

IN OUR OPINION

Question of the Month

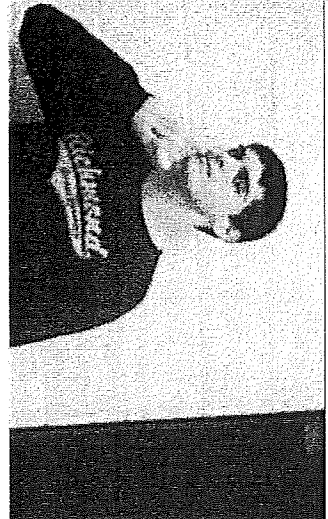
What is your New Year's resolution and have you broke it yet?

Staff



Mr. Pearson didn't make one, but says it would have been to eat less fatty foods.

Senior



Michael Graham's was to never stop running even though cross country has ended. He has not broken his resolution yet.

Junior



Kathryn Radzwion said she wanted to more fun things in life, but has already broken her resolution.

Sophomore



Jacob Folske wants to do better in school and has been going strong on not breaking his resolution.

Freshman



Haley Nicolopoulos said hers is to keep trying and never give up in sports and she hasn't broken it yet.

Staff Editorial: Snowcoming, No-coming

By: Melissa Resik
Advertising editor

Due to all of the events that Richmond has planned to host at the school in upcoming weeks, planning Snowcoming has become more of a challenge than in previous years. RHS has had the honor of hosting the BWAC Wrestling Tournament on Saturday February 3, which is the day of the dance and MHSAA Districts the following weekend. With that, there was not enough time to host a dance on Saturday. Friday, February 3 is the day that Richmond takes on the Imlay City Spartans in the Snowcoming Game. The Administration proposed the idea of having the dance after the game. However, the entire student body erupted into chaos. Class leaders took the initiative to write letters to Mr. Olsen with complaints. The idea of having the dance on Friday, brought up several other problems.

First of all, varsity basketball players participating in the Snowcoming Game would have to go home and take a shower before the dance, therefore defeating the purpose of going. There was also the chance that the games would go into overtime and make the dance tentative cancellation. The RHS Wrestling team and Cheer team would also not be able to attend this event. They will be attending their

meets early the next morning and would have to leave earlier than normal to prepare.

The cheer team will be traveling to Romeo High School, while the wrestling team will be at RHS taking on all of the teams in our BWAC. In addition, supporters of these events could also decide not to attend the dance. With all these students who would be absent from the dance, which is at least 100 students, the dance may have more of a cost than a profit. Without a profit, next year's juniors will not be able to fund Homecoming. This will also affect the budget for Prom as a result. Seniors of this year and next year would not be able to have the same experiences as other graduating classes. Going without Snowcoming is one thing, but to not have Prom would be devastating.

However, peaceful protest by students changed the administration's mind. They made a decision to have Snowcoming on the original date, Saturday. The compromise was that the dance is now going to be hosted at the AUD on Main Street. This resolved most of the problems of people not being able to attend due to sporting events.

It was good that the Administration considered what the students had to say. **STAFF EDITORIAL**
CONT. on PG. 13

Has Rachel's Challenge Stayed?

By: Katie Szczesniak
Staff Writer

Can one program really change how people feel toward one another? On December 1, 2011 Rachel's Challenge visited Richmond. Rachel's Challenge gave Richmond five challenges to follow: look for the best in others, dare to dream, choose positive influences, use kind words, and start a chain reaction. Once Richmond accepted Rachel's Challenge, people's attitudes toward each other were changed after hearing the presentation. Bullying and harms of high school seemed to fade away. People were no long sitting alone at lunch. Name calling in the hallway seemed to stop.

A poster was autographed by all of the students at RHS who accept the challenge that day and is now hanging in the lunch room. Then Richmond formed the Friends of Rachel Club, or FOR Club, meant to keep the momentum or Rachel's Challenge going. The club wrote words of encouragement on the mirrors in bathrooms and put positive signs on lockers. The FOR Club planned on putting signs up every two weeks. At the time, Rachel's Challenge made a major impact on Richmond. Now, almost two months later, has Richmond gone back to the way it was before we accepted Rachel's Challenge?

has not stayed in Richmond. Not everyone has gone back to the mentality they had before the presentation, but the majority have. Some, unfortunately, are going back to their hurtful ways. Name calling and shoving in the hallway has returned to the way it was before we accepted the challenge. The words of encouragement on bathroom mirrors have been erased, and locker signs have been torn off. It is true that the FOR Club was formed to continue the momentum of Rachel's Challenge, and it will be good to see it return.

But people shouldn't have to rely on a club to do things the right way. We shouldn't wait around for a club to take action; it's our personal responsibility to do what is right. It is human nature that once a new idea is adapted, we start off strong and then progressively ease back into our old ways. For instance: New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions start off strong for the first month or two of the New Year, but then people go back to their old ways. It's just in our nature as humans. That seems to be the case that is happening at RHS, but it doesn't have to happen. We have to recognize this and make an effort to keep these principles implanted in our minds. It's especially important for teens to take this time out so that these principles will be carried with us for the rest of our lives.

THE BLUE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Advertiser
Mr. Murphy

News Editors:
Anabella Ottenbacher
Hannah Townsend

Editorial Editors:
Victoria Breiling
Anna Fraser

Sports Editors:
John Gaffney
Angela Szalaba

Features Editors:
Regan Blissett
Sarah Varschaure

Coordinating Editor:
Natasha Woodruff

Advertising Managers:
Kystal Geisler
Melissa Resik

Staff Writers:
Jessica Bilibrey, Adam Boyd, Brett Brincefield, Sam Kowalczyk, Jacob Marlow, Jake McKernan, Sam Schaffer, Mitchell Smith, Emily Swanek, Katie Szczesniak, Hunter Tousignant, Lizzie Urban

www.bluedevilsadvocate.weebly.com

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

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: mnufphy@richmond.k12.mi.us Please include your name and grade level.



The Blue Devil's Advocate

Abused animals ache for justice

By: Brett Brincefield

Staff Writer

It's right under our noses! Animal cruelty and abuse is a problem in our society that goes on every day.

Animals including dogs, cats, birds and even farm animals are neglected and harmed in some way.

Abusers choose not to care for animals because they don't have money to purchase food or other proper materials to sustain and care for the animal.

Others just harm them because they take pleasure in harming life.

These people are sick human beings who shouldn't even own an animal at all.

Some animals show scars, especially pitbulls, a breed of dog famous and used for dog fighting which is why many people fear these animals.

They can be sweet, yet abusers train them harshly to fight and they become mean and unfriendly.

Other animals become matted because owners don't shave them such as poodles who need to get their fur cut every so often.

Other animals have even ended up with burns from owners pouring boiling oil and other hot substances on them. Some owners neglect animals so badly that they end up with heart worm and mange. These two deadly diseases combine for a devastating deathwish for the animal.

Some people would argue that this is justified because it's a way for the animal to learn and obey its master and not disrespect them because it will fear the master. This excuse, however, is wrong for many reasons. There is one case where officers found three dogs. One was dead in a cage and another was being eaten by the surviving dog. They used the puppy to feed the surviving dog. The owners were charged and fined.

Remembering the King!

By: Jessica Bilbrey

Staff Writer

And no, I'm not talking about Elvis. Most schools have the day off on Martin Luther King Day.

Even though everyone loves a day off of school, it's still important to remember all of the things the King did for the world and how his inspirational speeches changed lives.

Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the greatest public figures and still is to this day in history. King led the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Not only did this man change the way African Americans lived, he spoke how he felt and with that, he changed the world.

Between 1955 and 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. helped change America. He brought the world to attention how unfairly African Americans were treated.

Does New Years Matter?

By Jake McKiernan

Staff Writer

Happy New Year! The start of 2012 is a great occasion, and I know I'm excited, as are many others.

But are the actual dates of December 31 and January 1 significant?

Does this dynamic duo of party dates deserve to be classified as a national holiday?

Don't get me wrong, I'm a big New Years fan. Anytime I get a break from school and an excuse to hang out with some friends is a good time. But I wonder if New Years is really a special day, or just another party? Let's ponder this, shall we?

New Year: Obviously, the start of the new calendar year is something that makes the first of January a special day.

But how about New Year's Eve?

December 31 is the day when most of the festivities take place, but what's the thing that makes it stand out from other days? Ok, so it's the day before

Another sad story is of a lady who lived in an apartment and had a dog, which the landlord didn't allow dogs inside the complex, so she left the dog outside in the cold. When this lady moved into a new home the dog followed. She ignored its pleas and whimpering and let it stay outside.

Then a neighbor called police because some kids with baseball bats beat on the dog while it was out wandering the street close to the house. The dog then went to the porch and the lady was then fined after a neighbor called in on the lady. The dog suffered from neglect.

This has to stop.

If you can't take care of the animal or provide the correct necessities and it's too much of a hassle, then there are things you can do instead of neglecting the animal.

One is if you can't afford to provide the animal with proper materials, you should sell the animal or find it a good home. Animal shelters are more than willing to help, especially the ASPCA and other organizations. We have an organization in Detroit that's in the ASPCA unit, called The Humane Society.

Another price of animal abuse is if the owner has children. What then?

That owner abusing a pet in front of a young child is basically teaching that child the opposite of what's right when it comes to taking care of an animal -- or fellow human being for that matter.

It leaves scars on the child and that child may end up abusing animals or other people.

Animal abuse does not just affect the owners, but also the animal itself. Dogs especially have good memory. They don't forget about suffering.

Dogs, just like any other animal, has a defense mechanism. If the animal possibly sees someone being abused, it may cause the dog to cower and jump back to protect itself from harm. Another would be if

King was known for his inspirational speeches. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed," said King in Washington D.C. on August 9, 1963. "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

The outcome from his inspirational speeches was desegregation laws and equal rights for everyone no matter what color or religion.

At 35 years of age, Martin Luther King Jr was the youngest to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

King was assassinated while standing on his hotel room balcony in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. His death was one of the most devastating things that had happened in the 1960s.

America will always remember the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year, on the third Monday in January, we celebrate his birthday.

Even though Martin Luther King, Jr. is no longer with us, he will always be remembered for his bravery and touching speeches. He died doing

New Years Day... Why does that even matter?

The day before Halloween isn't a special day.

You don't go to a Valentines Days Eve party, so why would you go to a New Year's Eve party?

When you truly consider it, New Years Eve may be overrated, and it may not deserve to be a holiday.

Traditions: Everyone knows New Years Eve is one of the biggest party nights of the year.

Traditions such as watching the ball drop over Times Square and staying up all night always make it a fun time for people.

Traditions on New Years Day... I don't know of any.

The only thing that might qualify would be watching college football bowl games.

I know that there are lots of people that don't enjoy the sport of football, so they most likely don't partake in that tradition.

Personally I love football, but I don't watch bowls that don't have my teams playing in them.

So other than football, there are not a lot of traditions that make January 1 significant. So what reason do we have to make it a national holiday?

The real reason for holidays: What is the real reason for New Years Eve?

the dog feels necessary in order to survive and

protect as is their nature, may jump up and bite -- if not nearly kill -- the abuser. This then would give the dog the appearance of being dangerous to where it could be euthanized.

What should you do to help?

If you know of a neighbor who is abusing their pets in any way, or you see an emaciated animal and you're concerned, call someone to investigate. If you call, they might ask questions so they can understand exactly what's going on. If you know where the animal is, don't hesitate to call, you can save an animal's life this way.

Many animals tend to suffer every day due to the fact that some people decide not to do anything about it.

If a human being is abusing their spouse or child, are you going to ignore that as well? If you choose to ignore their pleas for help, you're just a cold, heartless uncaring person, who only cares about themselves.

Could someone live with the fact that they are destroying someone's life because they chose not to intervene and help that fellow human being in need.

It's the same way with animals. If you decide to neglect them then you're destroying the animal's life as well.

We were created and formed in a way where we're supposed to help each other and nature, not destroy the world we created.

If you destroy life in this world, you're destroying the world as well.

what he loved to do.

If we as look back and concentrate on key points in King's Speeches, then we can make a difference like he did.

By treating people equally, respectfully and standing up for what you believe in, that's the first step to a better nation.

It's not just a day off of school.

It's more than that.

It's a chance to realize there needs to be changes made for us to live a more productive life.

It's a chance for us to reflect on ourselves and what we can do to make the world a better place.

It's a chance to become a better person, for you, the world, and your family.

It's a chance to realize how far we have come because of King.

Take the chance and make the change.

If King made a difference back then, then we can make a difference now.

The answer... nothing specific!

Almost all holidays have meaningful reasons that they are holidays. St. Patrick's Day is the feast of St. Patrick, Easter and Christmas each have religious origins, and The 4th of July is the day of our country's independence, but New Year's Eve was brought forth with no specified meaning or origin as to why it should be celebrated.

So why does New Years Eve deserve to be celebrated as a national holiday? In my humble opinion: it doesn't.

New Years Eve is going to be celebrated as a national holiday for many years to come. I say New Years Day deserves to remain a national holiday, but New Years Eve should never be classified as one.

New Years Day has a significant reason to be a holiday: it's the start of a new year.

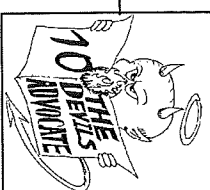
It's a time to reflect on the year passed...

And to plan for the year upcoming.

New Years Eve has no real reason to be deemed a national holiday; it really is just another reason to have a party.

Granted this may be argued against by party animals; I still believe it is true.

The Blue Devil's Advocate



IDS cont. from pg. 2

As the team leader, she supervises different groups and does a little bit of everything from working on the go-kart to creating the business letters. She is also the elected team driver for speed and acceleration testing that is done periodically.

The final RHS student in IDS is Lexy Verstrate. She is in charge of communication between the afternoon and morning classes as well as documenting the process through pictures.

"It is easy collaborating with the afternoon because I am friends with most of them prior to this class," said Verstrate. As the rest of the team works in their positions, she works on the timeline. The timeline is a summary of what happens each day in the class.

This timeline becomes an important factor once the go-kart is complete. Once the conversion is finished, the class will review steps they took to make changes and discuss how their process could be improved for future classes.

In May, 2012, both afternoon and morning classes will go to the Michigan International Speedway to race their go-carts. At MIS, they

will race against other teams from Michigan that are a part of the Square Once Program.

Square One is a program that works to bring education to a more technological level while uniting students and teachers. Square One's logo is, "Igniting Collaborative Partnerships between Education and Industry."

Square One provides grants to schools for the use of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) Learning. They gave the Academy IDS team a \$5,000 grant so far this year.

The team will race three courses. The first race consists of weaving in and out of poles that are placed 160 feet apart. Secondly, students race a figure-8 course, ending the race with total distance of 3,000 feet around an oval course with a speed restriction of 30 mph. There may also be a slight hill or grade on some courses.

Being the first time doing this type of conversion and competition, the team does not expect to win, but hopes to learn how to improve for future IDS classes.

Once the team finishes their race and returns to the class, IDS will

begin to focus on finishing annual research projects while working on problem solving any errors that the team encountered with their go-kart. To do this, they will do tests and compare results of having the go-kart powered by gas to power by electricity.

"We are learning that converting to electricity isn't really that hard and anyone could do it. More people should in order to cut down on gas," said Smith.

This class challenges students while building the go-kart. IDS is mostly run by students, but there is some teacher instruction on how to solve problems. "The most challenging part is trying to figure out how to go about it because our teachers want us to use our own thoughts and ideas to get the solution," said Verstrate.

The students all chose to take this class over another class offered, C++.

Townsend said she wanted to learn more about engineering. Breiling said, "IDS is important because we are weaning our dependence off fossil fuels. Even if electricity isn't the answer we learn to be creative and open our minds to new ideas." She said the biggest

problem with this class is waiting for the afternoon class to approve what they want to do with the go-kart.

Smith said, "I enjoy the program because we get to actually physically see alternative energy and how it works instead of just learning about it traditionally."

This newer form of learning is taking practice in schools and colleges. According to Walden University, "Interdisciplinary Studies is a process of answering a question, solving a problem, or addressing a topic that is too broad or complex to be dealt with adequately by a single academic major or profession. Interdisciplinary Studies is also beginning to show up in colleges. Walden University offers a bachelor degree for IDS.

Smith said, "I think the number one thing people should know about IDS is that the switch to using alternative energy is not difficult and not that expensive. We should all do our part to lowering the use of gas."

Richmond's Potential Van Gogh's Richmond Art's classes sent students to compete in Scholastics Art Competition

By: Emily Swantek
Staff Editor

Six students at our high school have received awards from participating in the Regional Scholastics Art Competition.

"Scholastics is a national student art competition that's been going on for about 76 years," said Mrs. Cole, art and photography teacher. The competition is similar to that of a sport; there are regionals and nationals with hundreds of schools that participate.

If their artwork makes it past regionals, it gets sent to New York to compete against kids nationally. At regionals, there are a couple thousand students from

Macomb, St. Clair, and Lapeer county. If a student's art is sent to New York, they will be competing against 150,000 students from all over the country competing.

Some of the awards a person can receive are Gold and Silver Keys, and certificates. If a person receives a Gold Key, their art work goes on to the national competition. Senior Kelsey Kasom received a

gold key for her self portrait, a Silver Key for another drawing, and two certificates for her mixed media and painting. "I drew myself in a black and white picture and colored my eyes blue to show the judges I have blue eyes. I wanted the judges to look at my artwork and know me without ever meeting me," said Kasom.

She submitted 12 pieces including a painting of products, jackets, portrait of herself and a jigsaw of her face. "My portfolio's theme was about myself," said Kasom. It took a few months for her to finish her pieces. After students finish, they submit their artwork digitally and it is judged within a matter of days.

Junior Alex Wofford also received a Gold Key for her drawing of a chair with a skull sitting in it, along with a certificate for her drawing of different labels. She said, "I submitted three pieces that I have been working on since the beginning of the year."

Sam Czenkus received a Gold Key for photography. She said, "My picture was of the American flag. The whole process took about three

weeks."

Senior Charlie Urban accepted a Silver Key for mixed media and a certificate for his drawing.

"The theme of my portfolio was Dracula. It took me about a month to come up with the idea and draw it up. I had to drive to Macomb to submit it personally last Friday," said Urban. Senior Madison Nezich accepted a Silver Key for her drawing.

"I submitted a piece that's a composition of pots and pans, all done in stippling, which means it was done all in dots," said Nezich. She went on to say that it took her about ten weeks to do it but it was worth it.

"It was probably one of my favorite pieces I've done, and I'm very proud of it especially because of all the time I put into it," said Nezich.

To enter artwork, students have to fill out paperwork, print labels and have their work matted and framed. "All of this prevents it from being lost or damaged," said Mrs. Cole.

Nezich said, "Mrs. Cole usually lets us know if there's a piece she wants you to submit if she really likes it." There is also a fee to enter. "Senior

portfolios are \$60, individual drawings are \$5 per drawing. Judging the artwork is a fairly fast process.

"There are a lot of college level instructors that come and judge the students' artwork," said Mrs. Cole.

Urban said, "Every judge varies every year. They usually look at how much thought and effort a person uses and the tools that were used." Nezich said that they judge them based on the judge's own personal preference. "It's a toss up if you make something that a judge will really like," said Nezich.

Wofford said, "There are different judges for different criteria." Emotions were high when they received the good news.

Kasom said, "I was really happy I received another Gold Key. I stepped it up and did the equivalent of last year."

Czenkus said she was shocked she did so well.

Wofford said, "I was really happy because I wasn't expecting to get a key."

Pradko
Gallagher
& Slanec
PROFESSIONALS
IN FAMILY DENTISTRY

W
I'm lovin' it

Eric Groeneveld DDS, P.C.
Family Dentistry

68720 Main Street
Richmond, MI 48062
Tel. (586) 727.0990
Fax: (586) 727.4872
www.EricGroeneveldDDS.com



Warm winter weather

By: Hunter Tousignant
Staff Writer

Some people are used to the four seasons, but this winter for Michigan, it is just like fall.

Mitchell Ward, junior, said, "I do not like this weather. I usually ride around here and maybe a couple trips up north. I just got a new sled and it is a Skidoo MXXZ, and I was hoping to use it. Now that this weather is here, I only can hang out with friends."

Tommy Priemer, senior, said, "I hate this warm weather. I usually ride around here and Gladwin up north with my 800 Rev and my 600 triple."

Many students also just got new sleds, also known as snowmobiles, and they were hoping to ride this winter. Parker Treend, freshman, said, "I have two snowmobiles. One is an Arctic Cat ZL 600 and the other one is a Jag 440. I usually ride around town and the outskirts of Richmond, but since I can't ride yet this year, I ride my go-kart around the house and up and down my road."

Jacob Kleinhans, sophomore, said, "This warm weather is making me mad. I hate having grass on the ground. I have two snowmobiles. One is a Mock 1 600 and a Mog Z 800 triple and I usually go up to Gladwin and Kalkaska when I ride, but instead for now, I ride 4 wheelers."

Aaron Ottenbacher, junior, said, "I hate this warm weather. I usually go anywhere up north with my 2000 ZR 700 sled, but I am very disappointed because I just got a new windshield and hand guards for my

sled and I can't use them."

Since the warm weather is putting off the snow, many students have chosen to do other activities.

Priemer and Kleinhans are two of those students. Priemer said, "I go mud bogging at Mitchell Ward's house and the back roads. I also go hunting, fishing and help my dad in the garage."

Kleinhans said, "I love mud bogging because it is entertaining and you get mud all over you. I also ride 4 wheelers."

Many people have different theories about the cause of this abnormal weather. Mr. Germain, RHS science teacher, said, "I believe it is from the way that the jet streams have flowed and pushed warm and cold airstreams over waters." Other scientists and meteorologists call it La Nina, which explains warmer winds and waters in the northern hemisphere.

A lot of theories also go around as global warming. Mr. Germain is not one who necessarily buys into the theory. He said, "It has not happened enough to think that this is now a common occurrence, so I would say no. Remember, last winter, it was very snowy and much colder. I think that because we don't have any snow and it doesn't seem to be in the forecast, we will continue to have warmer temperatures for at least a couple more weeks."

The Farmers Almanac clearly states that at the end of January and the beginning of February we are supposed to get slammed with some heavy snow, but of course, that is not yet determined by our local weather stations around Michigan.

The forecast for the rest of January is a little chance of snow and it will be in the mid-30s.

Studying done right?

By: Krystal Geisler
Staff Writer

Are you one of the people that think studying or sleeping is better for exams? Some students believe looking over study material for about a half-hour and then getting a good night's rest is the best preparation, while others think staying up till 3 in the morning and taking the exam dead tired is the best for them.

Everyone has their own study habits and do things that will work for them and things that do not.

The method most students use is doing reviews given by teachers, and looking over old notes. Some students think making and using flashcards, and studying long term will help the most for studying.

Vince Ottenbacher, freshman, said, "I will read over the book, and do the reviews." He added that he will study two days before the exam and his hardest exam will be geometry because for him, that is an advanced class.

As years go on, exams get more difficult and more important. Once students are in high school, exams can be up to 20% of students' final semester grades. This can really affect their grades.

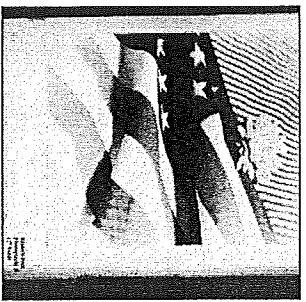
Kyle Soldan, junior, said that when he studies, he goes back over old information and notes. Soldan studies the night before each exam for about a half-hour to an hour.

"Don't wait till the last minute, and use flashcards," said Soldan when giving advice to younger students.

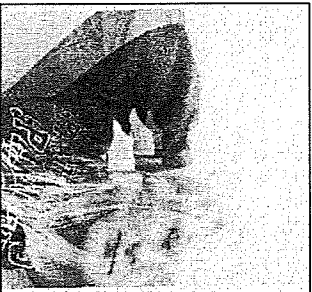
Photo Showcase



Danielle Peck



Sam Czenkus



Sarah Maro

Would you

rather...

- Would you rather it be winter forever **or** summer forever?
- Josh VandenBusche said, "Summer."
- Would you rather loose the internet **or** your car?
- Nicole Bohne said she's rather loose her car.
- Would you rather live underwater **or** live in space?

"Under water because I get to live with the fishes," said Megan Hambaum.

- Would you rather win the lottery **or** never have to pay for anything again?

Ashley Shooof said she would like to win the lottery.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Beth Beindit: freshman



Favorite class: Mr. Ladd's honors World History

Favorite Quote: "When the times get hard don't quit, even if you want to."

Favorite Food: Chinese Food

Worst Nightmare: Losing all my friends.

Brandon Potts: freshman

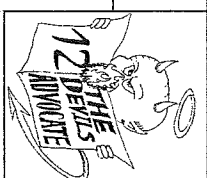


Favorite class: Math with Mr. Germain

Favorite Quote: "You never know someone until you walk in their shoes."

Favorite Food: Pizza with cheese

Worst Nightmare: Getting eaten by spiders



The Blue Devil's Advocate

SADD Presents A Casual Dance

By: Anabella Ottenbacher
News Editor

We are all used to getting dressed up and looking our finest to attend a school dance.

But, what if we had a casual dance? Everyone shows up in comfy, everyday apparel. This was the mission of the SADD dance that took place on Friday, January 13.

SADD planned a casual dance that took place immediately after the home basketball games in the high school mini-gym. If students attended the game, they got into the dance for only \$3.

The dance wasn't just an opportunity for students to have fun dancing. It also served as a way to raise money for SADD.

SADD was looking to use the entrance fees to pay off their debt from the family they sponsored for Christmas. The club was also looking to make money for future plans they have, such as the Prom Mock Car Accident.

Mr. Delore was in charge of finding a DJ for the event. "I knew Greg Sebastian's dad had a service, so I just asked him if he was interested. He not only said he would do it, but he did it for free," said Mr. Delore.

So the DJ was set, and Greg Sebastian began thinking about what songs he was going to play at the dance.

"I was planning on playing the stuff that you hear on the radio, and I also take recommendations, so really whatever people wanted to hear," said Sebastian.

Since Greg's dad owns a business, he has a lot of experience. Greg has helped out with the business since middle school.

"We are planning to be active with Snowcoming and Prom and promoting safety and good decision making for both events," said Mr. Delore.

Another aspect that made the SADD dance different from the rest was that it was a casual dance. People could wear whatever they wanted to, and didn't have to worry about getting gussied up. Ward said, "I liked that the dance was casual, because then I didn't have to worry about getting all dressed up."

great.

Mr. Delore was in charge of finding a DJ for the event. "I knew Greg Sebastian's dad had a service, so I just asked him if he was interested. He not only said he would do it, but he did it for free," said Mr. Delore.

Snowcoming scare

By: Natasha Woodruff
Coordinating Editor

After a week of worry, confusion and rumors, Snowcoming's date has officially been set for Saturday, February 4.

The dance was planned on Friday due to the wrestling meet scheduled to take place on Saturday and the cheer competition.

The dance was originally planned for Friday, February 3; however this presented issues for nearly 100 students involved in cheer, wrestling and basketball. Many students would not have attended due to the date of the dance.

The location of the dance has also been changed. Snowcoming will be held at The Aud on Main Street instead of in the high school gym, like it usually is.

Before the date was changed, students were unhappy. "I don't want to go if the dance is right after the game," said freshman Jonah VandenBussche, before the date was changed.

Since having the dance on Friday was an issue for many students, many were considering not even attending. Brianna Roberson, sophomore, was one student who would not have attended if the dance was on Friday. "I have dance on Saturday," she said.

Athletes would have a hard time making it to the dance in time if it was right after their game. Cheerleaders have a competition on Saturday in Romeo against several division three schools and many would not want to go to the dance the night before.

Some seniors took action and talked to Mr. Olsen, asking if there was anything that they could do and why the date was on Friday.

"He said he would not take any suggestions unless it was on paper," said Sarah Brown, Senior. "So me, Melissa Graham, and Nicole Dantel wrote a letter together."

Seniors wanted the date changed because of the Cheer competition, BWAC for wrestlers and if it was right after the game, then the dance would not have been formal.

"We all like doing dinner and pictures before the

dance and because the date was changed to Friday after the game, we were going to have to make a choice between going to the basketball game or getting ready to go to the dance." Brown said.

Since the date has been changed back to Saturday, many students are planning to go. With no game to worry about before, students are able to make plans for before the dance.

"I usually go out to eat with my friends. Then we take pictures and go to the dance," said Leya Gonzales, sophomore.

Students were happy that the date of the dance got switched back to Saturday. It allows them more time to have dinner and take pictures with friends.

However, some students have mixed feelings about the Snowcoming Dance being held at The Aud instead of RHS. "It is a school event, but it won't even be held at our school," said VandenBussche. "I don't like it."

Melissa Resk, sophomore class leader and member of student government, was one of the students in charge of planning and coordinating the details of the dance.

"One of the things that I had to do was find out what other sophomores wanted the theme to be. I had to ask around and that's how we came up with the theme of Winter Wonderland," Resk said.

The other representatives of the sophomore class are Katlin Niebauer and Colleen Gaffney. They were responsible for the organization and planning of the Snowcoming Dance.

"I went to The Aud with Colleen and Mr. Ladd to ask about what decorations we could use and about set up times. Also I had to find out what areas we would be using during the dance," said Niebauer.

The sophomore class had a meeting to decide on decorations for the dance. Since the theme is Winter Wonderland, the decorations that will be used include snowflakes, lights, balloons and streamers said Niebauer.

Winter-fest

By: Adam Boyd
Staff Writer

Even with the warm weather, Richmond is going to be celebrating the winter.

This year Winter Fest 2012 will be held at The Aud on February 3-5. This is the second year that the festival has been hosted at The Aud.

On Friday February 3, The Aud will host the Taste of Richmond event. At the Taste of Richmond, the local restaurants and diners set up vendors in the Aud's Gym and people can come and sample their food in an assembly line.

On Saturday February 4, there will be a Chili Cook-Off also hosted by The Aud and some live entertainment including special performances by Bushido Marshal Arts Kaizen Dojo, Leap of Faith Dance Studio and Southern Thumb Music Studio.

"We are expecting about 200 tasters for the Cook-Off and a couple hundred for the Taste of Richmond," said senior and The Aud's events coordinator, Paxton McCarty.

McCarty also said, "Everything should go as planned. There are ups and downs though; the warm weather can possibly bring in more people. However at the same time, the warm weather may melt the ice sculptures."

She added, "I feel that the town doesn't host a lot of activities that truly bring the people into town to view the city and what it has to offer. Winter Fest is one of those few activities that gets the people out of the house, even in the winter months when people are normally indoors."

Businesses are involved in the event.

"People don't often think about how the local businesses are involved with the festival. If it were not for the businesses I don't believe that we would be able to have the festival," said McCarty.

She added, "Most of the people in the event are from Richmond but really people from cities and even counties come to Richmond to see what we have to offer."

WINTERFEST
CONT. on PG 14

The Blue Devil's Advocate



Heartwarming homemade

By: Anna Fraser
Opinion Editor

Love is in the air and it's time to show it.
It's the day of candy hearts, boxes of chocolates and bouquets of flowers. It's the second biggest card-giving holiday of the year according to Hallmark. Can you guess what day it is yet?

Yep.
February 14: Valentine's Day!
This holiday may not be as recognized as Christmas or Thanksgiving, but many students feel that it is special just the same.

Hey, it may be the one day of the year where you can pull off wearing as much pink and red as you like!
While all dressed in your Valentine's Day outfit of mismatching reds and pinks and your light-up heart headband that blinks with every loving step you take placed gently upon your ears, you spread the love by hugging everyone you see and throwing candy hearts everywhere while crying and yelling down the halls, "I LOVE

EVERYONE!"

Okay, not so much...
But you get the idea. This day is joked about a lot, and many people don't even like Valentine's Day.
Austin Schultz, a senior, said, "It has a good purpose, but I think some people go overboard with the idea of it. I just don't like how couple-based it is."

Although it is nationally recognized as a day for couples, the purpose of Valentine's Day is often misunderstood. While sending chocolates to your sweetie is nice, this day is also for showing the love and appreciation you have for everyone in your life, like your BFF Jill.
"I think it's more than just a 'couple thing.' It's about your friends and family, too," said sophomore Casey Malburg.

This got me thinking.
Remember how incredible it was to receive Valentines from everyone in your class when you were in elementary school?
You felt so special because everyone remembered to get you something.
That trip to the store to pick out what kind of valentines you were going to give that year was the most exciting trip to the general store you would ever take in all of February.
And maybe even March.

There were so many options to pick from. Whether you went with the Powder Puff Girls or Johnny Bravo, you always made sure you bought enough for everyone. As soon as you got home, you wanted to write them all out. Your mom helped you cut out each valentine and spell everyone's names correctly.
The next day at school you would wait anxiously to pass all your valentine's out and get your box of "Be Mine" candy hearts.

It was exciting.
It was easy.
When we were younger, the concept of Valentine's Day seemed so much simpler. Now it's all about what you bought someone or sending out a mass text saying, "Happy Vday," to everyone in your phone.

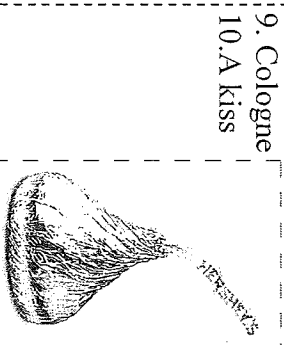
Is this really better than making something personally for someone?
Just because you're not in elementary school anymore, doesn't mean you can't still give your friends and classmates valentines.

You still have the opportunity to write out handmade valentine's or tell someone how much they mean to you.
You still have the power to make someone's day.
So this Valentine's Day, let's look past its stereotypical definition.
Let's spread kindness and love to all the people in our lives and hand out those

valentine's like they are going out of style.
Because, in the words of Rachel Scott, "You never know just how far a little kindness will go."

10 Things to get your sweetie

1. Chocolate
2. Flowers
3. Teddy Bear
4. Love
5. Jewelry
6. Gift Card
7. Dinner
8. Date Night
9. Cologne
10. A Kiss



STAFF EDITORIAL
CONT. from PG. 8

They recognized that we have a voice and we have no reason to resent them for the misunderstanding. Students will now be able to make memories this year and in upcoming years.

HOROSCOPES

By: Jessica Bilibrey & Lizzie Urban

♑ Capricorn
December 22-January 19

Your easy going personality has changed into being super bubbly and all smiles. Even though your acting silly, you're still getting all your things done while having a good time.
Best stress reliever: Hanging with friends.

♒ Aquarius
January 20-February 18

No matter where you are or what you're doing, there's always that one thing that's on your mind. Don't let it eat at your brain. You have more important things to worry about this week.
Best stress reliever: Watching a good movie, alone or with family.

♓ Pisces
February 19-March 20

You are beyond stressed this week! Your busy schedule will have you scattered. A good night's sleep will have you energized and ready to take on the world in no time.
Best stress reliever: A nice, relaxing day of shopping.

♈ Aries
March 21-April 19

Each passing day leads you to more distraction. Set aside a good chunk of time to devote to working on your latest project. As exams come up, try to take a moment to de-stress.
Best Stress Reliever: A hot cup of tea.

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20

You will take extra time to study on that one subject that has been giving you trouble. Be sure to have a way of getting done all those review sheets.
Best Stress Reliever: Call a friend for a moment's distraction

♊ Gemini
May 21-June 20

At this age in life, drama is pointless. You have bigger and better things to worry about. Use your time wisely and accomplish something you have wanted to get done.
Best stress reliever: Video games/Board games.

♋ Cancer
June 21-July 22

Your friends are the best support system this week. Not only will they give you the best advice but they will help you figure out your problem. Be thankful you're supporting friends.
Best stress reliever: phone calls with long time friends/Texting.

♌ Leo
July 23-August 23

A reward will come your way. Have faith that you will ace those tricky questions in math as well. Pay attention throughout the entire exam or you will be sure to miss something.
Best Stress Reliever: Listen to quiet music.

♍ Virgo
August 24-September 22

Do not give up hope on your upcoming test. A clear sign will come to you right before that will help you through this straining time.
Best Stress Reliever: Catch up on your newest book for an hour.

♎ Libra
September 23-October

Try your best on your worst subject. All your hard work will be returned when the final results are given back to you with a surprising turn out.
Best Stress Reliever: Take a walk to clear your crowded head.

♏ Scorpio
October 23-November 21

You'll be good to go with all subjects as a result of your hard work all semester. Keep yourself up-to-date on all your upcoming assignments so no fact is left unknown.
Best Stress Reliever: Go out to a movie.

♐ Sagittarius
November 22-December 21

You're ready for whatever comes your way. Organization and patients are two words to describe your bubbly self today. While making others smile, you still accomplish everything you need to.
Best stress reliever: Laughing/Telling jokes.

The Blue Devil's Advocate

WINTERFEST
CONT. from PG 12

Julianne Kammer has been coordinating Winter Fest since 2004, and started helping with the event in 2002 when she was in high school. "It wasn't until I was hired into the city that I really started to officially help with the coordination of Winter Fest," she said.

On February 2 and 3, there will be a family fun night held at Maniaci's Banquet Hall. On these nights, the banquet hall will have this event from 6-8 P.M. and admission is free. "There will be goodie bags and a miniature carnival with prizes," said Mrs. Kammer. Food will also be available for purchase.

Mrs. Kammer added, "We are expecting a huge turnout this year. If we have good weather, we should have over 200 people for the chili cook-off and Family Fun Night. Although it is hard to estimate how many people will turn up."

"The festival may be altered as well. The warm weather may melt the ice faster. For the most part the

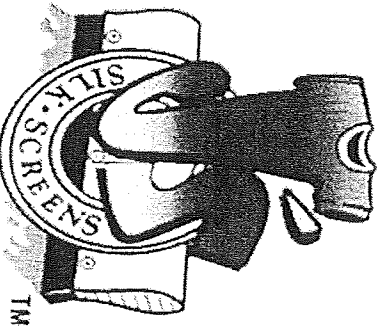
rest of the festival will be indoors so the weather will not be a factor," said Mrs. Kammer.

Mrs. Kammer hopes for a good turn out this year.

"It's the main goal to bring people into Richmond for the fun nights as well as to bring in people to see the town. We were fortunate to have good weather in the past and hope to have good weather again this year," said Mrs. Kammer.

"It's good for Richmond to host the winter festival because with it being winter and not a lot to do. It gives the people of Richmond a reason to get out of the house. Businesses are involved a lot as well. They stay open and have more business in this week. I think that it's a very good idea that they stay open," said Kammer.

Kammer also added, "People come from all over to see the festival and what's in Richmond. I think that it's half and half with the appearance. Half being from Richmond and the other half is from other towns and counties around Richmond."



Varsity Jackets

Richmond • Memphis • Anchor Bay

- Custom Printed Apparel
- Schools, Churches, Business Accounts
- T-shirts/Sweats
- Team Uniforms
- Fundraisers
- Embroidery
- Trophies

J's SilkScreen
58259 Man St. - Richmond, MI 48062
(Downtown Richmond)
(586) 727-3321

Total Refrigeration LLC

Heating and cooling

Jerry Schafer

sales, service and installation

24 hour service/ free estimates

RichmondMI48062

810-305-1025

jerryschafer@comcast.net



Secrets of The Secret Garden are released

By: Melissa Resk
Advertising editor

On March 16, Richmond students of all ages will have the chance to show off their acting skills. The Aud, located on Main Street, will be holding their annual March is Reading Month play.

This year's play will be *The Secret Garden*. This play has many different roles that will allow students to embrace their interacting skills and developing themselves to understand the play.

It is a musical based off of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel. In this play, they tell the story of an orphan girl who brings life to a neglected garden and her sick cousin she has never heard of before.

With the "no-cut policy" that The Aud has, all 83 students that auditioned were incorporated into the play somehow. "We added on roles and have a really large chorus," said Mrs. Applegate, director of the play. She continued on and said that The Aud has a double cast to perform the play, which opened up several more acting positions.

According to Mrs. Applegate, this play was the actual Broadway script

which is different from the junior version they usually perform at the AUD. It also makes it difficult because it is the abridge version, which means it has a lot of scene changes.

"We had to go up on stage and sing a song to see where our voices were and read a section of the script. I sang the ABC's," said Maximillian Leesch, freshman. He added that his favorite part of the auditions was when he read the script because it was easier than the singing, and it was from different character's perspectives.

Amber Engelhard, sophomore, has been acting since 8th grade. She said she was nervous before going on stage to audition. "But, as soon as I get on stage, my nervousness goes away," she said.

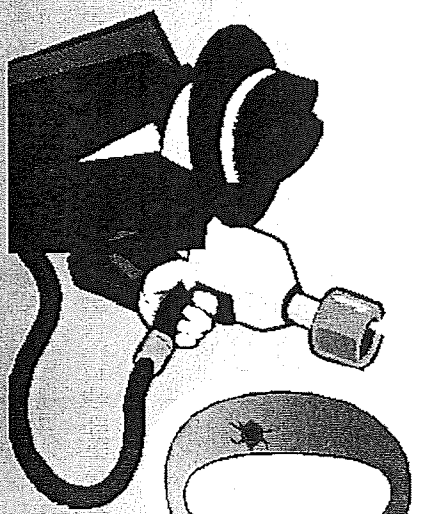
"I was nervous after because I didn't know what part I was going to get," added Engelhard. She also said that she has not read through the scrip that much but it looks like a well written play.

"(*The Secret Garden*) is a story about hope, renewal and getting a second chance at life after something bad happens to you," said Mrs. Applegate.

VARGA FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

David Varga, D.C.
Laura Varga, D.C.
Chiropractor

35000 Division Rd. Ste. 7 Richmond, MI 48062



Garboone's

Complete auto repair

Renegade

586-473-6716

Racing Fields & Tires
36040 Division rd. Richmond, MI
sscarboney9@comcast.net