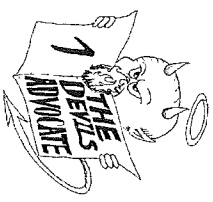


What's with the warm weather?  
Read about it on Pg. 7-9

# The BLUE DEVIL'S

*Advocate*



Richmond High School  
35320 Division Road  
Richmond, MI 48062

**Volume 8, Issue 5**

**February 23, 2012**

## RHS kicks it old school at The AUD

**By: Melissa Resk**  
Advertising Editor

In a time of panic, the Richmond Aud comes to the rescue.

On February 4, the Snowcoming Dance went against tradition and was held at The Aud for the first time.

"It's a tradition, and it was kinda weird dancing in another place," said sophomore Megan Hambaum. Many students preferred the school instead of The Aud for certain reasons. "It was too bright at The Aud," said Alexa Perry, sophomore. Hambaum said she also wanted darker lights as well.

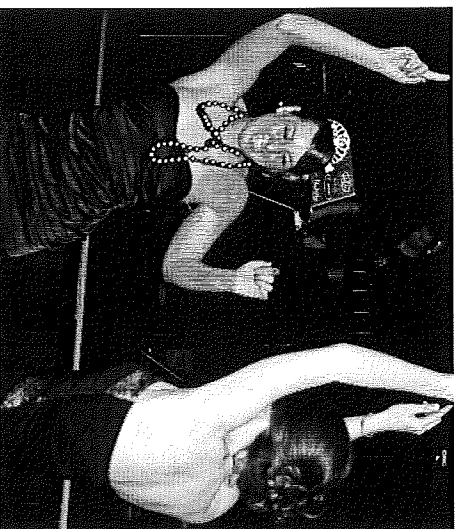
Although there were some critiques, there were good qualities as well.

One of the unique qualities that The Aud contains is a game room

upstairs and a cafe downstairs, which many students enjoyed. Jordan VandenBussche, junior said he went up-

stairs and played ping-pong and the piano. "I was

showing people that I could play. I played 'Don't Stop Believing' because it's a crowd-pleaser." Jennifer Merriman, sophomore, said, "It was good that you could go



Seniors Sarah Brown and Samantha Perry dance in the Aud  
Photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook

down to the cafe and get a drink or upstairs and play ping-pong." Although she didn't play, she also said

that it was a great way to cool her off when the dance got too crowded.

With the cafe being available, students didn't have to worry about bringing money for pizza and pop. This price was incorporated in when buying a ticket, Perry said, "I liked it. It was a good thing, I thought."

Sarah Moon, senior said she en-

joyed have to pay the extra money and having it available. "You already had it, why not use it?" said Moon.

"I thought The Aud was a lot of fun and I think the set-up was really good," added Perry. Merriman said, "Personally, I liked The Aud better because of the ability to do more with the decorations." She was one of the individuals responsible for the decorating of the dance. She continued to say, "I would make the gym floor bigger so we can have the same for Homecoming. Then we can fit everyone inside." With this impossible wish, no one really knows if The Aud will hold one of our dances in the future.

## Fresh ideas fuel fundraiser Project Graduation puts on fear factor challenge

**By: Jake McKiernan**  
Staff Writer

What would you say if you were told that you would have life size hot dogs walking around the school and teaching your classes?

How about if Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Tom Brown or Mrs. Pearson were teaching your class today?

What if Mr. Hamblin Mrs. Gabridge and Mr. Murphy were to be pied in the face?

And who doesn't want to see Mrs. Murphy drop a verse?

These things can all happen, but only if we supply the dough.

We're talking about using a fun and unique way to raise money:

Faculty Fear Factor.

Faculty Fear Factor is a unique fundraiser that Richmond has never done before. The fundraiser is mainly organized by Project Graduation, which is a series of events and fundraisers associated with the Senior All Night Party and other festivities.

The Fundraiser works as follows: as more and more money is donated, numerous teachers will perform certain tasks in front of the school. For instance, \$50 will get Mrs. Doland to do a tap dance in front of the school. \$100 will force Mr. Brown and Mr. Pearson to eat dog biscuits

and Mr. Murphy will have a pie thrown at him.

\$150 and \$250 will have Mr. Hamblin and Mrs. Gabridge "pied". \$300 will get Mr. Murphy, Mr. Brown and Mr. Pearson to dress up

like women. \$500 will earn a Mr. Murphy Rap and Mr. Brown and Mr. Pearson will be made into life-sized hot dogs. The final goal of \$1000 will feature Mr. Murphy

dressing up like a woman and singing a rap song, and Mr. Brown and Pearson will shave their heads.

Mr. Murphy said that his role in the fundraiser, such as dressing up like a woman among other things, will be a good way to raise funds for project graduation. "Since people have an incentive to raise money, then it will be an effective way to raise funds," said Mr. Murphy.

Principal Mr. Olson said all participating teachers volunteered themselves. "The people on the Project Graduation board came up with the idea, so far we have about \$300 raised," said Mr. Olson.

He said Project Graduation could need anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to cover all the expenses associated with the seniors' festivities. These include food and beverages. **FUND CONT. on PG. 3**

## Donato and Matthes strike a chord Both members of band perform well at Solo and Ensemble

**By: Katie Szczesniak**  
Staff Writer

Two of Richmond's very own band members hit a high note at 2012's Solo and Ensemble Festival.

The Festival was held on January 28, 2012 at Rochester High School. Solo and Ensemble is a festival where instrumentalists perform a solo lasting around four minutes

long and then receive a rating. The song must be a formal piece.

Judges rate instrumentalists by five criteria: tone, intonation, technique, rhythm and interpretation.

A rating of 1 is the highest score any individual can receive and a 5 is the lowest. A rating of 1 qualifies the individual for the State competition in March.

Approximately 1800 musicians performed at Solo and Ensemble in total for all the instruments.

Any individual in band could attend the festival if they chose to but this year only two individuals went.

Kyle Donato and Jacob Matthes were the two who played at the Festival.

Both Donato and Matthes earned a rating of 1 at the Festival.

"I'm very proud of them. They both worked very hard and repre-

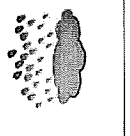
sented Richmond very well," said Mrs. May.

Mrs. May also added that it is much different to play solo compared to playing with a big band. It required much more preparation and is usually harder.

Both Donato and Matthes had to prepare individually, however. Sophomore Donato has been in band for four years and plays the flute. This year was his first time performing at Solo and Ensemble.

Donato said he practiced an hour or more a day in preparation for the festival. His goal going into Solo and Ensemble was to receive the highest rating possible.

At the festival, Donato performed the song "Menuett" composed by Friedrich Kuhlau. "Menuett" is a French song from the Renaissance and he will be performing the same song at States but with a few additions to it. **BAND CONT. on PG. 3**



Today's Forecast:  
40% chance of Rain  
High 41  
Low 34

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Sports Updates.....4,5  
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Read the Blue Devil's Advocate  
staff editorial regarding  
parking lot  
issues on page 6



## Welcome to the work force RHS takes on two new student teachers

By: **Samantha Kowalczyk**  
Staff Writer

Student teachers:

Fresh from college and looking to make a difference in the lives of students. Right now, there are two dedicated student teachers at Richmond: Mr. Kobylas and Mr. Sobczak.

Mr. Kobylas is Mr. Barnes' student teacher, and he is enjoying his time here. "It's definitely a learning experience," said Mr. Kobylas, who attends CMU. "You learn a lot of things. In five weeks, I've learned more than I have at Central. It's a lot of fun interacting with the community."

Mr. Kobylas is majoring in physical education and is certified to teach K-12. He is also a secondary math teacher for grades 6-12.

He was inspired to become a teacher during his high school career at Yale and in college. He went to school to become a math and physics teacher, and when that did not work out, his friend told him to try physical education. "Once I took the classes, I fell in love with it," said Mr. Kobylas.

During his time here, Mr. Kobylas has been growing from what he has learned.

"You have to know how to react and assess a situation, talking with kids and use organization for your own purpose instead of an assignment," said Mr. Kobylas. He said he has also learned how to deal with on-the-spot situations.

He said it is different for his stu-

dents to have a student teacher. Mr. Kobylas said, "You get a lot of kids that aren't used to a lot of stuff. For example a post-stretch. They are learning to adapt." A post-stretch is a stretch that is done after physical activity.

In his free time, Mr. Kobylas likes to stay active.

"During the winter, I like to snowboard. I was on Central's first snowboard and ski team," said Kobylas. He said people did not take the team seriously; now he likes to do it for fun.

Like Mr. Kobylas, Mr. Sobczak is also student teaching.

Mr. Sobczak is student teaching for Dr. Ladd and is attending Wayne State University. The Marine City High School alumnus said he

wanted to teach because he wanted to make a difference in the young lives of Americans in today's world. He wants to teach social studies.

"I like American history because I like the '60's. I think it's interesting," said Mr. Sobczak.

He believes students are liking his teaching technique.

Mr. Sobczak said, "They seem to like it so far. If they didn't, they wouldn't tell me because I'm in charge of their grades."

In respect to Dr. Ladd, Mr.

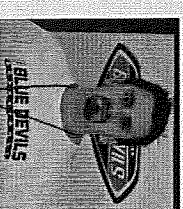
Sobczak tries to keep the same teaching technique. "I try to keep it as close to Dr. Ladd, but I bring my own style into it," said Mr. Sobczak.

While student teaching Mr. Sobczak said he has to do everything a normal teacher has to do

### Meet the Student Teachers



Meet Mr. Sobczak  
Full name: Joshua Stephen-James Sobczak  
Age: 28  
Height: 5'11"  
Favorite color: Magenta  
Favorite book: *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy  
Favorite sport: Baseball  
Favorite band: Push/ Radio Head  
Favorite vegetable: Sweet potato



Meet Mr. Kobylas  
Full name: Jonathan Eugene Kobylas  
Age: 24  
Height: 5'7"  
Favorite color: Honolulu Blue  
Favorite book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee  
Favorite sport: Football  
Favorite band: Red Hot Chili Peppers  
Favorite vegetable: Broccoli

which includes, grading papers, making copies and making lesson plans.

Outside of the classroom, Mr.

Sobczak likes to participate in numerous activities.

"I play my guitar," said Mr.

Sobczak. "I'm huge into biking,

hiking and canoeing. I ride between 20 to 25 miles on my bike a day when it's warm."

Both Mr. Kobylas and Mr. Sobczak recognize the pros and cons to student teaching.

Mr. Kobylas's favorite part of student teaching is the relationships he has built with students, and how every day is not the same workday. His least favorite part is how it is going to end.

Mr. Kobylas said, "I've only been here for five weeks and I can see when it ends, it will be weird saying bye to the kids."

Mr. Sobczak said his favorite part about student teaching is the kids.

"They are funny, and I learn just as much from them as they have from me."

His least favorite part is not getting paid. He also does not like time restrictions and the restrictions of not being in his own classroom.

His most challenging part is what he is currently teaching. He is talking about China and East Asia in World History and World War Two in U.S. History.

"It is a challenge to keep them constantly engaged," said Mr. Sobczak. He said it is boring for them to sit there and listen to East China for an hour; so he tries to make it interesting.

Mr. Kobylas echoed Mr. Sobczak that keeping students engaged is very challenging.

"There will always be a student that will say I'm not doing this and you just have to stay positive," said Mr. Kobylas.

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### Segment 2 -- \$30

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- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit

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



# School News



## FUND CONT. from Pg. 1

many other necessary expenses.

The commitment from all the volunteers should help funds be raised.

"I just told them I would participate, and they chose what I would do," said science teacher Mr. Pearson. "I'm hoping that I can help raise all of the money needed."

Some students think this is an important fundraiser, especially because it helps fund the senior festivities. Sophomore Troy Britz thinks it is important that seniors get to have their festivities.

"[Project Graduation] is a good program... It will be fun to see the teachers do those things," said Britz. "It should be a good way to raise money for the seniors."

\$300 dollars is a good start, but students can do better.

With the support of the students, students are hoping they can raise all the money they need.

"It would be cool to see Pearson shave his head," said senior Kim Boyd.

## CONT. from Pg. 1

"I am excited to play at States because the best of the best come from all over to play and I get to meet new people," said Donato.

Donato's goal at the State competition is to receive another rating of 1.

Matthes, a freshman, has been in band for three years and plays the tuba.

At Solo and Ensemble, he played the song "Arm Arm Ye Brave", composed by George Friderick Handel.

He plans on performing the same song he played at Solo and Ensemble.

Going into Solo and Ensemble, Matthes practiced twice a week until the week before where he practiced each day for an hour.

His goal for the Festival was to receive a 1 and improve himself musically

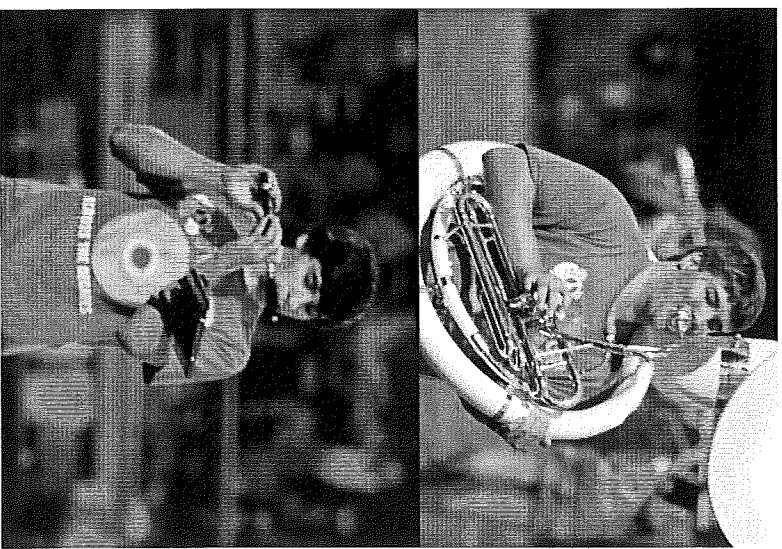
"My goal for states is to improve the song to a higher status and get another 1," said Matthes.

The state competition will be held on March 23 at Lapeer East High School.

At the state competition, ratings work differently than they do at Solo and Ensemble.

The ratings go on a higher number system from 1 to 100. A rating of 85 to 100 would be considered a rating of 1.

Both Donato and Matthes are looking forward to performing at the State Festival.



Matthes and Donato playing during a Marching Band performance  
Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook 2011-2012

## Richmond... When did it all start???

**When was Richmond founded?** In 1835 Erastus Beebe founded what is today known as the City of Richmond.

**When did Richmond Community Schools Begin?** The Richmond Community School System began in the Daniel Hall Home. The "school", which was one room divided by a quilt into two, consisted of one teacher,

Mahala Weeks, and 6 students.

**When was the current Richmond High School built?** In 1960

Source: Lois Wiegner Memorial Library

## Gas prices driving us mad Richmond High School discusses rising gas prices

By: Jessica Bilbrey  
Staff writer

Gas prices keep changing every week. Either increasing or decreasing, we love the decreases, but the increase hurts people's wallets.

Many students that attend RHS get driven by a parent or family member because they may not have their licenses yet, but eventually they will come know what it's like.

Different gas stations have different prices for gas, and finding the cheapest price to save money comes natural to everyone.

"I don't like paying for gas, but I know I have to and I still try to find the cheapest per gallon I can find," said Mr. Delore. "I drive 28 miles to school and back for five days."

"If gas prices increased, I would be mad. I would look at car pooling to save some money," he said.

Mr. Pearson said, "I hate how they fluctuate around holidays and peak travel times. We have plenty of oil

reserves and they do it just to make more money."

As gas prices rapidly increase around holidays, it makes it even harder for people to keep buying gas; this may be the reasoning for inventing the electric car.

Vehicles only get so many miles per gallon, which is also a disadvantage to some.

Buying gas once a week is easier than filling up your tank every other day.

"I spend \$50-\$60 dollars on gas, depending on where I go," said Mr. Pearson.

More people are car pooling, not only save their money but to save their gas.

"It's easier to car pool with a friend and pitch in some money for gas than to drive separately to the same place," said Pearson.

They have felt the pain of gas prices as well. "It's all about saving money."

Mr. Delore noted that gas prices

have changed small things in his personal life. "Gas prices limit my ability to do more traveling. I would go up north more or take family vacations if gas wasn't so expensive," said Mr. Delore.

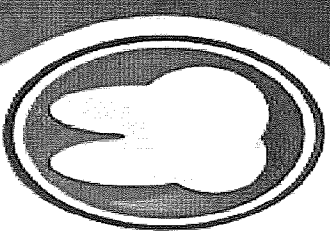
Many students drive to school everyday, whether they pay for their own gas or get money from their parents.

"If the gas prices increased I would sell my car and learn how to fly," said Jacobi Cash. "I think gas should be \$2 because everyone would be happy with that."

Mr. Delore said, "Gas should be \$2 per gallon. That would make my wallet have more cash."

When people spend most of their money on gas, they don't have extra money to spend on themselves or activities. It takes gas to get where you want to go, so it's a necessity.

Cash said, "Today's gas prices basically ruin my life because all my money goes towards gas."



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Blue Devil's Advocate

February 23, 2012



## State Titles all around the mats? Cheer and Wrestling teams both looking forward to their state tournaments

By: Anabela Ottenbacher  
News Editor

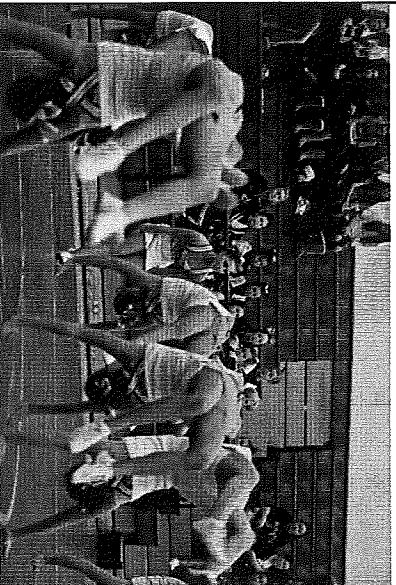
### Third Time's a Charm

As March 3 approaches, the Varsity Competitive Cheer team is growing more and more eager for their State Competition. The girls are not just eager and excited to take on the competition, but they are determined and ready to do what it takes to be number one.

The girls practice four times a week, and generally have a competition on most Saturdays. "We do a lot of mental and physical work. We like to stay focused on ourselves and beating our own scores," said Coach Kelli Matthes.

The team spends time practicing their three rounds, as well as a special tumbling practice on Sunday. "We do a lot of visualization, a lot of staying focused on ourselves and not worrying about how the other teams are doing," said Matthes.

The girls put in the time to practice and visualize, to improve their mental stability. "We visualize ourselves sticking stunts and landing tucks, so that helps a lot with stress and worries," said junior Ashley Barrett. Even with all of the intense practice



The Cheerleading team performs a stunt during a competition at RHS. (photo courtesy of RHS yearbook)

and determination, the girls are looking forward to States with a bit of anxiousness, especially the veterans. "We are so driven this year because we have been so close and came up short for the past two years," said Barrett.

One word that comes up a lot throughout the Richmond Cheer Team is 'Experience.' The team has tons of it since they have been so close to the state title for the past two years. In 2010, the team placed third behind Comstock Park and Grosse Isle, and in 2011 the team placed second, only being defeated by Comstock Park. It would seem that a pattern has occurred: third, second, and maybe if everything goes right this year, they will take first.

"The girls have been there before and they're older now. They have had the experience before," said Matthes. The team's biggest competitors this year are Comstock Park, Notre Dame Prep and Grosse Isle. "I believe we are stronger athletically and technically cleaner than the other teams," said Matthes.

What makes this year different than others?

The Richmond Cheer Team can think of a lot of things, but what comes up most is the team's achievement of having team tucks in second round.

"This year we have more girls on the mat than other teams. We have 14 tucks in Round Two," said

senior captain Melissa Graham.

The girls have visualized themselves landing their tucks and sticking their stunts, but Barrett also stressed the need for the team to be loud and keep their intensity up.

Sophomore Regan Blissett agreed with Barrett and said, "We are really focused on what's at stake, and we really want it. We need to cheer powerfully and with intensity." Blissett added that their Round Two heel stretch is a big wow factor and their Round Three tumbling can really catch the judges' eyes.

Graham has to do more than just cheer this year, but she also needs to lead. "I have to lead the team this year. I'm not listening to someone else's words of inspiration; I'm the one inspiring the team," Graham said. "I'd love to go all the way, but I'll be happy if we just do the best we can and leave it all on the mat."

### Going for a Three-peat

What comes to mind when you think about wrestling? Well, if you attend Richmond High School, you're inclined to think of the wrestling team's many state title wins.

So what about this year? What about 2012, will this year make a three-peat?

The wrestlers are hoping so. The wrestler's have been preparing all season for the weekend of February 24, the State Tournament in Battle Creek. The

team has prepared themselves by wrestling one of the hardest seasons the school has ever seen. The team does not spend their time wishing for a three-peat. They spend their time working for a three-peat by putting in

### A word from the AD

With all the buzz about state titles and state tournaments, it would seem the Richmond athletic department has had a successful season. Dr. Mulyaert, Athletic Director, said, "It is a combination of years of hard work and dedication from student athletes, as well as some of the highest recognized coaches around the state."

Dr. Mulyaert sees the athletic success as a positive not only for the athletic department but for the school and community as a whole. "It makes people aware of our community as a whole, and it is good exposure for the school to draw in potential students to the district."

Dr. Mulyaert added, "It is also something the entire school can be proud of. Even if you're not on a team, you can still get a sense of pride and accomplishment tons of extra time, and wrestling harder teams.

This year's Richmond Wrestling Team may just have another advantage: they have been there before. This year's senior class is the first group that can make the trip to Battle Creek all of their four years here.

Coach, Brandon Day said, "The captains and seniors of the team have been huge, because they've been through it before. They've made four trips and therefore are able to talk to the younger kids and show them how to act." Mr. Day went on to mention the importance of the team's experience in Battle Creek.

The team has done a lot to prepare for this year's state tournament. Aside from wrestling one of the hardest schedules, they have wrestled higher ranked teams and put in tons of extra time. The team also does a lot of visualization, led by Coach George Hamblin. The visualization is used to relax and prepare the boys.

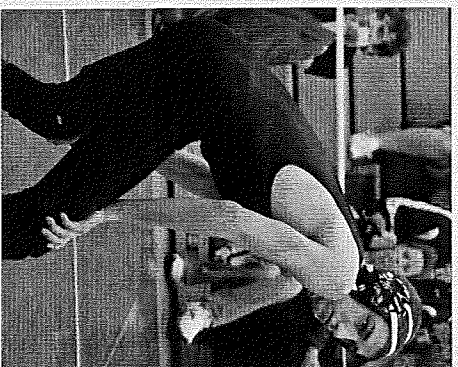
"We have been doing most of the same things we've done in the past. Plus we took on a harder schedule and wrestled more highly-ranked teams," said Mr. Day. Senior John Gaffney said, "We have

wrestled a lot more in Ohio this year, since there is a lot of good competition there. Practice is really intense, as well. We have also done a lot more scouting, and watching other teams." Gaffney added that the team has put in many extra hours and work to achieve their goal.

There is one thing in particular that sets this season apart from others, especially for the seniors: the chance that they could be the first ever team in the history of Division 3 wrestling to achieve a three-peat. The seniors see it as an opportunity to make history and an incentive to work harder.

Senior Eric Boyd said, "A three-peat to me would mean that our senior class would make history and be the best senior graduating class." Boyd continued on to discuss his past state tournament performances and what he expects from himself this year. "I just want to get as many points as I can for my team this year. That's the goal." ney agreed with Boyd, adding, "It would be huge to win a state title again, and make a three-peat. We would be making history, which would be an amazing experience."

When asked what it takes to win a state title, Gaffney responded, "Hard work, Heart and Coaches who understand the sport."



Dustin Pitcel

Nickname: Gummy

Age: 18

Grade: 12

Sport(s): Cross country, Wrestling, Track

Favorite pump up song: "Welcome to the family" by Avenged Sevenfold

Favorite Movie: The Dark Knight

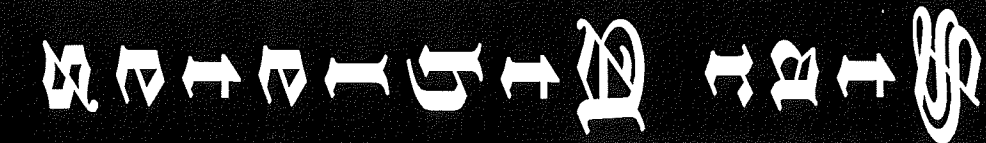
Favorite Food: Barbeque ribs

Favorite class: Philosophy, Dr. Ladd is a

lot of fun.

Future Goals: Get a job in Law Enforcement

ment



## Rachel Baumgarten

Nickname: Salad

Age: 18

Grade: 12

Sport(s): Basketball

Favorite pump up song: "I don't want this night to end" by Luke Bryant

Favorite movie: Sweet Home Alabama

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite class: Anatomy/ Physiology with Schleder because Schleder is awesome.

Future goals: Be a physical therapist.



# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Killer or Filler?

*Will Fielder do as well as expected or as he says?*

By: Adam Boyd  
Sports Editor

On January 26, 2012 the Detroit Tigers signed Prince Fielder, the left handed version of Miguel Cabrera, to a nine-year, \$214 million contract to replace the offensive output of the injured Victor Martinez. Martinez tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee and is expected to miss the whole 2012 season.

Originally from the Milwaukee Brewers, Fielder made his Major League debut on June 13, 2005. He continued his career with the Brewers through 2011. Fielder will be with the Tigers through 2020, making \$15.5 million a year. Fielder has had a marvelous career with a .282 batting average, 996 hits and 230 home-runs. Fifty of those home runs were in a single season, which got him into the prestigious 50-HR club.

Fielder also achieved various other

awards throughout his career. In 2007 he received a Silver Slugger award, he was the Hank Aaron

award winner, and he was that year's all star. In 2009, he was the Home-Run Derby winner and that year's All-Star. In 2011, he was again a Silver Slugger winner, the 2011 All Star game MVP, and once again that year's All-Star. Fresh out of Eau Gallie High School, Fielder was drafted with the seventh pick in the first round of the 2002 MLB draft. He hit .524 with 13 doubles, 10 home runs, 41 RBIs, and 47 runs in his senior year. Fielder did not attend college.

Richmond students believe that Fielder will impact this season immensely.

Zack Leach, sophomore varsity baseball player, said, "I think the Tigers have a good chance at the World Series because they are

going to have 40-plus home runs per year with Fielder."

He added, "With Fielder and Cabrera batting back they won't be able to pitch around us so they'll have to pitch to one of them. Even with our Fielder we made it far into the series, but with Fielder we have a good shot at the Series Championship and even winning it," said Leach.

Dillon McInerney, freshman, agrees with Leach. He said, "With Fielder, Cabrera and Verlander, we have a great chance at winning the World Series. We will win at least 25 games with just Verlander alone," added McInerney. McInerney believes Fielder will bat over .300 and will have a positive influence. "He is definitely worth \$214 million," said McInerney.

Junior Mitchell Ward, varsity first baseman and pitcher, said, "This year the Tigers will do great. With the acquisition of Fielder, they will have

one of the best offenses in the leagues," he said. Ward agreed with Leach that teams will have to choose who to pitch to, either Fielder or Cabrera.

Ward is not as sure as Leach and McInerney are with the Series. Ward said, "It's hard to say. Injuries could kill them again, but if they stay healthy, I think they could go pretty far into the World Series."

Performance is going to be a huge factor. However, Ward thinks he will do just as well if not better, than he did in Milwaukee, because of the weaker division that we are in.

However, the price may have been too steep.

"Fielder is not worth \$214 million. Nine years to sign him was insane. I understand they wanted him real bad, but who is to say carrying around the body he has for nine more years, putting him at 37-years-old, will not take a toll on him?" said Ward.



## Striking their way to the regional!

*Bowlers move one step closer to states*

By: Mitchell Smith  
Staff Writer

With spares and strikes coming from left and right, bowling has accomplished many team and individual achievements throughout their season.

For the girls team, Noelle Scheuer, sophomore, also has a few individual achievements throughout the season like bowling a 755 series. She also placed in the top ten at the Macomb County Tournament, All Tournament Team at Romeo, and she bowled a 265, just thirty-five pins away from a perfect game.

"The girl's team is bowling really well. We are undefeated in the conference. We've also made cut for all the

tournaments. We also placed second the weekend of February 4, 2012," Scheuer said.

Scheuer said her favorite part of the season so far is the Macomb County Tournament because it was intense because they faced a lot of big schools.

Another good moment in the season was the tournament on February 4<sup>th</sup> because they placed second, and the whole team bowled well. Plus, the tournaments were a good way to prepare for states.

"To prepare for States the girls team has to continue to bowl well as a whole team. We need to keep improving our spare game, and we need to stay positive the rest

of the season," Scheuer said.

"For practices we usually work on having an A and B game which means throwing the ball two different ways. We also work on our hand position and timing," Scheuer said.

Kelli Gusamano, junior, and another member of the girl's team, also came up with a big score of 240, and she said she really improved her game from last year.

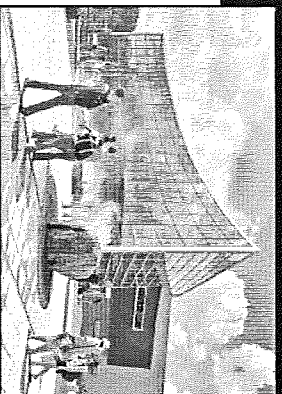
"Cros-Lex was definitely our toughest opponent because they are a strong team with a lot of good bowlers," Gusamano said. Gusamano said her favorite part is pumping up her teammates, and

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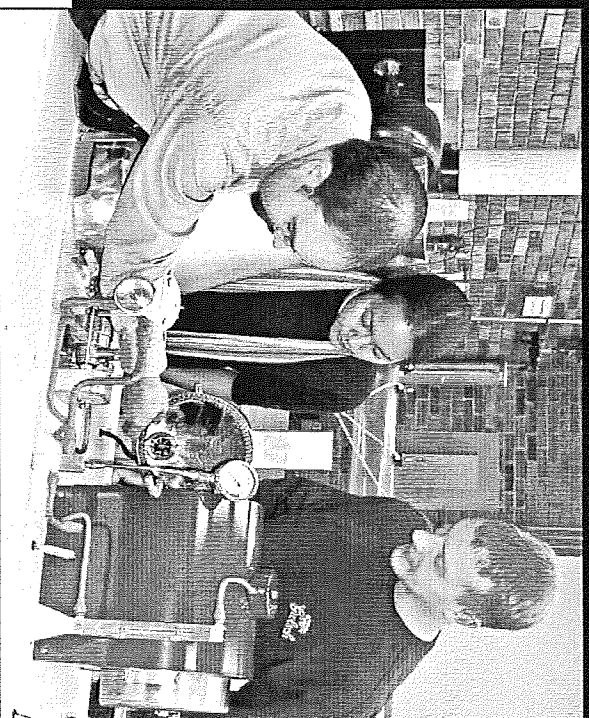
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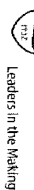
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February 23, 2012

# IN OUR OPINION



THE BLUE DEVIL'S

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## Staff Editorial: Parking Lot Etiquette

By John Gaffney  
Sports Editor

As students walk out to their cars at the end of the school day, what are we focused on? Their phone, iPod, friends, and homework are some things that are on our minds.

One thing we shouldn't have to worry about getting hit by a car in the school parking lot on their way to their own cars.

We are distracted enough as things are, the last we need is to add worrying about whether or not other people are focused while they are driving through the parking lot.

If people showed some courtesy and had a little bit of etiquette in the parking lot, people would be able to focus on something other than where they are walking.

Watch where you are driving. As long as you focus on where you are driving once you get into your car the parking lot would be a lot safer.

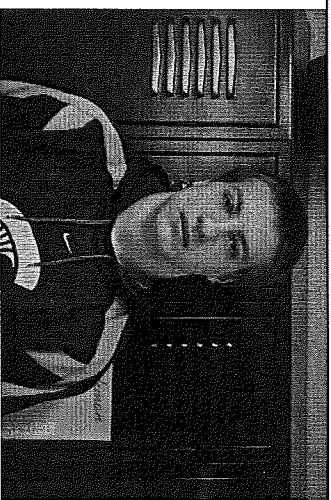
But instead of focusing on what is in their path, drivers tend to worry about what is on the radio or who just texted them and are more often than not

### Staff



Mr. Applegate's candy heart would say, "Wait till college."

### Senior



Kurt Strutz's says, "Insane for insanity."

### Junior



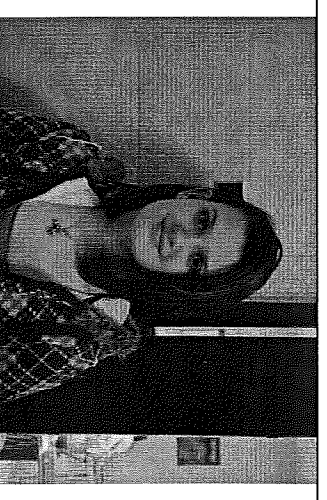
Tyler Queen's would say "Google for complement."

### Sophomore



Andrew Graham's would read, "Ur cool and I know it."

### Freshman



Mikayla Gulette's would say "Be mine."

distracted and not paying attention. This makes things dangerous for students who are on foot as well as other student drivers. Be polite and courteous. School makes life stressful enough. The last thing we need on top of all that is to be stressed because we can't get out of our spot in the parking lot. Being polite and letting someone who is trying to get out of their spot out can really make life easier. Sure it might mean you have to wait a few extra seconds to get out of the school lot, but it doesn't hurt to help others out does it? If students are safer drivers when they are in the parking lot, they will develop habits that will stick with them whenever they are driving. Having the discipline to keep your mind on the road can pay off in multiples in the long run. Being attentive behind the wheel can save lives in the long run, and that is one thing that is really important: the safety of ourselves and the safety of others.

## grammar, whts tht?

By: Anna Fraser  
Opinion Editor

heeeey(: whts up does it ever bother youuu when ppl type or txt lyk dis? lol has grammar becom soooo relaxedd tht we dont evnna caare howw we sound onlinee? sometimes wrtin lik this is easieer annnd quiker. lol nd weave becom so used 2 itt that reeading thii isnt even difficult fo youuu lol theyre r tyms when youu may tipe something in txt form annnd not even realizee itt lol oar maybe ya do & lykee thhe wayy itt loooooooks becaasee erboddy else does itt lol haaaaaas technologie ruined , are gramer?

idk lol ;p wheeen ur typin a paper do youu ever catch yerrself doin thiss???? lyke dood tht is crazzy ur gunna fail tht paper be off ur language NEways youuu prolly shouldnt carrry over ur txt slaang to othr stufff youuuu kn?w but whtews. brb

k backc noww I meen grammer nd spelling dont even matter , write? OMG Rong. Thhe waayy youu spellll and talk online can saay alot abt u ./: spellin sunthin wrongg makess the meaning of itt werth l3ss Shoreee its becom normaal 4 uss , bt itt cld hurtt us inn the lonng ruu U prolly dont thinnk abt itt 2 much buutt wht if thiss thing that started out as a funn thingg to do becaame mor then thatt?

Are extra-curricular activities really beneficial to students? Check out page 7!

wht if itt became a habbit? Sddnly ur ritin yer resumay annnd everthin is speld rong... wld youuu notice itt? Wud youu caare? Mayb nott , but ur emmployer willllll.. ,haha lol tehheeh k? jst thinnk abt how maany times you get a textt or read a status on fb and feeeel lyk yer tryin tro desifer a codee.

nott 2 mentionn tryyin to figure out the tonee of whaaat ther sayin ong lol! (: ): bt itt dsnt rilly matter sincee everthins a joke neways rt? where jstt messin aroundd

emom nowww, lets be realz iff u keeeep tipin lyk dis , u mite b sendin th rong massage.

Have you heard the saying that sometimes it's not so much about what you say, but how you say it?

That's true for writing, too. Text slang is slang for a reason: it is supposed to be relaxed. But it seems that things r getting out of hand. When it is talking youuu more effortt to mispell a word then 2 jst spell th wordd coarectly, thhe purpos of txt slng dis appeears

Wouuld u rather havee sunn1 tlk 2 youu lyk thhis? lol

Or, would you rather have someone talk to you like this, use proper grammar, and care about how they sound when they talk to you?  
TTYL ;( lol  
CU l8tr

### Letters

Guest editorials/letters are welcomed from any reader who has an opinion to express and should be given to the editor two weeks in advance of the publication date to be considered. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 250 words in length and must be signed by the author, although the author's name can be withheld upon request. Email us at: [mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us](mailto:mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us) Please include your name and grade level.

### 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.



# In Our Opinion



## Extra curricular programs

**John Gaffney**  
Sports Editor

Constantly in high school you hear, "It looks good on a college application."

Teachers, parents, your friends: they all have some idea of what you should be doing after school, what clubs, sports, teams and events you should participate in.

The reality of it is, they are somewhat right. Students should be active outside of school.

The University of Iowa did a study in 1999 that showed that students who did extracurricular activities did in fact get better grades, as well as excel in all of these areas.

Good grades aren't the only reason that you should consider participating in things that your school and community offer. There are many other reasons that students should participate.

Among these reasons are increasing time management skills, building character and self-esteem, building social skills, and it helps keep students who are close to failing in school.

The study further showed that of the students who participated in the study, 74% of the students felt like taking part in the activities elevated their self-respect and their confidence.

Also shown in the study was an increase in the student's ability to organize their life outside and inside of school.

Students who were studied showed an increase in time management as well organizational skills. These skills in turn helped keep students who were close to dropping out or failing to stay in school and bring their grades back up.

The study showed that students who are classified as "at-risk" of dropping out or failing work harder to maintain a passing GPA if their extracurricular activities are put at risk. One student admitted to hav-

**By: Regan Blissett**  
Feature Editor

## Perfection and the heart

### Girls, No guy is Prince Charming

When we were younger, every little girl watched *Cinderella*, *Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and pretty much all Disney fairy tale movies. After watching these those princesses.

Have a fairy tale castle.

Be beautiful.

Be a princess.

With our fairy tale dream, we desired something the most.

A Prince Charming.

We all imagined our prince the same way, too. He would be tall, incredibly handsome, rich and the word we aim to be the most: perfect.

Now as little girls grown up, we still wait for our Prince Charming to swoop to our doorsteps. To whisk us away and fall in love underneath the stars. They would be the ones to save us when we were at our lowest point: our knight in shining armor. We will wait for our Prince Charming. The perfect man alive. He's romantic, caring, and gorgeous. Everything we ever wanted.

The man of our dreams.

However, our Prince Charming never comes. We keep looking and looking, but we never find him. We look for him and overlook everybody else.

So we wait. Ignoring other relationship opportunities with great people because they may not be "perfect".

Well, newsflash, ladies!

Nobody is perfect!

Our lives are not a Disney movie, and it is for sure not a Taylor Swift Grammy winning love song.

Odds are, we won't find a guy who throws pebbles at our window and run away with us into the sunset.

We need to get over ourselves!

Girls, this article is not about lowering your standards but lowering your expectations. Not every guy can be like Charming Tatum, so stop waiting for your prince to come to you because you'll ruin so many opportunities if you do.

You never know.

Maybe in the end, the frog we never wanted to kiss could be our prince we've been waiting for.

### Guys, No girl is a super model

Growing up, guys didn't think about love and relationships.

They didn't care about Cinderella and her Prince Charming.

All they cared about was normal boy things. Their new Hot Wheels they got for Christmas, or who could make the best Lego tower, or who could make the loudest arm fart was all they cared about!

Yet, girls were fantasizing about their man of their dreams as soon as they were in elementary school. Heck, I even planned out my wedding as soon as I hit the third grade!

But that's not the point. The point is, boys didn't care when they were younger, but now that they've grown up, they do. Their mindset is a little different than girls, though.

Instead of looking for a great girl with an amazing personality, they look for the hottest girl with the greatest features. And then they see how her personality is. You ask a guy to describe their perfect girl and first thing they say is, "Oh I want a girl with a nice this, nice that, blah blah." Things that I can't put into this article. Well, listen up fellas: we all can't be Victoria Secret Angels!

We're not perfect.

Plain and simple.

You won't find a girl who is. Don't waste your time trying to either. You'll ruin opportunities with nice girls who are funny, smart and unique. So what if she doesn't look like Selena Gomez or Angelina Jolie?

Don't be a stereotypical boy who thinks hotness is everything.

One thing is for sure, you won't find a girl with that attitude.

However, for some guys, appearance isn't everything and us girls appreciate that. For the other guys, and you know who you are, start to look beyond the appearance of the girl and look deeper within.

### Inside is what matters

People, what I'm trying to say is, some guys aren't Prince Charming.

Guys, hotness isn't everything. There's only one Angelina Jolie and only so many Victoria Secret Angels.

We can't take forever to find the perfect person. I believe that we want someone to be so perfect that we forget about the most important thing: true love.

It's the reason why we desired a fairy tale life with Prince Charming by our side.

Try falling in love with someone who has flaws. Love has no limits, and no expectations. It's about devoting yourself to someone and putting their needs in front of yours.

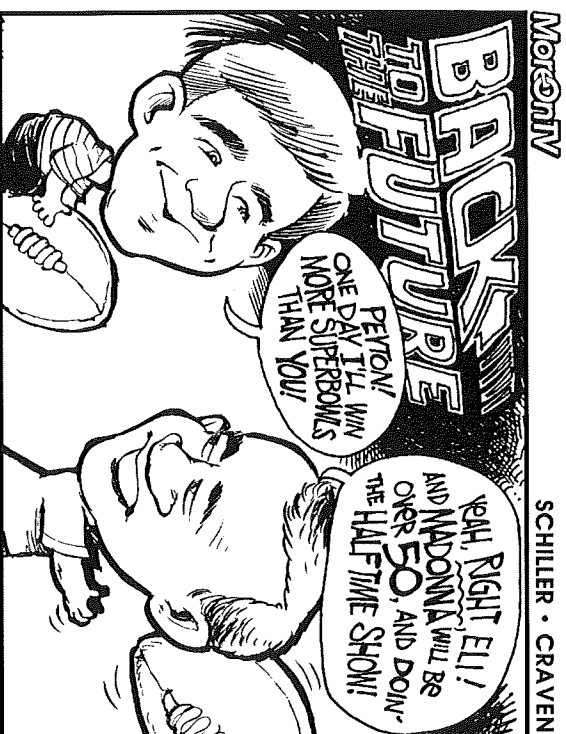
If we follow our heart, we will have an amazing person by our side no matter who it is.

I think if we try to forget about having a fairy tale life, or finding the hottest person, we will end up with the best thing overall. Love.

# COMICS!



"This time, don't trip on his toys — just grab the piggy bank and get out!"



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