

# Word On The Hill

## What is your favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal?

By Anthony Cook and Monica Springer



**Jeremy Ryman**  
computer science senior

"Green bean casserole."



**Laura Morgan**  
secondary ed. junior

"Mashed potatoes and gravy."



**Kimberly Conelley**  
psychology freshman

"I like the potatoes."



**Landon Marshall**  
nursing freshman

"Pumpkin pie."



**Brianne Simon**  
theatre sophomore

"Pecan pie."



**Sheldon Rivers**  
history freshman

"I'm a big fan of the cherry pie."



**Elyse Byram**  
philosophy and religion sophomore

"Green bean casserole."



**Joey Kreft**  
computer science junior

"I like the turkey."



**Christy Glave**  
nursing junior

"I like pecan pie."



**Tim Burnett**  
MBA

"I'm gonna have to go with pumpkin pie."



**Grant Stackhouse**  
English senior

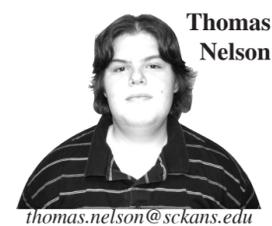
"Ham."



**Tracia Messier**  
philosophy and religion sophomore

"Turkey."

## Internet lingo is unprofessional



**Thomas Nelson**

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"omg liek i dont nede 2 typ proprly cus dis is da internet !!!! go away nerd looser !!!!" What you have just read is a response that I received when posting a question on an internet forum. The question was, "Why don't you spend the extra few seconds and spell out words correctly?" The response is a great example of a disturbingly prevalent attitude, particularly among the younger community of people on the internet.

In communicating with people on a forum, I received a lot of arguments for that method of typing, ranging from the almighty "This isn't an English classroom," to the highly versatile, "I'm too lazy to type properly."

Of course, those aren't accurate representations of the arguments themselves, due to the fact that they are actually spelled properly.

For those of you who are reading this, you might ask how your typing style on the internet affects you. It may seem like a

question with an obvious answer that would never require an article from a newspaper reporter. However, the way you type affects you in several ways. These include how well you communicate your ideas, how people reading your messages view you, and how well you type in the future.

The first of these is arguably one of the easier points to explain. Cohesion is something that can only be achieved through, get this—cohesive statements. One cannot expect to communicate complex ideas efficiently when readers have to translate several tons of linguistic garbage in order to understand the text. This may seem strange to many people who are accustomed to using internet shorthand, but the general idea behind the written form of any language is that it is meant to be easily understood by anyone who speaks the spoken form of that language.

While shorthand may be easily understood by those who have already been accustomed to it, it may require some translation for those, like myself, who are not "hip" or "with the times." This isn't really a problem, per se, in an online game where the majority of the com-

munity is "in the zone," but it is an inconvenience, and a large one at that, for people who do not wish to translate crude phonetic representations of words.

Secondly, the way you type affects how people view you as an individual. To an outside observer, (one who doesn't use shorthand on a regular basis) you may be seen as crude, ignorant, lazy, or uneducated—and I'll go out on a limb here and assume that you aren't. It shouldn't be a question, however, because in most cases, all you have to do is TAKE THE TIME TO PRESS TWO EXTRA KEYS.

The occasional typo may be ignored in instant messaging or any other real-time chat interface, or even in forums. Blatantly misspelled words and poorly structured sentences, however, have almost no reason to be on a message board.

The flipside of this is the way your "clique" views you. Strangely enough, some groups I encountered during my time on the internet find it in poor taste to type properly because it does not fit in with their subculture of "non-conformists" and "cool people."

Well, alright. If it's "cool" for them to appear lazy and uneducated, more power to them.

On to the next point. Your typing style is a habit. Unless you take steps to fix it, you're

going to be typing like that for a long time.

I can tell you now that that is a bad thing. Working in the writing lab I've seen people bring in major assignments with horrible grammar and several counts of the crime that is shorthand. These are people whom I assume to be intelligent human beings, but had I been an outside observer with no personal knowledge of those individuals, I would have chalked them up as Class B semi-morons. Why do they type poorly?

Simple. It's a habit that they haven't bothered to rid themselves of.

Ah, yes. I can almost hear the argument screeching out of the collective subconscious like a banshee chained to a jet engine. "The internet is not an English classroom." Sadly enough, it is, in its own indirect way. The quality of language you are exposed to most often is the quality of language that you adopt.

For written expression, nothing influences people as much as what they read and write. Sadly, for many of the young people who play Internet games, the only language they are exposed to is the internet's, which includes shorthand.

So next time you are chatting with someone and are about to type "BRB" take the extra time and spell it out—be right back.

## Friend worries over sexual harassment



**Katie Allender**

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What do you do if your friend is being sexually harassed?  
--Anonymous

Talk to your friend and go to the police. There's really no better way to handle a problem like this. Whoever is doing the harassing needs to be stopped and punished for what they are doing. Going to the police is the best way to do this. Also, you might want to make sure your friend is okay, take the friend to the doctor for a check up and be there whenever they need to talk. You might give her numbers of hotlines and doctors who can also talk to her about things.

I'm in a long distance relationship, how can I make it work without breaking up?  
--Anonymous

Above all you need to communicate about things. Lack of communication is the number one reason why relationships fail. The more you talk about things with each other the better things will be in the long run. Sometimes long distance relationships don't work out, but if you work for it, it just might. If it's not meant to be, it's not meant to be. Don't fight for something unless you're both willing to meet half way on things.

What makes a good and healthy relationship?  
--Anonymous

As I've said before, communication is a big part in a healthy relationship. Talking to each other about how you feel is very important. Another thing is honesty and trust. If you're not honest with each other there's really no point in being in a relationship. The same goes with trusting each other. No one likes a jealous girlfriend or boyfriend.

How do you know when it's the right time to pop the question?  
--Anonymous

First off, make sure you love the person and you know that she is the right one for you. Then you just have to take it from there. Go to her favorite place and surprise her, take her out to dinner and ask her, anyway works really. Just make sure she's not too surprised. No girl likes to be proposed to while she's in her sweats and hasn't showered that day. I'm sure that as long as you know what she wants, you'll do fine.

What do you do if you're boyfriend is too jealous?  
--Anonymous

You need to talk to him about it. He needs to understand that you won't do anything and that he has nothing to worry about. No one likes a jealous boyfriend and he needs to know that. If he can't trust you, there's a big problem. If things don't change, maybe you should consider not being together.

### Personal Column

### Advice Column

## Special staff would alleviate enrollment stress

By Peggy Williams  
Staff reporter

The time for Thanksgiving break has almost arrived. But it may not be quite as carefree as you had hoped. For many students, November is an exciting month. You go into it still reeling from the incredible time you had during Halloween, just to arrive at the euphoric realization that you get to head home in a couple of weeks. But then the dreaded revelation before you leave for break hits you.

You are expected to pre-enroll for all of your spring semester classes. This may not seem like an insurmountable obstacle for those students who were lucky enough to snatch up a great adviser, but for the rest, it makes the weeks before Thanksgiving unimaginably stressful.

At Southwestern College, just like at any other college, you are expected to complete so many assigned classes in order to attain that ever so elusive piece of paper called your diploma. But what Southwestern is lacking,

that many other colleges are not, is specific people who are trained to assist you with choosing classes. Selecting the correct courses is no easy task.

You are assigned a professor to help you figure out which courses to take, and in addition to that you can find guidelines of what you are expected to take on IQ.Web. But the professors are not quite informed enough, and the guidelines are not quite clear enough. Since graduating with your class relies upon taking the correct class at the correct time, it is not something to be taken lightly.

As a freshman you are assigned a professor to help you select your classes. The professor that you are assigned has no experience whatsoever regarding your major, because they are specifically allocated to students who are majoring in a field opposite to that of which they teach, in order to discourage a bias opinion during your freshman year.

This makes no sense. Why are students being advised by pro-

fessors who are not trained in the field that they are majoring in, and who honestly have better things to do with their time than figure out which classes you need to take? Between lectures, grading papers, and reading essays, our professors really do not need the added burden of attempting to be our guides through the arduous experience of course selection.

Even after making it through the first semester and being able to change your adviser, course selection still does not get much easier. You are able to switch your adviser to a professor that works in the department in which you are majoring, but still sometimes the professors have a difficult time knowing just exactly what you are required to take. And when they do, who are they supposed to ask? The other professors that are barely, if at all, trained to advise?

There should be clearer guidelines, and professional individuals hired to lead students

through the necessary steps of course selection.

If we all combined the number of unnecessary classes we have taken simply because we received faulty counsel, or did not know what else to take, it would be an insurmountably large amount, and ultimately, a hefty waste of money and time. But this situation could be alleviated in a rather simple manner.

All our administration would have to do is hire and train specific people who are not professors to show us which classes to take. This seems like a simple solution to a stressful problem, and that is pretty much all it amounts to. So let's fix it. We can stop stressing out over course selection, save our already over worked professors some work, and undoubtedly have a Thanksgiving that is much more enjoyable than previous years.

Peggy Williams is a sophomore majoring in English. You may e-mail her at [peggy.williams@sckans.edu](mailto:peggy.williams@sckans.edu).

### Editorial

### —Feast from page 3

Deborah Clark, affiliate director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, said, "We have never had a Thanksgiving feast. It's either Halloween or Christmas party. I think it's good we're filling that void."

Clark said the leadership events have had good turnouts

in previous years.

"Leadership always does a spectacular job at organizing events and making them fun for the kids. That's why the kids keep coming back to their events," said Clark.

The feast is only for the kids. The families are responsible for getting their kids to the dinner. "We have learned not to offer

transportation for the children, because then the parents become too dependent," said Clark.

Both Bustraan and Hibbs are hoping all the kids will have fun at the event and that it will be a chance for them to participate in something different.

Clark said, "I always hope that these types of events will expose college students to the

Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, and they will want to do more to help. These are cool kids and they can teach us all a little something."

Samantha Gillis is a freshman majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at [samantha.gillis@sckans.edu](mailto:samantha.gillis@sckans.edu).

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