



# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Jumping the gun on Christmas songs

By: Jessica Bihrey  
Staff Writer

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, oh what fun it is hear Christmas music in November.

It's finally that time of year: when radio stations begin playing Christmas music!

No matter where you are or what you're doing, you're going to hear Christmas music.

"Winter Wonderland," sung by hundreds of different artists, is one of the many over-played songs on the radio. A week after Halloween, radio stations such as 100.3 and 104.3 began playing Christmas music.

If you are driving around, flipping through the channels like I do, at some point, you will come across a station that has been blaring Christmas music for a month. I know! It's annoying.

Do they play Christmas songs too early? Or are stations just preparing everyone for the hectic Holiday season?

As for me, I'm a station surfer. I flip through each channel until I find a song I like. When I randomly came to a station that was playing a Christmas song, I thought to myself, "Are you serious? It's not even Thanksgiving and they're playing this?"

It does not necessarily bother me; I just think it's too soon for Christmas music. I say let people enjoy Thanksgiving before you throw Christmas on them.

As Christmas gets closer and closer, stations start playing the same song over and over and over again.

That's when it all starts. When people hear the same song over and over their first instinct is to change the station; that's what I do. People like a variety, and by stations playing the same song over and over, they won't get the different songs they want to hear.

This is hurting stations by overplayed songs. Some may think I'm being the Grinch

or scrooge for saying Christmas music is played too soon, but I'm not the only one who feels this way.

I love listening Christmas music! I'm a Christmas Eve baby; Christmas music reminds me that my birthday is coming up quick and it gets me in the spirit for the holidays. Everything about Christmas is exciting to me: the gift of giving, bringing families closer together, the happiness it brings to others and holiday cheer.

But when I hear the song "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and "Jingle Bell Rock," at least five times a day in November I get annoyed.

If they played different Christmas songs throughout the day, then I would be totally fine with it. But they play the same songs over and over again. They're only hurting themselves in the end, and they're losing listeners.



When stations play Christmas music too early, it may also overwhelm some people. They begin to think about presents, planning a party, or even their budget and if they'll be able to afford Christmas this year.

This is why stations should wait to play Christmas music: so people have time to enjoy Thanksgiving and the last day of fall. The last thing I would want to worry about is Christmas when Thanksgiving hasn't even arrived yet.

## Trimester takeover

Hannah Townsend  
News Editor

Wouldn't it be nice to take more electives? Well, with trimesters you can.

Recently more schools have been switching over to the trimester system. Many schools nationwide and statewide have switched to trimesters.

With local schools switching to trimesters it is time to consider if trimesters could help Richmond. Balancing the positives and the negatives, overall RHS could benefit from the switch.

Trimesters are a scheduling alternative to semesters. Instead of a semester that lasts half a year, a trimester lasts a third of the year. Students receive a half-credit for a trimester

Usually to make up for less days in class, the classes last longer. The days are split differently depending on the school, but the common schedule is five classes a day that last 75 minutes.

With trimesters, classes that usually last one semester last one trimester and two semester classes usually last two trimesters. However, there are some yearlong classes such as AP courses and electives such as choir and yearbook.

Throughout the year, teachers would see less of their students, but that just means teachers will need to teach their students how to find out information. The ability to find information gives students the tool to find anything they need. During college, that will be useful when there are less chances to ask a professor a question.

Under a trimester schedule, students can take more

classes, especially electives. With the ability to take more electives, schools are adding more classes; some schools are even adding a trimester long test-preparation class for juniors. Classes could be taken in the beginning of their junior year and would boost ACT scores, helping both students and the school.

With the State requiring more from graduating students, trimesters offer a way for students to take required classes and classes that they enjoy. Taking more classes could make students more prepared for their future. For example, if a student wants to become an English major, they can take additional English-related classes for their electives.

In most trimester schedules, students ideally would only have three core classes a day and two electives. To make up for seeing students less, teachers would give more homework to students. Extra homework, in addition to be a way to learn information, would help students be more accountable.

RHS students could benefit from the ability to take more electives and retake a failed class. With trimesters, there is a chance to get 7.5 credits a year instead of the six with trimesters.

Currently, if someone fails a class, there is little opportunity to redo it. With semesters, students may be more likely to give up after failing a class. Having trimesters, students would not give up after failing a class because it should be easier to retake a failed class.

There are some faults with trimesters, however. A fault of the trimester system is gaps between

classes. Some people have English for the first trimester, will not have it for the second, and will finish it during the third. However, Trimesters.org says that GPAs were not affected by that gap in a class.

While students are in their regular core classes less, the ability to take more classes allows students to go deeper. For example, the English Department and Science Department could offer electives that could help students go into hobbies and subject matter that could pertain to their future. If the classes of Shakespeare and Creative Writing were brought back, students could take those for their extra electives and learn more about English.

Opponents of trimesters say that students cannot pay attention during the extra few minutes added onto a class. I believe that having a few minutes added onto a class would prepare students. It would help their patience and prepare them for the few hour-long lectures awaiting them in college.

Indeed, RHS would prepare their students more for college more if they switched to trimesters. Students could easily get their graduation requirements while participating in classes that would benefit them with their future career path. Even students lacking academically could spend more time on their worst subjects.

By switching to trimesters, it would encourage students to explore their interests and focus on classes that would prepare them for their future job fields.

## Tis' the season to watch movies?



Angela Sztaba  
Sports Editor

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

Despite that, every year we bundle up in cozy blankets with bowls of popcorn and chestnuts in front of an open fire to watch you and all of Whoville celebrate the holidays.

Why?

Well, it's a family tradition!

From Buddy the Elf ("What's your favorite color?"), to the timeless classics like A Christmas Story ("You'll shoot your eye out!"), we all have

those that make their annual appearance around December.

What is it about those seasonal flicks that we cherish so much?

Is it the warm, tingly feeling you get when you see Frosty come alive?

Maybe you like seeing Tim Allen in something other than a tool belt.

Or is it the memorable characters, like Hermey the Elf, who only dreams of being a dentist?

Perhaps Clark Griswold is just the inspiration you need to get your butt outside to put up the Christmas lights. Or deep down inside, you have a big

soft spot for Tiny Tim.

Whatever the reason, we all enjoy sitting down with family and friends to watch Santa Clause come to town, year after year.

But, is it the festive movies or the holiday season in itself that brings everyone a little bit closer this time of year? I'm not just talking about sitting next to each other on the couch while watching *Home Alone* either. We all know that little extra Christmas spirit that seems to be floating around lately.

What's it from? Well, as much as it may seem like it, it's not from Walt Disney or anyone else

in Hollywood. Rather, it is the feeling of generosity and love that the season brings.

It's the lights on the houses, and the plates of milk and cookies left for Santa, and the stockings hung over your fire place, and gift after selfless gift under the trees that makes the season bright.

It's not about the Who's down in Whoville, or even you, Mr. Grinch.

It's about family and taking time from a busy year to show you truly care.

# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Hydrogen, lobbyists, bribes, oh my!

Victoria Breiling  
Opinion Editor

"Renewable resources!" the media cries out, "That's what we need!"

These "renewable resources," are not efficient and are thus not the answer. The number one economic rule that our capitalistic country was founded by is efficiency. Efficiency drives innovation, so why are we stuck on using inefficient water and wind technology? Because of special interest groups and lobbyists.

Outside of wind and water, there is a better renewable resource. This is the most abundant element in the universe.

This element is hydrogen.

Hydrogen is a benign substance that is 15 times lighter than air, which means it dissipates quickly into the atmosphere. In a hydrogen engine, the byproduct is something very familiar to us all and makes up 70% of the human body.

Yep. That's right: water. There is no particulate matter, such as soot and carbon emissions, coming out of a hydrogen car.

Hydrogen.

Automatically, the word strikes images of famous explosions: The Hindenburg, the Challenger, the Atomic and H-bombs, whose unstable isotopes have stained the topsoil on millions of acres.

Hydrogen is explosive, but it is also misunderstood.

The media fails to publicize the truths about hydrogen as a renewable fuel source. Thus, it keeps the general public woefully ignorant.

Exxon Mobile and Koch Industries, according to opensecrets.org, are the two top contributors of oil and gas lobbyists for the 2010-2011 political cycles. In 2008-2010, gas and oil industries were ranked eighteenth out of hundreds of special interest industries giving money to members of Congress. The grand total of oil and gas monetary bribes was \$18.2 million. Keep in mind, this was just the funding provided to Congressional members.

Lobbyists run the country and there is no point denying that fact. Politicians get monetary funds and in return, get votes. The lobbyists have politicians trapped in a web of monetary confinement.

As a representative democracy, we have the ability to vote, but the selection is unfortunately chosen by money. Generally, the more numerous amounts of interest groups, the greater chance the candidate has of winning. Candidates will honor their funders by promoting the in-

dustries' special interests.

Am I saying politicians should not honor the industry where their funding is coming from? No, they should honor where their support is coming from by keeping their word.

However, it should be a mutual understanding between supporters and the supported that our nation is owned by China. In the literal sense of the debt between China and the USA China produces the majority of consumer goods and exports. The United States and the rest of the global economy will soon be nested up to the government of China's teat.

The true reasoning behind the lack of publicity of hydrogen is indeed the special interest industries of gas and oil companies. Funding is not going towards the hydrogen infrastructure because funding is given from the group which does not show interest in hydrogen.

As the statistics previously show how much money is given oil and gas companies, the figure \$1.4-\$11.4 million to create hydrogen fueling stations that would be sufficient to support 18,400 fuel cell cars is not terribly expensive. The large gap between prices is caused by the variety of fueling stations available and which are more efficient.

The actual price of the hydrogen-fuel automobile is expensive to produce; however, until the industry matures the cost will be above \$100,000 per unit.

Car companies, however are offering leases of affordable rates. Honda is offering a lease of \$600 monthly for the new hydrogen FCX. California has the largest hydrogen infrastructure in the nation. Companies plan to appeal to Californian interest first and then wait for the fad to hopefully catch on. At that time, the cost of hydrogen cars will

As a reader, you may have concerns that I have forgotten about the electric car craze.

Electricity is a fad, you may say, and the politicians are promoting it.

What interest group supports electricity? Oil and gas industries and special interest groups are behind electricity as well. Fossil fuels are used to power the turbines and plants that create the electricity that we use to power our A/C in the summer. That same electricity feeds to the plug where electric cars are plugged into.

Hydrogen cars are at a near standstill because there is no infrastructure. There is no movement in infrastructure because of lobbyists.

That is the bottom line. The wheels of governmental spending need to be greased with the freedom of actual economic choice. Unfortunately, the power to drive the wheels is from special interest groups. It needs to be unplugged.



## Christmas Trees: The battle of the branches

By: Krystal Geisler  
Staff Writer

Are you from one of those families who goes down in the basement to get your Christmas Tree that you have been setting up for the past six years?

Or do you and your family spend hours of hard work finding, cutting down and transporting the tree back home?

Almost every person that we know celebrates some sort of Christmas or Hanukkah, depending on their religion. Therefore, most people set up Christmas decorations and include a Christmas Tree for the holidays.

The question is: How do you decide whether you want a fake tree or a real tree?

Some people like getting real trees because they have family traditions of going out together and cutting down the beautiful Douglas Fir and bringing it home to decorate.

Oh, the stories that I could imagine about families heading out for memories to get a real tree.

When it's below 30 degrees and snowing, everyone is all bundled up and excited to get their tree. Dad stops and sees a small, easily transportable tree and the kids and Mom scream, "No, that's way too small!"

They finally find one they all agree on, and Dad gets under the tree and struggles while sawing it down as needles scrape his face. It is a little too big for the top of their car, but they squeeze it on anyways, crossing their fingers that it will make it home during the icy drive back on I-69. As they are driving home, everyone is fighting over what spot they are putting it in.

They eventually arrive home; this is where the real arguing begins. Everyone hops out of the car. Dad whips the tree down from the roof and all at once, everyone is moving to get to their positions. Mom goes to hold the door open and realizes she needs her camera; sister goes to get the stand set up before dad barges in with the tree.

Here comes dad trying to fit that 5-by-5 tree through the tiny three-foot door by himself. Mom is mad because the needles are stabbing her as she is trying to hold open the door and take pictures at the same time.

Meanwhile, Dad is yelling that the heat is going out and the heating bill is going to skyrocket.

Finally they all agree on a spot to put it in and dad cuts the net, with branches flying everywhere knocking sister to the floor and she starts crying.

Dad, on his hands and knees, tries to get the stump in the stand and tighten it so it is nice and sturdy. Once he gets it in the stand, Mom is complaining that it isn't perfect and to tilt it to the right just a little.

So dad struggles to get it to the perfect position, and finally they are finished. Then they have another hour, on top of that 12 hours, just for decorating.

This makes people think, if you could just get a pre-lit fake tree, why would you want to go through all that hassle?

Why would you want to do all that work, spend time and money year after year, when you can set up a fake tree? You will still have the memories and traditions of your own.

Fake trees require going to your storage area and carrying it to the place of set up. Some people have the trees that come pre-lit, or are lazy and keep the lights on year after year to make setting up quick and easy.

Other trees, like mine, have a rotator, so when it's all lit up and decorated, it spins in slow circles so you get a view of all decorations, and you can stand in one space while decorating, if you're really lazy. No hunting for the perfect tree, breaking your back to get it home and finding a way to dispose of it after the holidays.

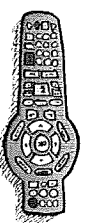
More and more people are switching out of their traditions from the fun family tree hunting, to going to the local store to find the perfect fake tree for the holidays.

The thing is, is that more people are striving for perfection. The perfect house, car, family, job and now, the perfect Christmas tree. Trying and reaching for being perfect is fine, and so are the old traditions with the memories that will always be remembered and cherished.

I am a little biased, and personally, I like fake trees because I think they are prettier and they don't shed needles and have a nasty smell.

My family also had a bad experience with a real tree. One year my family experienced a real tree falling during our family Christmas and after that year, we will never own a real tree again. It broke all of my mom's "Precious Moment" ornaments that she has had since she was a little girl, so she was very upset.

In the end, no matter what kind of tree that your family decides to get, it's all about your family traditions and the celebrations that the holidays bring.

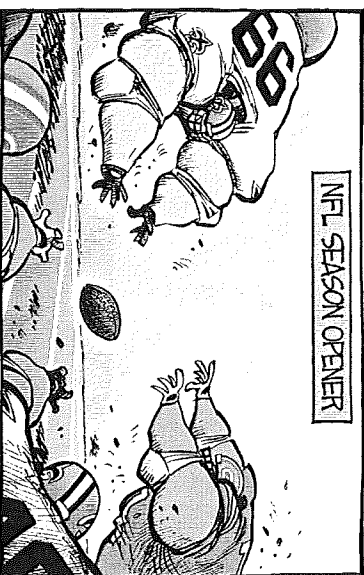


## Comics Corner

### TV VIEWER'S GUIDE

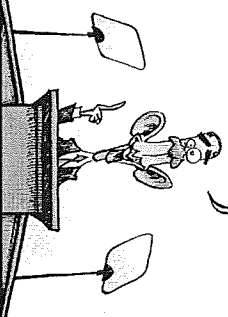
WHAT SHOULD YOU WATCH???

NFL SEASON OPENER



RERUNS

HEY! HOW ABOUT ANOTHER STIMULUS???



THE WASHINGTON ECONOMIST  
AN ONLINE PUBLICATION

Editorials

December 16, 2011

# ENTERTAINMENT



## 2012; doomsday?

By: Brett Brincefield  
Staff Writer

Doomsday! It is a word we feared for centuries, especially within the last couple of years.

Now people across the globe are wondering, "Is December 21, 2012, finally going to be the day we dread?" One of the most dramatic times people thought the world was going to end was in the year 1999. Now, nearly 13 years later, humans are back in the same bout: people fear the end of the world is near.

"I think there is a lot of scientific evidence about the world going to end. There's still debates about it though, so anything could happen. Something will happen, even if it's not the end of the world. I think something tragic though," said Alec Robertson, a sophomore.

Austin Altmore, also a sophomore, felt it will not end because he said nothing is different and that everyone is going to live a normal life.

Madison Zarkowski, a freshman, felt that it is going to be like the movie *War of the Worlds*. "Aliens are just going to pop up out of nowhere," Zarkowski

said.

Others are not too worried.

Mrs. Underwood, social studies teacher, said, "On December 22, I'm buying my calendar for 2013. Nothing's going to happen. The Mayan cycle was their own system and is different from ours. They stopped at 2012 because it was the end of their cycle. It makes sense that they'd eventually stop."

Mrs. Underwood went on to say that it is a cycle and that it is circular. She also added that the world won't end because it is just the end of the Mayan's calendar cycle.

Stephanie Lafata, a junior said, "I don't think anything's going to happen at all. Weather conditions might be worse." Lafata is basing her view off of a science standpoint. She feels people cannot stop the weather and what it is going to do.

If the world were to end, students are not really sure exactly how the world would end.

Robertson thinks based on science, that the solar flares are going to be at their peaks and power grids will be damaged from the sun.

Some students though felt it is going to be more of a tragic end to land on the earth, rather than a power grid malfunction.

2012, con't on pg 15

## Social networking affecting today's teens

By Lizzie Urban  
Staff Writer

Before the internet, kids were bullied on the playground. Now the online world has brought many new ways for these bullies to attack.

Cyberbullying is when your peers harass or bully you online. Any form of negative communication through an online source can be classified as cyberbullying. Emails, instant messaging, wall posts comments, can be cyberbullying. Social networking sites like Facebook or YouTube have been known sites where people have been harassed on. People who use name calling, criticism, and insults have been known to bully today's teens on a regular basis.

According to a 2011 consumer reports survey conducted in the US in 2011, nearly one million children and teens were the victim of harassment via Facebook in the last year.

These issues cause problems in the virtual world and beyond.

"I think it causes a lot of conflict between the students and sometimes it spills over into the school," said Mrs. Michon, assistant principal of RHS.

"Kids feel very free about what they can write because they're not saying it face-to-face. It makes it easier," said Mrs. Michon. "There are some days I wish Facebook didn't exist."

When people log on to Facebook, they want to see what is going on with their friends, and to see the

latest relationship news with so-and-so and what's-his-face.

Breanna Farnam, sophomore, said "I like to see funny statuses."

Students do not, however, want to be publically attacked and humiliated with offensive and hurtful comments. "It makes me sad to see this," said Farnam.

During every week, RHS deals with about two to three issues dealing with cyberbullying. "Do I think there's more? Yes," said Mrs. Michon.

Some cyberbullying issues are brought to her attention.

Consequences can result from the issues. The school tries many tactics to help solve the situation. They talk to the victims about what they can do, and suggests blocking the bully. The other party is brought down to talk it through but, that does not always solve the problem. "Sometimes it ends, sometimes it doesn't," said Mrs. Michon.

The problems become exasperating because of recent events.

"I find it frustrating. For example, we just went through this Rachel's challenge thing and the next day we had problems," said Mrs. Michon.

One RHS student has been the victim of cyberbullying and it affects her in many ways.

"It has really ruined my self esteem and what I think about myself. Anything that is said to me is harder to see because there is no self esteem to keep me strong. I have trust issues now and I'm always going to have trust issues. Things have gotten so bad to where I just don't sleep," she said.

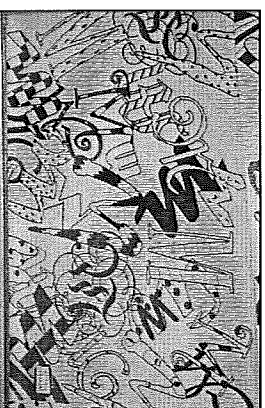
Other consequences are stronger than not sleeping. Many teens have resorted to self-harm, gone through



Anna LaT Torre, sophomore.



Christian Fails, freshman.



Mary Kazmierczak, sophomore.

## Artist's Showcase

## Would you rather...

- ...cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope **OR** swim under water for 30 meters holding your breath?

Ryan Brincefield, Freshmen, would take the tight rope because it seems safer.

- ... Know the date of your death **OR** the cause?

Mr. Bloink said the date so he could spend as much time with his family as he could.

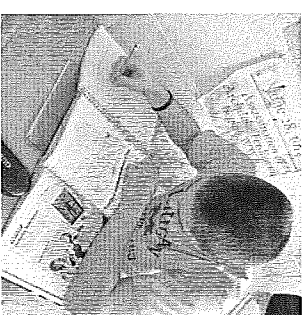
- ... Be on the Price is right **OR** Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Rachel Hambaum, Senior, said Who Wants to be a Millionaire because she would like answering the questions.

- ... Talk non-stop **OR** only 10 words a minute?

Olivia Kesler, Sophomore, said ten words a minute because once she starts talking she would never stop.

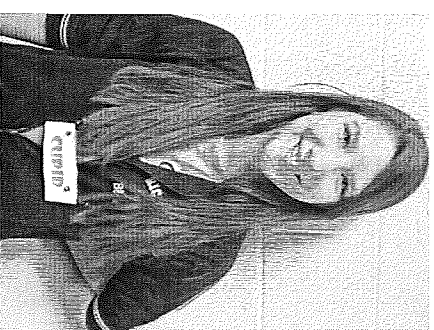
## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**Nick Daniel:** Sophomore

- Favorite Subject: Basic Design
- Real or fake tree?: Real
- Worst holiday song?: Anything by Hillary Duff
- What do you want for Christmas?: Xbox

**Natasha Woodruff:** Sophomore



- Favorite Subject: Biology
- Real or fake tree?: Fake
- Worst holiday song?: Grandma got Run over by a Reindeer
- What do you want for Christmas?: The new Kindle

# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Gifts galore!

By: Regan Blissett

Feature Editor

Christmas is here! The spirit of giving is in Richmond's midst. It is known by some people that the buying of Christmas gifts can be stressful. People don't know what to get, how much to spend and who to give it to.

Some people however, aren't as stressed.

Julia McEachin, sophomore, has been dating Cody Quigley, junior, for four months. McEachin said that it is not necessarily hard to shop for her boyfriend.

"It's more planning before you go shopping of what to get," said McEachin. McEachin said that she will spend up to \$100 on her present for Quigley. Half of the money will be from her, and the other half will be from her parents. McEachin will be making Quigley a gift but also buying one.

"I'd rather make a gift because it means more. I plan on making him a Notre Dame blanket for his favorite football team," said McEachin.

Making a blanket is a common present for this Christmas.

Madelyn Robins, sophomore, has been dating Josh Pranger, 2011 St. Clair graduate, for almost eight months. Madelyn is planning to spend \$75 on his present because it's her own money. Some money is going to the blanket.

"It's very hard because you never really know what they want," said Robins. Robins plans to make Josh a Michigan State blanket.

"I'm giving him his favorite candy: chocolate covered sun flowered seeds. I'm also thinking about getting him an Under Armor hoodie," said Robins.

Robins' advice to other couples looking for a present is to really pay attention to the things they enjoy and like.

Colton Christensen, freshman, is also searching for a gift for his girlfriend.

"I don't have to get her a gift but I chose too," said Christensen. Christensen has been dating freshman Alana Schroeder, for two months. He does not know for sure what to get her, but Christensen said maybe Dark Kiss Perfume.

"I'll spend as much as she wants me too," said Christensen. In return from her, he said he wants nothing except for her.

Some guys would not really mind if their girlfriend did not get them a gift.

Dalton Yore, junior, has been dating Caitly Wright, junior, for over two years.

"I don't really tell her what I want. I'd be fine without

anything," said Yore. Yore said last year he got Caitly a necklace, and this year he thinks it will be a good idea to get her a sweatshirt.

"She pointed it out in the store, and I wanted to surprise her with that," said Yore. He continued to say that the price does not really matter. Couples are not the only teenagers that get gifts for each other. Emily Showers, sophomore, plans on getting her best friend Chelsea Wolfe, junior, a gift.

"I'm getting her Urban Decay makeup, eye shadow," said Showers. Showers will be spending a total of \$25.

They will be spending the same amount of money.

"She's getting me a porcelain baby called a Snow Baby," said Showers.

"She collects them and I get her one every year," said Wolfe. Wolfe will also be getting her friend, David Stafford from De La Salle High School, a gift.

"I'm getting him a tie blanket. It's going to be Michigan," said Wolfe. Her limit she will spend on him is \$40.

Sophomores Jacob Marlow, Ryan Telow, Austin Harvey, Gino Mini, Peter Owen, Jack Shannon and Brandon Vah call themselves the Lucky 7's. They will all be pitching in to get Austin Harvey's grandma, Mary Michele, a gift.

"She's really nice and buys us things with sentimental values," said Owen. They want to pitch in \$20 each.

"So at least \$150," said Mini. They would like to get her a day at the spa. Owen said she needs to relax.

"She's always worried because she has to worry about seven boys," said Mini.

Mrs. Mary Michele does a lot for those seven boys.

"She bought us so much at McDonald's one time they had to give her crates," said Owen. Austin Harvey said his friends getting her a gift is awesome.

"It's a great way to show their appreciation to my grandmother," said Harvey. Harvey said he will totally pitch in on the gift, except he does not agree with the spa gift.

"I don't think we should get her the spa gift. I think we should go over there and clean her house and do whatever she wants," said Harvey. Harvey also said she has provided a place to

chill and do whatever they want.

"I think it's in her personality; she's an overall great woman," said Harvey.

Not only are individuals getting each other gifts, but clubs are too. NHS, supervised by Mr. Rineer, have a white elephant gift exchange. It is where students go home and find something of theirs they do not want anymore and give them to another club member.

"One man's trash is another man's treasure," said Mr. Rineer. Mr. Rineer also said that it is more for the good time and just those who want to can do it.

Senior Sarah Brown participated last year in the white elephant gift exchange. She received pancake mix and syrup.

"I gave a little mug with candy canes and hot chocolate," said Brown. "I really liked it. We had pizza and pop and played a little game to exchange the gifts," said Brown.

Mr. Rineer would read a story and it said to either pass the gift left or right. Brown added that this year she wants to give something funny.

"Maybe a whoopee cushion," Brown said. The weirdest gift Brown said that was exchanged was a piggy bank that was wrapped in polka-dots.

Some teachers this Christmas will also be exchanging gifts.

US History and Math teacher Mrs. Wolfe said, "Typically, I don't get any gifts for staff." Recently though, Mrs. Wolfe and Mr. Murphy have exchanged gifts.

"A little token of my appreciation of my colleague," said Mrs. Wolfe.

Another great friend who will be getting their best friend a gift is Kaitlin Naber.

Kaitlin Naber, junior, will be getting her closest friend Krystal Geisler, junior, a gift for Christmas.

"I'm getting her a Topsy Terry. It's a towel that wraps around your head," said Naber. Naber will spend \$30 on Geisler.

Naber has dated J.J. Martin, class of 2011 RHS graduate, for almost a year. She is making him a baseball tie blanket and she bought him a watch.

"I got it on Black Friday, so it was only \$20 and I was going to get him shirts from Guess," said Naber. Overall, she has spent \$80 on her boyfriend.

The hottest gift this season is the tie blanket.

## New Year's resolutions

By: Jacob Marlow

Staff Writer

Every year, millions of people set their eyes on the one date: January 1 New Year's day. At midnight of December 31, many people make a New Year's Resolution. It is a promise to oneself to change their life in a positive way.

It is a goal in life, which helps better yourself in that year. It could be getting all A's, getting a scholarship or bettering yourself after you graduate. These are just a few resolutions.

Many people around the world make a New Year's Resolutions, but more than likely, the goal is not taken seriously and put off until the next year or the year after that.

According to Stephen Shapiro, the author of "Goal Free Living", a shown statistic shows about 34% of people make a resolution to money, 38% to weight loss, 31% to better a relationship, and 47% to self-improvement/education.

All these resolutions do not add up to over 100% because many people make more than one New Year's Resolution.

One out of those 47% that want to self-improve themselves is Derek Wyatt, freshman.

He said, "[I want to] better my grades because they are slipping a little, and if I don't get them up, I will not be eligible wrestle."

For students of all ages, better grades are on their minds.

This time of year, students are anxious for Christmas and the school break.

On many people's minds this year is to lose weight, look better, and as a result be more confident. John Betcher, sophomore, said these were his resolutions.

Loreal Gonzalez, sophomore, said, "I wanted to lose weight because it's never too late to get ready for bikini season."

Garrner Edwards, a senior wrestler, had slightly different resolutions. "I want to gain weight, because I lose it every day." Edwards' resolution last year was to lose weight, but only lasted a whopping three days.

Many people want to give up a type of food such as meat, junk food, candy or pop.

Emily Brown, sophomore, said, "I would like to give up candy, because I eat too much and it's hurting my figure." Brown's resolution last year was to give up ice cream, but it lasted two weeks.

Many people also want to make a change in

*Every year,  
millions of  
people set  
their eyes on  
the one date:  
January 1  
New Year's  
day.*

our society, such as taking racism out of the world. As Richmond High students saw "Rachel's Challenge," its main focus was to treat people with kindness. "Because people will never know how far a little kindness can go," wrote Rachel Scott.

Ryan Telow, a sophomore, wants to get rid of discrimination because he thinks it is bad. "I believe when you discriminate, it hurts their feelings," he said.

Research suggests that New Year's Resolutions are made to comfort people with a goal in life or for that year.

Many people take them very serious and many blow them off.

Psychology teacher Mr. Rineer said, "New Year's Resolutions are do-overs, reminders that we can always better ourselves and others."

He also thinks people make New Year's Resolutions because they want to better the world even if it starts with themselves.

Many other countries have their New Year's traditions. For example in the Netherlands, the Dutch burn Christmas trees in a huge bonfire on the streets and launch bright fireworks.

The fires are meant to purge the old and welcome the new. Spain's New Year's tradition is to eat 12 grapes at midnight. The tradition is meant to secure twelve happy months in the coming year, according to infoplease.com.

No matter what, New Year's Resolutions meant to make people happier and to help make the world a better place.

Telow's resolution echoed this idea. He said, "Don't discriminate against others, and stick up for one another."





# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Christmas traditions alive in Richmond

By: Emily Swantek  
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time of laughter and joy. People all around the world visit and celebrate "the empty the garbage."

Many families have that one special tradition they do every year during the Christmas Season.

Senior Bella Kesler said, "Every year large breakfast and then opens presents."

My sisters come in my room and attack me, so I will wake up and come open presents with them."

Sophomore Colleen Gaffney also enjoys her family's traditions. She said, "My family always watches the classic Christmas movies on

Christmas Eve and bake cookies. We watch *Year without a Santa Claus*, *White Christmas* and *Elf*."

She went on to say that afterward, they get ready to go to church at St. Augustine for the Midnight Mass.

"The Mass itself is beautiful. There are flowers and lights everywhere. It's not crowded, and it's long and tiring but it's worth it," said Gaffney.

Freshman Brad Pedri said that his family plays games on Christmas Eve with his family. "We play card games and LCR," said Pedri.

On Christmas, most people go visit their family, open presents and eat their favorite food.

### HOROSCOPES

By: Jessica Bilibrey & Lizzie Urban

**Capricorn**  
December 22-January 19

Hosting a party is a big responsibility, but you can handle whatever life throws at you. Family will be very pleased with the decorations, food and everything that you have accomplished. Be proud at what you have done.

Holiday character: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

**Aquarius**  
January 20-February 18

The holidays are right around the corner. You are extremely stressed, whether it's with putting up the tree, decorations, shopping for gifts, or even planning for a party. Your mind is all over the place today. Sitting by the fire and drinking hot cocoa is just what you need.

Holiday character: Mr. Heat Miser

**Pisces**  
February 19-March 20

Don't be surprised if you get a lot of great gifts this year, you deserve them! Your hard work and kindness to others has really payed off. Spreading holiday cheer was your goal, and you have achieved it.

Holiday character: Santa Claus

**Aries**  
March 21-April 19

This holiday season you're going to find yourself feeling like the Grinch. But don't be alarmed! Feelings of happiness and joy will soon arise sooner to the big day. Along with "grinchiness," you might feel a bit anxious before break. Homework: get it done so you don't have to be working when everyone else is playing outside in the snow.

Holiday Character: The Grinch

their family, open presents and eat platefuls of food.

Pedri said, "One of the first things we do on Christmas Day is clean, go to church and open gifts. I have to vacuum and the empty the garbage."

Junior foreign exchange student Daniel Meitinger said that his family comes to his house in Germany.

In Germany, Meitinger said he eats a large breakfast and then opens presents.

"I look forward to opening presents," said Meitinger. He also celebrates at his house with his cousins and eats.

We play card games and eat the Christmas dinner. My favorite food is duck," said Meitinger.

This year, he will be going with the Kesler's to their families houses. He said, "I'm excited to go with the Keslers to their families' houses this year, but I am also going to miss my family at home."

He also said his favorite thing about Christmas is opening gifts and eating all the food. His favorite food during Christmas is turkey and candy canes.

"We eat at my Grandma's house. She makes ham, turkey, corn, rolls and more," said Pedri.

Gaffney said, "In the morning, we open family presents between our immediate family, and then go to my grandma's house later."

She also said she always looks forward to opening presents and visiting family but mostly opening presents.

"My favorite presents I've ever received were my iPod, laptop and my bike. They are all things I use frequently," said Gaffney.

On Christmas Day, Kesler is going to open presents and go to church. "Every year after church we go to our grandparents' houses and open more presents there. Then we eat the food my Grandma prepares. It's sometimes scary to see what she makes because she likes to experiment."

She said her favorite food isn't from her grandmother, but her cousin's chocolate pretzel balls. She went on to say seeing her family is her favorite thing about Christmas.

When visiting with their families, there is never a dull moment.

At the Pedri house one year, his mother gave his Grandfather coal. "My grandpa thought it was real coal at first, but then he picked it up and started laughing. He was surprised," said Pedri.

There was no apparent reason that they bought it; they just wanted to play a practical joke.

The Kesler family died of laughter when their aunt opened her gift.

"Someone got her a skeleton body suit that zipped up all the way to the top of her head to her feet. It was kind of creepy," said Kesler. Her aunt was surprised to get something so random.

The Gaffney's 22-foot tree fell right before their eyes last year.

"Leya Gonzalez and I were sitting in the living room watching a movie and we heard it creaking. It started to tip and then fell over," said Gaffney.



**Virgo**  
August 24-September 22

The season of joy is in the air, but you're feeling a little blue. Hang out with friends and you will soon be having a ball with the fun and games of being around your buddies. Plan a holiday party and make cookies for fun. Just don't go overboard on the sweets or you will regret it later.

Holiday Character: Buddy, from Elf.

**Libra**  
September 23-October

Baking cookies for all your friends and family makes the holidays feel even better. Spreading the holiday cheer is something important to do and you're the best at the job. Keep on whistling those holiday classics and continue the uplift in everyone's season.

Holiday Character: Mrs. Clause

**Scorpio**  
October 23-November 21

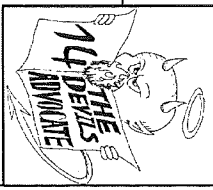
Your attitude lately has been one of happiness and enthusiasm for that special day coming up soon. However, you've been a bit obsessed with that new, exciting gift you're getting. Remember the true meaning of the holiday season and be happy with the idea of celebrating and spend time with family.

Holiday Character — Olive the Other Reindeer

**Sagittarius**  
November 22-December 21

The one thing you love most about the holidays is getting to make all those delicious treats! Cookies, cakes and pies are your specialty this year. Baking is fun, but eating them is much more fun. You will hear great feedback from friends and family.

Holiday character: Gingerbread Man



# The Blue Devil's Advocate

## Organizations give their help for holidays

By: Adam Boyd  
Staff Writer

With the holidays coming, some people are out decorating and partying. However, some people in various organizations are doing a lot more to help other people and our community in these hard times. These organizations are Key Club, SADD and NHS.

Key Club has been run by Mr. Murphy for about six years, since '05-'06. Key Club helps out the community to try to make this world a better place.

For example, the members of Key Club cleaned the school grounds and have done multiple Giving Tree drives throughout the years. The Drive's proceeds go to Turning Point. Turning Point is a shelter for abused women and children, which is located in Mount Clemens.

A giving tree is made by students making paper ornaments and writing an item that is needed and are hung onto a tree. All the items on the ornaments are needed by Turning Point. One may participate in this drive by taking an ornament off of the tree, buying the item that is on the ornament and putting the item under the tree.

Mrs. Williams, Media Center paraprofessional, loves the Giving Tree and said, "I think that it's a wonderful idea." Mrs. Williams often sees students every hour either taking an ornament or leaving the item under the tree. "I hope Key Club continues to do the Giving Tree. We put it up early hoping that Mr. Murphy will start early."

Mr. Murphy said, "I take the items to Turning Point. Then the people at Turning Point distribute them as a secret Christmas to the people in the shelter. Since the women and chil-

dren are abused, it's a good thing what RHS is doing." Key Club has been doing Giving Tree drives for about four years.

Key Club has other plans for the holidays. They did the Packaging Party at The Aud on December 4. About 20 RHS students and 15 key club members participated in this event.

At the Packaging Party the students in the event packaged pillows with sayings on them for members of the military in Iraq. RHS students made 125 pillows before the event.

"The kids really came through with flying colors. It was really nice to see all of them work," said Mr. Murphy.

In the upcoming months, Key Club is making dolls for children in hospitals. Mr. Murphy also hopes that other stuff will be done to help out the community. "I love seeing the kids making a difference in the community. It's truly amazing what the students are doing to the community," said Mr. Murphy.

Several NHS members bell rang for the Salvation Army. NHS advisor Mr. Rineer said, "NHS starts bell ringing the day after Thanksgiving, so the last week of November all the way till Christmas Eve." So far, about 15 students in NHS have bell rung, but it is open to all NHS members.

NHS has bell rung in the past. "This is the third year that I have done it and I know that Mr. Schleder had done it about nine years before I took over NHS. So about 12 years in

total," said Mr. Rineer. Mr. and Mrs. Frutin, the coordinators of the bell ringing event, are not doing it next year. So this is the last year that people will be bell ringing.

One Bell ringer was Dustin Pietercel, senior, who bell rung on November 12 and 19. Both times were at Kroger. Pietercel said, "I have bell rung all through my high school career. I bell rung because for the

first two years it was extra credit in Dr. Ladd's honors classes. The recent two years have been for NHS fundraising hours."

Bell ringing never bothered Pietercel. He said, "It made me feel good because I am helping out the community." Pietercel would do it again said but it is not very memorable; it's just cold.

Junior Kay Hafner also did something special during the season. On December 2 she sold newspapers for the Lions Club. She sold the newspapers to help NHS and Key Club. Hafner said, "I sold them at Kroger in the freezing cold." Hafner enjoyed selling the newspapers. She said, "It was fun, I got to talk to a lot of people."

Hafner sold newspapers for about two-and-a-half hours. Hafner said, "It was fun to work with the Lions Club because I got to do it with my amigos. I liked it because it showed how generous people can be. I will remember it because it was nice to be in the Christmas spirit and I froze for two-and-a-half hours."

Mr. Delore, SADD advisor, has been in charge of SADD for five years. SADD means Students

Against Destructive Decisions. Mr. Delore said, "We promote student safety and student decisions."

SADD is helping Shopping for Sandy's Kids.

Shopping for Sandy's Kids is a group of Richmond parents and teachers affiliated with the Richmond school district. They help students with financial problems.

SADD has been helping shopping for Sandy's Kids for six years. Mr. Delore hopes to continue helping Sandy's kids. Mr. Delore said, "SADD will sponsor a family and provide detailed Christmas lists. Then SADD goes out, buys and distributes the gifts."

In accordance to the holidays, SADD also just helped MCREST. MCREST stands for Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team. MCREST's goal is to provide homeless and displaced individuals the opportunity for successful transition to independence. Mr. Delore enjoys working with the kids and community through SADD.

Mr. Olsen, RHS principal, believes that it's important to volunteer. He said, "I believe that volunteering has educational value to it. It's a way to give back to the community and a way to help others."

Mr. Olsen thinks that the various school organizations are doing a great job with how much is going on. His opinion on people volunteering is that everyone should volunteer. He said, "It's a great idea. There is no harm in giving time or money to a charity. The United States is the biggest volunteering country in the world. It's part of who we are."

# Santa says, "Ho, Ho, Ho! Yearbooks Make a Great Gift!"

## Bring an \$80 check made out to RHS to Mr. Murphy.

# The Blue Devil's Advocate

2012,  
con't from pg 11

Altmore felt that California would go first. He also felt that a massive earthquake would flood the U.S and the rest of the world would start to fall apart. Zarkowski felt it would be some kind of gas, possibly too much carbon.

"There are too many ways the world could end, possibly volcanic activity," said Mrs. Gabridge. Mrs. Gabridge went on to add how the volcanoes would destroy the Earth. She said, "The pyro-clastic material would block out the sun. We wouldn't have sunlight. We wouldn't be able to grow foods, and respiratory problems would make people sick and our population would die from starvation unless we adapted or created foods which would still be unhealthy." Lafata agreed with Mrs. Gabridge. She also felt that it is going to be a lot of volcanoes as strong as they can be, along with very powerful earthquakes. Some people feel we could maybe stop this from happening, possibly by cutting back on fossil fuels and reducing carbon dioxide use.

"If's nature. Maybe NASA can find a way around it if something even happens," said Robertson.

Some people see the end of the world being a time where we should change our ways. Altmore added, "If it world could end, possibly volcanic activity," said Mrs. Gabridge

was the sun killing us one by one we could stop it by lowering pollution, such as riding cars together." Zarkowski said we should stop using fossil fuels and invent new ways and other resources to use.

"I think we're pretty advanced in science and technology. So if we knew the cause we'd do our best," Mrs. Gabridge said.

Mrs. Underwood would hope we could stop it, but also feels it depends on what happens. Mrs. Gabridge sees the Mayan calendar as the key, since it's supposed to repeat. She feels that people are missing that point.

Mrs. Underwood said, "They were brilliant people, whose mathematical skills were phenomenal. They had a different cycle than us. But it worked well for them."

## Breaking for Christmas

By: Melissa Resk  
Advertising Editor

'Tis the season to be jolly and spend time with friends and family. Christmas Break will provide students opportunities to travel far distances to be with the ones they love. The Holidays are also an opening for plenty of charities and ways for students to help the community.

Family members may be coming home for the Holidays as well.

Rochelle Raska, senior, is awaiting the time she gets to see her brother, Christopher, Class of 2011. He soon will be home from Boot Camp, where he trains to become part of the military. From December 21 till January 2, Rochelle will be reunited with her brother for the first time since September 21.

He is also going to his Boot Camp's Mechanical Tech School in Wichita Falls, Texas while he is away from his family.

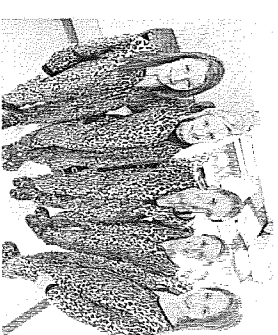
"Since the last time I saw him, I've known he was coming," said Raska. She continued to say she was overjoyed and couldn't wait to see him. She hopes to go snowboarding and snowmobiling with him and make the most of this holiday with her brother.

She and her family bought him a laptop, but Raska said she brought herself for the Christmas present to her brother. "My mom's gonna cry for

She also said, "It's interesting that people focus so much on something negative instead of putting that energy towards something more positive, such as benefiting mankind instead of focusing on our destruction."



### Christmas Spirit Week



Top left picture: Alex Albers, junior. Top right: Sophomores, Emily Brown, Shelby Tschigfrey, Heather Brucei, Carissa Rumps, & Haley Schweiger.



Bottom Left: Juniors, Ashley Barrett, Anna Ottenbacher, Taylor Job, and Senior Melissa Graham.

sees his cousins aside from Christmas. "My favorite part is not having school and getting to chill without teachers bothering me about homework," said Graham.

Alana Schroeder, freshman, is not only going up north to Lewiston, MI with her friends and family; she is also participating in the Giving Tree at her church. Holy Family Parish, located in Memphis, has an annual Giving Tree that contains items for families in need. Most of the families are from the parish and greatly appreciate it.

"We have to get a coat for a little girl and pants for two little boys," said Schroeder. "I love to help the families that go to our church, especially the ones in need."

Mr. Germain, math and biology teacher, is another one of those people who will continue his family traditions locally through the Christmas season. Ever since he lived in Marysville, he has taken his four children to Birchwood Mall in Port Huron to visit Santa.

His children do not necessarily match their outfits. Mr. Germain simply ensures they are all Christmas related.

While his children grow up, some of them went through the 'crying phase'. According to Mr. Germain, when they were two or three, they cried when seeing Santa, but now he can go to the mall tear-free. After the family visits Santa, they traditionally go to the food court at the mall.

Mr. Germain said, "The funniest thing they asked for was a new house for Christmas." His kids ended up getting their wish; it wasn't until that summer that they eventually moved.

# Want to save your memories of high school?

## Buy a Yearbook!

Bring an \$80 check made out to RHS to Mr. Murphy

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December 16, 2011