



Olympics preview in Sports section!

The BLUE DEVILS

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 8, Issue 9

May 21, 2012

CSI: Miami, CSI: Los Angeles, CSI: Richmond?

Forensics and Law & Justice conduct their annual mock murder

By: Hannah Townsend
News Editor

If you see Mr. Applegate smiling in the halls, it is because he was found not guilty.

Every year the Forensics and Law & Justice classes conduct their mock crime scene, and Mr. Rineer was the victim this year being stabbed five times in the back.

The Forensics class has been preparing all year for this.

Teacher of the forensics class, Mr. Roodbeen, said, "Throughout the year, they are taught different aspects of forensic investigation, so based on what they were previously taught, they use those skills to process the crime scene."

The mock crime scene starts every year near late April or early May, and it is used as a final exam for

Forensics students.

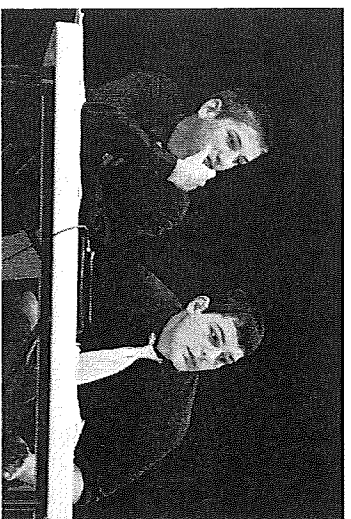
Mr. Roodbeen said, "Instead of a typical pen and paper exam, they're using their knowledge from the year to try and solve a crime."

After the crime scene is set up, Forensics students start their investigation.

Mr. Roodbeen said,

"Generally, the first thing they should do is secure the crime scene and take photographs. Then they will start collecting the evidence."

The evidence is usually the same every year.



Prosecuting lawyers Dustin Pricel and Greg Sebastian.
(Courtesy of RMS Yearbook)

Mr. Roodbeen said, "Some of the things they have collected in the past are hairs and fibers, shoe prints,

there might be a note left behind, blood, and sometimes murder weapons."

After collecting the evidence, they return to class, and for a certain time period, start processing it.

Mr. Roodbeen said, "After they have done that and narrowed it down to one suspect, they will make

their arrest."

This year, Mr. Applegate was arrested.

After Mr. Applegate was arrested, the Law & Justice class has to defend and prosecute the arrested person.

Seniors Greg Sebastian and Dustin Pricel are prosecution lawyers, and seniors Allison Hebel and Nicole Daniel are defense lawyers.

The prosecution's job is to try to prove Mr. Applegate was guilty, and the defense's job is to prove Mr. Applegate's innocence.

Hebel said, "I do direct exam, cross exam, and opening statement. Direct exam is when it is your witness, and you ask them a series of questions that will help your side. Cross exam is when CSI cont. on pg. 3

Aliens and Shakespeare...?

Local students put on The Tempest

By: Samantha Schafer
Opinion Editor

"Oh, Romeo, Romeo. Wherefore art thou Romeo..." Wait, that isn't right.

"To be or not to be..." Arg, that's not it either.

"Four legs and two voices; a most delicate monster—" That's it! That is Shakespeare's *The Tempest!*

And it's playing here at RHS. For the past two years, high school students—RHS, Marine City, Armada, Memphis, and Romeo— and homeschooled students have been putting on Shakespearean plays at Beebe Street Park by the gazebo. Those plays were *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Unlike previous years, this year's performance will be held in the RHS auditorium because this play requires sound effects, fog and different lights for the spaceship and aliens and magic...

What! Shakespeare never wrote about aliens!

No, he didn't.

Mr. Applegate, Shakespeare, drama and English teacher, said, "*The Tempest* is a play by William Shakespeare that is about a wizard, Prospero, who sends a storm to

crash a ship full of his enemies in order to shipwreck them onto the island to which he was exiled. While there, he enacts a little revenge, but ultimately ends up forgiving his enemies."

That island could be an alien planet and those enemies could be aliens.

The past shows also had cool twists on original Shakespeare. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* rocked an 1800s punk theme and *Romeo and Juliet* had a *Matrix* theme.

"Like we have with our past two Shakespeare plays, we want to present Shakespeare in a fresh, hip way — not tights and snooty accents. So we've set *The Tempest* in space with a 1950s science fiction theme. So there will be blasters, aliens and swordfights to go with the magic from the original play," said Mr. Applegate.

He added, "I figure if we can make *Romeo and Juliet* cool, then any Shakespeare can be cool."

Despite the costume changes, they never changed a single word of original text.

Mr. Applegate said, "We will use Shakespearean language. It's more poetic and, if you understand it, it's more meaningful!"

PLAY cont. on pg. 4

Richmond teacher receives great honor

By: Lizzie Urban
Staff Writer

It's the year of the teacher, but it has nothing to do with a Chinese birthday symbol.

On April 19, RMS technology teacher, Kathy Campau received Macomb County's Teacher of the Year award.

Representing the school and the district, Campau accepted her award at the MISD.

When learning of her accomplishment, she was shocked. "It was an honor for me to have been chosen in my building. There are many great teachers here," she said.

Mr. Bartels, RMS principal, was excited to learn of the accomplishment that Campau achieved.

He said, "We were very pleased to know even when you're at the northern part of the county, that we're still recognized for the good things we have and do."

Campau has a bachelor's degree in education from Western Michigan University, and a master's degree in Educational Technology from Boise State University. Along with that, she is a certified online instructor through the Michigan Virtual University.

She has been an employee with Richmond Community Schools for 12 years. Subjects she has taught include Spanish and technology. Currently she is the computers and advanced computers teacher.

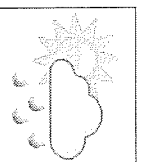
"My favorite thing to teach is computers. It's my passion. I love sharing what I know with kids and learning things from them. I love how it's always changing, always something new to learn and try," she said.

Dr. Olson, Richmond Community Schools superintendent, said, "She's very enthusiastic. She likes her subject. She's inspired by her subject matter and therefore inspires others, whether is students or adults."

She is a very selfless person. Always willing to help anyone with technology issues, she donates a lot of her own time.

"Most days during my prep, I'm helping people set up or fix their software issues, projectors, doc cameras, and etcetera. I also help teachers develop projects that include technology," she said. Her colleagues recognize her willingness to help.

TEACHER cont. on pg. 4

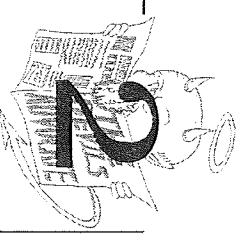


Today's Forecast
High: 78 Low: 56
Isolated T-storms,
Chance of Rain 30%

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Check out the RHS spring
sports regional preview on
pg. 6!



New changes for the new year

RHS changes their attendance policy

By: **Natasha Woodruff**
Coordinating Editor

Prepare for a change in RHS attendance policy for the 2012-2013 school year.

The new policy for attendance will go into effect for the next school year if it passes the School Board examination process.

The policy is possibly changing to go along with the new grading policy that is more than likely going into effect next year.

The new policy allows students seven absences, unexcused or excused, for each semester.

However, should students exceed this number of absences they can still earn credit and a grade in their classes as long as they pass their final exam with a 60% or higher and receive at least a 75% in the class overall.

The current policy is slightly different, however. It limits the number of absences to seven per semester, and if the student is absent

eight times, they do not receive credit for that class. If the students wish to receive credit for that class, then they have the option to go to a Saturday school or an after-school detention to make up the absences.

"The hope is that the new policy will help students, who get more than seven absences, be able to earn a passing grade," said Mrs. Michon, assistant principal.

The tardy policy will also change should the new attendance policy get approved. Currently, if a student gets to class after the bell has rung, then they are considered tardy, and every third tardy is an absence.

The new policy would be slightly different. Students that arrive to class after the bell would still be considered tardy, but excessive tardies have discipline action but don't impact the absence count.

The first tardy is a teacher warning, the second and third tardies are teacher classroom policy, or a punishment depending on the teacher. This could be anything

from a detention to any other punishment the teacher decides on. The fourth and fifth tardies would be a Saturday school, and should the students receive six or more tardies, they will have an out-of-school suspension.

The process started with developing a committee of several teachers and staff members who pulled policies from other schools to develop an idea of what direction to go in. After a new policy was developed, it was presented to the entire staff, reviewed and then sent to the school board.

The first hearing was Monday, May 14 and the new policy passed. Then the policy will go on to the second and final reading. The final hearing will be Monday the 21st if it is passed it will go into effect in September in time for the upcoming school year.

Most students like the new policy for absences. "I think that it is awesome," said Rosie Urban, sophomore. "It would

be good for those people who missed school a lot because they are sick."

Other students like it because it would motivate them to get to school on time. "I'm late anyways, so it might help me," said Brad Pedri, freshman.

Some students agree that while the new absences policy would be a good change, the new tardy policy would not be as good. "It sounds awful," said Alex Muzljakovich, sophomore. "I would get suspended a lot then, because I am tardy a lot."

Teachers see another side. "I think it is a wonderful idea. It makes sense to hold students accountable without being over punitive," said Dr. Ladd.

One of the things that the teachers agree on is that the new policy will hold students accountable for their whereabouts and it will help motivate them to be on time.

Class to club

Richmond School Board decides to cut the Yearbook class

By: **Adam Boyd**
Sports Editor

On April 30, 2012, the Richmond School Board decided to cut the yearbook class.

RHS principal Mr. Olsen said, "It wasn't my decision to cut the yearbook class. It was a budget decision of the school board."

Several years ago, the yearbook was a club. It was made a class to improve the quality of the yearbook.

"The Board wanted to maximize teacher use. We are not getting rid of the yearbook; it is simply being made into an extracurricular activity that any student will be able to join if he or she wishes to," added Mr. Olsen.

Mr. Olsen personally likes the

yearbook class. He particularly liked it because it gave students more time to work on the yearbook.

"Therefore increasing the quality of the product, it gave the students that were making the yearbook five hours a week instead of two or three a week depending on how much the club chooses to meet," he said.

As for those students that signed up for yearbook for next year, they have a choice. They can choose to be a part of the club and make the time commitment it takes to be a part of an extracurricular activity. Or they would have to choose to give up the opportunity of making the yearbook.

Students that chose to take the yearbook class will now have to choose a new elective to take for

their next year.

Senior, Brooke McInerney is the yearbook's editor. "Over the summer, Corey Farmer and I basically designed the yearbook together. I think a lot of people will be disappointed that there won't be a yearbook class next year," said McInerney.

As far as the quality goes, McInerney won't even compare the two. She said, "There won't be as many pages, not as many features, or as many good pages. Honestly it's almost worth not having if yearbook isn't a class."

McInerney stressed how much time and effort it takes to make and design a yearbook. She said, "You're always busy and you work everyday. It is

important that yearbook is a class because most people do not have the time it takes to commit the time it takes to make a good quality yearbook."

With as much time we put into it now, the two products won't, they can't compare. It takes us all year working on it an hour a day five days a week to make it. With a club they may get an hour or two a week," said McInerney.

Junior Tyler Queen is part of the yearbook staff. "I'm one of the people that take pictures," said Queen.

She does not like the fact that the yearbook class is being cut. McInerney and Queen both agree that the quality of the yearbook will **YEARBOOK cont. on pg. 3**

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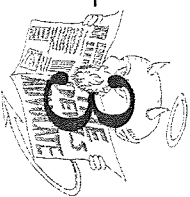
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Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Harbuhn for details on upcoming classes.



YEARBOOK cont. from pg. 2

suffer tremendously. Queen added to the list with nothing will be as good as it could be.

Queen went to a yearbook convention in April. "I did learn a lot of different ways to help and develop a yearbook to make it more creative," said Queen.

"If there was one thing that I took from yearbook that I will always remember, is that there is always something you can do to make a product better and a lot more memorable," she said.

Yearbook teacher, Mr. Murphy, also added his input.

"Some features will be there but not all the ones that are there now. Some aspects will suffer such as page numbers; it may be half to three quarters as thick as it is now. Photography will also suffer because they won't be as clear as they are now," said Mr. Murphy. He added, "Making a yearbook outside of school will take a lot of extra time and commitment."

CSI cont. from pg. 1

you ask the opposing side questions to discount what they say and for the lawyers voice to be heard. The opening statement is the outline of what you are going to show the jury." In addition to those three aspects, there are also closing statements and objections.

Hebel's co-council, Daniel, does direct exam, cross exam, and the closing statement. The closing statement is the lawyer's final statement to the judge or jury.

Objections are something every lawyer does.

Hebel said, "Objections are used in court to show someone is breaking the rules of the courtroom to gain an advantage."

In arguing their case, the lawyers had to do closing statements, opening statements, direct examination and cross examination.

Witnesses used in the case were people lawyers found on their own, including students, teachers and even the principal.

Lawyers had to find their own witness from the Forensics class to

26 years of food service and directing

Mrs. Frantz retires

By: Hunter Tousignant
Staff Writer

As the 2011-2012 school year comes to an end, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Frantz, the food service director, after 26 years of food service.

Mrs. Frantz, said, "I really enjoyed working in this area of work for Richmond. When I came back to Richmond it was my first job as a Food Service Director."

Mrs. Frantz started out as substitute worker for the food service at the school district of East China. Then, she moved up as cashier and then to a second cook.

She said, "It was really fun. When I was a second cook, I used to steal brownies out of the oven right when they were done from baking and I also enjoyed all the banquets I helped and cooked for."

As the years went by, Mrs. Frantz was getting tired of all the hands-on work in the kitchen and decided to go for a management position. She took classes to get her ready for the position.

Mrs. Frantz said, "As a director here at Richmond, the best part about working here was the staff, students and the good support from

other administrators."

As any director will tell you, they always have busy daily routines each and everyday.

Mrs. Frantz said, "My daily routine at Richmond is to check and make sure staff is all here. If one is absent, I try to find a worker that is available but if that does not work I will fill in for that day. I am also in charge of menus, food, counting the money and responsible for all the reports."

After retirement, Mrs. Frantz will be back to help get the new manager started and will also volunteer at River District Hospital.

As years and years go by, some things change and some things stay the same. For the food service at Richmond, there have been a lot of changes.

Mrs. Frantz said, "There have definitely been a lot of changes over the past 26 years I have been in food service. We now offer healthier choices to students. For instance, we now have a mini-salad bar in Lee Elementary School where students can choose items from the salad bar to go with their lunch, or they can choose only to have salad bar items along with their milk as a lunch if they wish. In all buildings, we offer

whole wheat breads, and the breadings on the nuggets and chicken patties, that we get from the government, is whole grain breadings. They are baked in the oven, not fried, so they are healthier for the students. As students can see in the lunch line, in all buildings we offer fresh side salads, carrots, celery, and fruit daily."

Mrs. Frantz's first director's job was at Richmond Schools. But before she came back to Richmond for the director's job in 1999, she worked for Algonac for about one-and-a-half years.

Mrs. Frantz said, "I enjoy the Richmond School District, the administrators, teaching staff and all of the support. I enjoyed being with the students and getting ideas from them to see what they would like on the menus. I also enjoyed working with other school food service managers to start the transition on the new policies for food service. I enjoyed working with my staff of 12 ladies that were a great support team. They take pride in what they do, so that the students have a great variation of choices at lunch."

Mrs. Frantz had a lot of great memories at Richmond and **FRANTZ cont. on pg. 15**

Dr. Ladd said, "I rule on objections and keep the flow of the case going."

On May 15, the case took place and Mr. Applegate was found not guilty.

Dr. Ladd said, "The prosecution did not have a strong case. They did not have enough to convict, but they handled it well."

Prosecuting lawyer Dustin Pritel said, "We presented our evidence very well, but there was too much doubt in the case to win."

He added, "I wasn't surprised at all. I knew we were going to lose."

Hebel, who was on the winning side, was happy with how the trial went.

She said, "The witnesses did good. They were a little confused on cross

exam, but everyone gets confused."

Mr. Olsen was also involved in this case.

Olsen said, "I was an expert witness for the defense. I testified about the security system cameras at the school."

He is involved with it every year. Once he was the victim, and once he was the killer — he even wore the blood-covered tie to the trial.

Olsen said, "I think it is important to have a cross-curricular project. It is fairly unique because not many other schools do it. Also, it gets kids interested in the class."

He added, "It is one of my favorite things to do. I think it is a neat project, and it has educational value."

On This Day

1688- The English poet Alexander Pope was born.

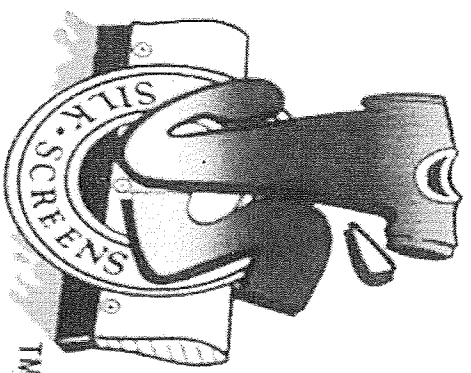
1832- In the U.S., the Democratic Party held its first national convention.

1840- New Zealand was declared a British colony.

1927- Charles A. Lindberg completed the first solo non-stop airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

1998- Microsoft and Sega announced they were collaborating on a home video game system.

<http://on-this-day.com/onthisday/thedays/alldays/may21.htm>



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May 21, 2012



TEACHER cont. from 1

"She's an excellent resource for anyone in regards to anything technology-related. She's always offering a helping hand," said Mr. Bartels.

She has taught technology workshops for teachers during professional development days at the elementary, middle and high school.

"She is a leader. She is out there learning the latest technology and the best way to apply that to her classroom," said Dr. Olson.

Working with others is one of her strong suits.

Mrs. Walters and Mrs. Powers,

who teach technology at the Lee School and St. Peters, team together with Campau to plan the K-8 technology curriculum.

Mrs. Walters said, "She is willing to go above and beyond for the students, teachers, administrators and parents."

Besides working with technology, she is able to help students in other areas.

She said, "I tutor after school occasionally and volunteer at school events. Outside of the school, I speak at conferences about technology to help others learn to better integrate it in their teaching."

Mr. Bartels said, "She donates a

lot of her own, personal time to help struggling students and to help students who are struggling."

Some of her accomplishments are recognized internationally.

"I'm a contributor to 21 Things 4 Students, which is a technology curriculum developed here in Michigan and used worldwide," said Campau.

She said she didn't get to this point on her own. She owes a lot of Mr. Bartels and Mrs. Borwick, RMS assistant principal, and her past and present students.

"Each of them has helped me become the teacher that I am today, and for that, I cannot thank them

enough," she said.

Everyone has a different idea of what makes a good teacher.

Campau thinks a good teacher is one who respects his or her students and builds positive relationships with them. Everything else, including the curriculum, is secondary, she said.

She said, "When I think back to my favorite teachers, they are the ones who knew me as a person and challenged me. I remember the relationships I had with them, not the work that we did."

Right now, they are working on language, character development and blocking.

Blocking is the process of mapping out where actors enter and leave the stage as well as what they do when they are up there.

Pankiewicz did something unique to prepare. "I watch *Lord of the Rings* to try to emulate Gandalf a bit. I am definitely still working on my character just like everyone else, but we are all coming along nicely," he said.

"We have students look up characters that relate to the characters they are portraying. We talk a lot about the story as a whole and working through the lines that people have a hard time understanding. We also spend a lot of time working in fight scenes and developing interactions between characters," said Mrs. Applegate.

You can watch the characters come to life and experience the adventure on June 21-23 at 7pm! According to Mrs. Applegate, adults can get in for \$6, students \$5, and \$2 extra for reserved tickets.

"...Deny thy father and refuse thy name and if thou wilt not..." I forgot it again!

Looks like I'll have to go, too.

Shakespeare was quite the poet, but how are the young actors dealing with the language?

Mrs. Applegate, director of *The Tempest*, said, "They are doing really well with it. Some lines are easier than others and some actors grasp it more naturally than others, but everyone is doing a great job. Like I said, we break things down in rehearsal. I can tell by the way an actor says a line whether he or she understands it, so we know what to decode. Oftentimes, I provide my own paraphrase too... which is sometimes silly, but it gets the point across."

They use a special script called *No Fear Shakespeare*, which provides paraphrased versions alongside the text to help actors understand what they are saying.

Mr. Applegate said, "This is extremely helpful for even the most-experienced Shakespearean actor because it helps you to correctly interpret the lines. But it's a resource only."

Alexa Dentai, playing Miranda, the powerful sorcerer's daughter, said she was doing well with the language.

Dentai said, "Memorizing is a little bit more challenging, but it's also easier in a way. This is my first show, so I don't have much to compare it to."

Mrs. Applegate said, "My actors tend to find that once they get a handle on the way he writes, they really

like what he has to say. We have a lot of fun with these shows."

As if the language wasn't hard enough, Shakespeare was also a master of complex characters.

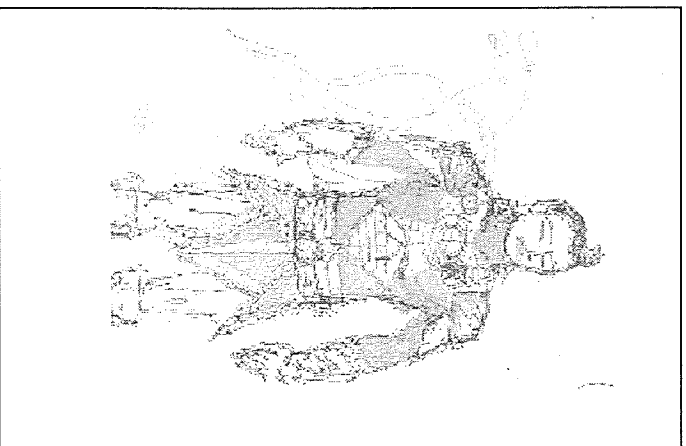
Dentai said, "We have to really understand our character and their history... [We are] learning our characters and putting ourselves into the characters to make them better."

"His characters are complex and his stories are compelling. There is a reason that they keep being remade and adapted and referenced in modern culture today," said Mrs. Applegate.

The performance is quickly approaching, so they are busy preparing. But some of them had extra practice.

"My Shakespeare class has been studying this play all quarter, so in a way these students have had a jump start. But auditions for the actual performance of the play were April 24 and 25 and we've been rehearsing since April 30," said Mr. Applegate.

Josiah Pankiewicz, playing Prospero the vengeful sorcerer, said, "The Shakespeare class has helped me



A rough sketch of a possible *Tempest* costume. Photo courtesy of Charlie Triham

tional challenge of its difficult language. We'll be rehearsing sword-fights and other stage combat as well. We have also been creating costume ideas."

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May 21, 2012



Taking it to the next level

RHS athletes keep progressing even after high school

By: Katie Szczeniak
Staff Writer

For seniors, their final year in high school is full of lasts. Last first day of high school. Last game. Last dance. The list goes on and on.

Next step: college, full of many new things.

Ten seniors in the class of 2012 will not only be making the transition from being high school seniors to a college freshman, but they will also make the transition from being high school athletes to college athletes.

Football

Four varsity football players have been recruited by various colleges to play for them.

Josh Younk will be playing at Michigan Tech, Travis Toia and Kurt Strutz have been recruited by Hope College and Mitchell Smith will be attending Olivet.

Toia plans on going to college to becoming a physical therapist while his roommate Strutz is going to school for nursing. Both boys received Hope Grants.

"I'm excited to play football in college because it's my favorite sport and I'm competitive," said Toia. Toia added he's relieved he isn't done playing after his senior year.

"I'm definitely nervous with all the circumstances with being away from home, new surrounding for the first time and playing against kids who are 23-24 years old. Along with proving to everyone that I can play at the col-

legiate level," said Strutz. Both Boyd and Smith are undecided on what they would like to major in.

Younk will be majoring in marine biology.

Wrestling

Four of

Richmond's three-time state champion wrestlers have been recruited to wrestle at college. John

Gaffney, Garrett Edwards, Stephen Ireland and Eric Boyd are the four who have been recruited.

Gaffney will be attending Alma, Edwards will wrestle for Muskegon, Boyd will be at Olivet and Ireland is currently undecided on where he wants to wrestle.

Gaffney has an academic scholarship of \$66,000 for his four years at Alma. He is majoring in bio-chemistry and plans to attend medical school after his four years.

"I'm very excited. It's a whole new experience for me especially because it will be up to me how much weight I decide to cut. It's really cool to think of myself as a college athlete," said Gaffney. "At the same time, I'm nervous about how I will compare with the other guys they are bringing into the program."

Edwards has received a scholar-

ship of a half-ride. He is undecided on what he wants to go into for college.

Softball

Jessica Barjaktarovich will be playing softball at Concordia

University in Ann Arbor. Barjaktarovich plays second base, shortstop and third base.

"I'm happy and excited that I don't have to be done with softball after this year, and I get to experience playing at the next level,"

Barjaktarovich has received both an academic and a sports scholarship. She is currently undecided on what she would like to major in.

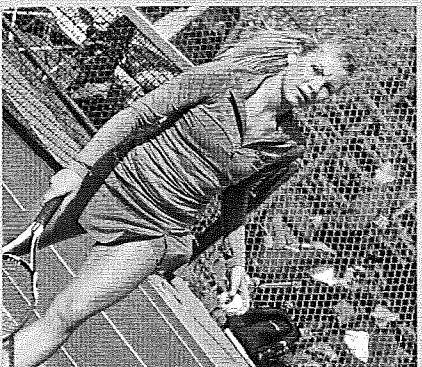
Barjaktarovich has received both an academic and a sports scholarship. She is currently undecided on what she would like to major in.

Basketball

Senior Rachel Baumgarten has been recruited by Oakland Community College. She is receiving a full ride for her basketball skills.

"I'm excited because I love basketball yet I'm nervous because it's going to be very different from what I'm used to. It's going to be a major change of pace from high school basketball," said Baumgarten.

Baumgarten plans to major in biology to become a physical therapist.



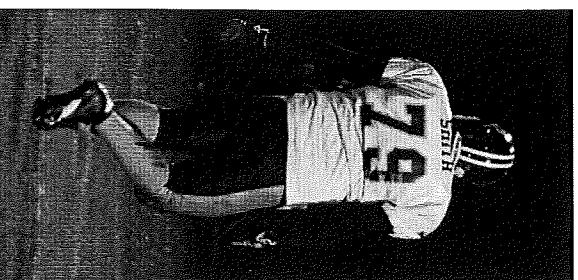
HOLLY UHL

Nickname: Uhl or Hollis
Age: 18
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis
Favorite pump up song: "Good Night" by Roscoe Dash
Favorite Food: Ice Cream
Favorite class: Chemistry with Mr. Schleder
Future Goals: Go to Saginaw Valley State University and get a well paying job.

Senior Athletes

Mitchell Smith

Nickname: Big Meetch
Age: 17
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Football, Track
Favorite pump up song: "Breakin' a Sweat" by Skrillex
Favorite food: Pancakes



Favorite class: Newspaper with Murph-Dawg. I like the atmosphere
Future goals: Play football at Olivet and graduate from Olivet with a degree in science.

The chant heard 'round the world

By: Jacob Marlow
Staff Writer

"U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!," The famous chant, chanted at the 1980 Olympics when the U.S beat the Soviets to prove we were better than them in sports, and we showed more pride during the final second in those games than any sports event in many years.

This year, America is hoping to hear those chants again.

The summer Olympics will begin on July 27, 2012 with the prestigious opening ceremony that will pop off 30th Olympic Games in London, England.

As always, there will be great competition in every sport hosted in Britain.

Michael Phelps, the American phenom who won eight gold medals in Beijing in 2008, will be swimming for his 16th gold medal this year, if he wins all of his races.

Nick Ottenbacher, sophomore, said, "Phelps will win another 16 gold because he is the most talented and fastest swimmer of all time!"

The women's U.S soccer team will also be fighting for the gold after coming up a bit short in the Fifa World Cup this past 2011 summer. They were, however, an underdog in the tournament.

The women beat top dog Brazil in the quarterfinals. Abby Wambach scored in the 120th minute to tie the game at 2-2. Then the shootout came and the U.S came up with the W.

The U.S went on to defeat the French 3-1 and cruised to the Finals, but lost to Japan 3-1 in a hard fought tournament in South Africa.

Junior Lindsay Omelia, varsity soccer player, said, "The U.S has a real good chance at getting a medal because the offense and defense work really well together."

Another dominant sport that America controls in the Olympics is basketball, and the U.S.A has won 13 Gold medals, one silver medal and two bronze medals.

The American team will consist of NBA MVP LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, Chris Bosh, Derrick Rose, Lamar Odom, Anthony Davis who was a freshman at University of Kentucky, and many other power-house basketball players from the NBA.

Ottensbacher said, "The U.S is going to win the gold because we are the best team in the nation. But their biggest competition will be Spain because they have good players like Ricky Rubio."

Jacob Thomas, sophomore basketball player, said, "U.S will win for sure, because America has the best talent in the world. Plus it's basically the same Olympic team from 2008. But their toughest opponent will either be Spain, because of Pau Gasol talent, or China because they always have a lot of young talent coming up."

Spain and the U.S have a little bad blood coming into the Olympics in 2008 U.S and Spain steam rolled through there own brackets. When it was all said and done the United States won 118-107, which secured their 13th gold medal in 17 Olympic basketball tournaments, and proving that the U.S is still the dominant force in basketball throughout the world. Olympics continued on page 7