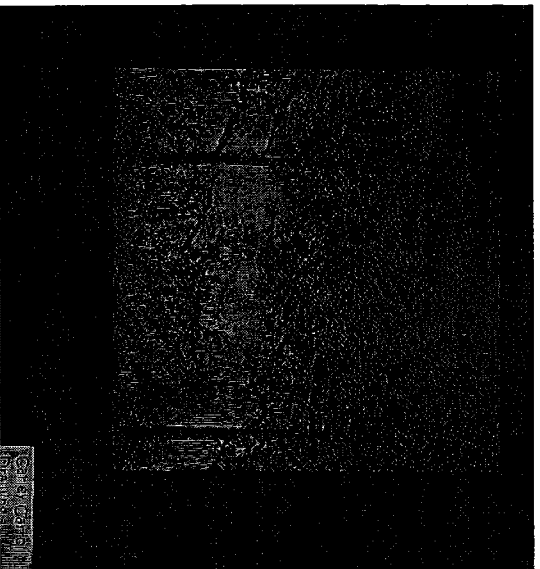
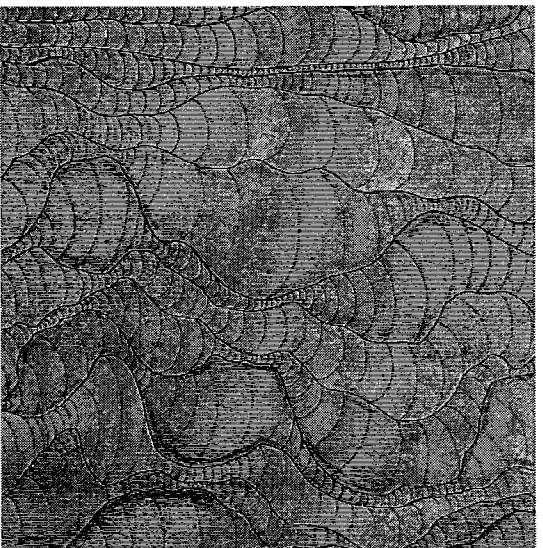




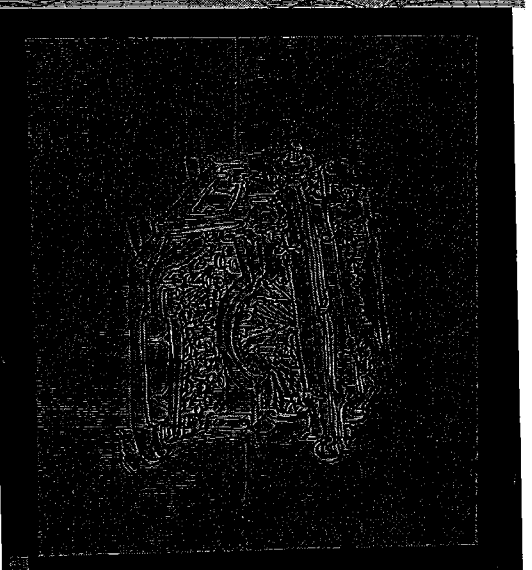
## SHOW US YOUR SWOFF!!!



**Carley Caroll**



**Brandon Vangorp**



**Jaret Gil**

## HI-YAH! Hidden Black-

### belts in RHS

By: Haley Fortuna  
Staff Writer

At a very young age, Bailey White and Martin Gallardo walked into the dojo for the first time. They instantly fell in love with karate and everything that goes along with it.

After years of training that included bumps in the road, Bailey and Martin, sophomores, have kicked through obstacles and earned their first degree black belts.

Both students agree that brown belt testing was their biggest challenge to overcome. "My worst experience was probably my brown belt testing," said Bailey. "I didn't pass one of my tests. It was the last tape I needed. It was horrible for me. I had never failed a test before."

To earn a brown belt a student must pass multiple tests and earn a piece of tape to put on their belt. The tape signifies how many more tests are needed to pass and receive a brown belt. The brown belt is one step down from a black belt. Bailey wasn't the only one who struggled with the brown belt tests. Martin also struggled with this series of difficult tests to earn his brown belt. Martin said, "Brown belt test were my biggest obstacle. Brown belt testing is a more physical test than anything. Black belt testing is more of a mental test. First, we start with showing off what we've already learned, punches, kicks, stuff like that. And then after that, we spar people who are above us in rank. Then, we do the dojo crawl. This is where we have three people on us and the brown belts are put at the end of the hallway and we have to crawl over there and we can do anything we have to take them off. There's three people on us to start with, then two, then one."

Brown belt testing was just one of the obstacles the two karatekas had to face.

Bailey said, "I injured my hip pretty badly and they still don't know what's wrong with it. But they said the reason why I have hip issues is because how many years I've done it. All the repetitive kicking damaged my hip."

Not being able to do what she loved to do was an extremely difficult challenge in her life. She doesn't only participate in karate but track and volleyball. Bailey missed the entire track season her freshman year. Not being able to play the sports she enjoys so much was hard.

"It was a miserable time because I couldn't do anything at all. I had to sit at home. Relax, ice it the whole entire time. I couldn't do karate. I couldn't run. I just had to sit at home and do nothing. I had to cry all the time. I pretty much cried myself to sleep every night during that whole entire time," she said.

Both students have fought through hard times while participating in karate. These obstacles have made them both stronger. Not only have they experienced hard times, but some of their best memories

"We show a lot of respect. It's a lot of respect towards others. There's always people above you and you have to be more respectful towards them and there's people under you who have to respect you. It's a lot of respect," Martin said. In karate, respect is just as important as being able to fight. These two students have practiced and mastered both qualities of a black belt.

Bailey said, "In the dojo you have to respect one another. You have to be companions and learn to work with each other. That was probably one of the biggest things we learned."

Bailey, unfortunately, had to stop participating due to her injury. Martin plans on becoming an eighth degree black belt one day. He wants to continue doing what he loves. Karate.

Martin said, "I'll have to improve on everything to become an eighth degree black belt. It's going to be really hard. I'll have to push myself both physically and mentally."



Martin Gallardo and Bailey White ...  
(Photo Courtesy of Martin and Bailey)



## Goblin' Up Gravy Sales

By: Hailey Dziegelewski  
Co-News Editor

Black Friday: Let the madness begin! This phrase doesn't entirely describe the day. Other descriptions should include tradition, family, excitement, bonding and just plain out wild.

This is what the day is all about for students Sarah McNichol and Morgan Teltow, as well as English teacher, Megan Gabridge.

Doors open in retail stores anywhere between 5 and 6 pm on Thanksgiving. As soon as the turkey feast is cleared off the table and the Lions game is over, moms, aunts, sisters, brothers, lovers, cousins, dads, grandparents, friends and more kick off the Christmas shopping season.

Although some wait until Thanksgiving Day to begin their shopping, others camp outside stores in tents day's prior.

Sarah, a junior, leaves around 8 p.m. on Thursday after dinner. "I always go with good ole Darlene, also, known as my mom!"

Sarah and her mom shop mainly for her little brother, Daniel. "Lots of TV's and game systems for my little brother are always on sale," said Sarah, whose brother is in eighth grade. "We need a new TV because ours is from the mid-1930's."

The stores Sarah and her mom attack are Target, Wal-Mart, Dick's Sporting Goods, Kohl's, Meijer and then they finish with the Lakeside Mall. According to Sarah, Meijer always has the best sales. Some big deals include 70% off of Beats by Dr. Dre, the PS4, the Samsung Galaxy tablet and several other electronics.

"I always look for clothing too because they are the cheapest on this day," said Sarah.

To make sure they get the gifts and deals they intended to, team work is applied. Sarah is the "stuff getter," which is the person who runs around the store to snatch all the items they want. "I'm usually the stuff getter because I'm small, fast and sneaky," said Sarah. Her mom is the line holder because patience is needed for this part of the shopping trip.

Waiting in long lines is always the worst especially when all you want to do is crawl into bed. "The lines all day and night typically wrap around the whole store and take sometimes three hours to get through," said Sarah.

Wearing comfy clothing is important to acquire when running from store to store. Sweatshirts, boots, sweatpants, cozy shoes, sweaters, long

*Continued on page 16*

# Features

## Thanksgiving Traditions

*Continued from page 13*

parapro, is for her to travel to Detroit on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving with her sister. She has been doing this for six years. In the morning, she gets ready to help for the turkey trot. The turkey trot is a race. The runners usually wear costumes for the race.

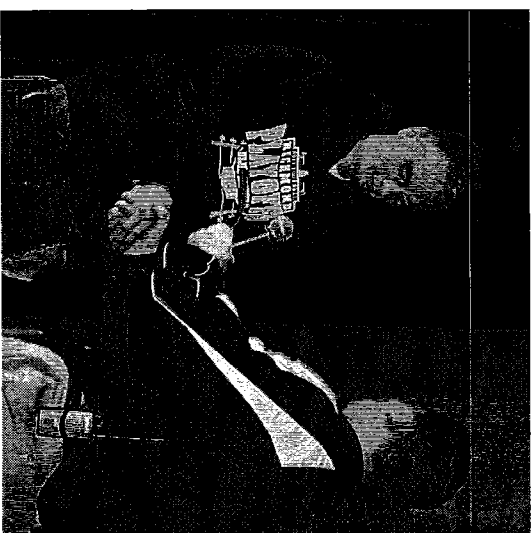
While runners are passing through Ms. Denapole helps handout waters. The runners also receive little treats and candy canes. Ms. Denapole loves doing this because it is a fun and interesting time.

Following the turkey trot is the parade but Ms. Denapole doesn't stay for the parade.

She and her sister then go home. Ms. Denapole's favorite dish to make is homemade cranberries. All it takes is cranberries, water and sugar. Ms. Denapole recommends everyone trying these because they are easy to make and so delicious.

She spends Thanksgiving with her family. "I am thankful for my three sons and Richmond because I love it here," said Ms. Denapole.

On a different note, Cheyenne Pawlak, a freshman at RHS, stays home for Thanksgiving. She spends it with her mom and dad. Cheyenne is thankful for all of her family's support that they give her and she doesn't know where she'd be without them.



Senior Kevin Baumgarten shakes Mr. Borda's hand as he receives his award for his M.M.E. testing results.  
*Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook*

## A New Spark Within the Teenage Nation

**By: Cecily McPherson**  
Opinions Co-Editor

The stars aren't always perfectly aligned, a message John has gotten across through his critically-acclaimed novel, "The Fault in Our Stars." 36-year-old John Green and his brother Hank Green have gained popularity from their widely popular YouTube videos. On their channel called Vlogbrothers, they encourage nerdiness and work to end "World suck."

With the making of these hugely successful videos, the brothers have raised money to fight poverty in third world countries and plant trees in places of need.

With the creation of three other successful books, plus a novel he co-authored, John has grown in popularity among teens of the modern era. But nothing he had previously done has shaken the teenage nation more than his newest creation "The Fault in Our Stars."

His fans have now read the book and seen the movie adaptation, but do they know his true inspiration for the book?

Esther Earl, a 16-year-old fan John befriended while at a Harry Potter convention, inspired his creation of Hazel Grace. She had been battling thyroid cancer for quite some time and proved to keep a sense of witty, inspiring humor about her.

John was asked in an interview with reporter Neda Ulaby what he saw as the biggest connection between Esther and Hazel, and he said, "The main thing for me actually had very little to do with their illness. For me it was that Esther was an uncommonly empathetic teenager."

He was unsure how popular this book would be, but after her death in 2012, he knew he had to write it. He had to tell Esther's, along with so many other kids battling cancer, story.

The result was greater than he could ever imagine. The books were selling out like crazy; millions of copies have been sold already and the book has reigned at the top of the charts for a continuous 78 weeks.

People from the ages of 10-18 are reading this book, devouring every word.

In an interview with CNN, Shailene Woodley, who played the main role in the film, argues that Hazel was not just another one of those countless female heroines. She wanted to rewrite the stereotypes for what teenage girls were used to seeing.

She said, "You've never seen a woman on the poster for a movie with a cannula in her nose." Cancer is a very real issue, Shailene believes. She wanted teens to understand that there were girls and boys just like them sitting in the hospital hooked up to oxygen tanks, but in no way does this fact make them any less heroic than say Kamris Everdeen.

Overall, Shailene says she wasn't one of those celebrities begging to be placed as the lead because she knew it would be popular. She just wanted John's book, with so deep a meaning, to be shown on screen to millions of people around the world.

"It taught me a deeper sense of gratitude and a deeper sense of appreciation for these small palpable moments, because they're the only thing that we're guaranteed," she said in the CNN interview.

Her hope was that the exposure of this movie would lead to a worldwide awakening and appreciation to the sensitivity and mere seriousness of cancer among those who are a little less fortunate.

The question that now remains is... What do the students closer to home think? Sophomore Riley Boyd said, "The book taught me to expect the unexpected."

Being a huge fan of "The Fault in Our Stars", Riley was thrilled at the empowerment it seemed to spread around the school.

People now seemed to have a better understanding of cancer. The book was changing lives.

Riley believes that the most inspirational person within the book is Hazel Grace. Hazel held the essence of a girl who never gave up, especially on the ones she loved.

"Hazel stuck with Augustus as he got worse and supported him through everything," Riley

said.

The movie and the book could help anyone to understand cancer better and from there try to help with the issue, Riley believes.

Junior Chelsea Kattelman believes the book to be more about strength and the intangible things in life such as love and friendship, than the idea of battling cancer.

Chelsea describes the two main characters, Augustus and Hazel, to be those unpopular kids who are widely independent and more mature than many of their peers.

"They found happiness without material things," Chelsea said. In her opinion, they carry a certain charm about them despite their decrepit situation, this showcases their strength.

The lack of sugar coated material is what made this book so inspirational to Chelsea. "It told the truth, it was real, unlike a lot of the other teen books currently on the bookshelves," she said.

One message Chelsea really liked within the book is that infinities can reign in many different sizes. To her, John showcased that you don't have to become famous or well known to live a well worthy life.

Augustus Waters only had a short seventeen years, and yet he made something of himself even if it was only to Hazel. He lived a life worth living and to Chelsea, this sense of hope is why this book has become as beloved as it is. John, Shailene, and many other fans around the globe could not be more proud of the book's success. It turns out this book may leave a mark in our hearts along with our stars.

*"It taught me a deeper sense of gratitude and a deeper sense of appreciation for these small palpable moments, because they're the only thing that we're guaranteed." — Shailene Woodley*

## Would You Rather?

**Would you rather have a rewind button in your life or a pause button in your life?**

Hayley Lauderbach – Rewind button  
Jeremy Hughes – Rewind button

**Would you rather have the ability to always know when someone is lying or be able to always get away with lying?**

Amanda Gorr – Always know when someone is lying