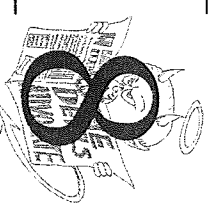


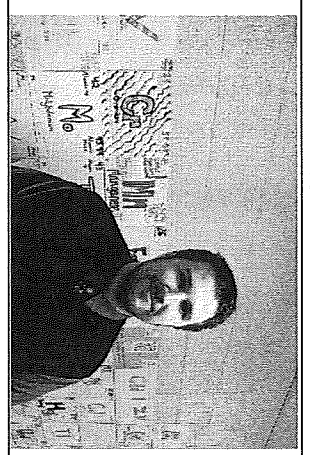
It's Our Opinion



Blue Devil's Advocate

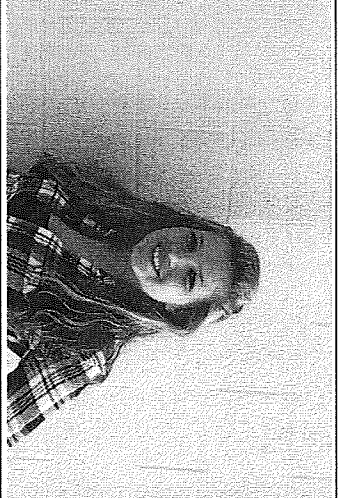
Question of the Month
**What would you do
 in Parris?**

Staff



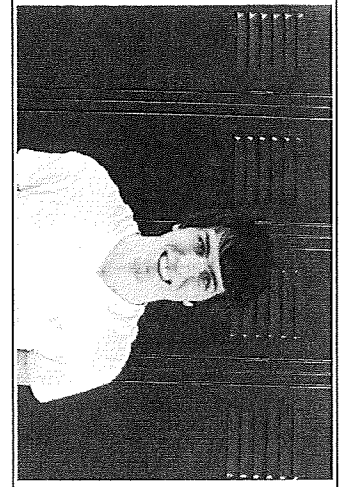
Mr. Sobczak said he would explore the catacombs.

Senior



Alexandria Pinksey would want to try all of the famous French desserts.

Junior



Cody Quigley would walk around the entire city.

Sophomore



Marissa Pier said she would shop!

Freshman



Annie Saelens would go to the Eiffel Tower and dress like a mime.

Staff Editorial: The Code

Mother Nature pulled an early April fools on us Michiganders last month. We were all excited for our week of sunshine and flip-flops, but there was something that we all dreaded and complained about: the dress code.

It's in the front of our planners, on the Richmond blue pages that we all fold over and doodle on—the fashion code of high school.

But that code isn't the same in the display windows in our favorite stores, not in the factories where clothes are made nor in the fashion magazines many teenage girls use as bibles.

Society and social media has made following this code very difficult.

How can we possibly follow The Code if shorts on sales racks are getting shorter and our arms are getting longer? Necklines plunging lower and prices getting higher?

Straps getting thinner and shoulders too provocative?

There might be different styles out there. We could wear long pants when it is 80 degrees outside or turtlenecks in gym class.

But we don't because it is uncomfortable, unhealthy and 'uncool'!

Clothing is just like body-image. We hear about the dangers of low self-esteem and its effects on teens—particularly girls—constantly. There are novels and songs and movies and TV shows completely committed to expressing this, yet we still irrevocably cling to these things that we think are appealing.

We say things we think are cool. We do things we think are cool. We wear things we think are cool.

When we see models on TV wearing beautiful—possibly revealing—clothes, we think that wearing things like that is the only way to be beautiful,

as well!

Then big brands catch on to this, and sell these things because they know self-conscious girls will buy them.

And we do. Every day.

Wearing clothes you see in magazines isn't a bad thing. In fact, it can be a very good thing.

When you feel good about your appearance, it makes feeling good about yourself much easier. Being in high school, we are judged every day by our classmates based solely on the way we look. It isn't right or fair, but there is truth in it. That's why appearance is so important to teens.

When looking at fashion this way, it seems unreasonable to keep The Code the way it is. Why shouldn't we have a chance to have self-confidence?

Maybe some things might be better off changed.

However, we cannot eliminate The Code because, honestly, we need The Code more now than ever before.

Sometimes, when girls want to feel beautiful, they mistake feeling beautiful for feeling sexy.

And sexy isn't for school. Really, it shouldn't be for teenagers.

But our society has allowed this word—this feeling—to seep its way into adolescence, altering self-expression and The Code.

It is important for students to understand this difference, and without our school encouraging respectable attire, we might never truly understand.

So, when spring showers end and summer vacation begins, it is our responsibility as students to remember that we need to find clothes that make us feel good about ourselves while also respecting ourselves.

But what might is complete without Kid Rock?

According to Mr. Olsen, principal at RHS, Dr. Mulyaert, Athletic Director, has very good connections with celebrities.

He is currently in a golf club with Steve Yzerman, former player and captain of the Red Wings, and Shawn Burr, also a retired player of the Red Wings. But, outside of golf, Dr. Mulyaert is in close connections with Dave Rozema, a former pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, and Uncle Kracker.

During his first year of teaching, Dr. Mulyaert had Matt Shafer, publicly known as Uncle Kracker, as one of his former students at L'Anse Creuse. He is

Kid Rock at prom?!

By: Melissa Resk
 Advertising Editor

One of Michigan's well known artists, Kid Rock, comes to town every once in a while to help out the state where he was born and raised.

But, one of the things that Richmond doesn't know is that he will be making a special appearance at RHS's 2011-2012 Prom. May 4th is the day *A night in Paris* will take place.

But what might is complete without Kid Rock?

According to Mr. Olsen, principal at RHS, Dr. Mulyaert, Athletic Director, has very good connections with celebrities.

He is currently in a golf club with Steve Yzerman, former player and captain of the Red Wings, and Shawn Burr, also a retired player of the Red Wings. But, outside of golf, Dr. Mulyaert is in close connections with Dave Rozema, a former pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, and Uncle Kracker.

During his first year of teaching, Dr. Mulyaert had Matt Shafer, publicly known as Uncle Kracker, as one of his former students at L'Anse Creuse. He is

still in close contact with him ever since their first encounter in 1987.

According to Dr. Mulyaert, Rick Kennedy is Kid Rock and Uncle Kracker's manager. And because of the close relations to Uncle Kracker, strings were pulled and The Kid is coming to Rock Richmond.

"We ran into each other at the RHS Cheer finals and he mentioned Kid Rock," said Mr. Olsen. "I hope (the students) get a chance to talk to him and maybe the DJ will play one of his songs and he will sing it." Even though this unforgettable night will have a free visit from Kid Rock, it is unsure whether he will perform or not.

"You have to take advantage of this kind of stuff. You know, how many schools can say that Kid Rock came to visit?" said Mr. Olsen.

Kid Rock is a huge fan of April Fool's day. In fact, this article is completely false.

You just fell for *The Blue Devils Advocate's* April fools joke.

But, Prom is still scheduled for May 4th.

- Advisor:**
 Mr. Murphy
- News Editors:**
 Anabella Ottenbacher
 Hannah Townsend
- Opinion Editors:**
 Anna Fraser
 Samantha Schaler
- Sports Editors:**
 John Garfney
 Adam Boyd
- Features Editors:**
 Regan Bissett
 Krystal Geisler
- Advertising Manager:**
 Melissa Resk
- Staff Writers:**
 Lizzie Urban
 Hunter Tousignant
 Mitchell Smith
 Jessica Bilbrey
 Samantha Kowalczyk
 Natasha Woodruff
 Katie Szczesniak
 Emily Swantek
 Brett Brincefield
 Jake McKiernan
 Jacob Marlow

Mission Statement

Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

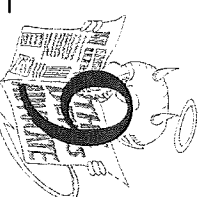
Letters

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: kshahgenah@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

Opinion

April 16, 2012

In Our Opinion



Fans make the difference

By: **Samantha Kowalczyk**
Staff Writer

The best way to overcome a difficult time in your life is to have people there for support.

In one way or another, every one has had someone there for them to use as a crutch.

In the past, our school spirit and support was a crutch for several sports, and it led them to State titles. Fans gave wrestlers and the cheer team the confidence they needed to make it all the way.

Our school needs to support sports other than football, cheerleading, wrestling and basketball.

These sports have done fairly well in the past, but four sports do not make up an entire athletic program.

It is exciting that the wrestling team won State Championship titles for three years in a row, and that the cheerleaders won State Champs this year as well.

Now that those sports are finished, we should focus our attention on the upcoming sports, hoping they do the same thing.

Neither girls soccer nor boys soccer have any fans attend besides our parents, and when the team does not make it very far, many kids say soccer is a bad sport anyways.

A team cannot do well when people discourage them.

Other sports such as softball, baseball, track, cross-country, golf, tennis, bowling and volleyball are also mostly ignored and should be recognized as well.

If these teams had more people from the student body supporting them, maybe there would be more State Championship titles hanging up in the gym.

In order for these teams to win, they need to have people believe in them other than themselves. These talented student-athletes are dedicated to their sport, and it hurts when no one comes out to

support them.

These teams have to get their teammates pumped up because there is no one in the stands that show that they care. When the fans are heard, it gives players adrenaline, and it makes them want to play harder for their school.

It is not crucial to come to every game of every sport, but at least students should go to games against rival schools. It shows the team they have people -- other than their parents -- for support.

Not only do sports have a lack of fans, but the art programs as well.

Band is an art program that rarely ever has its time to shine. The band conquered their goal of becoming a division one band last year, but our student body didn't feel the same excitement they did. They worked really hard for that and they should be honored for it.

Like band, choir also does not get attention they deserve. Choir has state solo and ensemble this weekend but not too many people know about it. Chorale is also going to States, and they do not get as much recognition like the sports do.

Theatre arts grabs the attention of the students when there is a play, but students do not pay attention to how much time and dedication they put in to having a show. They have to memorize lines, songs and audition for the part they want.

We have the ability to change this. We can inform people about the activities and sports that go on. Who knows? Maybe if you support a sport or activity, you will become interested in it and want to participate in it.

When we support each other, we open doors to allow other people to do the same. This can relate to Rachel's school become closer through starting a chain reaction.

The worst disease: Senioritis *What's the cure?*

By: **John Gaffney**
Sports Editor

Dear Blue Devils Advocate readers,

I write this article to inform my readers of a very serious problem that is affecting me as well as many of the other seniors in the community. It is a problem that causes laziness and carelessness throughout massive amounts of people, and its name is senioritis.

Similar to the common cold, this is a problem that spreads from person to person like wildfire. Invisible to the people who have caught

it, you must be on the lookout to prevent yourself from falling victim to the fever.

Once you have fallen prey to senioritis, almost all hope

is lost to bring yourself back to studying and focusing on one subject for hours on end.

Focus comes and goes, and you lose the ability to multitask. All distractions seem to take a higher importance than whatever you are doing whenever it is school related.

As a society, we need to work to keep this disease from spreading any further. Senioritis is just the start, next thing we know, it will spread past high schools and work its way into the workforce which could cause major problems all over the state.

So please fellow seniors I ask you to do your best to bring the focus back into the classroom. I know that we are almost done with our high school career and it's a hard

thing to focus on school instead of everything else, but we have to finish strong. You worked hard for 4 years to keep a good GPA, don't let it plummet just because you can see the end.

Ignore the nice weather and pull yourself away from the professional sports for just a minute. Finish your homework and study for that big test and then worry about who's tweeting about the tiger's game and what the weather is like.

If we can manage to do that then we will cross that stage proud, knowing that we did our best the whole way through. Then we can carry that sense of accomplishment with us to college and have that confidence in our back pocket at the start of our college career. This mindset will only help us, if we could do it for four years in high school why not give our all for four more years in college.

how doing drugs can keep you away, tied off from your family. You can find yourself doing things you never dreamed of doing. The effect this drug puts on users is incomparable; the rise in heroin-related cases in the courtroom has dramatically increased since just this year. And this is scary.

Honorable Judge Leduc said he sees three to four heroin related cases a week. He said he always can tell if they have a drug addiction and the answer always seemed to be, "Yes." This is sad because the need for the high pushes these people to rob people's houses and maybe can even push them as far to kill someone.

People and families are affected by choices that their kin make everyday.

The overtaking drug, I'm afraid to say, is very much a part of this society. It's taking over, yet people don't understand how serious this drug is.

Nevertheless, they're the ones who pop pills and think, "I'll never do those drugs."

Next thing you know, you end up just like how the state trooper said: lying on your back, needle sticking out of your arm, and blankly staring at the ceiling.

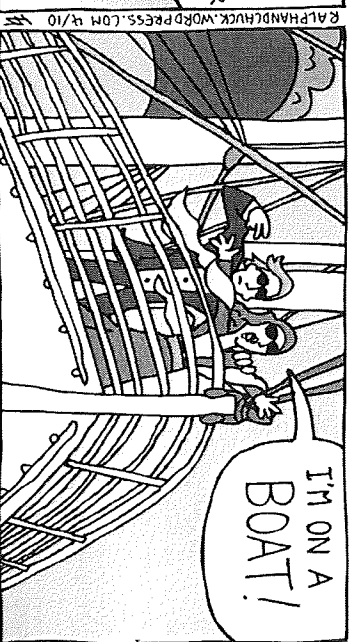
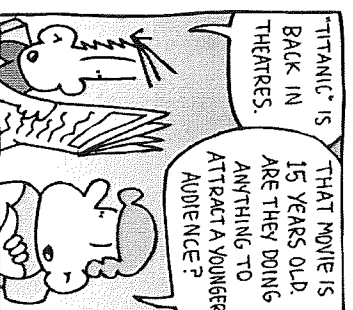
My message to the student body is don't poison your body by putting these un-prescribed pills into your body.

There's no point in ruining your life because you got caught with a drug you had no business doing in the first place. People need to understand you can overdose and die from these drugs. These chemicals are being ingested into the blood stream and causing overdoses.

DON'T DO DRUGS; the things that people have been telling us since we were little were to prevent the things like overdosing, dying, and getting HIV.

It's time that we all take this message seriously if people don't people will start doing drugs at even younger ages because our youth will find it ok because their role models,

COMICS!



RAPPHANDRUCK.WORPRESS.COM 4/10

www.mtcampus.com



The world of Pinterest

By: Jessica Bilbrey
Staff Writer

One of the number one sites in America today is Pinterest, an online site where you can find awesome pictures and get great ideas. It's a sight so important that you need to request an invite to join.

Pinterest has just about everything you could look for, from recipes to outfit ideas to craft ideas for your kids.

If you have a Pinterest account, then you know you can like or re-pin anything that's been posted. Pinterest is linked through Facebook so whatever you like or re-pin on Pinterest goes straight to your Facebook for all of your friends to see. It will get them hooked on Pinterest as well.

I have a Pinterest account and I absolutely love it. I like the makeup ideas they share and the quotes. They have the best recipes for baking which I love because I enjoy baking.

One of the biggest pinterest fan I know is Mrs. Schoenberg. She is often on the site finding new ideas for her crafts that she enters and sells at craft shows.

"I go on Pinterest once a day. I'm usually on for a few hours just looking through all the posts," said Schoenberg.

When people first join Pinterest, they don't know what to expect, but once they look through it and see everything it has to offer, they instantly get hooked. It's addicting like Facebook.

"I mainly use Pinterest for the cooking and

decorating ideas. It never fails to amaze me," said said Mrs. Schoenberg.

Another person is interested in Pinterest is Samantha Kowalczyk. She likes looking for quotes she can relate to.

"I like Pinterest because it has a lot of sweet ideas. It shows how you can take random objects around your house and make something cool out of them," said Kowalczyk.

"I love Pinterest! It has so much potential; I can't get enough of it," said Mrs. Schoenberg. Samantha goes on Pinterest at least everyday, if not every other day.

"The constant uprisings of ideas Pinterests offers is amazing. It's like all the images from Google put onto one site for millions of people to see," said Kowalczyk.

She has tried one of the cooking ideas Pinterest offered. It was called cinnamon roll saddles, where you take the cinnamon dough out the tube and put it in a waffle maker.

"When I tried it, the waffle maker started smoking so I stopped before I burnt the house down," said Kowalczyk.

Most people have never heard of Pinterest before.

If you haven't gotten to experience the world of Pinterest, I highly recommend checking it out. If you have kids, Pinterest has great ideas for fun activities to do.

As for everyone else, they have awesome outfit ideas, makeup tips, bedroom designs, hairstyle.

Basically everything you could look for on the internet is all on Pinterest.

"All my friends know I'm obsessed with Pinterest; now they're all hooked," said Kowalczyk.

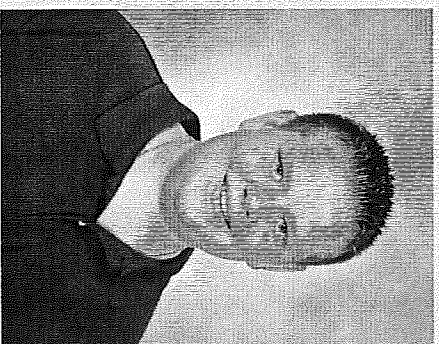
Student Star

Mary Kazmierczak



Favorite class: Honors world history
Favorite food: Chocolate chip cookies
Favorite movie: *Hunger Games*
Where do you want to visit?: Ireland

Hunter Tousignant



Favorite class: U.S History
Favorite food: Pizza
Favorite movie: *Stand and deliver*
Where do you want to visit?: Cape Cod Massachusetts

RHS eats up the *Hunger Games*

By: Hannah Townsend

News Editor

The Hunger Games have spent over a 130 weeks on the New York Best Sellers list.

And recently *The Hunger Games* movie made \$155 million in theaters its opening weekend.

Some people contributing to those large numbers were RHS students. Many students were drawn in by the book and consider it one of their favorites.

Sophomore Katie Szczesniak said, "I thought the book was amazing, and it was hard to put down because it was suspenseful. There's so many good moments, I can't choose a favorite."

Senior Melinda Colombo also read the book. She said, "The books are really exciting. I finished the book in a day; it was that good."

Freshman Sara Campbell also read the books in one day.

She said, "Honestly, it was eye-opening because society can turn into something like that. Since humans are greedy in nature they will do anything they can do to ensure a secure life, even treating their own kind wrong, which is what happened in the book."

Her favorite part of the book was the determination every character had to fight for their lives.

However, not all people gave the book a great review.

Senior Bella Kessler said, "I thought it was okay." She said the main character Katniss spent too much time on romance.

In the book, there are 12 districts, and each district draws two teenagers to represent them in a competition. Only one teenager can make it out alive from the competition.

The series protagonist Katniss Everdeen's sister was originally chosen to represent District 12, but Katniss volunteered for her. Along with her, Peeta Malarck was also chosen to represent District 12.

The characters in the *Hunger Games* helped

draw people in to the books.

Some people consider Katniss Everdeen their favorite character in *The Hunger Games*.

Szczesniak said, "I love Katniss, who is the protagonist because she is fierce and independent. She's tough and does not need a man to support her."

Also, she volunteered for her sister to save her life." Colombo also considers Katniss her favorite character. She said, "She reminds me of myself because I would volunteer myself for my sister."

She added, "Katniss basically takes care of her sister because her father died in a mine accident, and her mother's never the same since, so she basically a parent to Prim."

Sophomore Melissa Reak called Peeta her favorite character. She said, "My favorite character is Peeta because of his personality. In *The Hunger Games*, Peeta is this perfect guy that reminds me of Prince Charming."

Gale, the other male character, was also considered a favorite character. Campbell said, "Gale is my favorite because he looks after everybody no matter what."

The movie came out March 23 and some RHS students went to the midnight premiere.

Katie said, "I had been counting down 139 days for the movie." Campbell had also been waiting a long time to see the movie. She said, "A few months ago, I started a count down."

Many students were satisfied with how the movie turned out. Campbell said, "I think it was everything all *Hunger Games* fans were looking for."

Colombo agreed. She said, "The movie was pretty good. Some books you read before the movie and then the movie stinks, but with this, there was good characterization."

Most people liked the book better than the movie. Sophomore Melissa Reak considered the book much better than the movie.

She said, "Compared to the book, it didn't live up to my expectations but that's how it always is. When you're watching the movie, you would al-

most have to read the book to understand it."

Campbell also agreed, saying the characters might be confusing for someone who did not read the book.

However, some people did enjoy the movie without reading the book.

Junior Lindsey Omelia recently saw it. She said, "It was one of the best movies I've ever seen. Some movies are boring and then get good, but this one was good from the beginning."

She added, "I wish I would have read the book before I watched the movie, but after watching the movie, I now want to read the second and third books."

Not only students read and watched *The Hunger Games*.

Mrs. Woodruff read the book over Christmas Break and watched the movie over Spring Break.

Mrs. Woodruff said, "I really liked it. I recommend it to almost everyone I talk to."

She considered Katniss Everdeen her favorite character. She said, "I liked that she was a really strong female character, which is sometimes hard to find in young adult literature."

Mrs. Woodruff also liked the movie.

She said, "I think they did a good job of keeping it as close to the book as possible."

The book is being compared to *Twilight* by some because of its love triangle. However, some RHS students consider it even better than *Twilight*.

Katie said, "It's a million times better than *Twilight*. While Bella is dependant on Edward, Katniss is independent and strong."

Senior Allison Hebel works at the local library. She said, "I work at the library and people always check it out; it's always off the shelf."

She has yet to read the book, but would not mind seeing the movie before she reads the book.

She said, "I like a good story, so I will probably read it, but reading the book after the movie would not ruin it for me."

However, with this book being the first in a trilogy, there is still more for fans to love.

Entertainment

Do you have your prom apparel?

By: Krystal Geisler
Feature Editor

Is finding prom apparel and accessories as easy as everyone thinks it is?

Each year, the style, color and types of prom dresses is almost exactly the same as the previous year. Yet, girls here at RHS want the perfect dress for prom so they spend hours searching for the perfect one.

"In a prom dress, I look for a bright color, one that is figure flattering, and normally a mermaid dress," said senior Holly Uhl.

Junior Jamie Zyla agreed and said that the right color is the main thing she needs for the perfect dress.

When looking for their dress, girls usually look and purchase online, borrow from someone or go to dress shops around the area.

"My dress is sapphire blue, straight silky material with an open back, v-neck and covered in rhinestones," said Zyla.

She bought it from Marcies in town, and it cost \$300. "I have to get alterations on my dress, and it will be in a week before prom," said Zyla.

Normally, seniors get bright colored poof dresses, and juniors or underclassmen go for the more straight types of dresses. "The seniors like to stand out more," said Uhl.

Uhl ordered her dress online on DHgate.com and spent no more than \$150. Shopping online and at the store are two different experiences.

"Online shopping is cheaper, but it is harder to figure out what is going to look good without trying it on," said Uhl. She ended up finding one that she loves. "My dress is all yellow, mermaid style, a sweetheart top with sequences," said Uhl. She added

she spent more money on her dress for her junior year rather than this year, but she would have spent more this year.

Rather than spending money you don't have on a dress that you only will wear for a couple hours one night, borrowing is always an option.

Junior Joanna Fenwick is borrowing a dress for prom this year. "My mom told me to borrow a dress from this year, and she will let me get a dress that is even more expensive for my senior year," she said.

Fenwick is borrowing a reddish-orange, straight dress from alumnus Megan Russell. "I am going to get silver accessories and shoes to go with my dress and make the beads pop out," said Fenwick.

Fenwick added she will spend no more than \$80 on her accessories and it will take her a couple different days of shopping to find the perfect things.

The girls are not the only ones who have to get ready to get prom apparel.

Senior Stephen Ireland is going to Presidents Tuxido and is going to rent a powder blue tux with a white tie. "It will probably come out to \$150 for the rental," said Ireland. Ireland said he already knows what he wants so it should only take him about 30-40 minutes to get the tux sized.

Senior Garret Edwards is pumped for prom. "After I pick out what I want, I will get it sized then pick it up another day," said Edwards.

Normally, the girls pick the color that their date will wear, and the guy will go along with it.

Fenwick wants her date, junior Owen Kratt, to wear a white tux with a red tie. "I will wear whatever Joanna Fenwick tells me to," said Kratt.

"I am yet to have a date but if I do he will wear a black tux with a yellow tie matching my dress," said Uhl. She added that she wants a white rose as a corsage.

Zyla is going to prom with Daniel Loria and he is going to be wearing a white tux with a sapphire blue tie

Prom?

Emily Swantek
Staff writer

"Will you go to Prom with me?" To some people, it is the second most important question in a person's life next to, "Will you marry me?"

It's a question that many girls look forward to when they enter high school.

Many students are finding very creative ways to ask their dates to prom.

Junior Keenan McCloskey took a baseball and wrote "Prom?" on it and put it into senior Jessica Barjaktarovich's locker.

"I knew she just received a scholarship for softball and she likes it so I thought it was a good idea," said McCloskey.

Barjaktarovich said she was surprised and is looking forward to it.

Other students are attending Prom outside of our school, but still were asked in an interesting way.

Lindsey McCarty received a surprise in her locker when she came into school yesterday.

"My boyfriend put balloons in my locker and wrote at the bottom of my locker in marker 'Prom?'. I was shocked at first because I didn't know who it was from," said McCarty.

She will be attending Lutheran High School North's prom.

Elsa Piceel was taken aback when she saw her boyfriend walking down the bleachers at her track practice.

"He was lip-syncing to 'Danke Shoen' from the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and was holding a bouquet of flowers and then asked me. I was laughing so hard," said Piceel.

Piceel will be going to his school's prom at Notre Dame Prep. This year, many sophomores are asking seniors to prom.

Sophomore Dredan McFall announced his big question over the P.A. system yesterday during 1st hour.

His exact words to his date were, "Please excuse this interruption.

This is Dredan asking the beautiful Maxine Moses if she would like to go to prom with me."

He said even though she knew he was going to ask her, he was still very nervous.

"She told me the only way I could ask her was if I did it in a cute way. She had no idea I was going to ask her over the P.A. system," said McFall.

Sophomore Christian Parker didn't have to announce his question to get senior Megan Banas to say yes.

He said, "I bought her flowers with a note inside asking her to prom and put it in her locker."

Megan said she knew he was going to ask her but she didn't know how so it was a nice surprise.

Sophomore Ryan Tellow surprised senior Madison Nezich with a candle-lit room and a bouquet of roses.

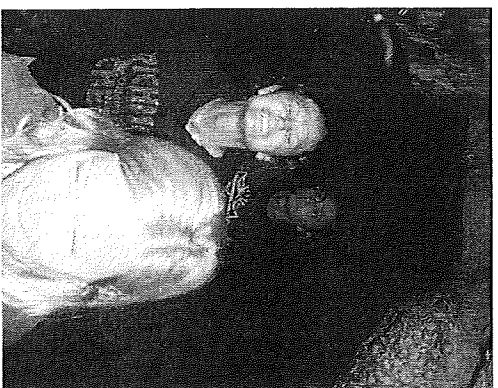
"I thought it would be a good way to ask her," said Tellow.

Nezich said, "I was caught off guard when he asked me, but I said yes of course."

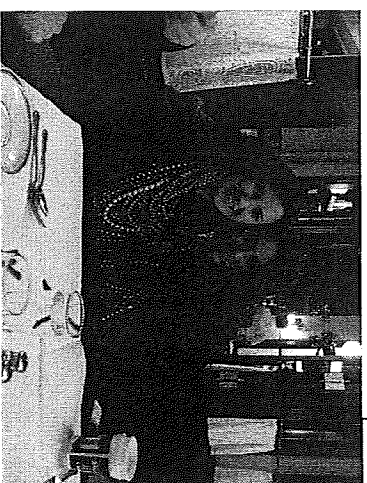
While some girls want their dates to go all out, others want it short and sweet.

Senior Rochelle Raska said if someone asked her, she would want it to be face-to-face and simple.

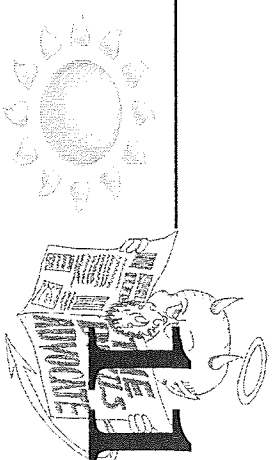
Sophomore Alesha Powers said, "I would want him to come down in a hot air balloon that was white with red stripes and it said 'Prom?' on it."



Paige McCloskey and Joanna Fenwick explore a cave during Spring Break.



Seniors Jessica Murphy and Angela Sztaba smile together during their cruise that happened a couple of weeks before Spring Break.



Fun in the sun

By: Jacob Marlow
Staff Writer

There was no doubt Mother Nature was on our side this past March, reaching incredible numbers as winter ended.

During the week of March 18-24, it was in the sky-high 70s and 80s! It actually broke record books for all-time highs in Michigan.

There wasn't much sitting inside during that week. Many students were playing sports, hanging with friends, fishing and doing whatever Americans do.

For example, Parker Trend, a freshman, said, "I rode my go-karts most of the time on my track that I have in my yard."

Other students such as Brandon Skoryanc, a sophomore, said, "I've had baseball practice during the beautiful weather. Also I've played catch, jumped on the trampoline, and rode four wheelers with my siblings."

Another active RHS student, Anthony Borges, said, "I played basketball most of the time at my house, the park, and at St. A's. The weather has also affected my mood. Warmer the weather, better the mood."

The warm weather seemed to be affecting everyone's overall mood.

Ryan Tellow, sophomore, said, "When the weather is warmer, I'm in a much better mood than when it's colder."

Austin Harvey, sophomore, said, "Well I'm always in an amazing mood, but the weather puts me in a much better mood when it's warmer."

When Michigan had the two record-breaking days where the temperatures reached 85 degrees, it seemed it would stay like this all the way through March into April and go until November.

But one week after the record breaking temperature, Mother Nature threw Michiganders right back to reality, with temperatures in the mid-40s and has been in the 40s for the past couple weeks now, with a couple mid-50 degree days and an occasional low 60 degree day.

Donny Ede sophomore, said, "This weather stinks because it seems very unpredictable. One day it's pretty nice out, the next it's bad out."

The sudden change in weather does not just bring people's moods down, but it also brings many of the people's health down such as Mr. Johnson, one of are RHS custodians he said the weather is making his sinuses act up and evidently making him catch a cold.

Warm weather is not too far away now. According to weather.com, the temperatures for the next two weeks will mostly range from the mid-50s to low-60s. So it seems to be an average spring in Michigan after the bright record setting week in March.

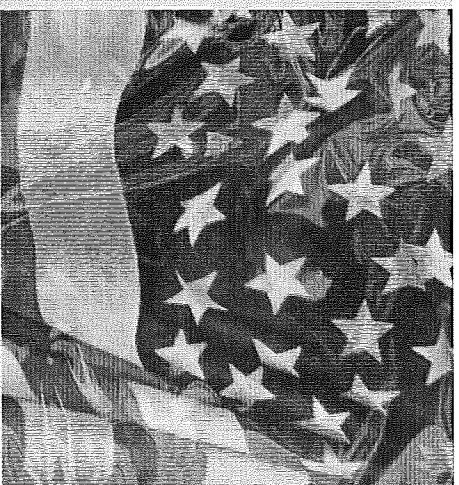
WORD SEARCH

Spring Time!

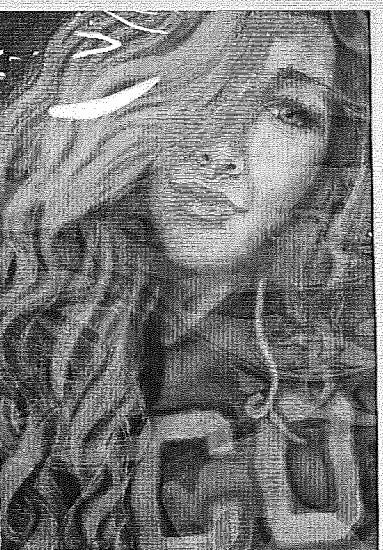
Baseball
Softball
Umbrellas
Flowers
Rain
Tennis
Soccer
Track
Prom
Sunshine
Butterfly

E Z B V G U X V V R S S C H E F
S O D S B V P R S I U I U R F
S O C C E R M A N Y N I O C F
Q E X M O D L N J J S M E Q Y
O X R O Y L E O T J H R M I K
W B Y K E T Y M X H I A A H S
T O A R O R L B B M N I I T S
F R B S R E W O L F E N O O E
P M A N E F C B A A X F F Q R
U W S C I B J X J J F Z N M U
Q Y Z G K A A U A Y B U I O T
I A S G Z G R L U A X M L E A
C I D W Y B I R L J A W Y L N
C V G A W N S L P U E U M X M
B U I T E R F L Y C H R Y P J

Artist Showcase



By: Jennifer Clotfelter, Senior



By: Kelsey Kasom, Senior

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn: December 22- January 20

As the saying goes April showers brings May flowers. This month is going to be rough. With so much on your mind, it's hard to focus on anything anymore. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, so as the days go on, you live and learn, trying to make your days better.
Favorite flower: rose

Gemini: may 22- June 21

You're quite the prankster this month. April fools is going to be a great day for you, Not only will you get tons of laughs, but you'll receive an unexpected text or call from someone you've forgotten about.
Favorite flower: lilac

Cancer: June 22- July 23

They always say laughing cleans the soul, which works in your case this month. Your laughter is contagious and someone you like will notice your adorable laugh. With your constant good attitude and just being yourself, this will be one of the best months ever.
Favorite flower: daffodil

Aquarius: January 21-february 19

Bad days just lead to worse days. Don't let people bring you down. You only live once. That's one shot to make it the best it can be. Keep a smile on your face and be yourself, because better days are on there way.
Favorite flower: daisy

Sagittarius: November 23- December 21

There is nothing wrong with being a little mysterious. Don't try too hard to impress, it will only push them away. Playing a little hard to get is good, you don't need to seem easy to get. Go with your gut instinct; if you think they're playing games, and then don't waste your time.
Favorite flower: tulip

Aries: March 21 – April 20

Although you've been very busy recently, always make time for the important things like work, friends and, most importantly, family. Set aside time just for them.
Favorite flower: Lavender

Taurus: April 21 – May 21

You've been feeling pretty good about your latest accomplishments, but you've become a bit to full of yourself. Take a breath and see how others are doing. Try to give off some of your good energy.
Favorite Flower: Foxglove

Leo: July 24 – August 23

All the stress you've had lately has been eating you up. You're attitude has been offensive and isn't pleasant to be around. Attempt to fake a good attitude until you have one.
Favorite flower: Bleeding heart

Scorpio: October 24 – November 22

Rumors can be hurtful, and maybe you've been the core of where they start. Step back and think about how you would feel if you heard someone gossiping about you in that way.
Favorite Flower: Veraine

Virgo: August 24 – September 23

Jealousy isn't your best color. Look at the things you have going for you in your life, and be grateful. You always want more, but what you do have is not that terrible.
Favorite flower: Aster

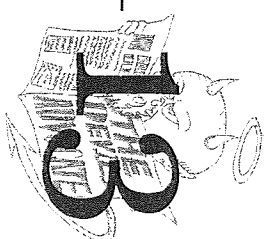
Libra: September 24 – October 23

You've been very attentive to all your friends lately. You help them continuously with their problems, but they don't usually help with yours. While realizing this, start to look for the friends that are with you for your issues too. Stop over extending yourself for those who don't really care.
Favorite flower: Peony

Taurus: April 21 – May 21

You've been feeling pretty good about your latest accomplishments, but you've become a bit to full of yourself. Take a breath and see how others are doing. Try to give off some of your good energy.
Favorite Flower: Foxglove

Advertisements



Two Band members go big time

Donato and Mathes do great at Solo & Ensemble States

By: Brett Brincefield
Staff Writer

Richmond High School Band's Kyle Donato and Jacob Mathes went to States and came back with some of the highest scores a freshman and sophomore can get. Donato got an 86, which is a one in States, while Mathes was able to get a one as a freshman.

Mathes and Donato, both went for the first time this year.

Mathes, a freshman, said, "It was a good experience and the comments given by the judges at districts helps you better yourself and improve ways of playing."

He said that being at States was like what he predicted. He said, "I predicted that they would point out mistakes, ways to improve, and he thought I had a good performance with some flaws." Mathes said he needs to improve on ending notes before rests and his notes cannot be too short.

He also said that in his dynamics when playing, he must work on better phrasing with his decrescendos and crescendos. He was commented on his playing when it came to his tone,

rhythm, technique and interpretation of the music.

Mathes understood that a flaw the judges did not point out, that he recognized through was that in his opening movement, he needs more changes in between legato and staccato.

Mathes spent one hour per day preceding States practicing and preparing.

Donato said, "It's not like solo and ensemble at districts. The differences were what you had to play, which were a major, minor and chromatic scale, my solo and sight reading."

He said, "A major scale is used for warm-up and has basic intervals of whole note, whole note, half note. They help with songs.

Each major scale has a different scale, for example a b-flat scale could have a b-flat and an e-flat. A minor scale is usually equivalent to a major scale. Notes change, and it has a darker more menacing tone. A chromatic scale goes from lowest note to the highest note. For my Flute, it would be the c below the staff line all the way up to the highest c above the staff line."

Donato thought there would be four scales, but there were only three.

Donato said it made it easier because it was one less scale for him to worry about. He found the sight reading easy. He was very proud of his score and was glad he got a Division one score.

He spent an hour per day practicing and said he would have done better and gotten above an 86 if he practiced more.

He did get helpful points.

"They said I needed to be a little less aggressive in my solo which was Minuet. I need to learn not to chop off the end of notes and when it says to play soft, I need to play softer. Other than that, they said I had a good tempo."

Mrs. May, band director, said, "I

was very proud of them. I didn't get to hear their performance, but I did talk to them afterwards and also after reading the judge's comments. There are always things to work on, mainly phrasing and dynamics, for a mature musician. They also need good tone quality."

Mrs. May said that they both have inborn talent, and want to work hard to be good at their instruments.

She also believes they are playing well for their level and as they get older, their playing will progress.

She said the harder they work, the better they will get. She said, "Since they reached a 1, that's the highest score you can achieve, so all they can do is have higher expectations for the next year."

Brian J. Pradko, DDS.

Pradko

Gallagher

& Slanec

36600 Heritage Drive
Richmond, MI 48062
586-727-3815
586-727-8085
Fax: 586-727-3950
DrPradko@PDSdentistry.com
www.PDSdentistry.com

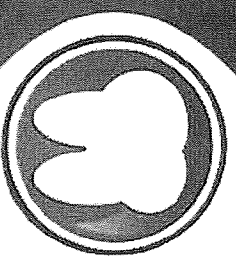
PROFESSIONALS
IN FAMILY DENTISTRY

Eric Groeneveld DDS, PC

Your All Occasion Florist

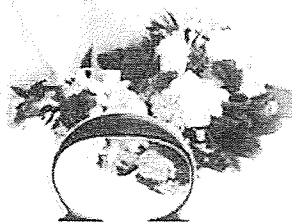
586.727.0963

68085 Main Street
Richmond, Michigan 48062



Family Dentistry

68720 Main Street
Richmond, MI 48052
Tel. (586)727.0990
Fax: (586)727.4872
www.EricGroeneveldDDS.com



**CRIMSON
& CLOVER**
Floral & Gifts

www.crimsonandclover.us

H & H Student Driving School – 2012

At Richmond High School
20 Years of Experience
State Bonded, Fully Licensed and Insured

Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit

Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Harphun for details on upcoming classes.

RHS Alumni Update 14

Prak finds great success

By: Melissa Resk
Advertising Editor

Devon Prak left high school thinking she was going to be a psychiatrist, but Prak would have never guessed what that would turn into. The Class of 2008 RHS alumnus is a senior at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and has had many exciting experiences.

"If you would have asked me in high school what I would be doing my senior year in college, I would have never told you I would be doing any of this," said Prak. "I didn't really care for science much but I wanted to be a psychiatrist."

Academics

With the dream of becoming a psychiatrist on her mind, Prak began to study Behavioral Neuroscience, which is the study of the brain and how it affects behavior. "Behavioral Neuroscience uses the principles of biology and chemistry as well as psychology to study human behavior. It encompasses biological, social, cultural learning and behavioral approaches to understanding individual and group behaviors," wrote Prak in one of her essays for admittance into grad school.

After deciding to take a few Pre-Med classes to prove she could handle the rigorous courses. She began doing research for different professors and working with different doctors such as Dr. Yuh Fai Leung. As one thing led to another, Prak finally found where she wanted to go.

She wants to become a doctor and study the brain. "I (now) have a lot of classes on Endocrinology (the study of organs and glands that make hormones), hormones and different brain structures and then I have a bunch of Psychology classes that are more behavior-based," said Prak. She also said she studies behavior and emotions because they tend to intertwine with her research.

Prak said these classes show the whole spectrum of the brain and hormones and how they actually affect behavior.

She currently works in a Zebra fish eye development lab. "We are studying a bunch of transcription factors. I'm working on Egr1, which is just a random transcription factor and I'm trying to see how that affects different retinal diseases like Macular Degeneration," she said.

Through all of her hard work and many hours of research for different professors, Prak received a grant for \$1,500 to continue her research. "So far I spent the money on a new line of mutant Egr 1 fish for future experiments so that we no longer have to genetically modify human embryos ourselves," she said. She is also in the process of getting her research published and add to her accomplishments. She recently submitted a piece of work called "Phenylthiourea specifically reduces zebra fish eye size".

It's also known as PTU which is a common chemical used to study zebra fish eye disease. In this article Prak looked for alternatives to PTU.

Prak is continuing down the path of becoming a doctor and after her graduation from Purdue this spring, she will enroll in Dartmouth, an Ivy League School, to get her Masters in Public Health.

Art

At RHS, Prak always had an interest for art. After accomplishing Drawing 1, 2 and 3, she designed several art projects in college.

Her love for art continued to follow her, and she is now an art and design minor. But she uses art for more than a way to express her creativity. "A large portion of my classes are science-based (left-brain classes) and I wanted to make sure that I was making good use of my entire brain. I think that it gives a different perspective on the world and keeps me from thinking about any problem in just one way," she said. Prak's art won her a Scholastics Award in high school. But even though she hasn't entered her art into any other contests during college, she recalls a special memory. "At one point, my art professor said that he would have given Picasso a C. I got an A- in his class and that felt like an award," said Prak with a laugh.

"Devon won a Gold Key for her art in her senior year of high school from the Macomb CC Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in 2008," said Mrs. Avery, Prak's grandma, in an e-mail. In the same e-mail, she said Devon also won four Regional Merit Awards for her individual work in her portfolio. She later sent her portfolio New York for judging.



Devon Prak

She hopes to keep art a part of her life even though she doesn't have a lot of free time. She also said she stops at art galleries on her way to class whenever she can.

From Developed to Developing

"I had heard about the trip from one of my close friends. It was somewhat of a process. We first had to apply and then interview for about 20 spots on the trip," said Prak.

"Devon is a member of the Purdue Caduceus Club, which is a pre-med club at her school. They have traditionally done medical mission work in Honduras, so that is how she got interested in Honduras," said Mrs. Avery.

But, getting into the program took a lot of work and many different processes. In an e-mail, Prak wrote, "It was somewhat of a process. We first had to apply and then interview for about 20 spots on the trip."

During the first week of January 2011 and 2012, Prak traveled to Honduras on medical mission trips. Since she was working in a different country, she said there was a lot more to experience because the U.S. has a lot more restrictions.

"In Honduras, we were pulling teeth, stitching up patients, cleaning wounds with very little training. In the U.S, hospitals are very sterile, but in Honduras they had dogs running around, 15-plus people sharing a room, and have so many people waiting and hoping to see doctors," wrote Prak in one of her emails.

"On our mission trips, we scrubbed into a few surgeries. I got to pull teeth," said Prak. Because she visited a third world country, she said pulling rotten teeth

is a common occurrence. "We saw babies being delivered and cleaned the wounds of people who have amputated legs," she said.

Prak recalled one of her favorite memories from her trip. "On my first trip, we scrubbed into a surgery where a guy had a broken arm. The surgeries are so relaxed, so they were playing music and the doctors were dancing with us while they were operating. That was kind of a fun memory, but I was kind of uncomfortable about it," she said.

Prak said she would definitely want to return to Honduras for more mission trips. "I know it sounds like work, but it's fun. You get to meet a lot of people and it's hands-on," she said.

But, not everything was fun; some things need to be taken serious.

"It was kind of sad because even though you are helping people there's only so much you can do. I mean you only have a limited number of funds and you're not a real doctor yet. So there are some things you just can't help people with. And that's kind of hard just knowing that you can't help them and you can't fix everything," she said.

What's to come?

Her transfer to Dartmouth-an Ivy League School-is soon to come, but how did she get in?

"I submitted my application in early November. The application process involved writing a personal statement, three letters of recommendation, a CV, and transcript," said Prak. She also said she was very surprised to receive her acceptance letter.

"Dartmouth is competitive as an Ivy League school," said Mrs. Avery.

"Only 70 people are accepted into the program (one-third of these people already have professional degrees, one-third are working in the field and the last one-third comes straight from undergrad)," said Prak.

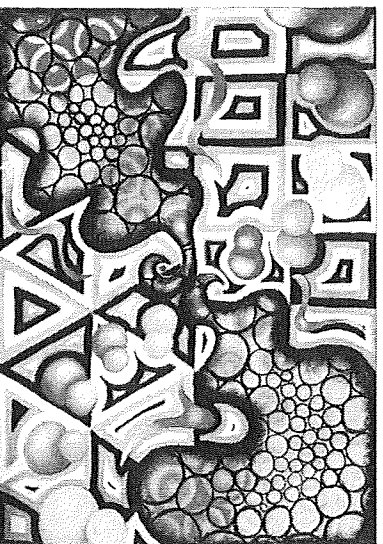
"Dartmouth only accepts 1-12% of applicants and is often ranked as one of the top-10 most selective schools in the U.S," wrote Prak in an e-mail.

After all the fun experiences in Honduras, she doesn't have any more planned, but she can't wait till she does.

Her college life will soon come to an end. In five years she hopes to be finishing up med school and starting her residency. Eventually in ten years, she hopes to have her own practice and hopefully be planning more mission trips.

"I would love to do relief work in Haiti. Several of my classmates have gone and said that there is so much that needs to be done there, so your efforts really make a difference," said Prak.

She recommends these mission trips to everyone because there is a lot in the world that needs to be done.



A piece of art by Prak

Devon Prak, a Class of 2008 RHS graduate, poses for a picture during a re-

