

# In Our Opinion



## Staff Editorial: Funding the Arts

### Question of the Week

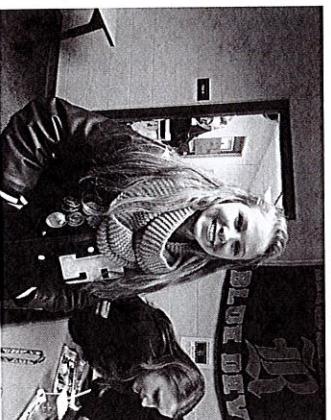
~\*~  
If you could be any super hero who would it be and why?

#### Staff



Mrs. Belf: Superman because he is original.

#### Senior



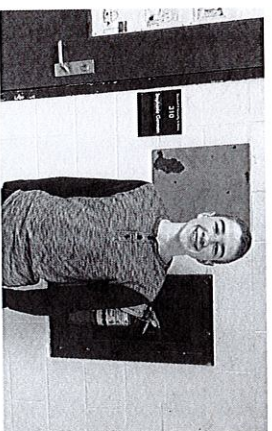
Amanda Gorr: Superman because he's the strongest.

#### Junior



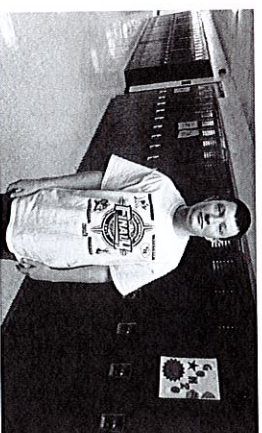
Michael Bullock: Flash because he is powerful because of his speed.

#### Sophomore



Jackson Allen: Batman because he has a lot of money and lives two lives.

#### Freshman



Caleb Szlachetwicz: Ironman because of his suit.

Jaret Gil

*Opinion Co-Editor*

Have you ever walked around an art exhibit? Looked at the pieces hanging on the wall? See the statues short and tall?

The aesthetics in each piece is different, and drawn from the heart of the artist. Those aesthetics draw you in as you look at the art, and you inevitably take a piece of it with you. Yet, despite the aesthetics and emotions related to each piece, it seems like the arts programs are the first things to be cut from funding.

But how is that fair? My father might say, "Well son, life's not fair." But that isn't true.

The world is plenty fair. It's your response to adversity that makes the difference. Throwing your hands up and "accepting" that you can't win, or that the world is out to get you isn't the way to accomplish anything.

There are millions of kids that use art as an outlet. As an escape. But also, as a voice. Art can be used as a voice, to speak volumes politically. What with icons like Meryl Streep calling out our President on his policies, to Banksy depicting a message of "no peace."

And taking away that art would only increase the problems. Already kids get limited access to different styles and techniques available to them in art, and we still manage to develop brilliant amateur artists every day. But now we're going to take away the little bit of funding they have?

That's what will happen if the Trump administration get their way. In short, the administration looks to cut the NEA (National Endowment of Artists), the NEH (National Endowment of Humanities), and CPB

(Corporation of Public Broadcasting). And while he's trying to make cuts to decrease our National debt, the arts programs that he is trying to cut combine to make 0.02% of our country's total spending (according to the Washington Post).

Not only is Trump trying to cut arts and decrease national spending – he's actually gone and said he wants to increase military spending! And according to insidegov.com, by program we spend 15% of our funds on National Defense, and by discretionary spending we spend 49% of our funds on National Defense.

Our military not only has a price tag to fuel, it is the biggest and most funded in the world! Why, when we are trying to decrease national spending, wouldn't we start there! We aren't even in war and we are increasing our military budget!

But you know, let's just cut the arts. Right? No. If art programs weren't a thing, I wouldn't have ever started drawing. I would've never found my favorite outlet. I wouldn't even have a major. And that applies to thousands of students across the country. So why cut funding for the arts?

Art is a voice. By cutting the funds to arts, our voice is being restricted. With less funds comes less exposure, and less interest.

But the one thing that I love about art is that throughout time and trial, it still remains. It still has meaning. It still has voice.

So while I hope that the Trump administration considers the gravity of their decision, and leaves the funds for the NEA, NEH, and the CPB, I know that the art will still have meaning and voice.

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

##### Letters:

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

##### Non-Discrimination Statement:

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.

## Opinions

March 3, 2017



# Features

## Richmond and the Star to be!

**By: Devon Dentai**  
*Staff Writer*

A girl, a camera, and a dream to become the world's next YouTube sensation! This is the Hailey Reed story.

Ever since she was little, Reed loved YouTube and always had dreams of being like the various YouTubers she watches.

When she was 13, her boyfriend got her a camera, nothing too flashy, but good enough to let her start going down the road of stardom.

Hailey's videos are funny comedy sketches as well as her friends just goofing around. Her first ever sketch she did was when she tied her friend to a chair and she hit her with a pillow.

"My mind is like a flowing machine always producing video ideas, so I just constantly am writing them down" Hailey said.

Ask any aspiring content creator, the one thing you will constantly hear is how it is complicated to get started just for the fact that it requires editing software, a camera, and great ideas. Hailey, having the

ideas on lock, just needed the camera, check! Now, she just needed the editing software.

In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, she got a special gift for Christmas: the software.

"I use mostly iMovie and Photoshop, I use my Mac desktop to do all of my editing... I plan on buying a big camera like Freddie from iCarly has, so I'll have the quality to further the desire for this to become my future." Reed said.

Although she has not posted any of her videos to the popular site yet, you still could have seen this comedy connoisseur as she has done video work for a few universities that she has shown interest in.

"Full Sail University asked me to send over some of my videos to check them out," she said.

She is hoping to give them an idea on her talent and content-creating know how.

One of the struggles has to be the budget. Since Hailey is not making any money yet, she currently can't afford fancy props or cameras or anything of that nature.

"I usually just use whatever I find around the house... I have this sad

Olaf from the frozen movie whose head just hangs down. It's just funny look at. Sometimes we will throw him in the background and *etcetera*," Reed said.

One thing Hailey can't stress enough is how she refuses to be labeled or judged. This is important as starting to create videos and creating content exposes you for the world to see in its entirety. She believes she will have people try and put her down but she knows she will just have to carry on and keep doing what she loves.

The only people's opinions she needs to care about is the opinions of loved ones and friends. All of this leads to a recipe for success and sets the path to be happy and love what you do and love how you do it.

Reed said, "Never get discouraged, something that seems like a dream now can be reality tomorrow."

## From Nothing to a Masterpiece

**By Elliott Johnson**  
*Staff Writer*

Everyone has a special way of expressing themselves – whether it's through art, singing, dancing or writing. As for David Chmielewski, his calling is to draw.

"I like it because you're able to create something from nothing, using my hands to create a masterpiece," said Chmielewski.

He explained why he likes to draw constantly and why he draws a new masterpiece every day. Then he says how he started to draw long, long ago.

Chmielewski explains when and why he started to draw and what influenced him. He said, "With my father. All we would do is draw and color together."

Drawing has always been a necessity when it came to his life. Growing up, Chmielewski took on drawing and just never gave up.

"Nothing has come before drawings," began Chmielewski. "And nothing will come after it either."

When Chmielewski isn't drawing, he's doodling on the side of his homework or on his hand. Even the slightest make him proud of what he has created.

When Chmielewski explained if he entered his drawings into a contest he said, "No, I don't like being judged over my art because I know some are better than

me."

Chmielewski usually draws animals in their element. There is one that he is most proud of. "A pen and ink fox that I drew. It took me about three hours," he said.

Animals and gore are the categories that he likes to draw rather than anything else.

When Chmielewski isn't drawing, he's drawing something new. He never stops drawing.

Chmielewski said, "I have saved about 15 now, over the years I have thrown away hundreds." He has thrown away many drawings because they are older and now his work is better.

Lots of masterpieces have been tossed down the drain because he draws so much.

Chmielewski doesn't really draw existing paintings but if he did he would draw Andy Warhol. He said he had the most creative pieces of all other artists.

Chmielewski said, "To draw anything you need to learn the basics." He talks about how people can't draw and expect a masterpiece from what they do. Drawing is a learning process and most people don't see that.

Chmielewski draws because he thinks it's fun and because his childhood was built upon drawing and he won't stop because it's what he loves.

Chmielewski said, "My dream job is to be an animator; it's what fuels me to keep going for the future I desire."

He explains his dream job and why drawing is an important factor in his life right now. An animator needs to have good drawing skills to make a work of art and show the world what he or she can create.

Chmielewski said, "Many, many, oh so many parts. But, all the little parts fit together to create a mural of beauty."

Chmielewski explains how many parts are to one drawing and how every little piece comes together to make a masterpiece. If one step is skipped, the whole drawing will flounder because of that one missing part.

Chmielewski said he doesn't really care if he becomes popular with his drawings, he just wants to draw because that's what he loves to do.

Chmielewski doesn't believe that his drawings are worth money, so he said, "No, not really. Now the work I will be able to do will be worth money, but not my art itself."

He plans to use his drawings when he becomes an animator. But his drawings are just the start to something more creative and something even better than his drawings that he does today.

# Features

# March 3, 2017