



# HORNET TIMES

## WINTER HOLIDAY EDITION

2011

Volume 3, issue 1

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## Winter Holidays of Plenty

By: Morgan Heck

In America, during the month of December, many of us celebrate Christmas. To us, it's all about getting presents, meeting Santa, and going shopping. We have dinners and get togethers, hang out with family, and make cookies. Many celebrate it because it's Jesus' birthday. Some Americans celebrate the holidays of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.



Hanukkah is a



Jewish holiday that lasts eight days during the month of December. This holiday is all about remembering the victory of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. Dur-

ing the eight days of Hanukkah celebrants light the Menorah, adding one candle each night. Many families open a present each night, but some wait until the last night.

Kwanzaa, meaning "First Fruits" in the Swahili language, is an African American holiday that lasts for seven days during December. It's a celebration of the African American people, culture, and values. Their celebrations include festive dinners, stories, clothing, songs, decorations and the lighting of seven candles; one for each day of the holiday. Each of the candles represents one of the holiday's seven principles: Unity, Self Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.



### Inside this issue:

School News	1
Editorials	2
Feature Stories	3-4
Sports	5-6
Feature Stories	7-8
Entertainment	9
Fun Page	10

## No Spring Sports?

By: Kinser Sebastian

Monroe might not have a spring sports program for the 2011 season.

This rumor was spread earlier this month, and many athletes worried that their sport may not be available this year. Many of you may already have some idea about what is going on, but to clear up any misunderstanding, I spoke with Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Lolli about the issue.

"At this point in time spring sports are not being cut. With that being said, a few changes will occur," she said. These changes will affect the baseball and men's volleyball programs. The school no longer has the grant used to fund men's volleyball, so it will no longer be a school sport. However, "If parents want to fully fund the program, the District would permit the team to use the gymnasium for their games." The parents can contact the Athletic Director for more information.

Also, the district will no longer have a freshman baseball team, because Franklin High School is the only other school in the SWBL with a freshman team. The JV and Varsity teams will still be around. Coach Hunt did not address the situation with the freshman team at the November meeting. However, since there will not be a freshman team, underclassmen baseball players should be warned that there will be heavy competition for spots on the JV and Varsity teams.

Otherwise, everything will stay the same.

# Stuff Those Socks!

By: Eric Stone

Tis the season for Christmas! Those of you who need that stocking stuffer for that special someone or family member fear not for here at the Monroe High School Newspaper have your back. The best locations to find many good gifts for guys are Target and Kohls. They have a section just for men's stocking stuffers! The items available include laser pointers, heated ice scrapers, mini foosball tables, cartoon boxers and many more. For those looking for that special lady or mom the options are limitless. The

best gifts for mothers or grandmothers are something with sentimental value try going to HobbyLobby to make something or just find something that the person would enjoy. The best stores to shop at for girl stocking stuffers would be Bath and Body Works, Sallys, and Claires. Those who are looking for something a little different or with that "it" factor should visit gifts.com. This website truly has it all from iPod accessories that make your iPod look like an arcade game to mustaches for your finger.



# What Not to Wear: 2011

By: Max Agee

As far as fashion goes for this year, I don't know much about anything. But I do know what looks classy and what looks tacky. I see around school some of this "fashion" and, I just wonder how some parents let their kid out of the house.

First off, this goes for guys as well as girls: If your pants are too big, wear a belt. It's not that hard, nobody wants to see your underwear. I know the sagging trend is "in" but I just don't find it attractive for either gender. Wear a belt people!

For guys, I think that if you are going to wear a dress shirt, don't wear jeans and tennis shoes. People will look at your appearance and just wonder what went wrong. If you're going to dress up for any occasion, wear dress pants and dress shoes. It will make your appearance ten times better. Also some guys are into popping their collars on their dress shirts, and I'm not sure I agree with that either. Just look classy if you are going to dress up is all I am saying.

For girls, personally I don't find all Ugg boots attractive, but some of them are. Others look like the feet and legs on animals, and that's probably about it. I think the black ones are purely hideous. Now if you wear these, I do not think you are hideous. I promise, just the boots. Maybe try some moccasins or slippers, they add comfort and look good.



# Walking in a Winter Wonderland

By: Thea Curlis

Christmas, hot cocoa, and New Years Eve parties are all the things that people associate with the winter season. Those are the only appealing factors about winter to me, though. If it were up to me, I would rather have the warm weather until a week before Christmas break, then let it snow for a little bit and let it have Christmas day all snowy and pretty. Then I would be fine if the weather warmed back up again. Personally, I hate being cold. The only beautiful thing about winter is the snow, but that gets old too quickly. I love the first time that it snows but after a while all the snow stops being interesting to look at and turns into a hassle to drive through and shovel out of your driveway. The worst part of winter, for me, has to be at the start of the New Year. There are no more holidays and everyone goes back to their normal lives, but it's still so cold and icy. The problem is that it doesn't feel like Christmas to me without it being snowy and cold. Don't get me wrong, I think that winter is beautiful for the holidays, but I just can't



# Last Christmas

By: Tyler Sibert

For the last five or more years people have been making an extraordinarily large deal about the "2012 Apocalypse." If you're unaware of this, let me give you a little background. Thousands of years ago there was a civilization known as the Mayans. The Mayan people were the most advanced civilization of their era. This particular society was one of the societies to have a mathematics system and the only to have a full-on and well developed writing system. They also made huge advances in astronomy thousands of years prior to the thought of inventing a telescope. Basically, the Mayans were geniuses.

In the past, I have done a load of research on whether or not this year's Christmas could, in fact, be our last. The possibility of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 being the last day for the world has the same possibility of any other day in that particular year; 1 out of 365. Whether or not you believe this, there is a lot of research that both proves and dis-

proves it. I think it's all a bunch of baloney. The Mayans used "b'ak'tuns" to count a cycle of 144,000 days. Next December marks the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> b'ak'tun, and the end of the Mayan calendar. In other words, the Mayans got tired of making a calendar after 1,872,000 days. The end of this b'ak'tun has been publicized to be the end of the world due to the fact that it's the end of the Mayan's calendar. Another big theory, the real scientific one, is that there is a strange alignment with the center of the Earth's equator and the center of the universe, and it's going to lead to some very bad chain of events. There is a bit of research that indicates that if this would've happened, it already happened in 1998 because of some complicated measurements of the Milky Way's equator. In other words, this is all purely speculation and basically opinion. It's guessing, just like all science is. To answer the question "Is it the last Christmas ever?" The answer is most likely going to be "no."

# Skyrim

By: Eric Sto

While *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* received the most hype for its release, it falls in comparison to the game play of *Elder Scrolls V*



:*Skyrim*. This game allows you to do anything your heart desires in a medieval world. The game play is simply amazing with the ability to

fight with everything from magical fire to fighting with a sword and shield. You can spend a couple weeks trying to beat the major quest or hunt and live in your house. Those who want to feel some sense of accomplishment can perform an endless array of tasks. There is no game better in any part of game play on the market. There is already a talk of it being the greatest role-playing game of all time. On top of all of these amazing features, is a great soundtrack and amazing scenery and detail. This only scratches the surface of what can be accomplished while playing this amazing game.

# Santa! I Know Him!

By: Kayla Mulvihill

Santa is coming! There is so much to do! The shopping, baking, all the relatives, and wrapping presents.



But what about those who aren't in the Christmas spirit yet? The 25<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner! If this is you, don't worry. I prepared a list for you to follow if you

need just a little bit more Christmas spirit.

1. Decorate! Putting up the tree is the most important decoration.
2. Listen to Christmas music!
3. Bake Christmas cookies!
4. Go to the zoo! There is a light show that you have to see!
5. Go Christmas shopping.
6. Watch as many Christmas movies as possible. 25 Days of Christmas says it all.
7. Learn the real meaning of Christmas.
8. Be jolly!
9. Go ice skating! Even if you can't, it's still fun.
10. Drink hot chocolate! It's like Christmas in a cup!
11. BE ON THE NICE LIST! It's the most important rule of all!



If you follow those eleven rules, I promise you will be in the Christmas spirit!

# Student of the Month: Tyler Trippel

By: Thea Curlis

One student at Monroe has made a huge impact on, not only our school, but also in the state of Ohio. Tyler Trippel, senior, was elected president of the Ohio Business Professionals of America.

This process started in October with a trip to Columbus regarding his state office qualifications. He then decided to run for the president of the Ohio BPA. Trippel gave a speech on November 11<sup>th</sup> to 2,300 young people from all over Ohio on why he wanted to be their president. Even though his speech went very well, and he had a catchy slogan “Start the ripple, vote for Trippel”, Trippel says that he owes a lot of success to his campaign manager, Andrew Harrison. Harrison is also a senior at Monroe. He says about Harrison, “To be honest, were it not for his sacrifices and willingness to do whatever it took to help me out, I probably would not have won the election”.

Trippel’s first meeting as Ohio BPA president is December 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. When asked how he felt about his suc-

cess he said, “I am looking forward to leading Ohio the best I can, and I am also excited to announce that I will be running to be the next national president for BPA in the spring”. We should all be very proud of Tyler Trippel and his achievements this year.

Tyler Trippel with his trophy for being elected Ohio BPA president



# Winter Driving Tips for Noobs

By: Jordan Abner



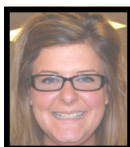
The most dreaded time of the year for drivers is coming up soon-- winter. This will be the very first winter for many sophomores, juniors, and the rare senior (Kevin Sloneker) with their drivers’ licenses. As a two year driving vet, I have compiled some helpful tips that will help you rookies get through this winter.

The best tip that I can give you to help you get to school on time is to take an extra five minutes to scrape any ice from your windshield, turn on your defrosters, and let your car heat up. I cannot tell you how many times I had to drive to school half blind because I didn’t take the time to let my defrosters kick in. Another tip I have is to drive slow, even when there’s no snow. You can be driving down a seemingly clear street, and then, Bam! Black ice attacks! Next thing you know, you spin out of control and destroy an innocent snowman.

# Snow Days: Then and Now

By: Tiffany O’Rick

**Mr. Ward**- “I slept in and then played video games. Sometimes went outside.”



**Mrs. Warren**- “My friends and I would all get together and get Starbucks. Then we’d bundle up and sled down the huge hill. After that we’d watch movies.”

**Mr. Farrish**- “I played football with friends



behind Amanda Junior High School.”



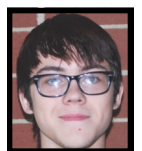
**Courtney Patrick**- “I usually bake snickerdoodles or make igloo building attempts outside.”



**Nick Stansell**- “Snowball fight in the park!”



**Kenzie Muehlenhard**- “I sleep in, play in the snow and sled.”

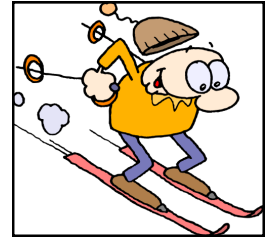


# Christmas Activities

By: Reegan Reece

It's Christmas time! So guess what that means? Lots of fun Christmas-y activities to do! I know the first thing people think when Christmas comes to mind is going to look at the lights, because I do, too. But, there are so many fun events going on in the Cincinnati and Dayton area that you and your friends or family could check out. Below are five things that you could do with your family or friends this holiday season.

1. Ice skating at Goggin Arena at Miami University (December 23-30, 2011)
2. Carriage Rides in Cincinnati
3. Christmas Trains at Natural History Museum in Cincinnati
4. The Nutcracker Ballet at the Aronoff Center for the Arts December 15-24, 2011.
5. Go sledding when it snows!



## Santa Isn't Real?

By: Yousef Shahwan

We interviewed students asking how they found out that Santa Claus wasn't real. Here are a few of their funny stories!

**Logan Cope-** My house didn't have a chimney, so I asked my mom how Santa came in. She said he came through the back door. I stayed up all night waiting for him to walk through that door. He didn't.

**Jacob Stowe-** Wait, Santa *isn't* real?!

**Courtney Hartman-** I caught my mom putting presents under the tree, she yelled at me to go back upstairs. The next day she told me that Santa isn't real, and the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy are fake too..

**Steve Haven-** The mall Santa told me.

**Jake Little-** Caught my dad eating the cookies I left out

## Teachers' Favorite Childhood Gifts

By: Yousef Shahwan

Ever wondered what our teachers got for Christmas? Definitely wasn't an Xbox 360 or an iPad. More like...

**Mr. Wilhelm-** BMX bike

**Mr. Ward-** punching bag

**Mrs. Ames-** a microscope

**Mr. McNally-** Nintendo 64

**Mrs. Mueller-** Cocker Spaniel puppy

**Mr. Burklow-** AM Radio building kit



# Sweet Tooth

By: Noel Thompson

Make your Christmas holiday even sweeter with these tasty desserts.

- Almond truffles
- Christmas cookies
- Fudge
- Apple and cherry pies
- Gingerbread men
- Buckeyes

- Cheesecakes
- Puddings
- Fruitcakes

## Holiday Wreath Sugar Cookies

Prep Time: 30 min  
 Cook Time: 14 min  
 Cook Temp: 350 degrees  
 Yield: 8 large cookies

### Ingredients:

- 1 (17.5 oz) package Pillsbury Funfetti Holiday Cookie Mix
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 1 (13 oz) can Pillsbury Easy Frost Holiday Vanilla Flavored No-Fuss Frosting



# New Year's Eve Traditions

Believe it or not, 2012 is almost here. Around the world many people ring in the New Year in many ways. Here are a few traditions that are practiced around the world every New Year. Making New Year resolutions is a tradition that dates back to the early Babylonians. It could be something like wanting to work out more or eat healthier. Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. People think that eating food in the shape of circles is good luck because it stands for things coming full circle. The Dutch eat donuts every New Year for this reason. It is also thought to be good luck to celebrate the first few moments of the New Year in the company of good friends and family. The eating of sauerkraut is thought to be good luck and is to be eaten with your first meal of New Years. The toasting of champagne is a tradition that originated with the ancient Greeks. There are thousands of traditions around the world, and it would be hard to name all of them. Hopefully, you get some ideas about how to make your New Year's even better.

# New Year's Resolutions

Despite the uncharacteristic weather for the season, the holidays are approaching rapidly. The holiday season, as you all know, welcomes the New Year. Many people set new goals for themselves for the upcoming year, such as losing weight or going on some bogus diet that lasts halfway through January. Some kids at Monroe have resolutions of their own. Here are some of the most creative ones I found.



- Dakota Dabney** - Help Kinser get buff
  - Jeremiah Vires** – Achieve lumberjack status with my beard
  - Jonathan Caudell** – Continue being diabetic
  - Danny Robertson** – Convert to Islam
  - Curtis Turner** – Get taller
  - Christian Parker** – Finally change my underpants
  - Matt Thorpe** – Get a date to prom
  - Linsey Mays** – Get a boyfriend
- Thank you, Dakota. And Matt and Linsey, could it be a sign? Happy New Year's everybody!

# 2011 NCAA Football Bowl Predictions

By: Jordan Abner

It's the most wonderful time of the year... college football bowl season! This year has some very interesting matchups, as well as more BCS controversy. Here are my takes on this year's BCS bowl games.

**Sugar Bowl-** (11)Virginia Tech vs. (13)Michigan- Michigan shouldn't even be in a BCS bowl with a number 13 ranking, in my opinion. I predict that the Hokies will beat Brady Hoke and the Wolverines, based purely on the fact that as an Ohio State fan I hate Michigan.



**Orange Bowl-** (23)West Virginia vs. (15)Clemson- Neither one of these teams deserve to be in this game. The Big East and ACC aren't good enough to have an automatic BCS bid. However, I think that West Va. won't be able to stop Taj Boyd, and Clemson will win in a shootout.



**Rose Bowl-** (5)Oregon vs. (10)Wisconsin- This is an interesting matchup of Oregon's spread against Wisconsin's power running game. I believe that Wisconsin is a better two-dimensional offense and will pull off an impressive win.

**Fiesta Bowl-** (3) Oklahoma State vs. (4)Stanford- These teams could possibly be the two best offenses in college football. I will give the edge to Stanford, because they have a certain QB named Andrew Luck.

## There's A New Coach In Hornet Country!

By: Reegan Reece

Sonya Beeler has been all over the United States, but has now chosen to settle in Monroe as the new head women's basketball coach. Before coming to Monroe, she was a coach at Spartanburg Methodist College (S.C.), and was also a sports announcer for the ESPN Golf Channel. She recently decided that she wanted to come back to the Ohio/Kentucky area with her son, Clarke, to be closer to her family. However, Beeler did not stop her coaching career upon her return. She became JV coach at Reading High School in the Cincinnati area, while continuing her job as a sports broadcaster for CNN Sports. Sonya is now coaching the Lady Hornets, after taking over for two year head coach, Krista Doan. "I like to face challenges, and even though there is still a lot of work to do, I see a lot of potential in these girls."

## Different Winter

By Morgan Heck

**Skiing:** a recreational activity using skis as equipment for traveling over snow. Different types are: cross country, ski-jumping, and telemark. Competition skiing is Alpine skiing. It's done in snowy mountains where the snow is tended and there is a ski lift. It involves speed and tight turns. You race against the clock, the person with the fastest time wins.

**Snowboarding:** going over snow on a board where your feet are buckled in. You do tricks like jumps and flips to get points. It is scored on a scale of 0.1 to 10.0 by a panel of five judges. Judges score standardized moves, amplitude, quality of rotations, and overall impression. Falls and other mistakes lead to deductions.

**Figure Skating:** where pairs, individuals or groups perform spins, jumps, footwork, and other challenging moves on ice skates. They're scored on each of these skills and points are deducted for mistakes.

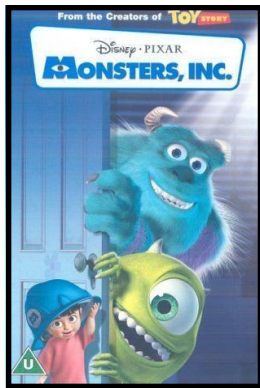
**Ice Hockey:** players play on ice wearing skates, padding and helmets. They shoot a hard rubber puck into the goal using their wooden sticks. Five men plus a goalie play on the ice at one time. The team who scores the most goals wins.



# Countdown to Christ-

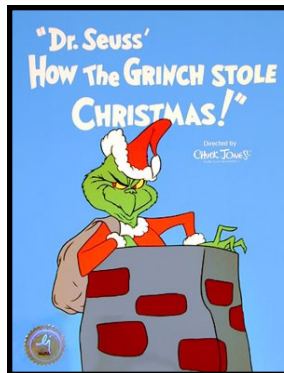
By: Taylor Moore

Beginning at the end of November and early December, television channels start showing Christmas movies. Lifetime and Hallmark have started showing their Christmas movies already. If you go online to Hallmark, they have a complete listing of the movies they will be showing and different activities you can do for the holiday season.



If you aren't able to watch them on the TV, you can watch all the movies online. You can watch different Christmas movies on Lifetime as well; they started playing on November 25.

A more popular channel for the Christmas countdowns is ABC Family. They air Christmas movies through December 30. But they don't just show Christmas movies, they also show movies like *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, *Monsters INC.*, and *WALL-E*. They run Christmas movies through the 25. ABC Family shows classic movies like *Home Alone*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *The Santa Clause*. Other channels like USA, AMC, CBS, NBC, and FX are showing a few Christmas movies, but these stations do not have a countdowns or an all-day Christmas event. Be sure to tune into these channels if you'd like to watch some of your favorite Christmas movies this holiday season!



## Reindeer Extrava-

By: Taylor Moore

Pictures by: Tiffany O'Rick

Friday, December 2, the newspaper class had a competition in which they made reindeer out of their hands and feet.



Making a reindeer from your hands and feet

does sound a little strange, but it's actually really simple. You trace your foot on a piece of paper and cut it out-- that's used for the reindeer's head.



Then, you trace both of your hands and use them for the antlers. You then glue the antlers to the top of the face and decorate the face and antlers however you'd like. After the class made their

reindeer, they took them to Mrs. Warren's class to be judged. The class had three to pick from, and Max's and my reindeer won. It's a very fun activity to do, so feel free to try it out!



## Light Up Your Christmas!

By: Noel Thompson



There are many opportunities to view the Christmas lights this year. So gather the family, load up the car and enjoy the many light shows around our area. You can stop by the Wild Lights at the Columbus Zoo. There are 2.5 million lights that sparkle in the background of special holiday entertainment: carolers, children's activities, reindeer, train rides and seasonal food. You also may want to drive through Middletown's fantasy light display, Light up Middletown. Niederman Christmas Farm is a free walk-through Christmas display. Visitors can enjoy tens of thousands of lights that illuminate the path. They may also help themselves to free cookies and delicious hot cocoa. Want to see a winter wonderland with more than 3.6 million lights? Go to Legendary Lights at the Clifton Mill. There is a 100 foot waterfall of twinkling lights. You can stop by Santa's Workshop too. Try out one of these amazing light shows ;you will have the time of your life!

## The Next Must See!

by: Kayla Mulvihill

The next must see movie of the season is *New Year's Eve*. It comes to theaters on December 9th and is rated PG-13.

*New Year's Eve* is a romantic comedy and has intertwined stories of fresh starts, forgiveness, second chances, hope, love; and of course, the biggest party place in the U.S on



director, Garry Marshall.

If you liked Valentines Day, you'll love New Year's Eve.

Here are some of the people you may know in the movie:

Ashton

Kutcher

Robert De Niro

Josh Duhamel

Katherine Heigl

Zac Efron

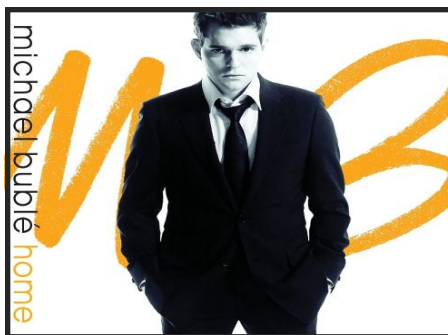
*New Year's Eve*: New York City.

*New Year's Eve* is a sequel to the 2010 movie, *Valentines Day*. They both have some of the same actors and the same

## Holiday Music Mashup!

By: Ethan Cox

'Tis the season to bring out the holiday music. Depending on your opinion, you either love or hate the overwhelming bombardment of holiday music on every radio station. But on the bright side, new artists make new albums every year...of the same music. So here are a few new albums that are topping the holiday charts this year. First off, Michael Bulbe is topping the charts this



year with an album simply titled *Christmas*. Scott Weiland, former Stone Temple Pilots frontman released a Christmas album bringing his grungy rock and roll sound to Christmas. YAY! Also Justin Bieber came out with his first holiday album titled *Under the Mistletoe*. I do not recommend this. Don't ask why, just don't buy it. So hopefully, this review will help you pick

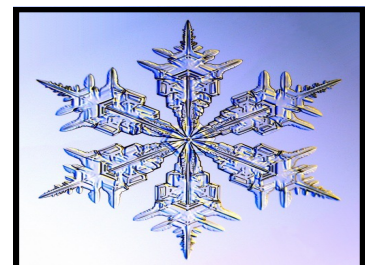
a holiday classic that you will be able to enjoy for years to come.



## 25 Things to do with Snow!

by: Max Agee

- 1) Make a snowman
- 2) Make an igloo
- 3) Go sledding
- 4) Eat it!
- 5) Snow angels
- 6) Snowball fight
- 7) Get stuck on the side of the road (in your car)
- 8) Cross country skiing
- 9) Catch snowflakes with your tongue
- 10) Snow days!
- 11) Iditarod racing
- 12) Snow blowers
- 13) Snow castles
- 14) Snow cones
- 15) Snow tubing
- 16) Icicles
- 17) Winter X Games
- 18) Flight delays
- 19) House Eskimos
- 20) 4 wheel drive
- 21) Ugly Christmas sweaters
- 22) Cold nights
- 23) Bobsled
- 24) Wet shoes
- 25) Ruin carpets





# Sally Bothers McNally

STARRING: Alexander Salatin and Mr. McNally

**Sally:** Who was your high school sweetheart?

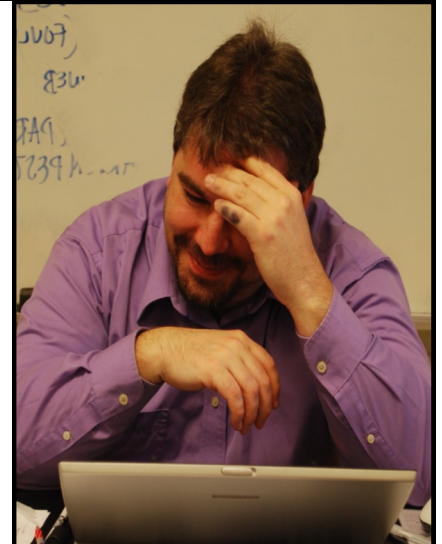
**McNally:** Well, that's kinda...  
personal isn't it? Can I just give a first name? ...Heather.

**Sally:** What color are your socks?

**McNally:** Black.

**Sally:** Did you ever have a pet goldfish?

**McNally:** Yes.



## YOUSEF & KINSER'S CRITIQUE CORNER

**Topic A: People who complain about Monroe drama.**

**Yousef:** Imagine Middletown's drama...

**Kinser:** Solution to your problem: quit starting drama.

**Topic B: Christmas music.**

**Yousef:** I absolutely hate it. It's corny and annoying. I'd honestly rather listen to the Jonas Brothers.

**Kinser:** Yousefs an idiot. Christmas music is awesome. Just don't play it before Thanksgiving.

**Special Guest Tyler Sibert:** It suc-

## Timmy's Tales

STARRING: Timothy Lantrip

*All work presented here is completely fiction.  
Only a fool would take this seriously.*



Once upon a time, I was in prison and some guy said "Hi" to me wrong.

So I got really mad. I'm talking about super mad.

So as soon as I got out of jail, I head-butted his mom.

**The moral of this story is:**

Don't look at people funny. They might head-butt your mom.