

# G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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## Deck the Halls: A Monumental Christmas

By Stephanie Nelson

On November 22, the Capitol building became a little bit brighter. Greenery was set at new heights, and decorations were placed on some of the most exquisite branches. Many eyes were gazing upon these twinkling triangles in awe. And yes, they were indeed looking at the Capitol Christmas trees that have arrived and are up.

This year the Capitol is home to almost 90 trees. The biggest and most well-known tree each year in the Capitol is the South Dakota tree. This year's tree is a Colorado blue spruce from



Christmas trees at the Capitol. (Chad Coppess)

Huron that is 29 feet tall. The blue spruce was decorated by The Mount Rushmore Society. This year is not only

the 36th year of the Capitol trees, but the 75th year of Mount Rushmore. That being said, the Capitol Christmas committee has declared this year a Monumental Christmas at the Capitol.

The Capitol is open for viewing everyday from 8 am to 10 pm until December 26. There are also many music events throughout this next month, including T.F. Riggs bands and choirs. The Jazz Band performs on December 9 from 12 pm to 1 pm. The choirs will also fill the halls of the

Capitol on December 16, also from 12 pm to 1 pm.

If you do not, however, have an open during those times, there is yet another awesome event. On December 4, from 3 to 3:30 pm, T.F. Riggs's own Kaylee and Frank Becker will be performing. They will be playing piano, violin and the African djembes. It will be an awesome performance to hear!

The Capitol trees are definitely something that the community of Pierre should take advantage of. It is such an amazing holiday display, and it truly is a winter wonderland.

## The Bullies, Bullied and Bystanders

By Madelyn Nadeau

The fear and intimidation that comes from bullying is not an unknown feeling. With so many parts to bullying, it is hard to be aware of it all. As a prominent figure at Riggs, Principal Coverdale shared his perspective on this topic.

"I would certainly say we have to do everything to prevent it," Coverdale said. "When it happens, obviously we deal with the people involved, like justice for the vic-

tim, and a learning experience for the bully. It depends on the severity. However, not all student conflict is bullying. Sometimes it's simply conflict.

"Bullying is when one or more individuals have power and use it to harm another without that power. So much bullying happens through social media, and it's so subtle. We try to pull in the bully and simply tell them to stop. About 85% of the time that works. Other times it can lead to detention

or suspension. However, if it becomes more severe, that's when it can become legal. If we feel that laws were broken, then we'll turn it to the resource officer.

"Bullying is a terrible thing. [It] can cause students to feel scared and anxious and not want to go to school. It's a huge challenge and a very sad thing that's happening to kids that makes them feel like their life isn't important."

Coverdale also commented on what someone could do if

they saw bullying, or how to prevent it.

"Bystanders have just as much power, but don't seem to use it. It takes some empathy and courage, strength of character to stand up and say it isn't right. It's hard and scary. But if everyone who witnessed bullying would stand up and assert themselves, it would be a lot better and have a huge impact.

"And if I could, I would probably just ask any bullies to try to see the situa-

tion through the other person's eyes, and understand what it would be like to be the other person.

"And to those who are being bullied, you've got to tell somebody. Talk to a counselor, teacher, principal. You're not alone; lots of people in this school will help you, but you have to let us know."

Learn to recognize when bullying is happening and put a stop to it. Even though you may not feel like you are involved, you can always help.

### What's Inside...

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# Shoutouts by Steph

T.F. Riggs is home to many talented students and staff. That is, however, no surprise. But some people aren't always recognized to the full extent that they should be. So

I'm going to take this time and space in the paper to fully acknowledge some of the people who deserve it.

My first shoutout goes to Ms. Boone and the Oral Interp team. Oral Interp is without a doubt an activity that is unique

and takes a lot of time. These students put their heart into all the pieces they present, and they

obviously do a good job. If you did not look at the emails from Ms. Boone that show their success as a team, check them out. Keep up the amazing work you do

Tori Thorpe, Amanda Pugh, Kathryn Hardwick, Harrison Armstrong, Elizabeth Hopper, Raegan Winder, and Hannah Booth all took time out of their

a full Thanksgiving meal for their holiday. This year, these ladies woke up early, braved the cold, and got into the giving spirit. They went around town and delivered meals to certain families. Without people like them stepping up, our community wouldn't be as great as it is. Thank you for your time and hearts.

One small act of kindness as simple as saying hi to someone in the hall can make someone's day. One

freshman that always does this is Bailey Nelson. So my next shoutout goes to her. She always has a smile and a

greeting for everyone she meets. She brings positivity into the halls, and pretty much everywhere she goes. If

you haven't been given the privilege to experience this, go out of your way and meet her. You will not regret it. Thanks for making Riggs a better place, Bailey.

My last shoutout goes to the lady who has helped each and every one of us seniors this past month. That being said, here's a shoutout to our librarian, Mrs. Kringel. All seniors are required to write a research paper, and without the help of Mrs. Kringel, we would all be lost and without good sources. Not only did she help lead

us in the right direction when it came to selecting a topic, but she

took entire days to dedicate to

just seniors. She truly wants everyone to write the best paper they possibly can. Thank you, Mrs. Kringel!

I know there are many people that I did not put in here that should be in here. Riggs, you are awesome, and please stay that way. Make sure to appreciate the people and things around you, because you only have four years here. Let's make this the best school there can be.

## EDITORIAL



Members of the Oral Interp team this year. (Courtesy)

and best of luck at state! Secondly I would like to give a huge shoutout to seven senior ladies.

day to help others. The Pierre Area Referral Service has a program that gives families in Pierre

# A New, Unknown World

"Have you ever wondered what a human life is worth? That morning my brother's was worth a pocket watch."

*Between Shades of Gray*, written by Ruta Sepetys, is the story of Lina Vilkas and her family during their captivity in a soviet prison camp in Siberia. Near the beginning of the novel, Lina, her mother and her little brother are arrested in the middle of the night by the NKVD, the sovi-

et police. They are then put into cattle cars with many other people, and they are separated from their father with no idea as to where they are going, or even why they were arrested. They are forced to work in a labor camp in Siberia for many months, before

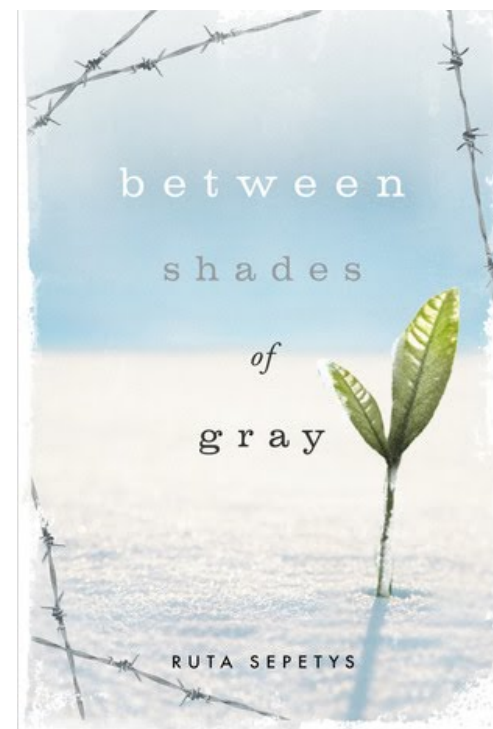
being moved to Trofimovsk, a town at the very tip of the arctic circle. There they are forced to scavenge for materials to build a hut before the arc-

tic night starts. They also have to figure out how to survive the cold with no stove, no winter gear and little to no bread rations. As sickness sets in and temperatures drop, will Lina and her family survive?

This is a book that you will not want to put down once you have started it. Sepetys's writing style is riveting and draws you into the story, immersing you in Lina's world. The details in this book make it seem like you are experiencing Lina's life first-hand, and you feel

like the characters are completely real. Sepetys also writes about a tough topic that not many people know about. Everyone has heard about Hitler's concentration camps, but Stalin's deportation of millions of innocent people in the Soviet Union is virtually unknown. This book tells the story of the deportation victims in an unforgettable way. This is a great read that you can't go wrong with!

Moina Syed  
REVIEW





## They Were Wrong: Donald Trumps Clinton

Wait, what? Donald Trump won? He bested Hillary Clinton, taking 306 to 232 electoral votes, due mostly to surprise wins in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. Those states usu-

ally lean so far to the left that they are part of what is/was known as “the blue wall.” (For all Trump’s talk about building walls, he sure reduced that one to a pile of blue-tinted, Midwestern dust.) With this surprise election, it is obvious that politics in America have changed, and that’s pretty “yuge.”

So as Hillary supporters dry their eyes in what is likely similar to the way she wiped her email servers (like with a cloth or something), and Trump supporters add a few more feet to their wall in celebration, the media is scrambling to figure out what went wrong. They all just knew Hillary would win. Hillary knew Hillary would win. Until she didn’t. So what happened? Was it James Comey’s FBI investigation, or did Trump step it up in the final

days on the campaign trail? Maybe the polls were rigged. Maybe this election was less of a Trump win, and more of a brutal rejection of political correctness that just happened to take

Clinton down with it. But what difference, at this point, does it make? Like it or not, Donald J. Trump will be the 45th president of the United States.

Regardless of your feelings during this year’s election, remember that America’s strength lies in her freedom. As a citizen, you have the right to let your voice be heard. You do not, however, have a right to harm people or property. And just because someone has a different opinion than you does not automatically mean they are racist. In fact, a rejection of this attitude is what powered the Trump train over the finish line. If everyone can come together in support of the great nation we have all been blessed with, then together we can truly make America great again— for everyone.

Amanda Pugh  
POLITICS

**Like it or not, Donald J. Trump will be the 45th President of the United States.**

## The Snowball Effect: Fashion Edition

Calling all fashionistas! Christmas is right around the corner, and in the blink of an eye, the greatest time of the year will be in full force. The snow will be falling, the sales will be calling, and with all things merry and bright it is easy to get carried away with your shopping purchases.

Overspending can be thought of as a snowball rolling down a hill. All those must-have, on sale purchases can add up quickly. With the mercury quickly plummeting, the hunt for functional and fashionable items to wear can send some fashionistas into a tailspin.

This is when impulse buys come into play. Normally impulse buys

are clothing bought because we feel like we need or want to buy something. These impulse buys sit at the back of our closets, unworn and unloved, just like that ugly Christmas sweater we all have.

*The Basic Blonde*  
ADVICE

Just like a snowman with three body sections, the keys to avoiding these impulse buys can be summarized into three easy stages. These tips will help you fight off the urge to buy unnecessary items, and in return help you build a snowman of great buys.

Tip #1: Do you like it? This may seem stupidly obvious, but some people can miss the mark on this one. Avoid buying just be-

cause you feel the need to. You should only buy an article of clothing if you truly love it. If you think you would only wear it a couple of times, skip it. Save up and buy something you can’t live without.

Tip #2: Is it practical? While this probably sounds like something your mom might say, it should definitely be considered. A general rule of thumb that I use is that if you can come up with three different outfits you can incorporate that particular item into, then it would be a good addition to your closet. If not, avoid it, especially when you can buy so many other things.

Tip #3: Is it reasonable for its price? It would be nice to live in a dream world where

we all wear designer clothing. But even for the trendiest fashionistas, this isn’t the case. Designer labels are expensive, and often not worth the money. With certain labels and items (i.e. Coach purses), you are paying for just that—the label, and not extra quality. So even though designer labels are fun to flaunt, in excess they seem to almost never add up.

Cold weather shopping shouldn’t be complicated. Although we can’t fight the impending cold, we can resist the urge to overspend this holiday season. So grab a cup of something warm and snuggle in. After all, just like rolling a huge snowball, it’s all downhill from here! Xoxo, The Basic Blonde

## Ava and Ally: Dealing with Overbearing Friends

Hi Ava & Ally,

I have this one friend that will never leave me alone! No matter how hard I try to get away from her, she just will not get the hint. In class when we have to do partner projects, she always makes me be her partner. Even to the extent of latching

*Ava and Ally*  
ADVICE

onto my arm before my other friends can get to me to be their partner. I love her to death, but she really gets on my nerves when she gets clingy. How do I kindly tell her to step off and let me have other friends?

Sincerely,  
Independent

Dear Independent, It sounds like you need to get real with your friend. It might be hard to cut the cord right away, but in the long run you will be glad that you did. After all, every-

one is probably telling you to broaden your horizons (it’s just part of high school years), so take this opportunity to take a hold of your future. When your friend is getting clingy again over a group project,

be upfront with her, and tell her straight up that you are going to do this project with your other friends. Or even that you are going to do the project alone. She can certainly find another partner. Throughout the project, you can ask her if she is doing okay, or if she likes this new arrangement. To avoid possible abandonment anxiety or BFF withdrawal, make sure you hang out with your friend often so she doesn’t feel like you are trying to get away from her forever. You definitely do not want a simple thing like this ruin your friendship.

Although you want to be real with her, be sure to consider her feelings as well. In situations like this, it is hard to not say something wrong. Be careful with your word choices, as it’s easy to say things you do not actually mean. You will both probably be a little uneasy, so try and make it as easy for both of you as possible. You should definitely work with her on other projects periodically. Just make sure that you are both enjoying yourselves, and that you have all the space you need. Best of luck!



Sibling Rivalry:Abby(11) vs. Rose Gunderson(9)

Compiled by Sydney Larson

Who is more annoying?

Abby: Rose. Anybody who’s ever met her would agree.  
Rose: Abby is.  
Abby: Why?  
Rose: Because! She’s always stealing my opinion!  
Abby: See my point.

Who is more lazy?

Abby: Rose  
Rose: Me.

Who’s more likely to bring an animal home?

Abby: Rose. You literally let a stray cat in. Today.  
Rose: Me! Oh, and I let him in yesterday too.  
Abby: Yesterday?!

What is something funny your sibling does?

Abby: You name your stuffed animals after Grey’s Anatomy characters.

Rose: I don’t know. Nothing. Abby’s not funny.  
Abby: I’m hilarious.



Sisters Rose (left) and Abby Gunderson. (Courtesy)

What is something your sibling is really bad at?

Abby: Spelling words and maintaining friendships.  
Rose: ....

What about Music Education?

By Emily Kist and Caitlin Reimers

Here at Riggs we offer several music-based classes. While a handful of students do participates in these classes, many of them feel that they do not receive the support they deserve. Often times they find themselves with seats only half-full in the Riggs theatre on concert night. They find themselves frantically selling raffle tickets and zesto cards in search of funds to support the program. Of course, every program throughout our school wants funds. Every program needs support. But our music program faces a greater battle with these things due to multiple factors.

Currently there is Concert Band, consisting of freshmen and sophomores; Symphonic Band, an auditioned band for sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and Beginning Band, a band for those who wish to learn a new or additional instrument. These bands are directed by Mackenzie McKeithan, and she has precisely 71 students enrolled. In addition to the bands, there are a few choir classes offered and directed by Rodd Bauck. He has approximately 76 students enrolled in the choir classes offered here at Riggs. Over the years, the number of participants in choir has slowly diminished. Because of this, Treble Choir now consists of only girls, and all the boys are in Concert Choir. In addition to these two bands, there is Chamber Choir, which is an auditioned extracurricular activity that started in 2008. There are also six students currently enrolled in Music Theory. Music Theory is a class that is now offered every year during the fall semester. But despite the many music classes offered at Riggs, the number of participants aren’t adding up.

The facts show that as of October 24th, 2016, 757 students are attending T. F. Riggs High School. Of those students, approximately 153 of them participate in some sort of music course. These numbers show that less than 20% of our student body takes part in our musical programs, and this information may help to explain why our school limits our

variety of music courses. There are 249 students involved in fall sports alone right now, and the winter and spring sports total even more participants. While this large number of athletes is great to see, it is huge compared to the meager estimate of 153 students in band or choir at any given point throughout the year.

One theory that may help clarify the lack of music in the Pierre School District is that there is often a greater emphasis placed on success in the core education courses, such as math, science, and English. Why? It seems, in many cases, there is often a higher priority placed on getting a jump-start on college. Academic success is no longer determined by a student’s artistic talents and abilities; unfortunately, it is now often



Senior Elena Svingen and other band members perform during Homecoming halftime. (Todd Thompson)

based on standardized scores and data. Because of this change, there is less of an emphasis on music education, and less student recognition of how important those classes may be. “Music education, from a community viewpoint, is being perceived as more of an activity rather than an education,” explains Riggs choir director, Rodd Bauck, suggesting the idea that today’s push on pre-college education is taking away the opportunity

for many to focus on music. Even to students, most music classes are seen as extracurriculars, or just a credit that

is required to graduate. But for those more extensively involved in the programs, music provides many opportunities for excellence. While this may help to slightly clarify why student participation is an issue, it still doesn’t help us understand why the seats are half empty at many music events.

There is, likely, in nearly every community, a continual clash between athletic and artistic support amongst the local population. Based solely on student participation and ticket sales, Pierre currently seems to be more of an athlete-supporting community, but that could change, with the right types of support. Perhaps the Friday Night Lights will

change to Friday Night Musicians. But this would require somewhat of a massive shift in terms of what the school and community find important,

and just how we achieve this is a difficult question to answer.

After speaking with a few students who have been actively involved in both the choir and band programs throughout their entire high school careers, there was a current of discontent felt among them about the amount of support from both the school district and Pierre for the Fine Arts community at Riggs. One student said that when students don’t feel like they are being supported, they do not see a reason to participate in the music programs. To these students, that seems like a major contributor to participant numbers dropping over the years. Many people in the community may be unaware that Pierre has the potential to be an artistically-driven community, just as it is in athletics. With greater support throughout, by encouraging ourselves and others to attend more music events, and to remind educators and administrators that music serves a critical role in student development, participation numbers could potentially rise, creating a once again strong and healthy music community, not just at Riggs, but in the town as a whole.

Bauck believes there is currently adequate school district support, but still wishes there was more community involvement. But what will it take to gain greater communal support? More participants? More funding? Teachers, directors and members of music programs in our school

district will continue to fight for their deserving role and recognition in the community. For years they have searched for ways to do so, but have not quite found the answer. They will, however, continue to keep searching for that answer.

Special thanks to Mrs. Brown, Mr. Bauck, Mr. Moser, and band and chorus students.



Choir director Rodd Bauck conducts his Chamber Choir at their fall concert. (Brian Walsh)



# Proud of Lady Govs Volleyball

By Gracie Jones

Sadly, the last of the fall sports has come to an end. The weekend of October 18th, the Lady Governors volleyball team travelled to Brookings to compete at state. On their way to state, the Lady Govs upset Mitchell (ranked #1 in our district) in four sets. After their amazing win, they lost to Huron in three sets. They redeemed themselves, however, in Douglas, beating the Patriots in four sets.

At state the team did not perform as well as they had hoped – losing to Rapid City Stevens, Sioux Falls Washington and Sioux Falls Lincoln in three sets each time. Be that as it may,

making it to state is an enormous accomplishment.

When asked his thoughts on the season, head coach

Chris Swiden said, “I am very happy with the season. Pierre has made the state tournament seven times now in the last 38 years, and to make the state tournament we did a lot of things really well.”

Senior Caryn Brakke added her thoughts on the season as a whole.

“Overall I think our year went pretty well. We proved many people wrong, and when we were playing at our best, we were pretty much unstoppable.”

After this great season, unfortunately, the team will lose six seniors, to which Swiden said, “It’s going to be really tough to replace them. Their leadership, personalities, it’s going to be a different gym without them next year.”

Although the loss of these girls will be tough, the team will be preparing for next year with plenty of work in the off-season.



Senior Caryn Brakke goes up for a spike. (Bob Grandpre)



Top: Junior Chloe Kaiser bumps the ball over the net. (Bob Grandpre)

Bottom: The Lady Govs celebrate after winning the first set on Senior Night. (Todd Thompson)



## December Home Games

### Girls Basketball

Dec. 9, 3:30-6:30 pm

Dec. 16, 4-7 pm

Dec. 29, 4-7 pm



### Girls Hockey

Dec. 3, 7 pm

Dec. 4, 11 am

Dec. 10, 3 pm

Dec. 11, 12 pm

Dec. 31, 8 pm

Good Luck!

### Gymnastics

Dec. 1, 6 pm

Dec. 16, 5:15 pm



# New Faces, Same Hardworking Team

By Nathan Zimmerman

The Governors football team put together a good season, packed with thrilling must-see games. One of the Governors' most unforgettable games this season was their homecoming game against Huron. They beat the Tigers 34-33 in an overtime win thanks to Pierre's tough defense on Huron's two-point conversion attempt.

The Governors lost many seniors that graduated last year, including a quarterback, wide receivers and many other key positions. The Govs football team of 2016 decided not to dwell on the success they had last year, but rather drive off of what they had done last season to try and maintain that success. Pierre was also fortunate enough to pick up players that had not played high school football before like wide receiver Brad Dean and kicker Kaden Hight.

The football team was able to

pull off wins against Brookings, Huron, Aberdeen, Sturgis and Douglas throughout the season, with a 55-16 win against Sturgis being the biggest blowout of the season. The Govs also made good runs against

year. The Governors right away this season at the Oahe Downstream area, which brought the team even closer and showed their dedication to hard work.

"We really came together as a team at it. That was obviously the purpose of it, but I think that's a strong point right now. They have a

very strong work ethic, having missed out by a point last year. Those are both really strong points right now."

Steele took the spot of Jayson Poppinga, who coached the team to two championship games in the last three years, winning one title. Instead of being

fearful of the new position as head coach, Steele came in with optimism.

"I was excited for it. I got to DSU and it wasn't a winning team. My last two years there we were able to turn it around and make it where people didn't mind it anymore, and we were at two winning seasons. The

had a camp fact that we don't have to go through

rebuilding is refreshing because it was not an easy thing," Steele said.

The QB job went to a familiar face this year as Riggs

junior Peyton Zabel led the team. He went through the Riggs football program behind Brevin Kaiser, and said that he learned a lot from him throughout the past couple of years.

"Brevin was a great leader, taught me a lot, and was a great role model to look up to. He was a winner and a competitor, and I really hope I can bring some of those aspects into the game this year," said Zabel.

Pierre finished with a 4-5 regular season record, having a 3-3 record against 11 AA teams. The football team is bringing back more players next year, building upon more experience and increased talent.



Senior Jack Adam returns the ball on a kickoff against Sioux Falls Washington. (Todd Thompson)



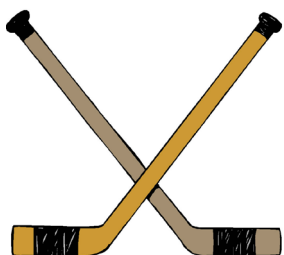
Senior Kaden Hight comes up with the extra point against Brookings. (Todd Thompson)

## December Home Games

### Boys Basketball

Dec. 9, 3:30-8 pm

Dec. 17, 2-5 pm



### Boys Hockey

Dec. 9, 6-8:15 pm

Dec. 11, 2-4:15 pm

Dec. 17, 6 pm

Dec. 18, 12 - 2:15 pm

Dec. 30, 8 pm

Dec. 31 6 pm

### Wrestling

Dec. 13, 6 pm

### Swimming

Dec. 2, 12 pm





Sudoku

	3			8	1		2	9
4			9					
	1						3	8
5		6	2					
		2	1		5	6		
					8	9		2
7	5						9	
					2			3
8	2		7	4			1	

When Christmas decorations finally go up...



GOVERNOR STAFF  
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Thank you to all that made this issue possible!

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**How to Play Mystery Man and Woman:** Think you know who the mystery man or woman is? Go put your guess in the box in the office. If your guess is correct, you will have a chance to win a prize!

Mystery Woman



**You got games on your phone?**  
I don't know, you tell me. ;)

**What is your most defining characteristic?**  
My ability to laugh at myself. Sometimes I do really stupid things, and if I couldn't laugh at myself I'd be super sad.

**Favorite teacher?**  
Mr. Mick, he really knows what he teaches, and on top of that, he really cares about his students and tries to get to know them.

**How are you getting in the holiday spirit?**  
I've been playing Christmas music since October. I'm also going to buy some holiday socks.

**Which celebrity would you want to eat your last meal with?**  
Lin-manuel Miranda, I feel like I could learn about life from him. Also, he is like a beacon of optimism and I think I'd want that in my last hours.

Mystery Man



**You got games on your phone?**  
BTD5

**What is your most defining characteristic?**  
Hair

**Favorite teacher?**  
Mr. Becker, he holds my GPA's future in the

palm of his hand.  
**How are you getting in the holiday spirit?**  
Wearing festive sweaters over flannels.  
**eat your last meal with?**  
Ken Bone, so we could discuss our country's energy plan.

**Which celebrity would you want to**