

Touchdowns, Tackles, and Teamwork

By: Emily Swantek
News Co-Editor

After losing to Marine City in overtime, the Blue Devils have not let anybody take a victory away from them again. Having an 8-1 record overall, a 7-0 in the BWAC and earning

the BWAC championship, the Blue Devils feel unstoppable and state champ hungry. Senior linebacker Jake McKiernan said he would not mind receiving another ring. "We are having a great season so far and are going to keep it rolling. We really want to make a run in playoffs," said McKiernan, a captain.

team to win a few games and definitely make playoffs," said Boyd. McKiernan was ranked No. 1 in this year's top 25 football players in the area. "I was on the list last year, so I figured I would be on it again this year, but I never expected to be number one. It doesn't really matter

never reach their goals. "Our team chemistry is very good. We have played together our whole lives," said sophomore right guard Nate Younk. McKiernan said, "We are all pretty good friends. We have team dinners to help make that bond strong-

Being seniors on a team means more than just being able to push around the underclassmen. It requires being a leader and having those juniors and sophomores look up to you.

"The senior that has inspired me the most is RB. [Ryan Boyd] always makes you accountable," said Bret Zihlavsky, a junior wide receiver.

Younk said that he looks up to all the seniors because they work well together.

For Younk, this is his first year on varsity.

"In comparison to JV, playing on Varsity is different in the pace of the game. It's a faster game and there's less time to think. Your motions just happen," said Younk.

Zihlavsky also said this year's team has bigger expectations than last year's team.

Of course, not everything in life is easy. Just like every other team, the Devils did and continue to struggle with certain aspects of the game.

"Our team has struggled with playing a full game. Our special teams haven't been intense enough," said Younk. Their first games were against Marine City, Crosswell Lexington, and Inlay City.

"The first three weeks were the three hardest games, but we got the season off to a good start and only lost one," said Boyd.

Now that the regular season is over, their main focus is Playoffs.

"Our goal is to make a run at the district title and regional title. We are practicing harder and setting up a good game plan," said McKiernan.

Zihlavsky added, "We are going to pick up the intensity, becoming more focused on winning."

Younk said he is mentally preparing for the games. "I'm visualizing us winning a state title," said Younk.

As the season is quickly approaching to an end, some will never be able to put on a Blue Devil jersey again.

They will never play under those lights on Friday nights. They will never get to make that game winning pass or touchdown. It will all be just memories.

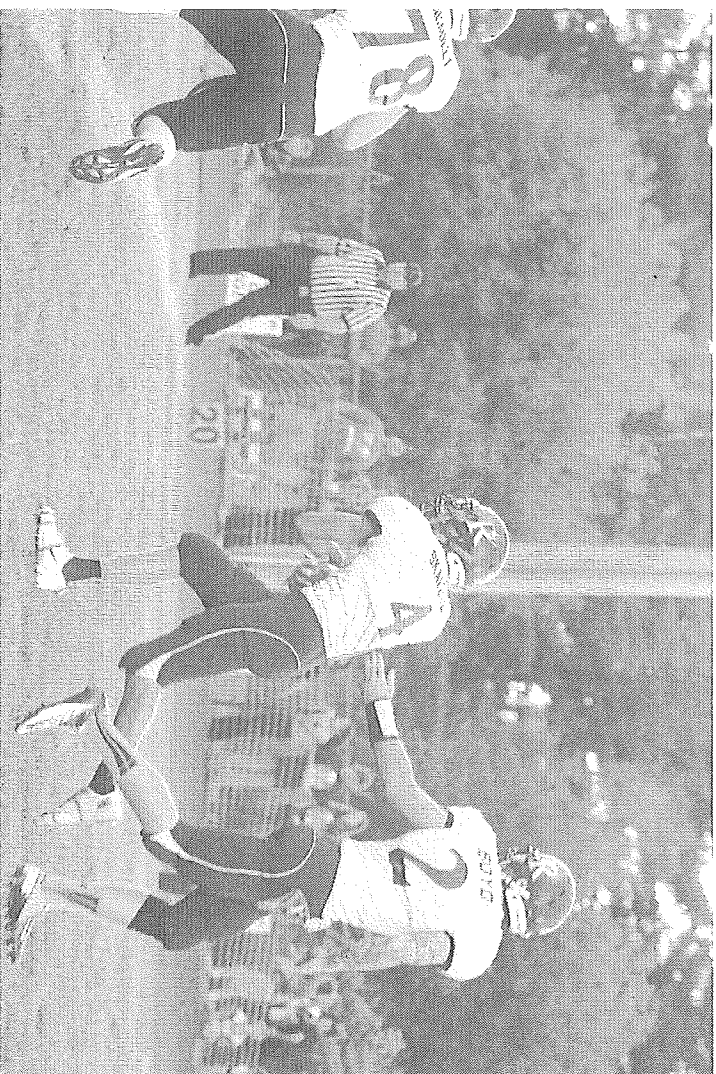
"I will miss being out there on Friday playing with my friends the most," said McKiernan.

Even though Boyd won't be at RHS next year, he still has expectations for next year's team.

"I want them to keep going what we started this year and keep tradition," said Boyd.

The seniors are not the only ones leaving RHS next year. Younk will not be returning next year either due to his parents receiving a job transfer.

"Even though I won't be here next year, I expect the team to win the state title," said Younk.



Devin Skatzka receives a hand off from senior quarterback Ryan Boyd. (Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

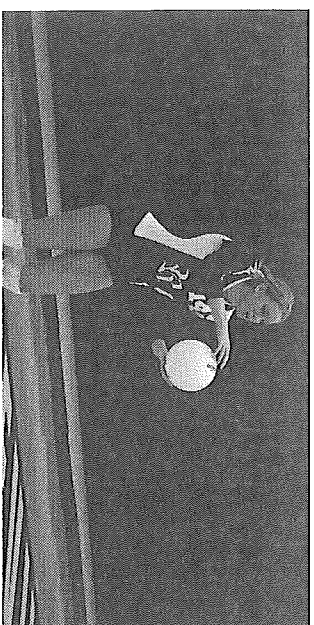
to me because it's an individual accomplishment and those things aren't as important as team success," said McKiernan, who is being recruited by Southwest Minnesota State.

Team chemistry is always very important. Without it, a team will

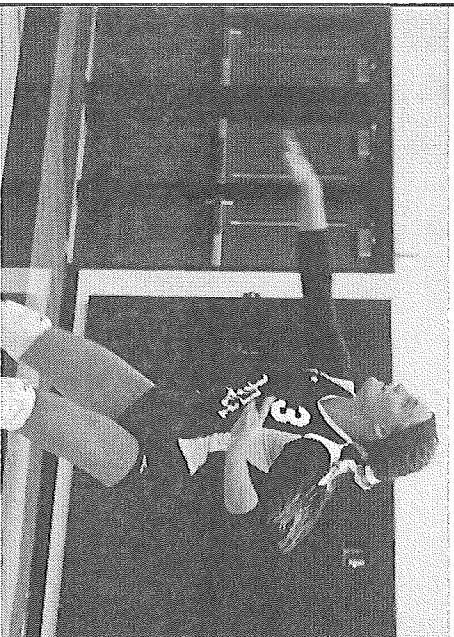
er." He went on to say that they also pull pranks on each other, too. "We threw sunflower seeds in Nick's car and spilled our slushy's on the outside of it one day after practice," said McKiernan. The joking helps keep the team loose.

Varsity volleyball cruises to 3rd in BWAC

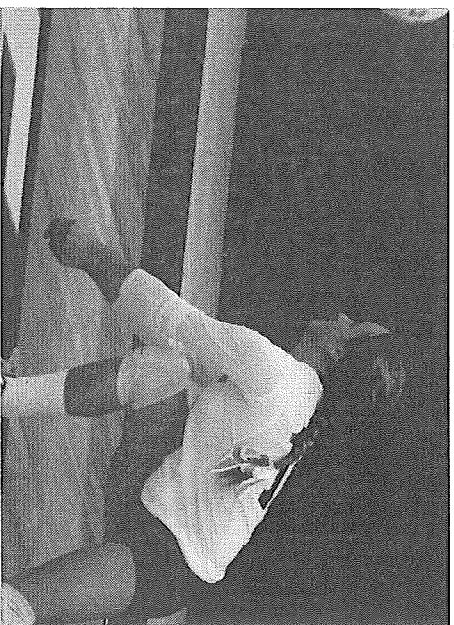
Senior Britanny Schmidt gets ready to serve against Armada. (Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook)



Devils varsity volleyball team huddles up during an intermission. (Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook)



Senior McKenzie Burke serves the ball. (Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

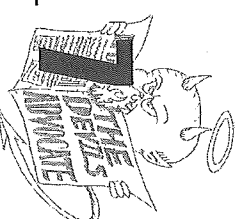


Junior Kaela Remner warms up for her game. (Photo Courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

The Blue Devil's Advocate

October 31, 2013

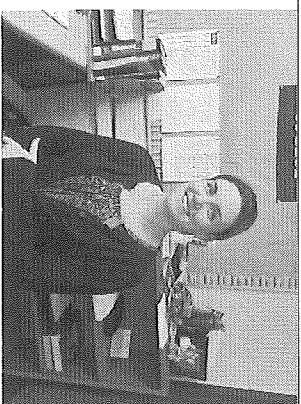
In Our Opinion



Question of the Week

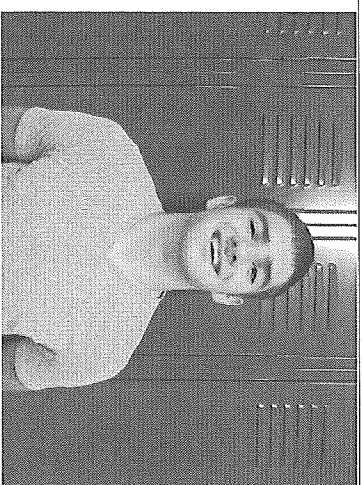
~*~
If you could be anything for Halloween, what would you be?

Staff



Mrs. Woodruff said she wanted to be a superhero.

Senior



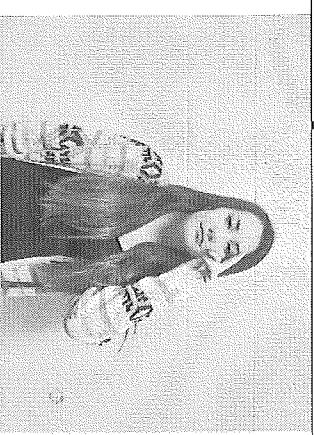
Nick Daniel wants to be a taco.

Junior



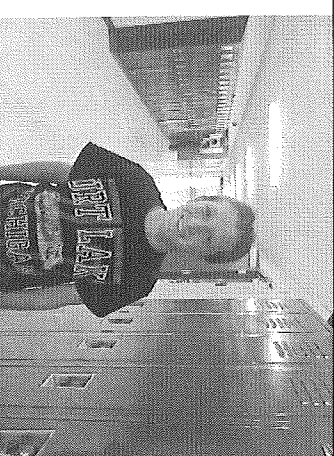
Joshua Kohn would want to be Captain America.

Sophomore



Amber Render, like Josh Kohn, said she would like to be Captain America.

Freshman



Robert Trombley would want to be a clown.

Staff Editorial: Blue, white, fight

"I believe that we can win!"
It's one of the phrases this school year that our students chant at football games, before cross-country races and other events. The student section and school spirit have been impeccable compared to the past few years. Student spirit has always been a part of sports, clubs and others school events. Usually, only a fraction of students actually go and dress up for the school spirit days.

However, this year has been different.
The student section is now crowded with students, and they are loud and they are raucous as one should be in a student section.

A lot more students show up to athletic events than before. At the Richmond vs. Armada game, the student section was overflowing with people as they cheered and yelled for the Richmond Blue Devils.

At the past powder-puff game, the boys created a student section for the girls participating in the powder-puff games. Events having great amounts of school spirit like these makes school events all the better.
And as a result, more memories are made.
For spirit days, students have been participating very well.
Usually, the school would only have spirit days on Homecoming and

Snowcoming, but now the school usually has a spirit day every other week. These spirit days are good as they are getting more students involved and they are fun. Student government, in the past, would usually be the only one setting up school spirit days and their ideas have been good.

"The student section was over-flowing with people as they cheered and yelled for the Richmond Blue Devils."

To build off this, cheerleaders now have been setting up these extra spirit days to increase student participation at football games. It has been working effectively. At home games, tons of student show up. Even at away games, a lot of students show up. Students are actually participating in these spirit days which makes them all the better. Participation has skyrocketed this year for the spirit days. Spirit days such as camouflage day, county day, and others have received huge amounts of participation from students. Before, only a fraction of students would participate in spirit days.

The increased student participation has made the school a better and more fun environment for students. School spirit is an important part about any school event.
If nobody has school spirit, then who participates?
The school has been very prideful about their school colors: blue and white. Let's keep the school spirit as it is now.

RHS goes healthy

By: Amanda Vinson
Feature Editor
Less fat. Less sugar. Healthier, smarter students.

That is the goal here at RHS and throughout the country for that matter. To most students, it is no news that the usually candy-filled vending machines have been replaced with Sprout Healthy Vending. The reason behind this: new nutritional standards for snacks and beverages sold in schools from the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

Basically, this national law restricts schools from offering students a snack or meal that is too fatty, sugary or too high in calories or sodium. The best way to go about these restrictions was to get a whole new company to provide our vending, sort of like how Coke provides our beverages.

Along with providing students healthier options in the cafeteria, the law also allows more students free or reduced lunch. With more students supported at lunch time, approximately 115,000 more nationwide students will be able to go through the lunch line and not worry about their family's financial situations.

These new guidelines give more students the opportunity to better themselves to live a healthy life.

With obesity rates constantly rising in our country, obesity has become a serious health concern. The United States has the second highest rate in the world, right behind Mexico. Not to mention, Michigan is the 10th most obese state in America.

Healthier school lunches can lead to a healthier state and a healthier country. Therefore, the new healthy snacks are a good idea.

This may come as a surprise, but eating healthy throughout the day can actually improve academic performance. There are studies that show un-healthy eating actually decreases a person's ability to retain information.

A team of researchers preformed an experiment by putting 1,197 students on a healthier diet and saw how this affected their test scores. Not surprisingly, according to health.usnews.com, there was a significant increase in scores.

A healthy lunch can give students energy to stay focused, ultimately leading to success in school.

Some candy-loving students may disagree. They believe that this is taking away our freedom of choice; we should get to choose if we eat healthy or not.

However, this wouldn't be a very effective system because teenagers tend to make poor decisions – they would be more likely to choose snacks that are fatty or sugary instead of energy fueling.

Thankfully, these students will have an opportunity to try the fresh new snacks in the vending machines soon. Although, the details are not yet decided, students can look forward to a free "Try it" day.

Eating habits are created at this point in our lives. When we take a bite into an apple instead of Doritos drenched in grease, we might even come to realize we enjoy the healthy option more. More importantly, we enjoy the way it makes us feel.

In today's society, we are brainwashed to believe that junk food makes us happy, when in reality, the healthy life is the happy life.

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.



Government shutdown

By: Peter Owen
Advertising Editor

The Government shutdown in America is a horrible example of what democracy should look like.

The reason for the shutdown is because of disagreements between Republicans and Democrats regarding President Obama's healthcare reforms. Republicans were not agreeing to sign, confirming Obama Care, unless the budget is delayed.

To at last end the shutdown, Republicans agreed to sign the health care reforms. Democrats won while Republicans and the Tea Party lost.

The government shutdown caused more and more harm with every passing day. Shutdowns do not come cheap. Federal agencies have to use up time, energy and resources to plan for one.

Many targeting scandals such as Benghazi, Fast & Furious, and IRS have been pushed aside due to the shutdown.

Previous shutdowns resulted in the loss of millions. As a country that was starting to see daylight in our economy, we cannot afford to make up losses for this shutdown.

All national parks and other Governmental-funded sites were closed as a result of the shutdown.

Monuments and memorials in Washington D.C. were not being taken care of. Since nobody was being paid to tend to the monuments, wear and tear could have slowly damaged the historic monuments.

Thousands of jobs were at a standstill. Some of them will be compensated for the loss of work but others may not have the funding to pay workers.

800,000 Federal workers experienced life without a paycheck as day one of the government shutdown kicked in to play.

It's not a goodbye; it's a see you later.

By: Lizzie Urban
News Editor

"Those summer nights..."

This past summer has been one of the best I've ever experienced. I made a ton of memories, and I got to see my friends all the time.

But in a way it was also one of the worst summers I had because it was just delaying the inevitable: recent graduates leaving for college at the end of the season.

Having to go from seeing them nearly every day, to maybe once every few months, was a hard transition. I mean, these were my best friends, and I wouldn't be able to see them as much. Sure they would come home to visit, but that's what it would be a visit.

No more long nights swimming, watching movies or playing Apples to Apples.

The summer flew by and before I knew it, I was saying goodbye to what I considered a part of my family.

With my eyes feeling heavier with the tears that had welled up, I waved goodbye as I saw them drive away.

It wasn't really a real feeling until a few days later when I hung out with some of the other underclassmen that were still here and they weren't a part of the group anymore.

It was an obvious feeling that something was missing.

You've got mail

Sure, technology has helped ease the pain and suffering of the experience. Ten years ago, you would have to send letter, or call long distance to chat for a little while.

Corporate America was starting to feel the effects of the Government shutdown as well, and for some, the results were ugly.

"Business in the United States may be impacted by the current budgeting stalemate at the federal government level," said CEO of Stanly Black & Decker Lothar Maier.

Stanly Black & Decker reported that their revenue would have gone down four percent as a result of the shutdown.

So who is to blame?

Political analysts are putting the blame more towards Republicans rather than democrats.

Obamacare was passed by Congress, signed by the President, upheld by the U.S Supreme Court, and is already going into effect.

Despite all of this, Republicans still don't want to give in to something they don't necessarily agree with. However, the blame probably lies on both sides.

So what influence does this shutdown have on you? The shutdown cost \$24 billion to the U.S economy. Continuously raising the debt ceiling, in my opinion, will be the downfall of America. Eventually the trillions of dollars in debt will catch up to us and bite us on the butt.

I think that this situation is ridiculous. Shutting down the government because of a disagreement is not how this will get solved.

The government doesn't realize the amount of harm they were causing to We the People.

Many have lost trust with our government. We may not want to trust them with our money and jobs but at this time, we have no other choice.

This is not how America should be perceived. We are hardworking individuals that have integrity for our country and a sense of pride.

Instead of thinking about integrity, politicians only care about themselves and their own ideas of how America should be ran.

Instead of only thinking about themselves, politicians should think about how their decisions affect the people of America.

If they do this, then there won't be any more fear of government failures.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and apps like them have had the same effect. You don't have to have a full conversation to keep in touch. 140 characters can send a pretty good message without taking up to much of each other's busy schedules.

But if you want to keep the friendship strong you don't always have to just use social media either.

Sometimes you can fit in a phone call, or write a letter and send it in the mail, along with an interesting article you want to share or some other thing you would normally want to show or give them.

I've sent a few letters and it's nice to know when they receive it. I've been told that some of their classmates are jealous, saying, "I wish someone wrote me letters." It sort of made me feel special because I was able to brighten up their day.

But still, they're far away

I don't like not being able to invite them to hang out or do something with the group of people that are still here at home. During the summer, we would make plans all the time together and there were a core group of people who were always there, and a lot of them aren't anymore.

Being involved with theatre has gotten me the majority of these friendships, and it was so weird this year to be in a high school show, without a lot of them.

It doesn't feel the same.

But it will be new, neat to have them come back and see the show.

I suppose it makes it better for when they come home, because then you appreciate the time you have together more so than if you were seeing each other every day.

You really don't know what you have until it's gone.

Did the Wrecking Ball wreck Miley?

By: Jonah VandenBussche
Staff Reporter

The wrecking ball hit the wall and swung a bit too far.

Miley Cyrus, 20, created a music video to her new song "Wrecking Ball." The song is a sensation to teens and kids all around the world. The song is an amazing, powerful ballad that Cyrus sings about her personal life.

The song was written to show the true power of a relationship.

In Cyrus' case, the relationship had a dark effect and outcome.

Cyrus' song is a huge hit and has remarkable lyrics and talent involved.

The problem that exists is that Cyrus took the music video too far.

Swinging on a literal wrecking ball, Cyrus shows the power of a destructive relationship.

She uses this as a metaphor to show how her relationship was destroyed intentionally.

Cyrus uses a sledgehammer to show pain. She at one point kissed the sledgehammer in an extremely inappropriate technique.

Many ethical concerns were raised when she did this. Cyrus' provocative reasoning, however, for this was to show that she secretly loves the pain of this heartbreak.

The last thing Cyrus does is sit upon the wrecking ball, completely undressed. This has raised the most concerns regarding ethics and morals.

In a live interview, Cyrus said this was very hard for her to do. She did it to show how she was emotionally stripped and left bare from the relationship.

Cyrus explained how hard it was for her to do this because she was so damaged from what happened.

Cyrus said it took everything in her to not break down while swinging on the ball. It was hard for her to perform the video for the world to see.

It has gotten her more fame and recognition. However, the video has caused some flags to be raised in the ethics department of society. Some people believe that Cyrus did so many things wrong by making this video.

Something Cyrus did wrong was she set a bad example for children and teenagers all across the world.

Not only did she show it was okay to be publicly undressed, but she showed that it is okay to express out of place feelings in videos and publish them.

She did not need to completely bare it all to display her message.

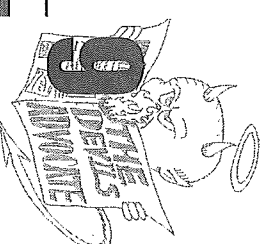
Another issue Cyrus did was she sent teenagers everywhere another wrong message.

She is basically telling everybody that relationships are bad things and they do not work out. She says that when they end, they will wreck you forever. Even though these relationships wreck you, they can be a benefit to your life in the long run.

What does not kill us will only make us stronger.

When you get your heart broken, you are hurt; however, you will only be stronger at the end of it all.

In the end, Cyrus' message of heartbreak is clearly displayed, but she took the video way too far. Because of all the controversy surrounding what she did, her song's message may have crumbled from within.



**MONTHLY
"MUST-SEES"**

Horror: Carrie [R] 12:30, 1:40, 2:50, 4:00, 5:10, 6:40, 9:20 minutes
7:40, 9:00, 10:00

Kid Friendly: Cloudy With a Chance Of Meatballs [PG] 95 minutes 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

Drama: Captain Phillips [PG-13] 134 minutes 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50

Thriller: Gravity [PG-13] 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10

Source: www.mjrtheatres.com

Would you rather?

Would you rather be a first grader or a senior?
"I'd rather be a senior because I'd almost be done with high-school," said Owen Vannatter, freshman

Would you rather be invisible or be able to read minds?
Nick Maccauley, junior, would rather be invisible.

Would you rather eat candy or pumpkin pie?
"I would rather eat pumpkin pie," said Anna Fraser, senior.

TALENT SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Seguin: Piano Man



Seguin playing piano during Concert Choir. In class, he helps run the warm-ups by playing the scales for the class.

Ask Daniel Seguin, freshman, to play a song for you, he'll get it down in just a few minutes. Seguin has been taking piano lessons for four years, and is a very talented musician. Learning under the direction of Southern Thumb, he has stayed dedicated from day one. Knowing many different things about music, helps him in other areas of his life, like Choir here at the high school, and theatre throughout Richmond. Seguin is set to be playing a leading role this fall in Legally Blonde, the Musical. In order to prepare for the role, he can sit down at a piano and accompany himself when practicing at home. Daniel plans to keep playing piano for the rest of his life, and hopes to one day be an accompanist to singers who need one.

I Bet You Didn't Know...

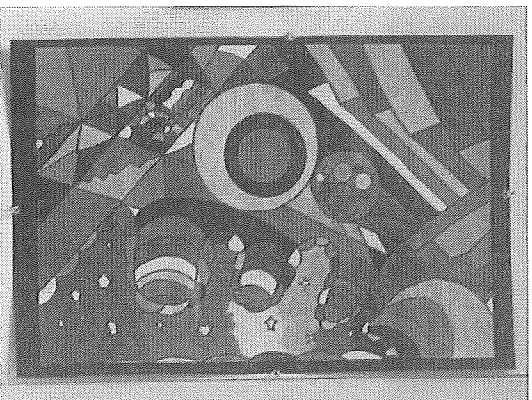


Which RHS teacher do you think this is?

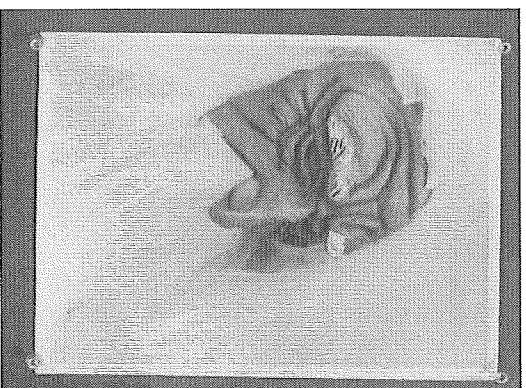
- A) Mrs. Germain
- B) Mrs. Woodruff
- C) Mrs. VanHam
- D) Mrs. Volpe

Answer on page 11

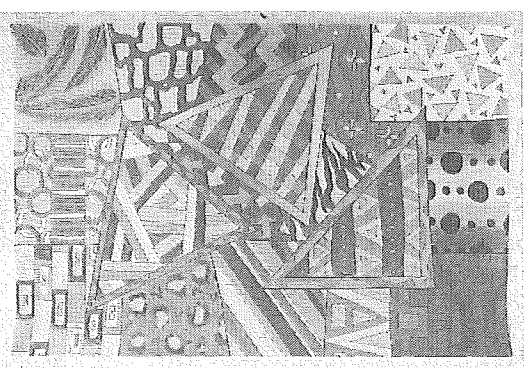
Show us your stuff!



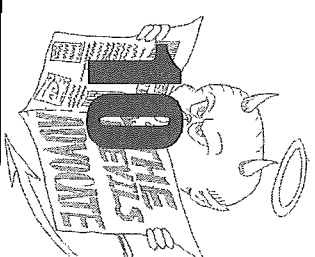
By: Julia Foster
10th Grade



By: AJ Verschaeve
11th Grade



By: Colleen Gaffney
12th Grade



Student Government enjoys taking blood from students

By: Stephanie Zube
Feature Co-Editor

Sorry, vampires... There might not be enough blood for you at RHS.

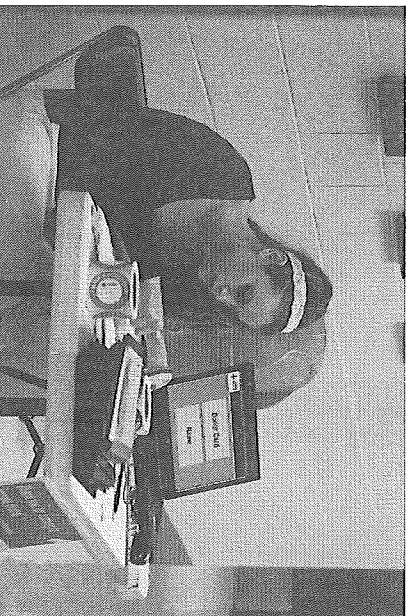
On October 14, 2013, students volunteered their time to donate blood and save lives. Richmond has been partnering with the Red Cross for over 20 years now in donating blood.

In order to give blood, students first had to register and fill out paperwork asking for specific ID. Once done with registering, students were asked to receive a minor physical for safety reasons.

Students proceeded to sit down to complete a blood donation. Eight to ten minutes was about how long it took for each student to give blood.

Anna Fraser, member of Student Government and organizer of the Blood Drive, was an active student in helping with the donation.

"I ran the Blood Drive this year and worked registration. I had people from Student Government sign up to work 1-2 hours during the day for the canteen," said Fraser.



Senior Anna Fraser works the admission table at the blood drive. (Photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

Everything in the Blood Drive went as planned, and although there were a few students who passed out, it was not anything the volunteers and Student Government members could not handle.

"We had a really good group of volunteers. A few people passed out, but it wasn't anything we couldn't handle. We were prepared," said Fraser.

If a student passed out the volunteers at the canteen would ring a bell and the nurses would be called over. The student would lay down and receive a paper bag to breath in. Many students came out to the Blood Drive and sacrificed their time -- and blood -- to help others.

"34 total students came. Out of all that came, 29 donated blood. The outcome was good compared to past years and we went over the Red Cross goal," said Fraser. The goal was to get 15 donations and have about 23 pints of blood.

Fraser had a great experience working the Blood Drive and would be more than happy to do it again.

"It is always good to work with the Red Cross. You see where you started and ended at the end of the day," said Fraser.

She added, "I would definitely run the Blood Drive again. I've been doing it every year, and it's cool to see people giving blood. It's a rewarding experience."

A set of specific requirements had to be met so the students could give blood. If a student was 16-years-old, they had to have a signed consent form with parental permission and if 17, they only needed a form of ID, such as their driver's license.

A minor physical was done for each student and certain aspects of that physical had to be met. The nurses had to check both the iron level and blood pressure of the student.

Addison Andonoff, senior, explained her experience as being a second time blood donor.

"It is not as scary as some people say it is. This was my second time giving blood, so I knew what to expect," said Andonoff. She added, "The fact that 15 minutes of my time could save more than one person's life can't really be passed up."

Melissa Resk, another member of Student Government, worked alongside Fraser to help run the blood drive. Not only did Resk work the Blood Drive, but she was also a second time donor.

"My second time giving blood was way better than the first. I got really sick and light headed the first time I gave blood. Giving blood a second time was much easier to recover from," said Resk.

Working the Blood Drive was an enjoyable, rewarding and special experience for Resk.

"I want to go into the medical field, so helping out with the Blood Drive gave me a lot of experience in this field. Talking to everyone during the canteen was what I enjoyed the most," said Resk.

Dr. Ladd, Student Government advisor, believed that the Blood Drive was a very necessary experience for students. "It's one of those things that is always necessary in society. If we stopped doing it, it would cause a major problem in society," said Ladd.

Dr. Ladd feels that it is crucial to experience opportunities like the Blood Drive. He said, "The students were able to experience the true nature of giving in order to help another human."

Summative retakes

By: Nick Thomas
Staff Writer

Last year Richmond Community schools implemented the 80/20grading system. Along with that came the retake policy for summative assignments.

The 80/20 grading system consists of homework and assignments counting for 20% of the student's grade, and 80% of grades being established from test, exams and papers. Having your grade depend on doing so well on test, exams, and papers can be very stressful for students.

To try and relieve some of the stress, the Richmond schools implemented the retake policy. The retake policy is available for a student who did poorly on a test, or not as good as the student wanted to do.

The retake policy started last year but has been altered this year. "We implemented the policy last year. After the year, we reevaluated it," said Mrs. Michon.

The changes that were made to the retake policy were students have to have your homework in on time, students have to try their best on the summative assessment, and have to be paying attention in class and participating. The most significant change to the retake policy is honors classes are not allowed to retake summative assignments.

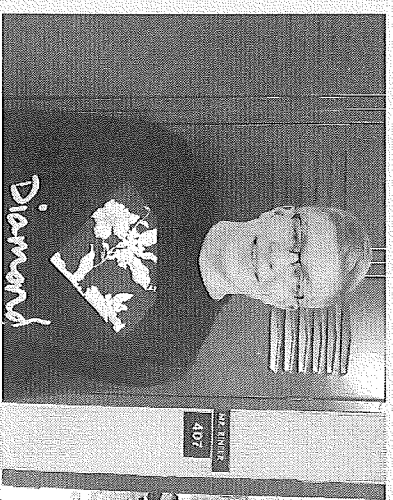
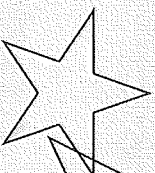
"After a pretty extensive discussion, it was rare that honors students were retesting, and expectations are higher for honors students," said Mrs. Michon.

For more on retakes see page 11

Senior Star Students



Evan Sevilla



Favorite teacher: Mr. Murphy

Favorite subject: Anatomy

Favorite activity outside of school: Golf

Most challenging class throughout high school: AP calculus

Sam Schaper



Favorite teacher: Mr. Rineer and Mr. Murphy

Favorite subject: English

Favorite activity outside of school: watching movies from the 60s and 80s

Most challenging class throughout high school: Junior Year AP classes

SPENCER WEBER SHOP
HOURS:
TUES. - THURS. 8 - 6
FRIDAY 8 - 7
SATURDAY 8 - 4
CLOSED MONDAY

69347 Main St. - Richmond
586.727.1515

