

In Our Opinion



Question of the Week



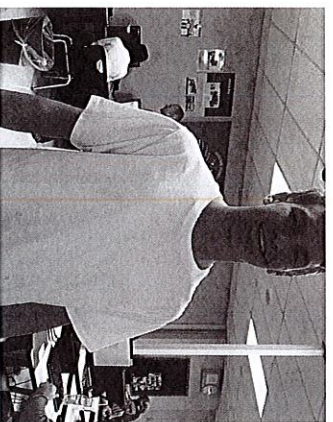
What has been the best part of spring so far?

Staff



Mr. Murphy: Being able to coach my JV and seeing them get better.

Senior



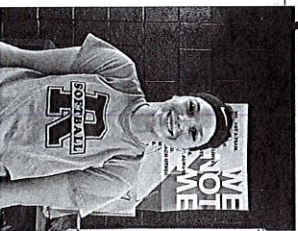
Brad Dye: The weather

Junior



Nick Matthes: Being able to go outside and hangout with my girlfriend

Sophomore



Sydney Black: Being able to play softball.

Freshman



Megan Schuster: Playing soccer outside

Staff Editorial: Weather By: Daniel Seguin

It's such a beautiful day out today. Isn't it? I think it is. The nicest day we've had in weeks.

Scratch that, months. Scratch that, years. In fact, I'd venture a guess to say that this is the nicest day we have ever had, period. You'd be hard-pressed to find a day nicer. I've already got Guinness World Records on the horn, and they'll be here in a matter of hours to assess the day's true niceness. I am absolutely positive that it will break some sort of record.

The most birds chirping? Perhaps. The slightest, but still noticeable breeze? Perhaps.

The whitest clouds, or maybe the yellowest sun? All good options.

I don't care much what this day wins; I just want it to be recognized by someone important, somewhere.

God, it is such a beautiful day. Right now, I am walking down the street, whistling Sweet Caroline, and I am in complete bliss. There are people walking dogs, I see one guy with two dogs on his leash! Can you believe that? A double leash for two dogs. That's double the dogs!

I used to have a dog, but I don't anymore. He was the cutest thing, but we just couldn't keep him. I would come home, and he would run up to me and yap his little yap, and I'd smile a little smile, and we'd both feel a little happy.

But, then he, you know, got sick. And we couldn't keep him. I suppose I misspoke earlier, I THOUGHT I felt a little happy, but now that I know what it feels like to not have him, I know what it feels like to be really sad. And now I have to say we were a little more than a little happy in those moments. I haven't felt a little happy since, honestly.

Until this beautiful day! I mean wow! Would you just look at it? Or better yet, don't look. Close your eyes. Feel. Feel something on the outside. That's a lot easier than feeling something on the inside, which is what looking would be you attempting to do.

Take it easy.

Don't look, feel. On the outside.

Feel the nice, refreshing air on your skin. Makes you feel like a water bottle that's been sitting in a cupboard, rather than the fridge. Not too hot, definitely not too cool. Just right.

Goldlocks.

That story always bothered me. Goldlocks breaks into the bears' house, and then complains that everything is too hot or too cold. That baffles me. You can't break into a house and then complain when food and beds aren't made for you. Why would they be? They aren't expecting a crazy girl to break into their house, and if they did, they'd lock it. Wouldn't that be a different story? Goldlocks tries to open the door, and the door's locked? How awkward would that be?

It would be a bit more awkward if it was her house, though. That happened to me once. I was locked out of my house. My step-mom was in there, looking at me through the glass door, and I wouldn't open up. So, I sat on the driveway scraping up my fingernails on the pavement and screaming. What else was I supposed to do?

Even worse, the day was nowhere near as nice as this one is. In fact, it was a horrible day. As soon as I realized the door was locked, Bam! Thunder! Lightning! Wind! I would've been done for if my dad didn't come home.

I wouldn't even mind if that happened to me today. It's so nice, I think I may just lock myself out of my house! And stay out all night!

Well, Sweet Caroline, is coming to a close. I'm nearly home. My walk is finishing. I see my house.

I am not feeling like going home. The streetlights are turning on, so I really should go home.

I am at the door, here I go. You know what? No. I am not going home. My dog isn't even there. I am going to go enjoy this beautiful day, besides, I think I see Guinness pulling up.

Blue Devils Advocate

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Mission Statement:

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

Letters:

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

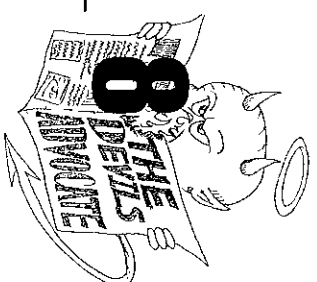
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Opinions

May 4, 2017

Features



Everything Today is Thoroughly Modern Richmond Theatre's Thoroughly Modern Millie is a Hit

By: Brianna Maloney
Features Co-Editor

It is no secret that the Richmond Theatre Program has gone through several changes over the past few years, but this year blew everyone away. With The Regional Youth Complex taking over the program, more students became enthusiastic about the shows. New students joined the high school program, elementary and middle schoolers became excited for future shows, and the audience grew and grew.

This year, the RHS Theatre Program ended the school year with a bang. The Spring musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was about a young woman who moves to The Big Apple to create a bigger and better life for herself. Millie has these dreams and goals set -- and New York is the place to achieve them.

When Millie gets to the big city, she soon realizes that "making it big" is harder than it seems. In her mind, the simplest way to be successful is to marry into money. After an eventful few weeks, she has to decide if she should marry for money or love.

"I'veeeums, like I say, although I truly do prefer emeralds, we could have made it a green glass," said Muzzy Van Hossnere, played by Haley Fortuna. She is seen as the mentor to not only Jimmy, but to Millie as well. The quote reflects on the overall message of the show. Simply stating that you don't need money to be happy — if you are in love, happiness will follow.

Spoiler alert! Millie ends up marrying for love, but turns out her husband to be, Jim-

my, is the second vice president of Van Hossnere enterprises. So that means that Muzzy Van Hossnere, a famous social light, is Jimmy's mother. In the end, Millie gets love and money. She made it big in New York. She made her dreams come true. The show hit the stage on April 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

The stage is dark. You can hear the audience mumbling and rustling around in their seats. Then bam! The bright yellow lights hit your skin. It's time. There's no going back now. The show must go on.

"When I first started theatre, the stage terrified me, but now I just go out there and have fun. It's such an exhilarating feeling." Freshmen Olivia Wofford said.

Wofford was overjoyed to play the leading role of Millie. "I was very excited to be in my first high school show and very excited to start the process." Wofford said. Overall, she thinks the show went well, everyone worked hard, and they all had fun on stage.

Just like most hobbies, it is all about having fun. If you are not having fun, then it shows. When you're on stage in front of hundreds of people, you need to not only project your lines, but you need to project joy as well. In the end, everyone had fun and the audience could tell.

Although the process started off slow, everyone pulled it together in the end. Wofford, and many other of the actors, ended up sitting down and cramming in all their lines with only a few weeks until opening night. Even though the process started a bit off, the performance hit the stage with flying colors.

Director Eleanor Schmidt said, "I think the show went really well and the students exceeded all of my expectations." This is the second show Schmidt has directed for RHS. She recently directed *Play On*.

Junior Alex Yarnboon played the role of Jimmy. This is only his second show and his first ever musical. "*Play On* introduced me to the atmosphere of theatre; it taught me what not to do in a sense." Yarnboon said. This slight background knowledge, although not much, did help him with the basic terminology of theatre.

Like Wofford, Yarnboon had trouble learning all his lines. When you have around 200 lines, chances are the most difficult part is remembering them all. "Getting songs down is easy, but learning the lines is a whole different story," Yarnboon said.

With the show done and over, Yarnboon is more motivated than ever to continue with acting. There is an acting summer camp located in Michigan called Blue Lake. He plans on attending the camp and possibly auditioning for their show. "They [past shows] have helped me believe that I can get a good role at Blue Lake," Yarnboon said.

Thoroughly Modern Millie may be the closing show of the High School theatre season, but it is not the end of the communities program. The Aud Regional Youth Complex is holding auditions for their Summer Shakespeare show *Hamlet*. Audition days are May 22nd and 23rd.

Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character: NHS

By: Lauren Duche
Advertising Editor

On March 20, new NHS officers and members were recognized and officially inducted.

This past year, Mary Gaffney, Jenna Stafford, Raechel McKiernan, Amanda Gorr, and Carrie Maro were officers and getting to that point wasn't easy.

Mary Gaffney, senior President said, "Getting into NHS is a challenge and a goal. Everyone that's in it worked hard to get there and even harder to stay there and move up, so seeing so many sophomores get inducted was really amazing."

New members and a new school year coming up means new officers.

This year's officers are Clayton Maksymniuk, Haley Fortuna, Carly Barjaktarovich Jessica Weaver, and Megan Reece.

Although rewarding, becoming an NHS officer can feel like a challenge.

Gaffney said, "Becoming an officer can seem really difficult because in all reality, everyone in NHS is more than qualified to be in an officer position. You really have to convince everyone that you're the best person for the job."

To become and NHS officer, the candidates write a short essay about why they think they would be best for the position and why they wanted to run. Then, the other members read them and vote. Whoever has the most votes is then elected to the position in which they applied for.

Senior Vice President Jenna Stafford said, "When I was a junior, I did a lot for NHS. I had double the community service hours and was heavily involved. I decided to run for office because I knew I would have more responsibilities and more of an impact on what we did and how we went about doing it." Stafford said.

Being an NHS officer comes with a lot of moral responsibilities.

"Of course you're responsible for your community service hours and showing up to the meetings, but it's so much more than that. A lot of us tutor and work with the younger kids, so we have to make sure that we're setting a good example for them," Stafford said.

The decision to run for NHS officer is a big one that comes with a lot of responsibility. The new officers are more than ready to take on the challenge.

NHS President elect and current

junior, Clayton Maksymniuk, said, "I decided to apply for NHS president because I felt that I had the ability to lead my peers and was a good embodiment of what an NHS member should be like. It might not be easy, but I know all of us will be able to come together and succeed."

Vice President elect Haley Fortuna said, "I decided to run for a position as an NHS officer because I felt it would be an honor to hold a position in a club that not only encourages scholarships but also service, leadership, and character as well."

In years past, NHS has done a lot for the community and for the school. For the upcoming school year, the new officers hope to expand upon what NHS has done in the past.

With dreams of the future, Fortuna has high hopes.

"I hope to be able to get everyone involved and increase school spirit. I also want to encourage the underclassmen to maintain good grades so that they're able to be a part of NHS and have the opportunity to run for office. I mostly just want everyone to feel wanted and involved," Fortuna said.

Features



Judge And Timer Ready? RHS Theatre Forensics Team Makes It To States

By: Jaret Gil
Opinion Co-editor

There's a new program at Richmond, and it's taking the Forensics world scene by storm. That's right, the RHS theatre department has created a Forensics team! But what is Forensics?

Forensics is a high school competition, where students from different schools compose pieces in different categories to compete against each other.

For example, Anna Maxwell, a junior at RHS, competes in the "Prose" category of Forensics. She said, "We take sections from books to compose a piece. When we started, I already had a book in mind, so it was really excited to get to do it." That book was *Biting Anorexia*, by Lucy Howard-Taylor. "It is just a really powerful book, and the whole point of Forensics is to get a point across in a powerful way, and I knew it would do that," said Maxwell.

But Prose is far from the only category in Forensics. While Maxwell competes in Prose, fellow junior Haley Fortuna competes in Storytelling, and RHS freshman Rachel Tavano takes on Poetry.

Making the pieces isn't any small task either. The students have to put together a piece that is between six and eight minutes, and are not allowed to have any props other than a stool, box or chair.

With this in mind, most of the students needed two and three weeks to finalize their performances. Craig McNabb, who coaches the team with Eleanor Smith, said, "Practices are a pretty relaxed environment. The beauty of Forensics is that once you get a good start on your piece you can do a lot to it on your own. I'll often work with one or two people at a

practice while others work independently. It's a very communal process where everyone helps everyone else."

And despite having many categories to compete in, each student competes against 20-30 kids at every competition. But that doesn't mean that the kids are rivals by any means. In fact, many of the students who compete in the same categories become friends. Haley Fortuna said, "That's my favorite part really. When you're waiting for awards and everyone from all the competitions and the different school get together and play games – there's just this great sense of comradeship."

McNabb said, "I love almost everything about the competitions. The atmosphere is incredibly positive and it's so inspiring to see so many young people who are passionate about performance."

Being the first year of Richmond's Forensics program, it would be expected that the team would struggle against more experienced opponents (who, may I add, are mostly Division I schools). However, the Richmond students often place in the top ten or higher, and performed particularly well in the Novice tournament.

In the Novice tournament, new kids in their first year of Forensics compete with each other in an effort to level the playing field, and encourage their growth. At the Novice tournament, Fortuna placed first, while Maxwell and Tavano finished third. And overall, the new Forensics team had a strong showing, placing second.

This weekend, the RHS Forensics team continues into States, with every member of the team qualifying. "I am incredibly proud of our team," said McNabb. "All the members have broken through to States, which is pretty incredible for a first year team. I think we have

an excellent shot to do well this weekend, and I think that this many qualifiers says a lot about where this team is headed. We only lose one senior this year. The future is bright."

All of this leads to a trip to Mackinaw at the end of the year. In May, the teams gather in Mackinaw in a celebration of the Forensics season.

There, the students prepare a new piece – something different than their usual category. "The trip is a great opportunity for the team to relax after a long hard season as well as perform new interesting pieces they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to do. It's also a great way to improve their coaching abilities," said McNabb.

Friday, April 28th, the Forensics team takes off for the final part of their season at Eastern Michigan University. And no matter what happens at States, this team is sure to do great things moving forward.

After a long weekend, the team finished with several great performances, including two students breaking through to the Semi-Finals. Senior Daniel Seguin, and junior Emily Nieher placed in the top 12 during preliminaries, qualifying them for the Semi-Finals.

Both students competed in the Dramatic Interpretation section at States, with Seguin performing a more comedic piece in "Good fellows", while Nieher was more serious with her performance of "Giri".

Likewise, both students were quite surprised by their placing at States. Seguin said, "[It was] surprising, because Emily and I didn't expect it. Everyone else there was so good. I mean, it was states."

Nieher finished ninth overall, and Seguin finished eleventh.

Exciting Excursions Senior Class Goes on Spring Break Adventures

By: Matt Schuster
Opinion Co-Editor

Spring break: a time to get away from real world and go somewhere warm for a week and lay out at the beach. But for some people it's more than just that. The majority of the senior class went to Mexico for their spring break.

Some seniors went on an excursion: one of these seniors was Brandon VanGorp. He and a group of his friends and parents traveled to the Mayan Ruins for their adventure in Mexico.

At the Mayan Ruins, they did many things like climbing the highest temple in Coba, called the Lxmoja. People come all around the world to see this pyramid. Sadly, this will be the last year anyone would be able to do that.

Anywhere you look at the Mayan Ruins you see trees surrounding everything.

To get anywhere you have to either walk or ride a bike because there is no room for a car to get through, they hand made a path by clearing trees in order to get to the Lxmoja.

But the best view is when the students made it to the top of the temple and looked down on everything and see the sun just over the trees in the distance and realize how high you are.

"It was one of the best sights I've ever seen," said Brandon Vangorp.

When climbing up the Lxmoja, there are steps leading up to the top and there is a rope in the middle of the steps to help people coming up and for the people coming back.

Brendon Jacques said, "Going up the temple was a lot easier than coming down. When I

went up, I never looked down and I sprinted up the steps. But when coming down I had to go really slow and close to the temple almost like a crawl down the steps."

There were many people who were climbing that temple that people had to go in and out of people if they wanted to go faster.

Brendon Jacques said, "Most of our parents used the rope to get down and took longer than the kids."

But being able to climb up one of the largest temple is also a once in a lifetime opportunity, especially since everyone won't be able to do it ever again because they are closing it.

They are closing the Lxmoja temple because it is over thousands of years old and it will become unsafe to the people and they want to be able to keep it standing as long as they can. VanGorp said, "To get to the temple we had to ride bikes; that was pretty cool because when riding we went down a trail that was completely surrounded by trees."

After they climbed the temple they realized why they climbed all those steps to get to the top; the view up there was undescribed. The seniors also zip lined over a lake and swam in an underground natural spring.

Even though that's an amazing experience, most of them were more excited for the cave and to be able to go swimming after an extremely hot day.

VanGorp said, "In the cave there are two ledges. One from 30 feet and another one that was 15 feet. When you got to the edge you jump off into the water, but you had to be

careful because if you jumped off the wrong way then you could seriously hurt yourself."

VanGorp said that the underground cave was probably his favorite part because he got to jump 30 feet into the water and it was a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

Mary Ann Yamarino went on a different excursion and did other stuff like snorkeling. But she had one similarity as them. She also went to the same cave as them and did everything they did.

Yamarino said, "The cave was really awesome and it was cool to jump up the ledge and fall into the water."

The excursions that Yamarino and also Eric Raska went on was a combo tour. With the Tulum Ruins, reef snorkeling, zip lining and also going swimming in the cave.

Eric Raska said, "When we went snorkeling, we had signs with our hands to talk to the people at the shore."

They were far from shore and also with a snorkel in your mouth it is very hard to talk. So they had hand gestures to communicate.

Raska said, "We would have to put our fingers on our head and have them pointed. That means that we are too far but that we are okay. The other sign you connect your thumb and your pointer finger into a circle and point the other three fingers up."

But while snorkeling Raska, Mary Ann and the other group saw many kinds of fish and all different kinds of colors.

Raska said, "It was really cool to see all the different kinds of fish in the ocean. Especially