



School News

“The Seaweed is always Greener...”

By: Alexa Dentai
Co-News Editor

“...In somebody else’s lake,” there is a role that Disney Princess fans would love to play.

Disney’s famous princess, Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*, is being performed by Hannah Nichter, senior at RHS, at Richmond’s Aud.

This is Nichter’s last year at the Aud because she is a senior at the high school.

Due to the Aud’s policy of only allowing students to perform, acting up until they graduate from high school.

Nichter said, “I am absolutely honored and thrilled to play my dream role. I have loved the show so much and have had a blast while performing with all of my best friends and my sister, Emily, and my little cousin, Abby.”

The reason why Nichter has been dreaming of playing Ariel is because of how similar they are.

Nichter said, “Although I don’t have a tail or live Under the Sea, Ariel and I are still very similar. We both have goals in life that we hope to achieve and we both love our families.”

“You dream about going up there...”

After high school, Nichter plans to go into college for her teaching degree and to direct a youth group in theater, as she continues to at the Aud’s summer camp.

Nichter said, “I have always loved kids, but I have also grown attached to theater.”

Nichter hopes to bring and relive her favorite memories from theater through her future little stars.

Nichter said, “The best memories in theater seem to be at the final curtain. That is when you realize that you put on a successful show. The crowd stands up and cheers for your friends and yourself while you stand there holding hands with the people you have suddenly or have

already grown close to. Theater isn’t just for one person; it’s a team effort.”

Every story has a villain, even *The Little Mermaid*.

Performing as Ariel’s enemy, Ursula, Emma Haack, sophomore, has enjoyed being the villain for once.

In over 17 plays and musicals, Haack has grown and developed her own character in life through others.

“Poor Unfortunate Souls...”

Haack said, “I try to be the nicest person that I can be, but Ursula isn’t like that, maybe unless she wants something. Perhaps a voice, maybe.”

“To help unfortunate merfolk like yourself...”

Haack has been in so many plays and musicals, but *The Little Mermaid* would have to be her favorite because of her friends and theater family that have surrounded her and helped her through this journey from a typical high school girl, into a seawitch.

“Poor souls with no one else to turn to...”

Haack said, “Although, the experience has been long and challenging, I wouldn’t change or trade it for anything. I wanted to be Ursula because she seemed fun to play, but I have gained much more than just a fun experience. I have gained exciting memories and true friends. I have gained the pleasure of being inside the joke for once instead of outside. The musical has helped me grow, not just in my acting, but in myself as a newly confident and independent person.”

Although, Ariel and Ursula are complete opposites, they do have some similarities.

“Wanderin’ free- wish I would be...”

Ariel’s goal is to be human to be with her prince, while Ursula’s goal is to get back at King Triton and steal Ariel’s voice while in the process.

“Part of that world...”

They both have goals that they want to accomplish, whether it be revenge or love, these characters have more in common than they realize.

Nichter said, “Ariel and Ursula, if not for their obvious and less obvious differences, in a way, I could see them being best friends.”

Haack wasn’t far behind in the thought process.

Haack said, “Ariel and Ursula both live in the sea and have goals that they want to accomplish, and will do whatever it takes to achieve their goals. Their similarities don’t have to be based off of their looks or their voices, but more of their character and values.”

“Someone to watch over her, to keep her out of trouble.”

Thomas Biafore, senior, plays the loudest and most demanding role in the show, King Triton.

Biafore said, “King Triton is such a loud character, because he yells a lot, and he’s so high-strung and requires attention whenever he can get it. I’m not used to playing such a vivid character, but I really enjoyed the opportunity.”

“Sebastian, I’m concerned about Ariel. Have you noticed she’s been acting peculiar lately?”

Biafore said, “It was my job to watch over Ariel as King Triton, but in real life, I still watch over her because she is one of my best friends. That’s what King Triton and I have in common, we both watch over the ones we love and care about most.”

Biafore has come a long way from a typical high school teenager, to now a confident and more outgoing and social butterfly... or even sea-horse.

“Down here all the fish is happy...”

Emily Nichter, freshman, and Hannah Nichter’s younger sister, wanted to be more a part of her sis-

ter’s world in the show.

E. Nichter said, “Although I am truly grateful to be a part of such a great show, I wanted to see my sister more and go through this journey with her more as she finishes her last show at the Aud.”

E. Nichter played a sea princess and still had a blast during her experience.

E. Nichter said, “The Little Mermaid was a great show to end with my sister. I’m going to remember this as I continue my theater career in high school!”

“I don’t know when, I don’t know how, but I know something’s starting right now...”

By: Brendon Jacques
Staff Writer

“We think this year’s team can do great things; this group of girls has been working our whole lives for this moment,” said junior striker Katrina Bullock

Heading into the season the girls have high expectations, while competing with Armada to take back the league title.

“By working really hard at practice and listening to everything our coaches have to say, we believe that we can accomplish anything we set our mind to,” said junior goalkeeper, Courtney Davis.

All the girls have been conditioning over the winter to make sure they were in top shape for this upcoming season.

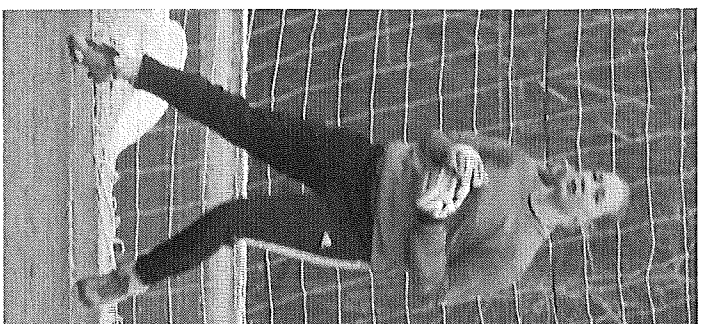
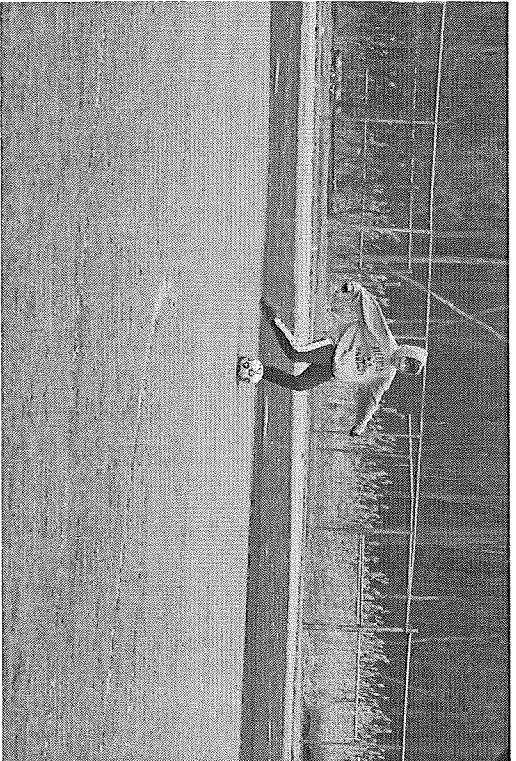
Bullock, said, “Me and a lot of other girls took the offseason to really push ourselves and do the best we could to get prepared for the season. We did this by running on our own and everyone getting together to play a couple indoor sessions over the winter.”

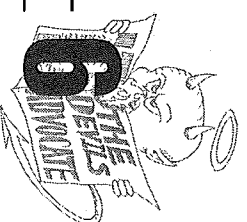
The team really focused on improving their team chemistry over the two winter sessions as they learned how to move the ball well. “I believe that our biggest strength as a team is our ball movement and knowing where everyone is going to be,” said freshman outside midfielder, Grace Aiken.

The team as a whole is transitioning well from the coaching changes this year as every player is taking a positive approach towards the new season. “We really think Coach Gil and Coach Steve have the capability and the soccer knowledge to do great things for this program,” said Bullock.

At practice, the coaches try to establish good communication and strive to be the best conditioned team in the BWAC. They believe that is what’s going to bring the BWAC title back to the Richmond since the 2013 season. Davis said, “The coaches really
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Check out these pictures from the girls’ first game!





#TheDress... What color is it?

By: Haleigh Beedon
Staff Writer

A picture of a black and blue -- or was it white and gold? -- dress went viral about a month ago.

Nobody really knew the direct "creator" of this picture, although there were many people claiming the picture on Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr.

The people who started the whole *What Color Is This Dress?* question, were featured on Ellen.

A Scottish girl named Grace McPhee received a couple pictures of dresses from her mother (she was trying to decide which one to wear to a wedding.)

Grace answered and said the white and gold one. Her mother said there was no white and gold dress, but there was a black and blue one.

Grace asked her husband what color it was and he, also, said it was gold and white. Uncertain about the whole thing, Grace asked one of her friends, Caitlin, who posted the picture on Tumblr. And thus, that is the picture we all see floating around the internet.

Sorry to burst anyone's bubble, but the dress is actually black and blue.

But there is more to the story than just this.

The way we see the colors has to do with the perceptual boundaries of our eyes and our brain. Each person has rods and cones in the retinas of their eyes and every set is different. These cones and rods are the receptors that transmit what we see to our brains and tell us what it is.

Perceptual boundaries are the different ways our eyes see different colors. For example, we can clearly distinguish between a distinct red and a distinct orange color. When the red has a little more yellow in it, it's closer to orange than it is red. That causes people to question what color it actually is. My eyes have trouble focusing so, they couldn't

distinguish between the gold hues or the black hues. It took awhile to actually recognize a color.

This dress made me very frustrated. I have seen both black and blue and white and gold. That's why it sparked such a controversy with myself, my friends, and my family.

When I first looked at the picture, I saw white and gold. I looked at it later that day and it was blue and black. I was so freaked out and I had no idea why it was my eyes were playing tricks on me.

That brings up my second point: how this picture is an optical illusion.

Optical illusions are pictures or demonstrations that deceive the eyes and makes them see something different that was is actually being shown.

I've loved optical illusions my whole life, but I get frustrated when I can't figure them out.

The lighting of this picture is what throws us all off.

The white balance and highlights make the eyes see a white and gold dress. If you take the picture into a room that has different lighting, you may see a black and blue dress.

That's what happened to me.

When I first saw the picture I was in a well lit room and I saw white and gold. The lighting of the room I was in accentuated the white balance and highlights of the picture and made it appear clearly white and gold.

The second time I looked at it, I was walking to my car in the dark. At that time it was clearly black and blue. The lack of lights didn't do much for the white balance and highlights, which made it appear darker than before.

As many people know, Twitter is a very popular social media platform. It was a huge source of the "color questioning."

Twitter was filled with Team White and Gold and Team Black and Blue fights where each hardcore believer argued why is was a certain color.

In my opinion, the fights were ridiculous. Once people started figuring out why they saw the different colors, there were still the hardcore believers on white and gold. They wouldn't give up their thoughts, even though they were proven wrong.

Besides all the questioning and brawls came sarcasm and humor.

On Twitter, people were mocking the whole controversy. They would put up a picture of something that was obviously gold and white or black and blue and say that it was the opposite.

For example, I saw a tweet this guy put up of his Halloween costume. He was dressed up as a girl and he was wearing a white and gold striped dress. The caption he put was "Loved my blue and black dress!"

Many people like to take things that people argue about and shed a humorous light on it, such as controversial things that have gone viral. In a way, it makes people not think of everything so seriously. Social media really exaggerated these controversial issues and people turned to it for answers. It made people question their eyesight and in the end, it was just an optical illusion. Or was it....

A portrait of an Artist

By: Kaitlyn Milliken
Staff Writer

"Not too long ago, I discovered a free way to express myself. I could be creative, while being unlimited to the possibilities of what I could draw."
- Angelica Borrows

Walking up the stage, in her mind, the feelings she possessed could only be described as "Nervous and dying."

Angelica Borrows, a sophomore at RHS, just received her Anton Art Award in front of a massive crowd of 200 people. And thanks to her artistic genius, her portrait of a Korean boyfriend member won 2nd place in the Regional Award Show out of hundreds of other students.

"I knew I had won an award, but I didn't expect the extent of its importance," said Angelica, recalling the events of the night of the award ceremony. "I remember earlier this year that I was hoping to win an art award."

Those dreams were finally realized and carried further when she was granted \$25 for art supplies.

"My feeling of earning the award was overall joy," she said. Angelica hopes to use the money to buy watercolors. "I think watercolors would be a nice medium for me to try out."

This is because watercolors are a great medium to use when painting realistic portraits. And it so happens that realistic portraits are Angelica's art preference.

Angelica recalls the first time she ever took an interest in art. Surprisingly it wasn't too long ago, even though her skills match that of an artist with years of experience. "I took an art class my 8th grade year in middle school," she said.

At first, she only joined the class to be with a friend. When it came time for her to draw, she had no idea of what she was capable of. It was when she picked up her pencil and drew, that she discovered her natural art talent.

"Even though I was a beginner, I noticed that I really liked drawing," said Angelica. She continued to practice drawing, working at her skill until it became refined. In the beginning, she began drawing objects, which then led her to draw her favorite cartoons.

By the time she entered RHS, Angelica could illustrate these characters perfectly.

"I thought it would be interesting to try something new and expand my variety," said Angelica. She began to practice drawing and shading the basic parts of the face such as the eyes, nose, and mouth. *Continued on Page 15*

Finding her passion in the world of canines

By: Cecily McPherson
Opinions Co-Editor

Bouvier des Flanders, Petit Basset Griffon, Lhasa Apso... many may not see the commonality within these titles. In fact, for most these labels may seem like gibberish-- a whole other language.

However, for the past couple of months these titles, along with 127 others, have become junior Hannah Dullea's daily life.

What do these 130 labels share?

They are all used to classify different dog breeds.

No: Hannah isn't a weird dog lady. She is a high school junior who has sought out an opportunity to pursue her dreams in becoming a vet.

A few months back, her health occupations teacher discovered her goals to eventually become a vet. She introduced her to a program called HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America.)

Through this program, Dullea discovered a competition that would allow her to gain experience and exposure to this career branch.

The competition was to be composed of both a skills portion and a multiple-choice test.

The multiple-choice portion, was a 50-question test administered in 60 minutes. The questions, much like the ACT, would get progressively harder towards the end.

"There was lots of self-teaching for the competition," Dullea said. "I had a huge set of books and note cards I would look at every night."

The skills portion was much more hands-on. She was taken to a divided classroom. One side was used for identifying breeds, while the other was used for retraining a dog. A judge stood in front of her and held up a

picture of one of the 130 dog breeds. She was instructed to identify the breed presented.

"This was difficult," Dullea said, "because the pictures the judge showed me were not always the ones I had studied."

Also, as a part of the skills portion, Hannah was asked to restrain a dog.

Previously, Dullea was asked to restrain real live dogs but for the competition, she would be working with a life sized fake dog.

"The retraining process varies for different sizes of dogs. I have worked with small corgis and large pitbulls."

As the competition came to a close, Dullea was informed that she, out of about 17 others, had received 2nd place.

She will be going to States April 16th and 17th. Dullea practices a new set of skills every night in order to prepare for the next level. She is excited to see what her hard work will bring.

"This may sound cheesy," Dullea said. "But, even if I do not win, competing in the field that I plan to go into is rewarding in itself."

Dullea keeps her her hopes high and furry friends close.