an exhilarating experience--the only downside is that I have to avoid people dressed just like me, as my adversaries. My rivals from the "Police Station" don't take too kindly to my extraordinary productivity, as it threatens their jobs and livelihood.

With the public trust thrusting onto my shoulders, it was tempting to change out of the uniform and shirk from my responsibilities as the sole protector of the law. But I had an idea. I could be a five star *general* of the law (One star below Benjamin Franklin, out of respect for the position). Once I established my authority, the blue men group would have no choice but to disband and

leave me alone after I order them to disband. Without a second thought, I went out to start my onslaught on crime, unadulterated by the blue scourge.

My first arrest was a surprisingly ordinary one. The alleged offender (He hasn't been tried in court yet, and I suspect the blue men paid his bail and sent him to Canadaland. Legally, I have to say alleged, but my testimony will fix this egregious and superfluous technicality.) was spying through a restaurant window in a car, ~~probably~~ definitely scouting out the place for a future raid. I was going to let him go, but then I realised he was no ordinary raider-- he was a **spy**. How did I deduce this? He was driving a foreign car, a Chevrolet! He insisted he was simply ordering food, but I knew better than to trust a Frenchman. I tied him up against a lamp post in front of the Burger King as a warning to any future aggressors. Just another day on the job!

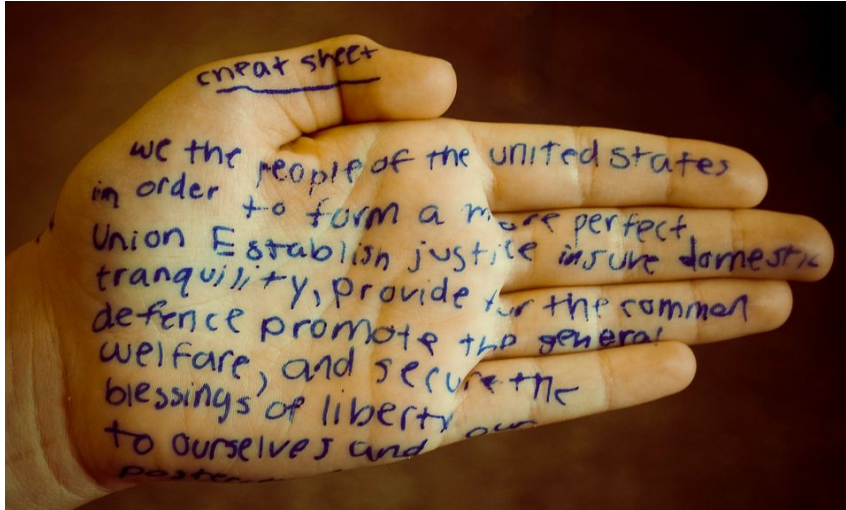
My second batch of "alleged" offenders were caught committing a crime far less typical. The suspects in question were playing this "game" called Quidditch. Naturally I

rounded them up, as witchcraft as explicit as broom riding is **forbidden**. Unfortunately I wasn't able to apprehend the majority of sorcerers. I did, however, catch one very large wizard; his broom wasn't quite as fast as the others apparently were. If you're going to commit witchcraft, at least consult a professional! Ironically, his amateur sorcery was not only a menace to society but also was the fatal flaw which planted him in my grasps. He attempted to convince me that magic wasn't real, and that they weren't even flying on the brooms, blah blah blah, the usual spiel, which can be so easily disproved that I'm surprised these people still attempt to rely on it. If magic doesn't exist, then how do you explain the sensational taste of Cinnamon Toast Crunch?

As you can see, law and order is hard to enforce alone, especially when the suspects scatter, which would explain America's lack of an official law enforcement agency. So, I decided to return the trust the public threw at me, and throw it back at them. I was going to write letters of marque and reprisal. For you heathens that don't know every word of the Constitution by



Continued...



The Constitution *In its full glory* Photo from www.flickr.com



Witchcraft *Dramatic reenactment of my second apprehension* Photo from ancient-origins.net

heart, letters of marque and reprisal allow for bounties to be put on people and objects. It might have been originally only meant for commissioning privateering, but it has the capacity for bounties to be made. With this knowledge I set out to writing rewards for dirty criminals. Unfortunately I do not have the budget for tangible rewards, and I'm also not Congress, making them unenforceable technically so most of the time you'll get my appreciation, and maybe even a "Thank you." On a good day, you might even get some of my cinnamon toast crunch. I try to keep off that stuff, it being magical and all.

I had a very elusive criminal; he avoided me at every turn and everyone kept pointing me to him. Apparently this one was kidnapping people and was considered highly dangerous and unpredictable. It was

puzzling, just when I thought I had caught up to him, I ended up next to the French guy I arrested, the sneaky baget loving coward. I ended up just writing a letter of marque and reprisal and hoped that someone would get him.

Armed with pen and paper (protected by the 4th amendment), I continued enforcing the law. I spotted a suspiciously upstanding citizen in front of a Blockbuster sharing money with some crazy hobos. Let me emphasize that, he SHARED with them, an action that we all know is **COMMUNIST**. I would have arrested him on the spot, but I didn't want to be tainted by his communist aura. So I wrote out a letter of marque and reprisal for his capture, and slapped it on a lamppost.

I have good news, and bad news. The good news is that I figured out who the mysterious criminal was. The bad news is that I

accidentally wrote a letter of marque and reprisal on myself. People kept reporting that the clearly evil wizard I arrested was beaten up by a cop in my uniform; this is when I realized my unfortunate error. People also started to get their phones out around me, probably alerting any headhunters. Seeing no way to retract the bounty, or how I'm a hobo, I saw that I had a head start against any bounty hunter after me. As an added cherry on top, the men in blue were so desperate for a job that they turned to bounty hunting. When I was tracing my own steps, I found them to tracing my steps at an alarming pace, so I made some new steps away from them in a rush. Seeing no that my presence is unwelcome, I began another game of hide and seek. If you know any tips on avoiding both the blue man group, and bounty hunters, email me at ReporterBillBacon@gmail.com.



An American's Guide to Canada

By Janu Patel - Sr. Copy Editor



Did you know that the American flag and the Canadian flag are two different sizes? The Canadian flag is a 1:2 proportion, and the American flag is 10:19.



As many of you may already know, I am a Canadian. I moved to the United States in 2010 with my family and have lived here for the past seven years. While many people would say Canada and the United States are very similar, I beg to differ. After living in both countries for almost the same amount of time, I've noticed the many differences the two countries have. I've also noticed that many Americans do not know Canada as well as they may think, so here's an American's guide to Canada, from a Canadian.

So first, let's get this one very big topic that Americans are VERY passionate about out of the way. **Yes, Canadian bacon is more like ham** and isn't what you would call "real bacon," but it is leaner and much healthier for you and is considered bacon to Canadians either way, so don't bother arguing.

Now that the discussion about bacon is out of the way, let's talk a-boot the way Canadians talk, eh? **Just stop saying "eh." You're saying it wrong and using it in the wrong context.** It is usually used as a replacement for "right" when trying to find agreement from someone. I'd advise just leaving the expression "eh" for the Canadians to

use. **Also, nobody says "a-boot."** Canadians sometimes pronounce things different than Americans -- and I won't deny that there is a distinct Canadian accent -- but we also spell things different. **You might as well just start adding a "u" to everything you spell.** For example, "color" in Canada is spelled as "colour" and "flavor" is spelled as "flavour." Yes, your "neighbours" spell words differently, and I learned that the hard way during a spelling test.

Next, let me introduce you to three amazing ingredients, **the greatest combination ever made: French fries, cheese curds and gravy.** If you haven't tried poutine



Do you even Poutine? Be sure to try some poutine the next time you're in Canada.

Photo courtesy of Janu Patel

before, you **HAVE** to have some. Combining crispy french fries with melty, gooey cheese curds and hot, delicious gravy is one of the best ideas Canadians have had. Other Canadian food creations that are to die for include: Coffee Crisp, butter tarts and All Dressed Ruffles. All amazing, all atrociously unhealthy, and all totally worth it.

While we are still talking about amazing Canadian foods, let's talk Tim Hortons! I'll get straight to the point and say that **Dunkin Donuts has nothing on Tim Hortons** and if you're in Canada or anywhere with a Tim Hortons, go there! You won't regret it. The closest one to us is in Geneseo! I've had Dunkin Donuts donuts and I've had Tim Hortons donuts. All I can say is for a food chain with "donuts" in the name, Dunkin's donuts are very disappointing. Do-not go there for donuts. Also, pro-tip, Canadians call donut holes "timbits," and the chocolate glazed timbits are the best ones. So you know those round, cylindrical, sugary, yet tart candies called Smarties? Well in Canada, they are called Rockets, but **Canada has their own "Smarties."** They are similar to M&M's but the exterior sugar coating is thicker and the



An American's Guide to Canada, cont'd



Toonie for your thoughts? Check out this Canadian currency - loonie (left) and the toonie (right). Photo from gordonmcb.com



Canadian Treats! "They're awesome."
~ Brendan W. Photo from madewithnestle.ca



Meet our Prime Minister Quite the looker, eh?
Justin Trudeau is the second youngest
Prime Minister to serve Canada.
Photo from pm.gc.ca

chocolate on the interior tastes different and much better in my opinion.

In order to try these amazing Canadian foods you need money, and if you're in Canada you're most likely going to use Canadian currency. We have bills just like the United States in Canada but **our bills are plastic and different colors.** Canadian currency does not include dollar bills but **we have coins called loonies and toonies.** A loonie is equivalent to a dollar and a toonie is equivalent to two dollars.

Another thing Americans should know about Canada is Canadians apologize a lot and most of the time, it's for no reason at all. So while you're in Canada, **don't forget to say sorry.** Also beware the **Canadian geese**; they are actually mean, so try to steer clear of them.

So, to end this guide, I will leave you Americans with this: We are not all lumberjacks, we don't all follow hockey and we don't all live in igloos. We love our free health care and maple syrup. We also love our Prime Minister (not President) and pronounce letter "zees" as "zed" in the alphabet. We use the washroom, not bathroom or restroom, and call carbonated drinks "pop," not "soda." We don't have foreign enemies, but there is some tension between us and the polar bears at the moment... I hope this American's guide to Canada helps!



Is it too late now to say sorry? Nope, not for Canadian Justin Bieber it isn't.
Photo from en.wikipedia.org



Friendly? I geese not.
Photo from buzzfeed.com



MAPLE SYRUP! This is what Canadian dreams are made of.
Photo from mnn.com



15 Things You Didn't Know about Alaska

By
Dylan Griffin Staff Writer

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Alaskan Purchase, along with the fact that Rhode Island could fit inside Alaska 425 times, and Alaska has more inland water than any other state, here are 15 of the 150 things you didn't know about Alaska!



Photos courtesy of Love Griffin

- 1.) During World War II, Japan technically invaded the United States when they attempted to claim the Aleutian Islands.
- 2.) The Alaskan coastline is larger than all of the United State's coastlines combined.

4.) Alaska has more than three thousand rivers and three million lakes.

5.) If you put the same population density of Alaska in New York City, the island of Manhattan would have only 16 people.

11.) More than half of the world's glaciers are found in Alaska.

12.) Alaska does not enforce the collection of income tax or state tax.

13.) Alaska is home to the largest zinc mine in the world, known as Red Dog mine.

14.) The potato was a such a valuable source of vitamin C during the gold rush of 1943 that miners would trade gold for them

15.) The largest lake in Alaska is called Lake Iliamna and it is about the size of Connecticut.

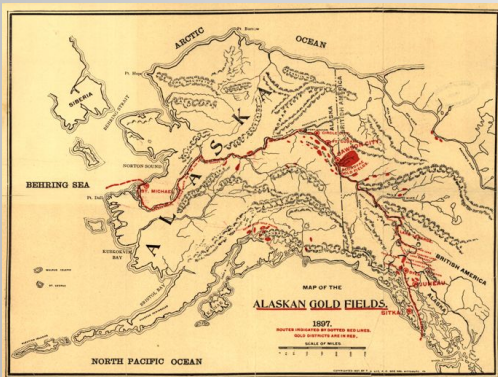
6.) When people report roadkill of moose, caribou, and bears, the carcasses are butchered and distributed to charities.

7.) There are no poisonous plants to touch in Alaska.

8.) Alaska is the only state you can type on one row of the keyboard.

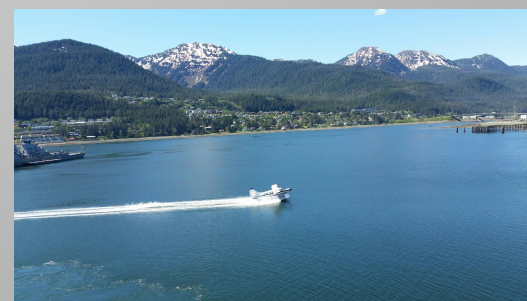
9.) The Russian coast is less than 50 miles from Alaska.

10.) It is illegal to whisper into someone's ear while moose hunting in Alaska.



Alaskan Gold Fields *The state of Alaska is full of untapped natural resources and coincide with the stunning landscape of the state . 3% of the state's income is gold production. Photo from World Digital Library.Org*

3.) Although it is legal to shoot bears, it is illegal to wake a sleeping bear for a picture.





More Than Just a Shack in the Woods

By Jack Castle
Copy Editor

A half mile into the woods off of South Rd, West Almond, lived this family of five who built their dream house and immersed themselves in nature. With hand tools, ambition, and minds full of dreams, they built "The Cabin." The Castles lived in The Cabin until they later moved into Bill's father's house - a mile walk, out of the woods and down the road from The Cabin. While living in the family house, they constantly renovated and expanded their home in the woods, deciding to officially open it as an eco-resort in 1986.

In 1976, six years after their youngest son was born, Bill and Barbara Castle moved out of their small house in Hornell, to a property in West Almond. The house they



The Crown Jewel The final project the owner worked on. The "Purple People Heater" in the indoors, a wood fed stove to keep the place warm in the winter, is pictured on the next page. *Photo Courtesy of Jack Castle*

later moved into was built by Bill's father, who passed away and gave the house to Bill. After many trips to Costa Rica and other Latin American countries,

delivering aid to the residents first hand, Bill learned a lot. Bill then immediately started dreaming. He passed on what he learned in his travels to his children, who then as a family collaborated together to build the Pollywogg Holler Eco-Resort, interweaving life experiences into the woodwork of this "magical place," as people often say.

As many eco resorts offer, "Pollywogg Holler" offers a tourist resort with minimal facilities and an escape from civilization. Pollywogg Holler offers much more than a normal eco resort, though. Pollywogg Holler, a family business, is maintained through love filled and willing family members and friends, who put their time and energy into the organization.



Stage View Cabin to the right, pizza oven under the roof to the left and the Crown Jewel in the way back. In my opinion, this is the best spot to admire the work put into Pollywogg Holler. *Photo Courtesy of Jack Castle*



Sugar Shack Beautiful exterior! A short distance behind the stage is a small home for overnight stayers. *Photo Courtesy of Jack Castle*



Shack in the Woods, Cont'd..

The Castles built a large bathroom, separate from their house, a brick sauna, two pondside parapets, and “The Crown Jewel,” the final centerpiece of Pollywogg Holler.

With Bill’s immense travels and the way he touched the hearts of the people who he talked to, he welcomed hundreds of people every Sunday and Wednesday to his home away from home. He offered live music and homemade brick oven pizza to the attendees. To this day, people attend Pollywogg Holler and enjoy the beautiful artwork of the buildings, the wide range of people it attracts, and the hyper-natural environment you can submerge yourself in while you sit or dance and listen to live bands play. Pollywogg Holler is open on every Sunday all summer. Bring some hiking shoes and an open mind to this venue and enjoy everything it has to offer.

Overnight stays are from Saturday to Sunday, and the owners offer a beautiful breakfast in the morning. You’ll easily fall asleep while listening to the sounds where the name of this magical place originated. The sound of what nature truly has to offer: the sounds that range from thousands of toads and frogs to the omnipotent owl in the woods who deafens all other noises. The unique sounds of Pollywogg Holler.

Pollywogg Holler
2017 Pizza Days

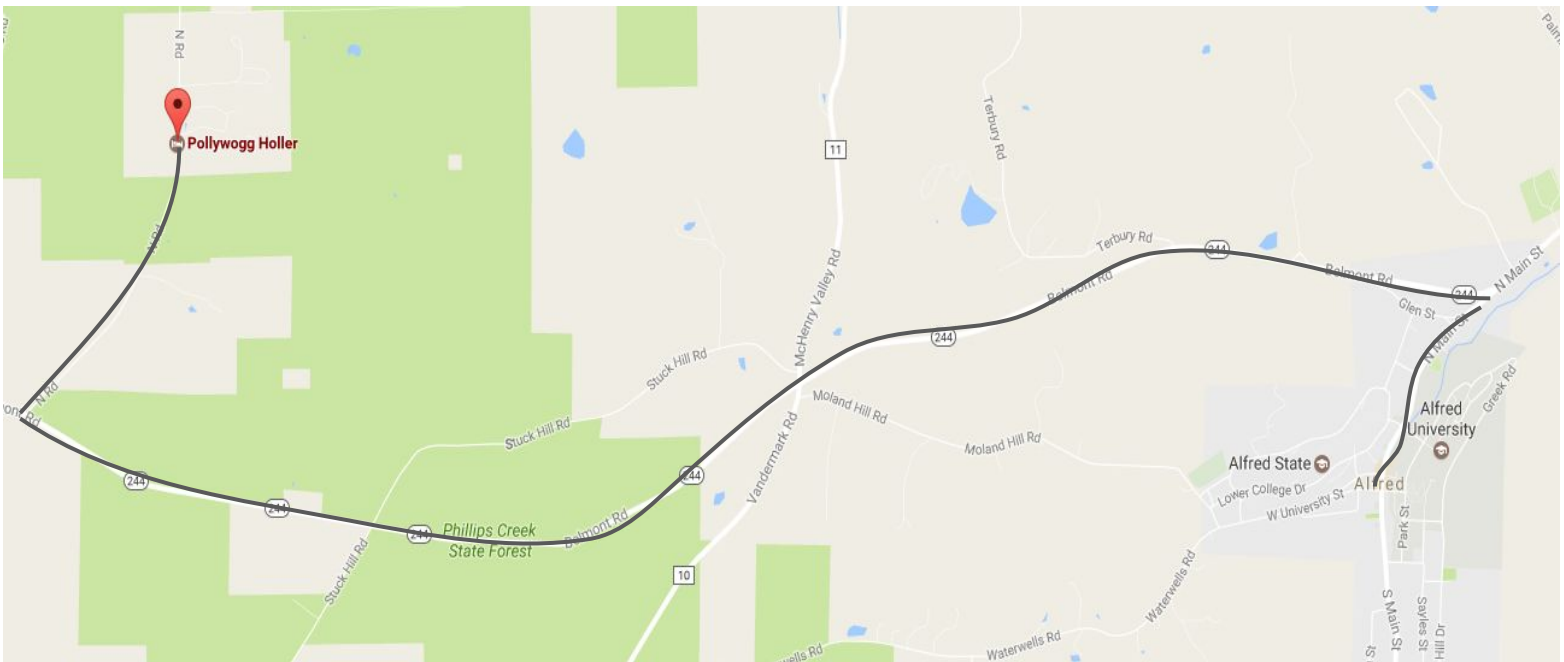
Sunday, March 19	Sunny Paul
Sunday, March 26	Eric Carlin
Sunday, April 2	The Ampersand Project
Sunday, April 9	Bobby Angel
Sunday, April 16	CLOSED
Sunday, April 23	Mike Brown
Sunday, April 30	Dan Ripley
Sunday, May 7	Shepard Pi
Sunday, May 14	Fritz Henry
Sunday, May 21	TONK!
Sunday, May 28	Shaky Stage
Sunday, June 4	The Flood
Sunday, June 11	Workingman's Dead
Sunday, June 18	The Observers
Sunday, June 25	The Healing Committee
Sunday, July 2	Tropical Cream
Sunday, July 9	Flying Boxcar
Sunday, July 16	Off The Wagon
Sunday, July 23	Ten Cent Howl
Sunday, July 30	ZOAR
Sunday, August 6	Workingman's Dead
Sunday, August 13	The Skiffle Minstrels
Sunday, August 20	Diggin Roots Band
Sunday, August 27	Funknut
Sunday, September 3	Leroy Townes Band
Sunday, September 10	Folkfaces
Sunday, September 17	Sunny Paul Blues Connection
Sunday, September 24	Uncle Ben's Remedy
Sunday, October 1	Dan Ripley
Sunday, October 8	Band Named Sue
Sunday, October 15	Fritz Henry
Sunday, October 22	Mike Brown
Sunday, October 29	Tropical Cream
Sunday, November 12	The Legendary Long Johns

Sundays 1-6 p.m.
6240 South Road, Belmont, NY 14813
www.pollywoggholler.com



Pizza Days! Every Sunday throughout the year, bands play during pizza day. Enjoy pizza while you listen to live music. *Photo Courtesy of Jack Castle*

Purple People Heater Wooden circles cut from the end of logs loosely held together with gravel decorate the floor people gather on to stay warm. *Photo Courtesy of Jack Castle*



Short Drive Away From Alfred University, to 5 corners, then to Belmont; enjoy the sunset on the way and watch out for deer! [Google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)



L.L.Bean: Early Years and Camping Gear

By Erin Anderson Staff Writer

L.L.Bean was founded in 1911 by Leon Leonwood Bean (L.L.Bean). He had the revolutionary idea of an outdoor gear to wear when hiking or hunting in the dense and marshy woods of Maine. The “Bean Boot,” or the “Duck Boot,” was the first product that Bean made for that collection. Many out-of-state hunters with Maine hunting permits wanted the boots in order to avoid getting their feet wet and muddy. “The three paged flyer said ‘You cannot expect success hunting deer or moose if your feet are not properly dressed’ ... ‘We guarantee to give perfect satisfaction in every way’” (llbean.com). Many of the boots that were sent out of the first batch came back due to flaws, but Bean was determined to have every customer satisfied with his products. L.L.Bean, as a company, continues to focus on their customers; they are real people to L.L.Bean, not just some figures on a chart. The customer is always important, and L.L. Bean never misses the opportunity to improve their service. If you ever need assistance or have a question, an L.L.Bean employee is always happy to help. Their flagship store in Freeport, Maine has been open 24/7 - 365 since 1951 when L.L.Bean said, “We have thrown away the keys to the place” (llbean.com). There are no locks on the store doors, but there is constant security and surveillance tapes to keep their customers safe. L.L.Bean’s iconic symbol are their Bean Boots, but here are some other signature items as well.



The Bean Boot
L.L.Bean had this 16 foot tall boot made for their 50th anniversary.
Photo from LLBean.com



The Classic Bean Boots
In the past couple of years, Bean Boots have been put on back order due to their popularity and being sold out of stores.
Photo from poshmark.com

Bean Boots: They were designed by L.L.Bean in the effort to make very durable hiking/hunting boots, which he did do, and as an added bonus, even people who don’t hunt or hike a lot love these boots because they have such an attention to detail unlike other boots. They are very high quality in their make and the materials used to make them, so they last longer and are rugged. The Bean Boots are just like they were over 100 years ago, so they should last a long time.

L.L.Bean Backpacks: Their backpacks are always super durable, and withstand most common use such as school, hiking, camping, and other activities. They always come with the “L.L.Bean 100% satisfaction guarantee” (llbean.com). L.L.Bean has a wide range of great colors, prints, and designs to match any age group from elementary to college and beyond. L.L.Bean also does monograms; they can put your initials on the bag so it is personalized, and you can get it in any font and color available. This could ensure that younger kids don’t bring home the wrong bag. L.L.Bean also ships their products for free so you don’t have to go to L.L.Bean to pick it up.

Vintage L.L.Bean Backpack

This is one of many types and styles that L.L.Bean offers for their packs.
Photo from terapeak.com





L.L.Bean Continued

L.L.Bean Tent

L.L.Bean carries a large variety of tents, this one is the Vector 4 person tent, and they also carry some other major companies, such as Eureka and Northwood.

Photo from 890m.com



Bean Tents: L.L.Bean's tents all meet high quality standards, and are available all year round, and for great prices (ranging from \$170 - \$650) that are hard to beat. They have a great variety of tents from single person tents to tents that house eight people, and they are hard to compete with due to their quality. They also have lightweight tents for hiking and biking, which are "designed with state of the art features" (llbean.com).

Bean Sleeping Bags: L.L.Bean has a wide variety of sleeping bags available. They believe that the best bag for their customers depends on their sleeping habits, what materials they like on their skin, the temperature they like to sleep in, and if they are carrying it with them on a hike or in their car. Sleeping bags come in two basic shapes: the rectangle and the mummy bag, and depending on how you sleep determines what type you'll buy. For colder weather, the mummy bag is better because it's less air to warm, and it's a bit lighter than the rectangle bag. With the rectangle bag, you can zip two together to have a bigger bag that two people can sleep in. L.L.Bean sleeping bags fit the needs of their customers and their recreational activities.

L.L.Bean Sleeping Bag
L.L.Bean offers a large assortment of sleeping bags. This is the flannel lined 40 degrees or 20 degrees.
Photo from llbean.com



The L.L.Bean Locked Moose

L.L.Bean was able to find and preserve these two beautiful moose locked in battle; they died during their fight. They are located at the Flagship store in Freeport, Maine.

Photo courtesy of Erin Anderson

L.L.Bean has a wide variety of products including men's, women's, and children's clothing, gear and accessories, footwear, outdoor gear, hunting and fishing gear, luggage, home, sale, and outdoor learning activities that they offer. My family has been buying and using L.L.Bean products for over 40 years, and they have always been top-notch and effective products. A tent that my family owns is over 20 years old, and we still use it for camping. Also, whenever we needed something repaired, the company would repair it or would replace it by giving us a gift card for the value of the item to buy another, or to buy something else from one of their stores. Personally, I give L.L.Bean a 5 out of 5 stars for their products and making sure that all of their customers are satisfied with their services. Check them out at llbean.com or their closest store at 60 Eastview Mall Dr, Victor, NY 14564.



Reading Be-Twain the Lines

By **Madison McCormick** Copy Editor

Samuel Clemens - a name that strikes no response in most people; Mark Twain - a recognizable name. What do Clemens and Twain have in common? Everything. They are one and the same. Beloved author Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens on November 30, 1835 in Missouri. Twain started out in the literary industry as a printer and editorial assistant at *Hannibal Western Union*, his only brother Orion's newspaper. At the age of 23, Twain became a licensed steamboat pilot. The Civil War started two years later and Twain was no longer able to make a living being a pilot. Though his piloting days were short, the impact it had on his life was great; Clemens' pen name, Mark Twain, means "mark number two," which is twelve feet - a safe depth for a steamboat to travel. The first time Clemens signed his name Twain was in 1863, while working for the *Virginia City Territorial Enterprise* earning \$25 a week - today's equivalent of \$465.

Twain moved to San Francisco in 1864 and worked for different newspapers. It wasn't until a year later that Twain first received fame with his short story, *Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog*, published by New York's *Saturday Press*. *Innocents*

Abroad was Twain's first novel, created after being a travel writer for the San Francisco *Alto California*. The book was a rework of his short stories about his journeys.

Twain's connection to Elmira, NY is not one of a place of birth or death, but instead of a place where greatness occurred. While living in Hartford, Connecticut with his family, Twain and his family would often spend their summers with Twain's sister-in-law Susan in Elmira. Susan had a study built for Twain where many of his major works were penned, such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

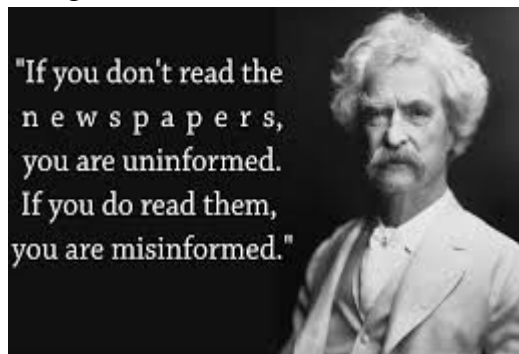
Tom Sawyer is arguably Twain's most recognizable character and book. What many people do not know, however, is that Sawyer was very loosely based on a real man - Tom Sawyer. The real Tom Sawyer was a customs inspector, fireman, and local hero. On February 16, 1853, the steamer *Independence* hit a reef, was caught against rocks, and subsequently burst into flames. Sawyer was a good swimmer and made multiple trips to the shore with passengers on his back; altogether, he

helped save 90 people, 26 of them single-handedly. According to *Smithsonian.com*, Twain told Sawyer, "I'm going to write a book about a boy, and the kind I have in mind was just about the toughest boy in the world. Tom, he was just such a boy as you must have been." Sawyer made appearances in other Twain novels as well, such as *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Tom Sawyer Abroad*, and *Tom Sawyer, Detective*, as well as three other unfinished works. This June marks the 141st anniversary of the first appearance of Sawyer, one of America's most beloved characters.

Mark Twain led a fascinating life, and perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of his existence were the coincidences involving his birth and death. Twain was born on November 30, 1835, two weeks after Halley's Comet. In 1909 Twain stated "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said,... 'they came in together, they must go out together.'" Twain got his wish and died on April 21, 1910, one day after the comet's next return.



The Study Twain's study resembles a Mississippi steamboat pilot house. A unique feature of the study is that it has cat doors on it. The study currently sits on the Elmira College campus, its home since 1952. Photo Courtesy of Madison McCormick



The Author "Ole missis, she tole me I got to go an' git dis water an' not stop foolin' roun' wid anybody." One thing Twain's writing was known for was the use of dialect, accurate to the time and place of his novel. Photo from openclipart.com



The Grave Twain is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira. Many people put things on the grave such as pennies, cigars, and liquor bottles. For more information on Twain, visit cmgww.com/twain. Photo Courtesy of Madison McCormick



Father's Day



By: **Brendan Walsh - Editor-In-Chief**

Last issue I wrote an article on Mother's Day, asking a few teachers what their dream Mother's Day would be. So, since Father's Day takes place this month, on June 18, I thought it would be appropriate to ask the same questions to some fathers around the school, and see what their dream Father's Day would be. If you didn't read my article last issue, then you probably aren't reading this one either, and I won't go into any more details about my last article. If you are reading this though, and didn't read the last one, then I encourage you to go back and take a look! For the same reasons as before, proximity and availability, I have decided to interview Mr. Steve Donlon, Mr. McAneney, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Rech. I first asked them, "What would your dream Father's Day be?" and then, "What is a typical Father's Day for you?" I also asked the probability that their dream day comes true. Here is what I found out.

Mr. Donlon's Dream Father's Day - Chance: 14% (Due to kids fighting)

Perfect Father's Day:

- Spend day with kids and wife at cabin in Hartsville
- Sun shining, optimal temperature of 76 degrees, warm but not hot
- Play games outdoors and have fun
- KIDS DON'T FIGHT AT ALL, ALL DAY
- At night, tell stories, play trivia around a campfire

Typical Father's Day:

- May go to cabin
- May be too hot or too cold
- Kids will fight
- Still be okay



Mr. Mac's Dream Father's Day - Chance: 85%

Perfect Father's Day:

- Go to breakfast with boys and wife
- Adventure/walk at Stony Brook
- Movie together or other family activity
- Lunch out somewhere special
- Wife/kids make a good dinner
- See Father and spend some of the day with him

Typical Father's Day:

- Eat breakfast out
- Family activities
- See Father and go to lunch with Father and boys





Father's Day

Cont'd:

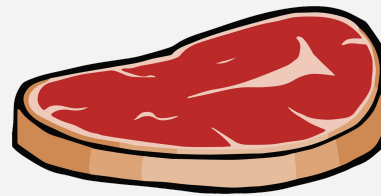
Mr. Turner's Dream Father's Day - Chance: <5% (Father in Florida), otherwise 95%

Perfect Father's Day:

- Spend time with his father
- Spend time with children and wife outdoors
- Kick or throw ball, or other athletic activities
- Grilled meat and his recliner are very important

Typical Father's Day:

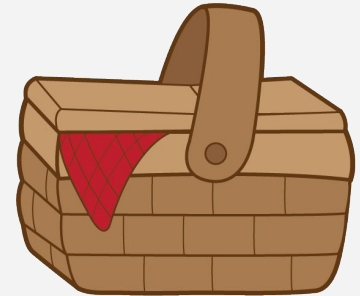
- Cards, both homemade and bought
- Plenty of affection
- Gather with Mrs. Turner's side of the family



Mr. Rech's Dream Father's Day - Chance: 50%

Perfect Father's Day:

- Family day at state park, with a picnic and a cookout
- Yard games
- Sunny day with cool breeze
- Homemade cupcakes decorated by kids
- Cookies and Cream ice cream
- A cup of Jamaican Me Crazy coffee



Typical Father's Day:

- Hang out at home with cookout in backyard (Family BBQ: Sausage with peppers and onions)
- Sometimes Father in law comes up

As I had thought, the responses of the fathers were quite different from those of some of the mothers I talked to. But nonetheless, I hope that Mother's Day was great for all of them, and I hope Father's Day is great for all of those dads out there. Celebrate with a cookout, a trip to the lake, or whatever you like to do on your spare time. And to all of the kids, give your dad a good day. He does a lot and cares a lot, so show him you care too! So Happy Father's Day to all those dads out there, and keep doing a good job!

Gift Ideas for Dad

- A gift card to his favorite store
- A card/something hand made
- Make him breakfast or dinner
- Help him with a project
- Does he need a new tool?
- Whatever he wants!



IT'S CONCERT SEASON

By Abbey Swackhamer Copy Editor

Do you love music and are hoping to have an exciting summer?
Here's the ultimate list of summer concerts in Western NY:



6/16: Florida Georgia Line, Nelly & Chris Lane
Darien Lake - 7pm



7/21: Foreigner and Cheap Trick
Darien Lake - 7pm

6/20: Train, OAR & Natasha Bedingfield
Darien Lake - 7pm

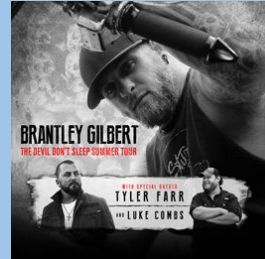


7/25: OneRepublic
Darien Lake - 7pm



6/25: Zac Brown Band
Darien Lake - 7pm

7/30: Brantley Gilbert
Darien Lake - 7pm



6/29: Third Eye Blind
Darien Lake - 7:30 pm



8/2: Kings of Leon
Darien Lake - 7pm



7/12: Nickelback
Darien Lake - 6 pm

8/4: Dierks Bentley, Cole Swindell & Jon Pardi
Darien Lake - 7pm



8/27: John Mayer
Darien Lake - 7pm



8/12: Goo Goo Dolls and Phillip Phillips
Darien Lake - 8 pm





IT'S CONCERT SEASON CONTINUED



8/10: Lady Antebellum
Darien Lake - 7:30pm
Photo from darienlake.com/concerts

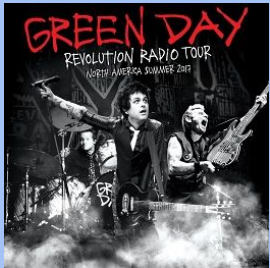
8/16: Guns N' Roses
New Era Field, Orchard Park
7 pm
Photo from gunsroses.com



7/13: Warped Tour
Darien Lake - 11am
Photo from darienlake.com/concerts

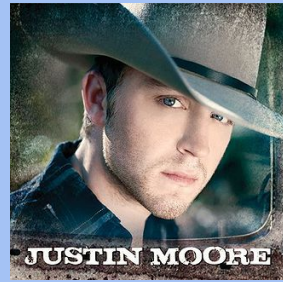


8/19: KISS
Seneca Niagara Casino - 8pm
Photo from pinterest.com

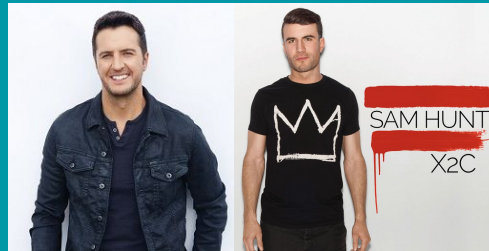


8/26: Green Day
Darien Lake - 7pm
Photo from darienlake.com/concerts

**6/10: Justin Moore and
Randy Houser**
Coca-Cola Field, Buffalo
7pm
Photo from wikipedia.com



8/25: Luke Bryan
Darien Lake - 7pm
Photo from darienlake.com/concerts



7/23: Sam Hunt
CMAC, Canandaigua - 7pm
Photo from umgnashville.com



6/21: Journey and Asia
Blue Cross Arena, Buffalo -
7:30pm
Photo from journeymusic.com

6/21: Steve Miller Band
CMAC, Canandaigua - 7pm
Photo from iheartradio.com



**6/23: New Kids
on the Block**
KeyBank Center,
Buffalo - 7:30pm
Photo from etonline.com



**7/2: Tom Petty and
the Heartbreakers**
CMAC, Canandaigua -
7:30pm
Photo from cmacevents.com



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you **Mr. Levey** for helping the Senior Class Survive the past six years. - Jessica F.

Thank you to **Mr. Bialecki and Miss Karr** for making the many years of chorus and band so wonderful! College won't be the same without the music community that we have known the past few years. - Madge C.

Mrs Williams would like to congratulate the **Journalism class** on their impressive work throughout the year. Every newspaper has been both informative and entertaining. Great job! - Mrs. Williams

Kudos to **Mrs. Sprague** for the last 23 years! Good luck! Good fortune! Good fun! ~Mrs. Donius

Thank your **Mr. Dwyer and Mrs. Bialecki** for all your work to make the special Olympics a great day! Your enthusiasm and energy is contagious! ~ Mrs. Palmer

Thank you **Mrs. Flint, Mrs. Conklin, and Mrs. Smith** for helping and chaperoning the Special Olympics and keeping everyone organized. Your positivity and encouragement is greatly appreciated! ~ Mrs. Palmer

Thank you **Kalista and Aidan Looney** for volunteering your time at the Special Olympics and working with students! ~ Mrs. Palmer

All the **Athletes that participated in Special Olympics** and represented Alfred Almond beautifully, I am very proud of you all! ~Mrs. Palmer

Thank you to all of the **teachers and faculty** for leaving a great impact on the class of 2017! - Abbey S.

Thank you **Mr. Cook** for helping create a successful track team this year. - Brendan W.

Thank you **Buffalo** for an unplugged week here at A-A. - Jack C.

Thank you to all the **teachers, coaches, and faculty** who have helped the class of 2017 grow and become who we are. - Janu P.

By Charles Elliott
Staff Writer