

Features and News

SNOWcoming

By: Peter Owen
News/Advertising Editor

Girls in short dresses and high heels and guys with suits walked through the winter wonderland into Richmond High School Saturday night, February 1, in hopes of a great dance.

Crazy amounts of snow hit Richmond the week of Snowcoming especially the day of the dance. Up to eight inches of snow fell leaving citizens trapped in their homes.

It is tradition for Richmond to have Spirit Week in the high school before each dance. The extreme conditions interfered with Spirit Week substantially.

Instead of participating in cool events such as Pajama Day and Blue and White Day, students and teachers sat patiently at home in the winter wonderland.

Students were out of school for six days. They had a lot of time to study for the exams they were supposed to take the previous Friday.

After all the snow-days, the first semester was finally over. Students and faculty could now progress with new material after a major setback.

"The snow-days were nice because it was very relaxing, but I wanted to get my exams over with," said senior Gino Mini.

Friday was a shortened schedule because of all the Snowcoming festivities at the end of the day including the crowning of the king and queen of each grade.

Instead of the normal student body vote, Student Government members had to come up with an effective yet fair way to elect the nominees.

Member of Student Government and senior Melissa Resk said, "We got together and started talking about ideas for the theme. We went online and came across this idea which worked out very well."

Nominees played a game that would pick the winner of each grade.

They had to race to a chair that had a bag underneath each seat. When they opened the bag, whoever had the rose was the winner.

For the freshmen, Martin Gallardo and Emma Caperton were victorious.

Gallardo said, "The way we were picked was okay. It was very different from the

other years but it was still creative."

Sophomore winners were Trevor Barrett and Olivia VanHove, while the junior winners were Kevin Maas and Jill Shrader.

"I was surprised and happy to see that I won," said Schrader.

And finally, winners for the seniors were Jacob Thomas and Kayde Hambaum.

Thomas said, "I would have preferred a student body vote, but I guess it was something different that turned out good for me."

Now that the winners were chosen, it was time to play the game that got the whole student body involved.

Resk said, "We wanted to get the students more involved and excited for Snowcoming."

Winners had to find people from each category. Some categories were to find a student with braces, glasses, black hair and so on.

This game was fun for everyone and did its purpose by getting everybody involved.

It was time for Richmond to play Armada at Armada. It is not usual that a Snowcoming game is played on an opponent's court.

This had to be done because the weekend of February 1 was the only time the gym was not occupied by a sports program.

The only other way RHS could have Snowcoming in the big gym was to wait a month when it is finally open and not in use.

The girls' team played a tough game against Armada in Armada. They lost but they put up a good fight

The boys team, however, had a great game against the Tigers and won.

"It was great to get one more final victory against Armada in my final season," said senior Dustin Leach.

After a great win, it was time for everyone to get some sleep and prepare for the festivities the next day.

It was announced at school that there would be a meeting at 3 the day of the dance determining whether or not the dance will still be on or cancelled due to severe weather.

A lot of questions went around debating whether or not the dance would be cancelled.

Junior Kate Nezych said, "It ran across my mind that it would get cancelled, but I figured they would keep it and leave it up to the students if they wanted to drive in the weather."

Nobody knew for sure if the dance was going to be closed. It was not very promising by the rate of snowfall all day but everyone still had to be prepared if it wasn't cancelled.

follows Valentine's Day is the act of PDA, or public display of affection.

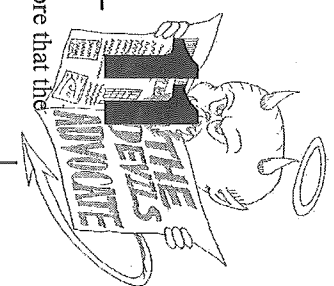
Most people find an act of affection in public unnecessarily annoying. "Unless it's cute, don't do it. Holding hands and stuff like that is fine. Anything else is just too much for public," said Seguin.

But aside from the annoying displays of affection, there are some beautiful parts of the holiday. Gift giving – the very thought just seems adorable.

Saying, "I love you" through a box of chocolates or a simple slushy is a timeless tradition that will never get old. It's the very thought behind the gift that's enticing. The fact that the person who bought it for you took the time and money to think of a way to show their love, even more than usual, is something worth getting excited for.

"I would love to get a gift because it shows just how much you're on the mind of someone else," said Woodruff. It's one of the best parts of Valentine's Day. You get to know you made an impression in the mind of someone else. Even for a little while.

However, as cute as it is to celebrate this holiday with a loved one – whether it be



It was announced on Twitter by Mr. Delore that the dance was still on.

Administration decided that they would not reschedule and left it up to the parents or students if they want to make the trip to the school.

Everyone was ecstatic to hear the news.

At the dance, students were shy to get out onto the dance floor. Many complained about how the music choice wasn't the greatest.

Once everybody settled in, however, everybody was dancing to every song.

Junior Jackie Olko said, "The dance was a lot of fun. Dancing with all my friends was probably the most fun."

The King and Queen of each grade did their traditional dance in front of the student body.

A lot of country music was played. One may think that it would be appealing to our school, but many students thought it was too much.

Martin Gallardo said, "The music was okay. I got a bloody nose so I had to skip out on a couple of the songs. But for the most part, I liked the music."

Students were very thankful for all the work that had to be put into the dance. Without the help of students and faculty, the dance would not have been able to happen.

Overall, Snowcoming went as planned and the student body enjoyed it very much.

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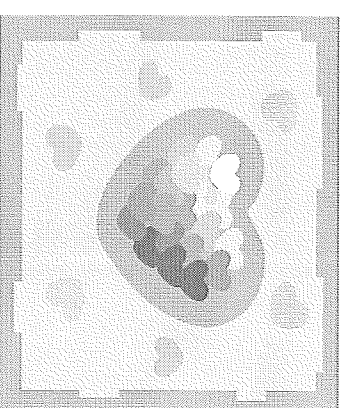
curled up watching movies or going out to a nice restaurant – some people don't mind spending the holiday without that.

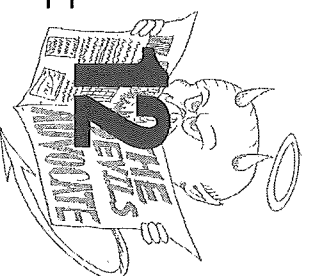
As much fun as it is to be the couple walking down the hallway, sometimes it's even more fun to be the girl behind the locker door, watching them pass by. Sure, she may be sad at times, but she'll be able to shrug it off and have a good laugh with her friends when she gets home.

You don't need a relationship to be happy.

You don't need a relationship to happily spend Valentine's Day.

"You don't need someone else to define you," said Seguin.





WORD SEARCH

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HOROSCOPES

Pisces- February 19- March 20th

You're in major need of a vacation. Your busy schedule has you forgetting things and feeling on edge lately. Take a weekend for yourself and spend some quality time catching up on your tv shows or your book list.

Music Fix: Pentatonix

Aries: March 21 – April 29

Stop trying to please everyone with your decisions. Listen to your own gut and do what it's telling you.

Music Fix: Mumford and Sons

Taurus: April 20 – May 20

Your opinions have gotten you in trouble more than once this year. While it's 100% okay to have our own opinions realize that you could hurt someone with a certain view point. Consider your surroundings before unleashing your thoughts onto the world again.

Music Fix: Bastille

Gemini- May 21- June 20

You've been feeling annoying and irritated with well, everyone. Take a break from those feelings by weeding out the things that are causing those feelings.

Music Fix: Imagine Dragons

Cancer- June 21-July 22

You've been nicknamed grumpy by your friends. Do something that you know will life your spirits. And don't forget to smile. After all, things could be worse.

Music Fix: Fun.

Leo- July 23 – August 22

Strive to be content with your life right now. You don't necessarily like what life's been giving you but you're slowly learning to roll with the punches.

Music Fix: The Script

Virgo: August 23 – September 22

Life seems pretty good to you in recent weeks. You feel happy with school and your friends are treating you great. Pass on the positivity to others around you and you soon will feel everyone's moods lift up when you're around.

Music Fix: CHVRCHES

Libra: September 23 – October 22

Look at things differently this week. Notice thing that you wouldn't otherwise. A change of thinking can have a huge impact on your life.

Music Fix: One Republic

Scorpio: October 23 – November 21

Try something new today that you wouldn't normally try. After all, opposites attract.

Music Fix: Marina and the Diamonds

Sagittarius- November 22- December 21

While there are a lot of perks to being a wallflower, (great book I might add) put yourself out there and find something you hadn't been realizing you were searching for.

Music Fix: The Fray

Capricorn- December 22- January 19

It's okay to not be okay sometimes, but don't let one event affect your mood forever. Jump back up and remember, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

Music Fix: Grouplove

Aquarius- January 20- February 18th

Strike up conversation with someone you wouldn't normally talk to. A friendship or something more could stem from that endeavor.

Music fix: Coldplay

Confidence on the Court

Continued from page 5

thing to have, but cocky athletes make the game more interesting. The media gets more out of cocky athletes. I like professional athletes that put true emotion into the game," said Ottenbacher.

Out of all the major professional sports, Ottenbacher says football has the most trash talk.

"It's tough. It really comes down to the NBA and NFL and I would have to say football because you here and see more of it on television. With football they have replays after every play and inside cameras with microphones. Because the NFL only plays once a week, unlike basketball, the media is able to talk about a single story all week too," said Ottenbacher.

Ottenbacher, a varsity football player at RHS, appreciates trash talk in sports to a certain degree.

There is a lot of trash talk between every play in football. Refs are always trying to separate players and break up arguments. I say trash talk is part of the game but it gets brought out by the passion athletes have," said Ottenbacher.

Although having confidence is important, RHS athletes do their best of showing sportsmanship without giving too much emotion.

"Sportsmanship is great for sports because it creates character. It makes your team, your coaches, and your school look good," said Schweiger.

Fenwick and Trappiss also agree. "You really need to have a middle ground in order to be successful. You have to be able to

show emotions but have sportsmanship at the same time," said Trappiss.

Fenwick says athletes should speak when they are asked to.

"You really should only speak out when you are asked to or when you are spoken about," said Fenwick.

Schweiger says sportsmanship only makes sports more enjoyable.

"I respect athletes who show sportsmanship. When athletes are respectful it makes the game more fun to play."

exciting and bitter. The exciting part is that you get to help lead the team, and move on from high school and experience new things. The bitter part is that you have to leave friends behind, and all you have left is memories."

When one becomes a senior, time seems to fly. Dustin Leach said, "It's really fun. Time goes by a lot faster when you're a senior."

The seniors play a role on the team by helping lead the team.

Coach Barnes, the Varsity Basketball Coach said, "The seniors show up every day, work hard consistently, and set a good example for the younger players."

There aren't really named captains on the team either.

Barnes said, "In a perfect world, there are 13 senior captains. On the team, everyone is a follower and a leader. You can only hope everyone does the right things. Everyone is a leader and everyone is a follower on the team."

They have developed since their freshman year as well.

Barnes said, "In all cases, their skill set has expanded. They can do things now that they couldn't do. Their offensive and defensive skill has gotten good."

Leach said, "I have become a more all-around player by practicing all the skills I was weaker at."

Senior, Jake Thomas believes he has improved as well.

Thomas said, "My shot has gotten a lot better and I have more tools I can use. The more I played, the more the game has slowed down for me."

Stafford has made his way from being cut at De La Salle to varsity.

Stafford said, "As a player, I was cut from the De La Salle team, and now I made varsity at Richmond. I worked hard in the summer and developed skills to get onto varsity."

Overall the seniors have developed and have become better players for Richmond.

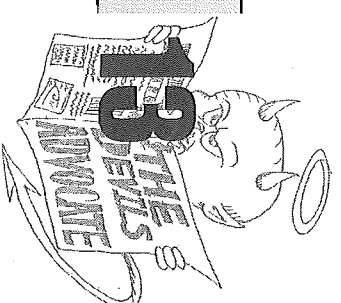
Learning life lessons and skills is also an important part of sports and these seniors have learned some important lessons.

Jake Thomas said, "Basketball has given me ways to persevere through obstacles, go through challenges. People who do sports are more likely to succeed. Everyone should to do something extracurricular." The seniors play a good role with the team chemistry of the team. It's one of the things they are good at.

Barnes said, "The team chemistry on the team is pretty good. Everyone is responsible and are solid contributors and the seniors help keep things loose when they need to be."

Keeping good team chemistry is important when it comes to playing on the court.

The seniors are also doing things to make their senior year the best.



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The seniors are also doing things to make their senior year the best.

Jake Thomas said, "I just enjoyed it, enjoyed everyone, and tried to have fun."

Coach Barnes set up Senior Night to reward them for their hard work.

Barnes said, "It was a nice way to reward them for a lot of the hard work they have put into the program. You can

never do enough to reward them. There's always a negative that they receive and it's always good to do something nice for them."

Seniors enjoyed the recognition as well.

Stafford said, "It was a great experience. We got to see all the seniors play on the court that night including the girls. It will be a memory all seniors will remember."

They would also give advice to the juniors who will be seniors next year.

Thomas said, "Enjoy every bit of it, the ups and even the downs. Just enjoy being with the team."

Having fun and enjoying the sport is what these seniors want to do. It is their last year, and they're trying their best to enjoy it and get the most out of it. The hard work has paid off for them as well.

Thomas said, "I've been a part of the basketball program since sixth grade. It has made me enjoy basketball. It's all been worth it."

Balling it up

By: Xavier Nuckles
Opinion Co-Editor

Senior year.

The last year some will ever have to attend RHS. For some of the basketball players, it will be the last time they leave it all on the court.

Jake Thomas, David Stafford, and Dustin Leach are the three seniors for this year's RHS Men's Basketball team.

The three seniors play different parts on the team. Jake Thomas plays shooting guard or point guard, Dustin Leach operates as a forward, and Stafford plays forward.

As the basketball season wraps, these seniors are preparing for the last few games they will ever play for Richmond.

David Stafford said, "Being a senior is both exciting and bitter. The exciting part is that you get to help lead the team, and move on from high school and experience new things. The bitter part is that you have to leave friends behind, and all you have left is memories."

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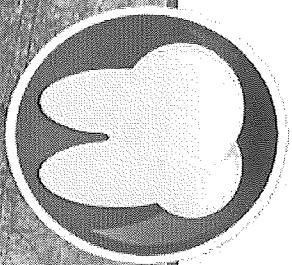
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- Coach Barnes

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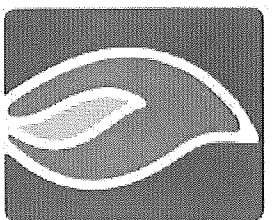
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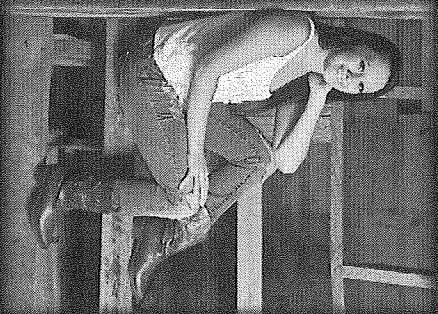
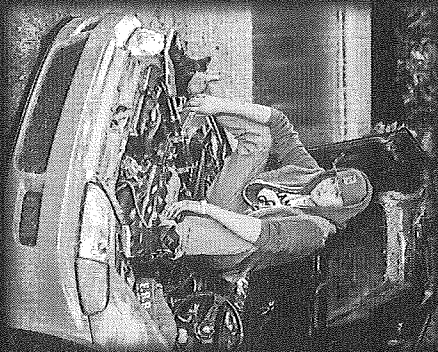
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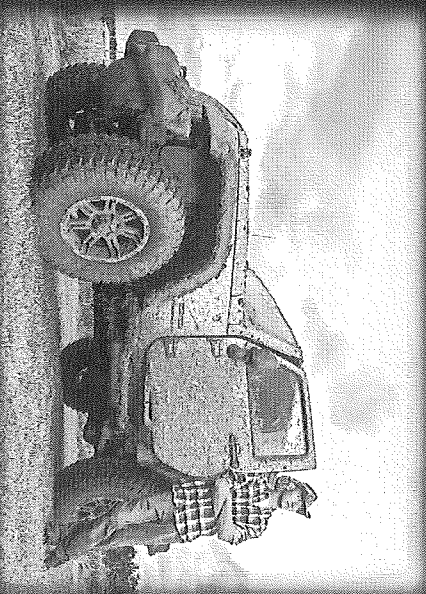
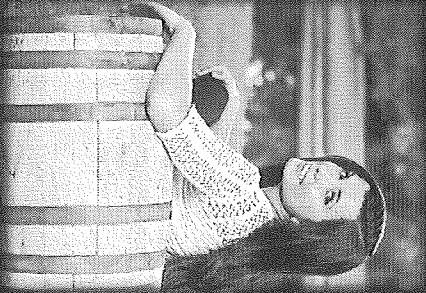
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