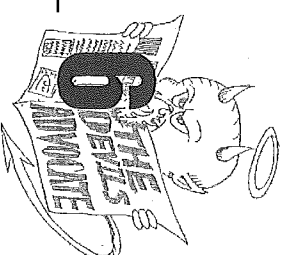


SCHOOL NEWS



Christmas vs. Xmas: Does the true meaning still exist?

By: **Keley Williams**
Business Manager

Christmastime is here, happiness and cheer...at least that is what we think.

It is this time of year that Christmas music blasts on the radio, shoppers are in a frenzy to get the best deals, and the same controversy returns to the surface: is it Christmas or Xmas?

Some say Christmas because of their religious beliefs or upbringing, while others say Xmas because it is just easier to say, write or type. But I think that we should ask ourselves a very prominent question: is our society just becoming too lazy for Christmas? It is always nice to get a "Merry Christmas!" text from your friends, but it is a little disappointing when you look at the screen and it says, "Merry Xmas!"

Sure, saying Xmas is a time saver, but getting a text message is not

Is Santa Getting too Old?

By: **Shelby Stewart**
News Editor

Better watch out, because Santa can see every bad thing you do.

Right?

Growing up, your parents always told you to be good or Santa would bring you coal for Christmas instead of that amazing new toy you've been wanting since October. You would beg Mom to buy it for you when she would take you shopping for Aunt's and Uncle's Christmas present at the mall.

What did she always say? "If you're good, maybe Santa will bring it to you for Christmas."

But how many kids actually believe in Santa anymore?

When you were four, you made cookies and left them for Santa to eat, then at five in the morning, you would run down and be amazed that there were only crumbs left on the plate. Big Brother would play along and just smile and nod when you yelled, "Look what Santa brought me!"

really my version of spreading Christmas cheer. Are people really taking time to make your holiday special?

Christmas is supposed to be filled with friends and family, not technology.

Personally, instead of sending out a mass text message, I write out Christmas cards and put them in my friends' lockers to show that I am thinking about them this holiday season.

And nowhere do you see the word Xmas on any of the cards.

People have lost the spirit of Christmas and what the holiday really means.

Individuals have fallen into the commercialized version of Christ-

mas. The presents. The best deals. Black Friday. It seems it is all that people worry about during the holiday season.

It is like the holiday movie "Christmas with the Kranks", where a middle-aged married couple decides to skip Christmas in order to pay for an expensive trip over the holiday.

The couple soon realizes that skipping Christmas isn't as easy as it seems.

This is what our society is coming to.

We are skipping Christmas altogether without even realizing it.

So what is the true meaning?

Some say it is a holiday to spend with your family, while others say it is a celebration of Christ, hence the

word Christmas.

Replacing the word "Christ" in the word Christmas completely boggles my mind.

I understand that some people aren't religious, but Christmas became what it is now because of the past.

Yes, getting the newest videogame or phone for Christmas is great, but we are so involved in our virtual lives that we no longer see the truth right in front of us.

Think about Christmas when you were a little kid. Things were definitely different then, no matter how old you are now. So before you send that text message, think about what really matters this holiday season.

It's not about how many gifts or candy comes you get. It is about the reason for the season and why we are truly celebrating.

Santa had eaten the cookies.

"Of course he did, Honey. He gets hungry going to every house all around the world." Mom smiles while cleaning up the plate of sugary crumbs. "I'm sure he loved them. Let's go see what he put in your stocking." Dad reaches over her head and grabs the stocking off of the mantle. You just smile and play along. It was fun when you were little; why ruin that fun for her?

So maybe you don't write Santa your letter anymore. You still play along with your parents to satisfy your little sister.

Even Big Brother smiles and nods, no matter how much older he gets.

"You must have been really good this year," you two will say, smiling because you know Little Sister is happy.

When you get older, you can decide to keep tradition alive or not. You might be the parent who doesn't want your kids to have a special reason to be good, or that the religious aspect is more important. And that's ok.

It all depends on what you believe and what is most important to you and your family. Either way, children will continue to wait up for Santa for years to come. They will continue to learn that the holiday season is about giving to other people. And who knows? Maybe a little red light flying through the sky late at night can bring back your feelings of great Christmases past.

Old Kris Kringle isn't retired yet.

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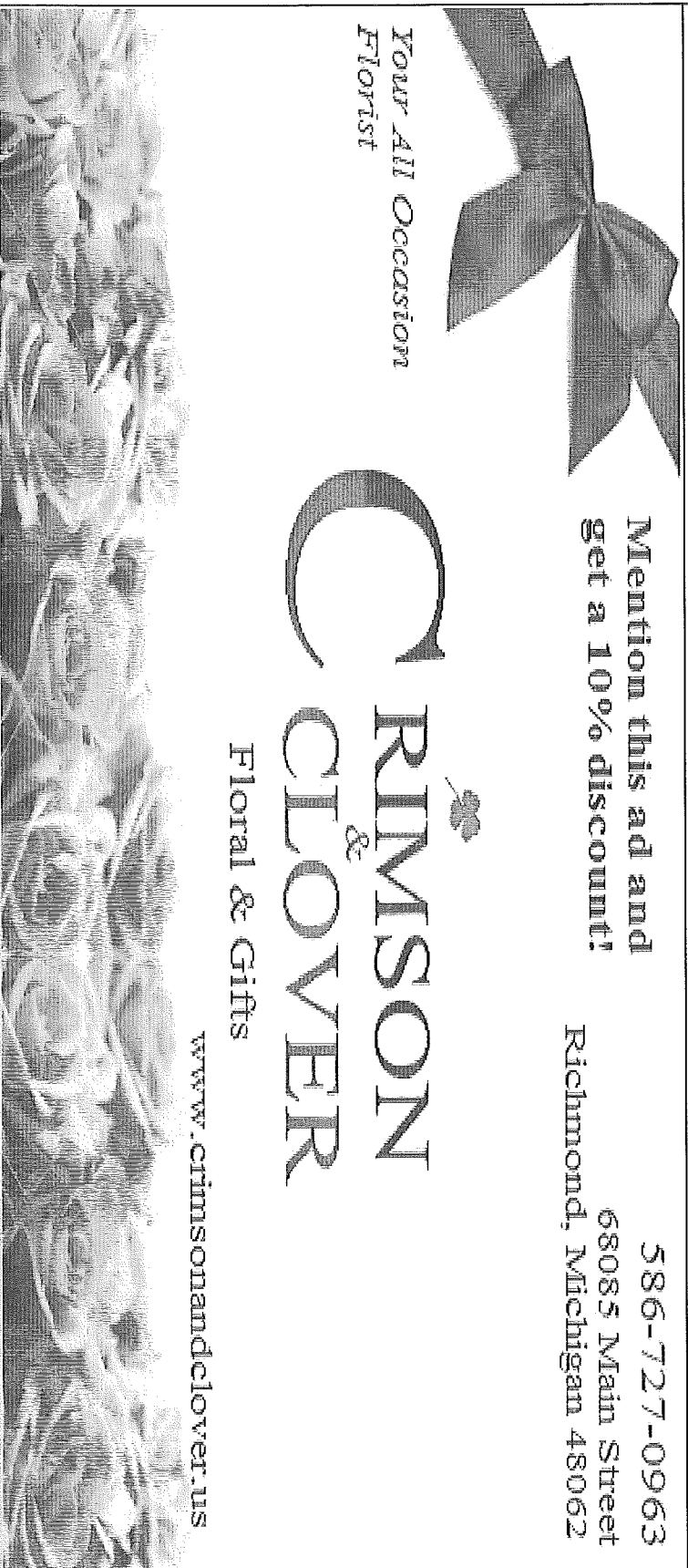
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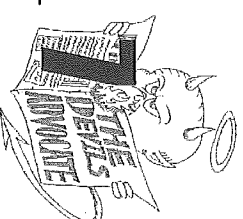
Opinion

December 14, 2012

YOUR ALL OCCASION
FLORIST



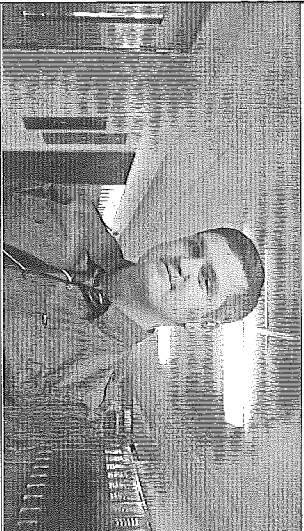
In Our Opinion



Question of the Week

~*~
What is your favorite Christmas song?

Staff



Mr. Applegate likes any Christmas song performed by Frank Sinatra.

Senior



Rebecca Weishaar is filled with Christmas spirit when she hears *Santa Baby*.

Junior



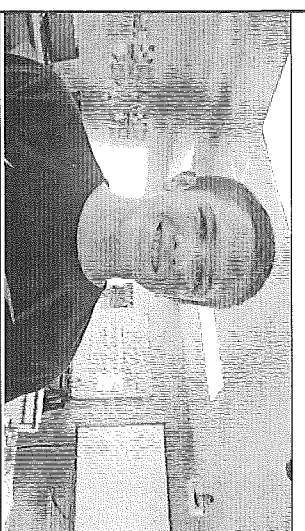
The *Christmas Song* is at the top of Colleen Gaffney's playlist.

Sophomore



Josiah Kondak prepares for Christmas by listening to *Christmas Comin' Round again*.

Freshman



Joe Ottenbacher has much cheer, Especially if he should happen to hear, Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer.

Staff Editorial: Let it Snow or Bah Humbug?

Baby, it's Cold Outside... It's already December. For most people, that means mitsens, holiday celebrations, and much-anticipated time off of school and work. But in Michigan? It means waking up at 6:00am to shovel your way out of the front door. It means massive snowmen, warm boots, and slush on the sidewalks. So how are we coping with that? The editorial staff at the *Advocate* is definitely excited to see snow fall. It still has yet to happen, but most of them are very excited.

Dashing Through the Snow, One common complaint about snowy weather is driving in it. Getting through the slush can be a hassle, but that seems like a small price to pay for the beauty of the season (and for those wonderful snow days). We all know the feeling of waking up and looking outside to see if the snow is high enough to cancel school.

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch. Not everyone at the *Advocate* is happy about snow. One of the editors decided that snow wasn't as fun as everyone thinks. People know that snow means cold toes, ice covered sidewalks, and a nose as red

as a reindeer's. Though, the other staff out-weighed the Grinch among us. Snow can be a pretty cool thing, can't it?

Walking in a Winter Wonderland Who out there loves how the snow sparkles in the sunlight when you see it through your window? Admit it, at least once in your life you have thought snow was a pretty great thing. There are so many things you can do with it. You can build a snowman, make snow angels, or start a snow ball fight that leads to a freezing cold group of people huddled under blankets drinking hot chocolate.

May all your Christmases be White This year and last year left us with a green holiday season. But the staff hasn't given up hope. This season isn't over, it's only barely begun. People who live up here in Michigan, and especially Richmond, know that the weather can be unpredictable. It can be 80° one day and -10° the next. So who says it won't snow tomorrow. Snow is a good thing. Let's all hope for a white Christmas.

It's a love/hate relationship

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

When we say phrases like, "I love this" or "I hate this," do we really mean it? Most of the time, we say these expressions just to show excitement over a topic.

That excitement can be either negative or positive. I know that I throw around words like love or hate all of the time.

With those outbursts of excitement, those words get thrown around and lose meaning. You don't truly express how you feel about something, and the way you actually feels gets masked by the implications of the words you choose.

Do we actually love those things? Or those people? Maybe we're just masking our strong liking of someone with something that used to be as precious as love. Then there's the people who go completely opposite in a short span of time. They love something one second, and then they hate it the next.

Are we inclined to just say these things because it's expected by our peers?

As teenagers, our minds are constantly changing. Our favorite thing one day can be the thing we really "hate" the next. Those changes are very much affected by the people in our lives. And sometimes we just hate them?

Using those words makes us seem less serious about different situations. People use these words and don't think twice. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but love should be reserved for when you actually feel that.

Continued on page 8

Blue Devils Advocate

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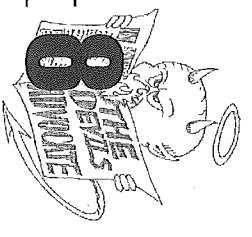
Staff Writers:
Jacob Marlow
Katie Radzwion
Rosie Urban

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: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.



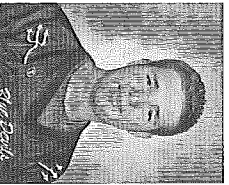
Key Clubbers package up a difference

Fighting hunger one meal at a time.

By: Adam Boyd
Sports Editor

Reaming is different from believing and actually doing. One man's decision to pursue his dream makes a big difference with the help of one organization.

Kids Against Hunger (KAH) Utica has helped feed families in disaster areas since March 1999.



KAH is a non-profit organization founded by Richard Proudft. While he was doing missionary work in Honduras, Proudft had a life-altering sight. Seeing starving children, this sight reshaped his life forever.

Adam Boyd

Proudft later took up a challenge to feed the starving children of the world. This was not only a dream but it became a reality.

When Proudft created KAH, he made this vision his reality and together they are decreasing malnutrition-related diseases and death from starvation.

In the world you often hear about all the cynical activity in the world but what you don't hear all the time is all the hero stories in the world.

It's just mesmerizing that one man's dream was able to same millions of lives, one person made one decision that probably saved millions of lives.

What people do that can save millions of lives is worth just as much public attention as what is on the news now. I would rather hear about this on the news than a murder case. Especially if I was part of the family that the case has affected, they don't need all that publicity when all they want to do is to be given their privacy.

A love/hate relationship

Continued from page 7

That being a strong emotion where it's actually about affection, not just how you might really like or appreciate something.

Love should be preserved. And hate should be used cautiously.

If you truly hate something, it would be intolerable and painful to experience. Perhaps you just really don't like something. Maybe

I think this would make a much better news story and would bring more attention to the news station.

This international organization is a mobile group that goes about looking for volunteers not only for location, but for people volunteers as well.

Locals from the Utica area and all over Macomb County went to Utica's Trinity Lutheran Church to help bag food for disaster areas.

One third is kept in local food banks, one third is kept to store for natural disaster areas, and one

third is sent out to disaster areas such as Sandy and Katrina victims.

I was one of the Key Club members who went to Utica to offer our services. When we first arrived at Trinity Lutheran, we were ushered into one of the classrooms of the connected school to observe an orientation video; this video gave an informative background story of the organization and gave an explanation of the duties we were required to perform for the next couple of hours.

The group of students that went down consisted of Kay Hafner, Hannah and Clayton Rygwelski, Lindsay Omeila, Melisa Resk, Caitlyn Reynolds, Breanna Jutila, Matt Bau-man and myself.

Between the nine of us, we formed an "assembly line". This line was formed of four fillers (Melissa, Caitlyn, Breanna, and Matt), two scale people (Clayton and D), two heat packagers (Kay and Hannah), and the boxers. This was performed by Lindsay and Mr. Murphy.

The fillers were each given a bucket of rice, soy, dehydrated fruit or various vegetables. They were to fill up a scoop of what was in their bin down a shoot into a bag.

you're just annoyed.

Once you throw around a strong word such as hate, it's hard to take it back. Saying, "I hate you" could be thrown around casually and could be taken as an insult. Then you could unintentionally hurt another person, and it can stick with them for a long time. And in reality, you only half meant it.

Now, maybe there are situations when no other word can truly describe your passion about something. You really do

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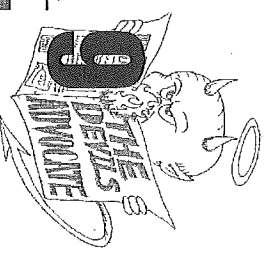


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Editorials

December 14, 2012

THE DOGS
Carney Island
MICHIGAN



**MONTHLY
"MUST-SEES"**

- Comedy
Here Comes the Boom
Playing for Keeps
- Action
Red Dawn
- Rise of the Guardians
- Drama
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2
Lincoln
- Family
Wreck—It Ralph

Source: www.movies.com

Would you rather?

- Would you rather eat two dozen cookies in two minutes or drink a whole gallon of milk?
Josh Koehn, sophomore, would rather drink a gallon of milk.
- Would you rather be Frosty the Snowman or Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer?
Ashley Schoof, sophomore, would rather be Rudolf because she says she is a leader.
- Would you rather have it snow year round or not snow at all?
Stephanie Graham, freshman, would rather it not snow at all.

**Guess
Who?!**

What RHS teacher's baby picture is this?

- A) Mr. Ladd
 - B) Mr. Delore
 - C) Mr. Schleder
 - D) Mr. Roodbeen
- See answer on page 13



Show us your stuff!

**TALENT
SPOTLIGHT**

★ *Lauren Riggs* ★



Lauren Riggs, sophomore, has been dancing for 11 years.

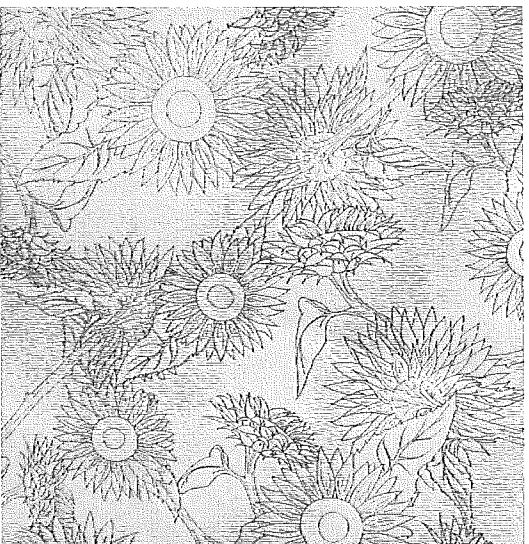
"I like the feeling to be able to express myself. It's easier than talking because I can let all my emotions out," said Riggs.

Lauren and her studio, Spotlight Dance Works, are national champions on the East Coast. Also, they are considered to be the best studio in Michigan.

Her favorite style of dance is musical theatre and jazz. Her dream for the future is to be on Broadway.



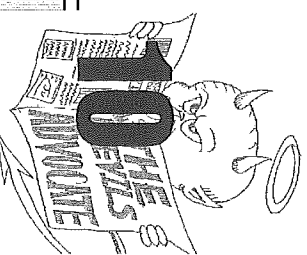
"Pumpkin" - Odin Defazio



"Flowers" - Ashley Fanale



"Boots" - Hailey Winston



Laser lines buzzing through RHS

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

“Give him lines!” yelled Max Kansier as Mitchell Tyler had his haircut at a local barber shop.

After a normal Saturday afternoon following a game of basketball at Joe Dunams Fieldhouse, juniors Max Kansier and Mitchell Tyler proceeded to have their hair cut. The barber then put laser lines in Mitchell’s hair.

Laser lines require a short haircut in which a barber uses clippers to shave designs into the hair of a person.

It was a new experience as Mitchell walked out of the barber shop with a straight line shaved on both sides of his head.

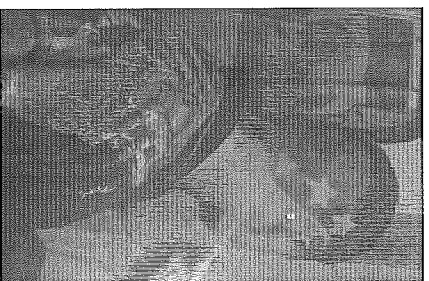
“I enjoyed having them, but didn’t enjoy the way that the lines looked. I got made fun of a lot the first time I got laser lines,” said Mitchell.

However, Mitchell decided to keep the laser lines.

Now Mitchell regularly gets new laser lines in his hair performed by freshman Spencer Trapiss.

Spencer has given laser lines to other friends as well. He put in laser lines for the players on his Little League baseball team earlier this summer when the team made an appearance at a state tournament.

“My friends wanted them, so I told them I could do it,” said



Burnette shows off his laser lines

Spencer. Spencer found about laser lines at a barber shop where he first had them put in his hair. During baseball season, Spencer has his jersey number shaved into the side of his head. As of now, Spencer gives people laser lines for free, but added he may charge people for them in the future.

Max Kansier first had laser lines put in by Spencer Trapiss a couple of weeks ago.

“I was forced to have them put in because I made Mitchell get them,” said Max.

When asked if he would routinely have laser lines put in his hair, Max said, “I might, but I’m not sure.”

Max thinks having laser lines of sports logos looks cool, which is why he chose to have the old Houston Astros star put in the side of his head.

“My parents really didn’t care,” said Max about his parents’ opinion on him having laser lines.

Both Max and Mitchell agree that a flattop would be the best hairstyle to have laser lines

in.
“I think Nerlens Noel’s haircut is cool,” said Max.

University of Kentucky basketball center Nerlens Noel’s flattop has become a hot topic among sports fans and the media. His haircut consists of a flattop with the University of Kentucky logo shaved into the back of his head.

Nerlens revealed his new haircut with the Kentucky logo on the back of his head on an ESPNU interview when he committed to the school earlier in the year. When asked in the interview where he would be going to play college basketball, Nerlens turned around in his chair and showed the camera the Kentucky logo shaved into the back of his head.

Junior Austin Burnette is one of the more popular faces around Richmond with laser lines.

“They give me my own unique style,” said Austin.

Austin has his laser lines put in at Joey’s Barber Shop in New Haven.

“They are really good at putting laser lines in,” said Austin.

Austin credits the free hand ability it takes to put laser line designs in hair, which is why he likes Joey’s Barber Shop.

“My first experience was two years ago, and I just really liked how it was different and unique,” said Austin.

Austin, along with others, has realized the increased popularity of laser lines among the school and credits himself for the increased popularity.

When asked what he thinks when he sees people around Richmond with laser lines, Austin said, “I think they are copying my swag, but I like how I’ve inspired people.”

Austin also believes that Laser Lines was once a popular style that has been brought back.

“It’s an older style that’s been brought back. I think I brought it back to Richmond though,” said Austin.

Laser lines first started appearing around the 1980’s, and died towards the end of the decade. Laser lines have now become popular among celebrities, specifically rap stars.

“Kanye West and sometimes Ludicrous have some cool stuff in their hair at times,” said Austin.

The effect of popular stars having laser lines may be the reason why people are beginning to go back to that style.

“I try to change the designs every two weeks because my hair grows back really fast,” said Austin.

Modern Word

By: Caitlee Hawley
Editorial Editor

Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Reddit... The internet seems to dictate our lives. Everything is electronic these days and information is available in an instant, allowing us to find what we need on a daily, hourly, or minute-by-minute basis. But what about the printed word?

What happened to collecting bookmarks and staying up late to finish a book because you just *had* to know what happens in chapter 25?

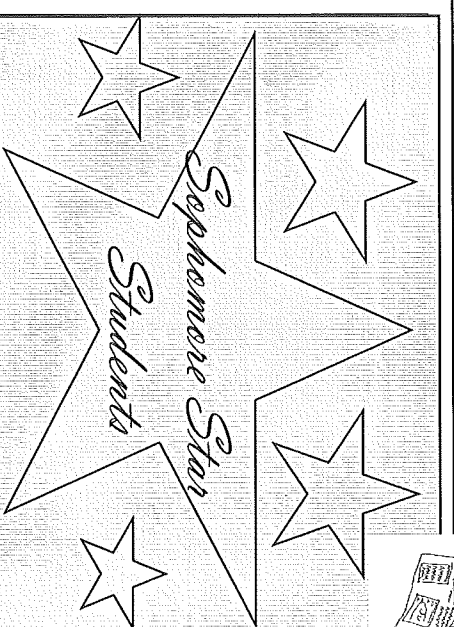
For those of us who like the smell of new books, the feel of dog-eared a favorite page, and the satisfaction of feeling the weight of a book in your hands, here are a few websites to help us connect to today’s electronic world. [Overbooked](http://Overbooked.org) (overbooked.org)

Overbooked includes themed book lists, annotated lists of fiction and nonfiction titles, and reviews of popular books in the U.S. This site is truly one of the easiest ways to find exactly what you are looking for.

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Goodreads (goodreads.com) This site is a useful tool for people who want to know about a book before they buy it. It also offers a way to connect with other readers who

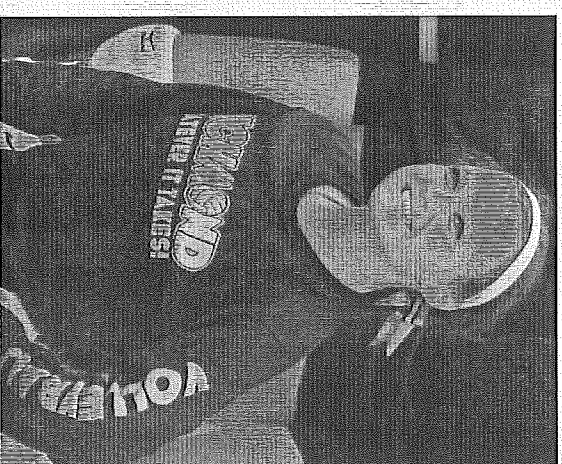


Bean Brackett ☆



(Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook)

Favorite class: Choir
Favorite movie: 21 Jump street
Future goals: To go to college and get a degree in science
What do you want for Christmas? A new Keyboard piano



(Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook)

Favorite class: Delore
Favorite movie: Get him to the Greek
Future goals: Become an Anesthesiologist
What do you want for Christmas? iPhone