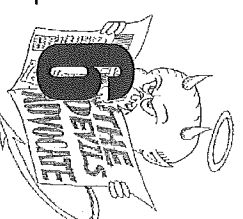


# In Our Opinion



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**Mission Statement**  
Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devils' 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.ni.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

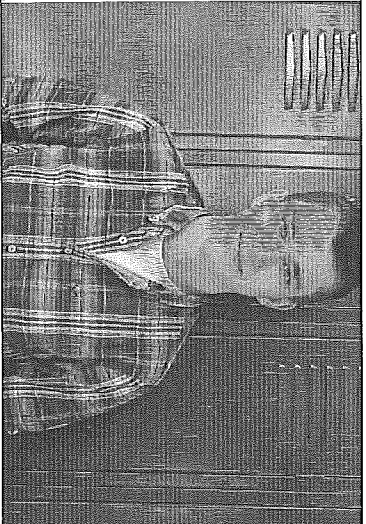
**Question of the Week**  
~\*~  
What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

## Staff



The turkeys can rest easy. Mr. Delore prefers hunting for deer on turkey day.

## Senior



Devin Merritt enjoys the quality family time.

## Junior



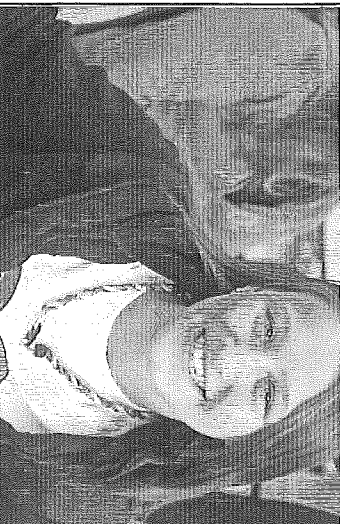
Emily Showers can't wait for the feast!

## Sophomore



David McKie likes to stuff his face with stuffing!

## Freshman



Jenna Zyla likes to gobble up the food!

## Staff Editorial: Too much Christmas is gobbling up the holiday season

Is it Christmas already? Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world.

The importance of the holiday ranks on the top of the lists for most Americans.

However, many people believe that Christmas is over celebrated.

The Christmas spirit is usually already booming immediately after Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving, Christmas music starts playing on some radio channels the first day of November. Popular channels such as 100.3 WNIC are among the few that begin playing Christmas music in November.

Other radio stations begin playing Christmas music after Thanksgiving, or at the beginning of December.

We believe Christmas music in November is too early. Christmas music should at least start after Thanksgiving and preferably in the beginning of December.

Schools also add to the over celebrating of Christmas. Christmas music can now be heard during lunches. Children in elementary schools will begin to make Christmas projects in the end of November for family and friends.

Some people begin to put up lights and other decorations on houses in October and November. Most do this because the weather is still mildly warm. Other people leave Christmas decorations up all year.

Putting up Christmas decorations early is beneficial, but those who turn their Christmas lights on during October and November are over celebrating the holiday. Christmas lights on Halloween do not make sense but can be found on some homes. Christmas decorations should not be turned on until the beginning of December.

Television ads for Christmas sales quickly come as well. Print ads in magazines and newspapers are usually delivered at the beginning of November.

One of the most notorious magazines for Christmas ads is the Toys R Us Christmas edition magazine that contains the most popular gifts children

want for Christmas. Parents begin early Christmas shopping because of these ads.

Black Friday is one of the best sales times of the year for businesses, and is arguably the best time of the year for customers to get a great deal on top name products. Electronics are usually the biggest buy on Black Friday. Black Friday only adds to the early celebration of Christmas.

Christmas seems to be celebrated for the wrong reasons in America though. Stores and businesses take advantage of the holiday to receive a financial gain with Christmas sales. Major businesses such as electronic brands, toy brands and automobile companies are all found on television, newspapers and radio ads.

The amount of ads and sales takes away from the meaning of Christmas. Christmas is continually becoming more based towards gifts and materialistic objects instead of appreciating the time with family and friends. The blame for this can directly relate to the amount of advertisements and sales preceding Christmas. Without the heavy amount of advertisements for Christmas, people would focus on the actual meaning of the holiday more.

Moreover, Thanksgiving continues to lose significance as Christmas continues to appear more in November. People look right past an important holiday in Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is the only time of the year for some people to be with relatives. People do not realize the significance of Thanksgiving, which has a long history dating back to the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621 with the pilgrims of Plymouth.

Pushing back the use of Christmas music, decorations and early shopping would only help people understand the meaning behind the holiday. Celebrating a month prior to the actual holiday is too extreme. Early celebrations of Christmas are only taking away from the significance. Thanksgiving was meant to be celebrated with.

## Good (K)night, Chivalry?

**By: Regan Blisset**  
Features Editor

In 11<sup>th</sup> grade English class, we have been reading the great stories of *Beowulf* and *The Canterbury Tales*. The stories are filled with brave knights doing chivalrous deeds, fighting for the greater good.

So that leads to the next question... is chivalry dead?

It's the golden question and everyone seems to not know for sure. Some people don't even understand what it is.

A man is supposed to live up to the chivalric qualities, yet many don't even comprehend what it means.

For those who don't know what chivalry means, my definition is being a gentleman to all women.

It means being courteous and kind. Instead of putting yourself first, you think of others.

A long time ago, chivalry meant

being an honorable knight, a knight to help save the day, dying with valor and most importantly, saving a damsel in distress.

Chivalry was a common aspect of life back in the day. For example, men would walk on the left side of a woman to guard her from being splashed by cars or horse and bugles.

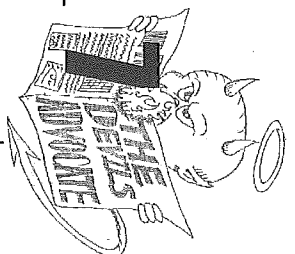
They would care more about their woman and less about themselves, something we rarely see today.

There have been many reports on how men don't treat woman as well as they did in the past.

Many women are faced with abuse from their husbands or boyfriends.

An example of that involved Chris Brown and Rihanna. A man should never hit their woman, and it is sickening that Chris Brown did.

Continued on page 7



## Thanks for Thanksgiving

By: Hunter Barjaktarovich  
Features Editor

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November, it is tradition for big family parties to be thrown, with a turkey feast being the highlight of the night.

I know my family will all be getting together.

Even my sister will be coming home from college for the week to celebrate this tradition which has been passed down for many generations.

Kids will be running around having a good time, while adults will be watching the big Thanksgiving game, hoping the Lions prevail, or be preparing for the big turkey feast.

We will all come together and say Grace, and then continue to stuff our stomachs full of food.

This day is known as Thanksgiving to all Americans living in the

United States, but why do we celebrate this?

What is the true meaning of Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving commonly dates back to the 1621 celebration at Plymouth, where pilgrims and some Native Indians joined together and feasted in thanks of their successful harvest.

This is known as the "First Thanksgiving." However, this has been challenged, as there are signs of earlier celebrations. Thus, the true origin of Thanksgiving may never be known.

It seems obvious that Thanksgiving is a time for everyone to be grateful for what they have. In today's society, some everyday necessities are often taken for granted such as food, clean water and even a place to stay.

People can take time to look at their life and be thankful for what they are blessed to have, knowing that times used to be much worse.

It is important for us to be thankful for what we have, as not everyone is lucky enough to have even the basic necessities.

There are so many people who are not blessed with these necessities.

Aside from what we need, most Americans live in luxury compared to others in the world and compared to what the pilgrims and Native Americans back in 1621.

Back then, there were no iPhones, Internet, or televisions which are so often taken for granted in today's society. There are some people that may even say they couldn't live without these luxuries.

Although we are blessed with these luxuries and should be thankful to have them, this isn't what Thanksgiving is about.

Thanksgiving is not about the material things we own.

It is much more than that.

In my opinion, Thanksgiving is a time for all people to take a break from their usual hectic life. Children get time off of school and adults take some time off work. They can relax and get to rest from their everyday

life.

It is a time for families and friends to come together and spend time with each other. It seems as if everyone is always in a rush.

This gives everyone a chance to have a good time and spend it with the people they love.

Friends and family are irreplaceable, unlike material items. You can never replace a family member or a true friend, like you could do for material items.

Friends and family are the people that will always be there for you when you are down.

Throughout life, it is necessary to have friends and family or else you may never be happy. It is not a good feeling to not have somebody to turn to that you can trust. Friends and family are the people that can do this for you. Friends and family can bring you true happiness. It would almost be impossible for me to imagine what life would be like without them.

That is why I plan on spending my Thanksgiving weekend with my family and friends, the people I love.

## Chivalry

Continued from page 6

He definitely did not show chivalrous virtues, but either way, his songs are still good, and he is still making millions.

Somehow as we modernized to present times, chivalry seems to have fizzled out, and the concept of being an honorable gentleman is now just a glimpse from the past.

Today, we don't really have any damsels in distress.

Life is not a fairy tale and not a novel written by Nicholas Sparks.

However, us girls, still hope for the man to treat us with respect and find a gentleman to sweep us off our feet.

It is a rare case when we are swept off our feet, and that has led to one of the reasons why chivalry might be dead.

Unfortunately, many believe chivalry is dead because we don't see

men being loyal or respectful as much as we saw it in the past.

What happened to the boys opening our doors and letting us walk

through first? Or what about treating your woman like a princess? The biggest thing lacking is being loyal.

Knights would die for their king, and now some men can't even be faithful to their significant other.

The boys in high school today only treat the girls they like with chivalry.

The girls that you might say aren't

as "popular" as everyone else

seems to be treated differently.

So what has caused this?

I think it is how you were raised.

There are many cases where people are brought up in homes that influenced them in a negative way. It is up to you, however, to develop negativity into a positive way.

People also believe our generation

of boys and what they are like is partly based on the influences their friends portray onto them.

If your friends are ding-dongs, then there is a good chance you might be.

Maybe not every male, but some listen to their peers more than they listen to their heart.

Male critics, who try and prove to women that it isn't dead, bring up a

valid point. For years, women

have wanted equality and the

same amount of power as men do.

Today, women have finally reached their

goal of being a strong individual equal to men. So

that leads critics to believing we have brought the death of chivalry upon ourselves.

All we wanted was more equality, not less chivalry.

Men need to revive the chivalry within themselves so girls can stop

complaining about how guys are jerks all the time.

I do not believe chivalry is completely dead within most men.

It is in every man, but it is hiding. It can come out some times, but it's mostly just lying there waiting for the right girl to display chivalrous qualities upon.

It shouldn't just to be one girl, though; it should be towards every person.

It's not also in every man but it is within every one of us.

Boy or girls, we all have opportunities to display chivalrous actions.

Chivalry isn't a code you should follow. It is a common sense notion to be kind to everyone.

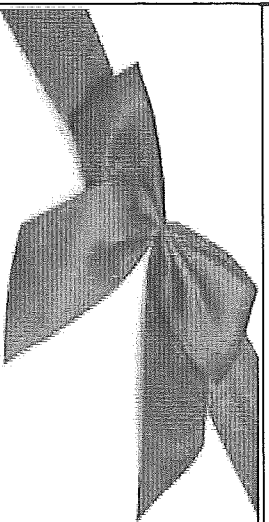
If you're not kind to everyone and you know that maybe you're not acting as a noble, trustworthy, loyal person, it may be a time to change.

We all have chivalry in us.

If we realize this, chivalry won't be just something we read about in English class.

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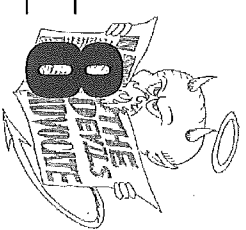
Floral & Gifts

www.crimsonandclover.us



Editorials

November 16, 2012



## Surviving Apocalypse 2012: The Official RHS Field Guide to the End of the World

By: Caitlee Hawley  
Editorial Editor

Have you started preparing for the end of the world? No?! Well, it looks like you have a lot of work to do. Luckily for you, *The Blue Devil's Advocate* has compiled a guide to help you make it through the apocalypse. Follow these steps, and you might just be able to survive Doomsday.

**Phase I: *Zombies and Mayans and Planets, Oh My!***

The most important part of preparing for the end of the world is understanding your threats and potential dangers. So far, the most popular theory surrounding Apocalypse 2012 has to do with the end of a 260-day Mayan calendar called a 'Tzolk'in' that people believe signifies a prediction of the end of time.

Other end-of-the-world scenarios to prepare for include a zombie uprising - an army of stuffing, brainless monsters attacking "World War Z" style - or a robot uprising - an army of zooming, sophisticated machines attacking "Matrix" style. We have planetary alignment, planetary misalignment, a flu pandemic, a prion pandemic, WWII and Global warming and an ice age to deal with... all at the same time? You are probably a little confused at this point, and that is understandable. To help you along, read through the glossary of Doomsday terms in the next column.

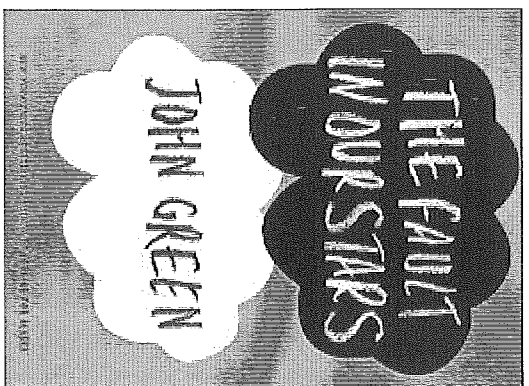
## Phase II: *Decoding the "Apocalypticary"*

Let's take a closer look at some of the words you may have heard lately.

- Global Warming:** The gradual increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, like a toaster oven. Perhaps this explains the cast of *Jersey Shore*...
- Large Hadron Collider:** the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator - some scientists are concerned that the LHC could create a black hole, leaving the Earth to swallow itself.
- Mayan Calendar:** Unlike the calendar hanging on the wall of your kitchen, this one *completely ceases to exist* when it ends!
- Nibiru or Planet X or Eris:** A supposed planet headed toward Earth. If an imaginary rock can be called a planet, why can't Pluto?
- Syzygy:** Supposedly disastrous planetary alignment that could force the Earth's magnetic poles to switch places. Does this mean we would all start walking on our hands? Would those giant cartoon magnets cease to function? What does this mean for Wile E. Coyote?!
- Prions:** A protein particle that is believed to be the cause of brain diseases such as BSE, scrapie, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (a human version of Mad Cow Disease).
- Undead:** (See *Zombie*)
- Zombie:** (See *Undead*)

As you can see, all of these potential disasters exist *every second of every day*. Clearly, the most logical thing to do is panic.

That's right, I said panic. Scream at the top of your lungs, cry hysterically, and then grab Fido and run to high ground. Well, that or...



laugh and cry and punch a pillow and then apologize to said pillow and take it on a romantic adventure through Europe, all at once. Green's three dimensional characters, the unique plot, and the guppy dialogue all make this book worth reading. It's the kind of book that you intentionally put off finishing because you want to keep the characters happy, healthy, and alive. You have no idea what hits you as you read it, and all too soon it is over, but by the end of the novel, you really will have fallen in love with the characters.

More than fiction, though, I took a lot from this book that I can apply to my own life. The questions Hazel and Augustus ask themselves are questions that each of us asks at some point.

- Will I leave a mark?
- Will I be remembered?

## Phase III: *Better Safe than Sorry - A few words on preparedness from the Center for Disease Control:*

- No matter what comes first - a black hole or a hurricane - there are a few basic steps to take in order to prepare for disaster. In order to stay safe in an emergency, make sure these items are always on hand.
- **Water** (1 gallon per person per day)
- **Food** (stock up on non-perishable items that you eat regularly. If a family member requests canned brains, see *Tools and Supplies*.)
- **Medications** (this includes prescription and non-prescription meds)
- **Tools and Supplies** (utility knife, duct tape, aluminum baseball bat etc.)
- **Sanitation and Hygiene** (household bleach, soap, towels, Mosquito & Vampire repellent, etc.)
- **Clothing and Bedding** (a change of clothes for each family member as well as blankets)
- **Important documents** (copies of your driver's license, passport, and birth certificate to name a few)
- **First Aid supplies** (although you're a goner if a planet crashes into earth, you can use these supplies to treat basic cuts and lacerations that you might get during a tornado or hurricane)
- Along with these supplies, basic skills such as knowing how to build fire, find shelter, and use tools are necessary. No one wants to dive into an angry mob of Zombies only to find out that they *can't turn on their chainsaw*...
- Some might say all of this panic and preparation is unnecessary, but I read it on the Internet. And everything on the Internet is true...  
Right, guys....?  
...  
...  
... Guys?

## Book Review:

*The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green

By: Caitlee Hawley  
Editorial Editor

As teenagers, we sometimes forget that we live within a very small bubble of society. And at times, we need our eyes opened to the bigger picture. John Green's heartbreakingly novel about two teenagers suffering from terminal illnesses did that for me.

This book follows the story of Hazel Lancaster and Augustus Waters—it takes the reader through their friendship and love, through their sickness and triumph, and through the stark, honest life of someone battling a disease. Green does not go gently with his words. In fact, one of the first major scenes in the book takes place at a support group full of grief, anger, and even sarcasm. *The Fault in Our Stars* made me want to

## The Advocate Winter Reading

### List

- *13 Reasons Why*, by Jay Asher
- *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak
- *Between Shades of Grey*, by Ruta Sepetys
- *The Mortal Instruments Series*, by Cassandra Clare
- *Graceling*, by Kristin Ashore
- *Unwind*, by Neal Shusterman
- *The Seven Realms Series*, by Cinda Williams Chima
- *Love is the Higher Law*, by David Levithan
- *Every Day*, by David Levithan
- *The Uglies Trilogy*, by Scott Westerfeld

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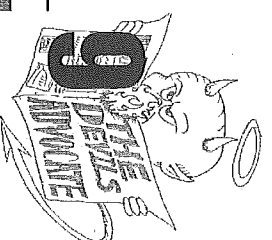
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# Entertainment



## MONTLYLY "MUST-SEES"

Movies in Theatres at MJR

- Drama:**  
Breaking Dawn Part 2
- Scary:**  
Paranormal Activity 4  
Sinister
- Suspense:**  
Taken 2
- Animated/Family:**  
Hotel Transylvania  
Wreck-It Ralph in 3D
- Comedy:**  
Here Comes the Boom

Fun Size  
Sources: MJR theaters.com

### Would you rather?

- Would you rather eat turkey for the rest of your life or only drink gravy for the rest of your life?
- *David Stafford would rather eat turkey for the rest of his life.*
  - *Would you rather walk over hot coals or jump from outer space down to earth?*
  - *Megan Hambaum would rather jump from space down to earth.*
  - *Would you rather eat Thanksgiving dinner for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a week, or wear a pilgrim costume to school everyday?*
  - *Shelby Tschigfrey would rather wear a pilgrim costume to school everyday.*

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## Show us your stuff!

### TALENT SPOTLIGHT

Anthony Borgesi

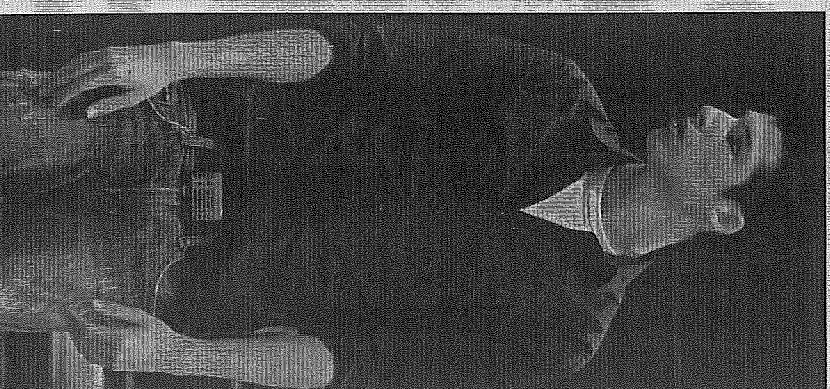


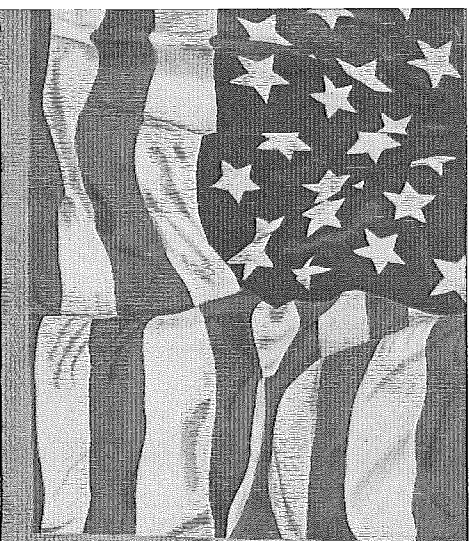
Photo courtesy of RHS yearbook

Anthony Borgesi, junior, is acting as Lendall during Almost, Maine.

This character is a clueless nice guy who loves his girlfriend.

Anthony has been in 6 plays.

"I like acting because it allows me to be something I'm not and play into other people's perspective and life," said Borgesi.



"Flag" - Colored pencil  
Heriberto Alfero, senior



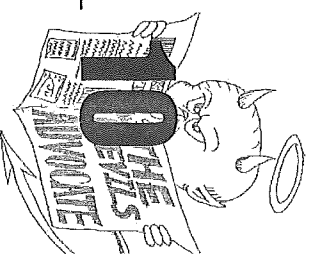
"Boots" - Colored pencil  
Jessica Bilbrey, senior



"Sunflowers" - Linoleum black print  
Ashley Fanele, senior

Features

November 16, 2012



## Singing to Salute

By Kathryn Radzwion  
Staff Writer

The people that need recognition the most sometimes never get it. This applied to Veterans that served our country until choir director Mr. Osadchuk held a concert November 6 to give the veterans a salute.

Admission was canned food that was donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall. Over 12 boxes packed full of cans were raised.

The members of VFW were there to be a part of the flag ceremony that happened before choir students performed songs dedicated to veterans.

Mr. Osadchuk is passionate for his choir and is just as passionate for thanking those who served for us.

Each year Mr. Osadchuk is responsible for choosing songs for the Fall Concert, and it is always a challenge because he wants to start off on a good note and choose songs that will set the tone for the rest of the year.

"This is my dream job, and it is awesome to see kids from all kinds of different backgrounds come together for one purpose and that is to create music."

Mr. Osadchuk prepares students before they go on to perform by gathering everyone backstage into a circle. He then asks students to close their eyes and think of how they can im-

prove their performance.

Students say this really helps them since the songs are difficult.

Some songs performed were "Homeward Bound", "Star Spangled Banner", and "Armed Forces Salute". Another song, "O' America" has a solo in it, and was given to sophomore Anthony Hinojosa, who was happy about being chosen to have the solo.

Hinojosa said, "The songs are hard to sing because they are high, but we gotta deal with it."

*"Our songs are in French and it's challenging. All of this hard work was worth it to students though."*

The Chorale class has a song list that includes a song that is French. "The Chorale songs were from Nova Scotia and I think it was a nice addition," said Mr. Osadchuk.

Senior Julie McCuiston said, "Our songs are in French and it's challenging." All of this hard work was worth it to students though. She loved seeing every-

one's reactions and loves being onstage and singing.

Another senior, Sabrina Matamoros, was looking forward to the last song where veterans stood up and the choir sang directly to all who served their country. She thought they appreciated the variety of music.

"The concert went really well, and everyone had a great time," said Matamoros. "The veterans were smiling the entire time, and I knew that we just made their day."

McCuiston's favorite part of the night was when chorale and concert choir joined together and sang a song called "Thank You Soldiers."

"It sounded awesome and I'm very proud," she said.

## Shop 'Till You Drop

By: Olivia Kestler  
Coordinating Editor

Dust off your shopping bags and cash your paycheck; the holidays are almost here.

The brutal competition of holiday shopping begins on the most popular day for holiday shopping—Black Friday.

The day after Thanksgiving, it marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

"Black Friday" originates from when accounting records were kept by hand. Red ink indicated a loss while black ink meant a profit.

It may not be an official holiday, but many employees still have the day off—except those in retail, of course.

The excitement begins when stores post ads promoting sales over the holiday. People then plan what they will look for.

Black Friday shopping has become a tradition for counselor Ms. Till. She always shopped with her mother, aunts and cousins since she was three. She has shopped every Black Friday since.

"I consider myself a professional at Black Friday shopping," she said.

Every following year, her family has gotten together on her birthday, September 15, and planned out who they were buying for.

They always begin at the mall and hit the big department stores. They split up, spread out and meet back up later to compare items.

"We always have a plan," she said.

Senior Jessica Zukowski also knows it is always better to have a game plan.

Every year, her family plans Thanksgiving night, picking out items they want from catalogues and noting the stores they are in.

"If you don't know what to get, you could miss something because you weren't ready," she said.

Her family is not the only one who plans ahead. Junior Kaitlin Niebauer and her friends always go to Wal-Mart, Target and then Lakeside and Birchwood.

"It's so much fun," she said. "We look at all the ads Thanksgiving night and pick out what we

want."

Just before midnight on Thanksgiving night, long lines wind around department stores as people stand waiting.

Once doors open, stores become warzones as people fight for the same items and race to be first in line. "We always go for the most popular items and then look for extras," said Zukowski.

Two years ago, she and her family bought a flat screen TV and had branched off to look at the DVDs. They began with the large popular item and moved on to smaller items to get the best purchases. As the most valued items of the year began to disappear off the shelves, things get heated.

Junior Mary Kazmierczak was Black Friday shopping one year and witnessed this firsthand. "People are just really competitive," she said. "It's just another competition."

This competition can bring out the worst in people. Ms. Till remembered when she was 10 and saw an elderly woman hitting a salesperson with her cane because he had given the last TV away. Niebauer also saw people taking items off shelves that were not yet released to make sure they got one.

Last year, Wal-Mart had been selling printers, and she saw someone distract the salesperson with a question while the person he was with took a printer off the stack and ran to the check-out line. "There's people that get into it. They yell and scream and hide things. It's funny to watch them get so crazy," she said.

While racing other people to get to an item can be exciting, waiting to purchase them is not.

"The lines are ludicrously long and the people go crazy," said Kazmierczak. A few years ago, she waited in line with the woman she babysat for. She was purchasing Kazmierczak a camera, and they stood for 30 minutes waiting to check out.

"It was ridiculous," she said.

Despite long lines and crazy customers, Black Friday shopping continues to be a hit each year and a tradition for some families. This tradition is lived by people such as Ms. Till and defined in few words. She said, "Right stores, right sales, right time."

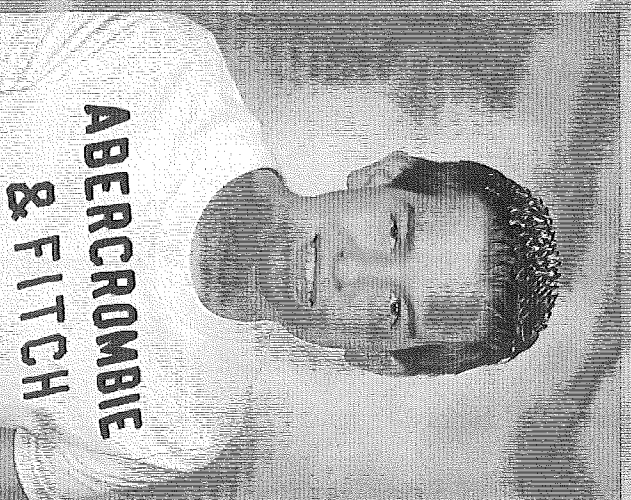
## Junior Star Students

Regan Blissett



Favorite movie?: Matilda  
Favorite part of Thanksgiving?: Eating amazing food  
Favorite class?: Newspaper and English  
What do you want to be when you grow up?: Either a broadcaster or a book critic

Jordan Koehn



Favorite Movie: Lord of The Rings Series  
Favorite part of Thanksgiving?:  
Being with his Family  
Favorite Class?: History  
What do you want to be when you grow up?:  
A doctor