

RHS Alumni in the news

Blue and White together make a rainbow of help

By: Samantha Schaffer
Opinion Editor

Painting her own path

The paths of life are strange, beautiful things that take on so many different colors and shapes. Like all RHS students, alumnus Haley Betcher's path has a section that looks like a Blue Devil.

After graduating with the Class of 2010, Betcher packed up her art supplies and headed down to Detroit. She is currently a senior at the College for Creative Studies (CCS) and is working toward a Bachelor's of Fine Arts with a concentration in illustration.

Betcher said, "I truly enjoy drawing and illustration was the only major that catered to something I was already good at."

Even though Betcher said she thought CCS and illustrating was the right fit for her, it was not her first choice.

"I experienced a lot of self-doubt going to CCS. I wanted to be an art teacher, but it wasn't right for me because education wouldn't have let me be as creative as I wanted to be," Betcher said.

Even though being an art teacher didn't quite fit, Betcher has a few more ideas about her future.

"I'm not really sure what I want to do. I have been thinking about the children's textile industry and the greeting card industry. Those are the only two careers that I am really thinking about pursuing long-term," Betcher said.

Before these aspirations can become reality, she has to finish school. CCS is a rigorous program that trains students in multiple mediums for up to six-hour sessions.

Betcher said, "I have done a little bit of everything. I have done things like graphic design, photography, typography, print making, ceramics and different types of painting, but my main focus right now is traditional drawing in graphite and acrylic painting."



Betcher converses with fellow volunteers. She, along with other College for Creative Studies, went to Haiti last year. In March, she will be returning.

Helping in The D

Betcher has taken her skills and channeled them into community service.

"My freshman year I painted a couple murals: one in a church in Detroit and the other in a children's mental health facility in Royal Oak," Betcher said.

Both of these volunteer projects were through community service organizations at CCS and were performed in the summer of 2011.

Betcher said, "There were few people who were willing to take on the project in the summer, so I stayed on campus and took on both."

She painted the mural in the children's mental health facility by herself. The design featured many natural elements like trees and flowers and was meant to aid in treatment therapy. She worked on it five days a week for a month and a half.

Betcher painted the church mural—a scene focused on the church's commitment to gardening—with little help and was completed in two weeks.

Painting isn't the only way Betcher has helped.

"Our school is very intense, so we try to do smaller projects like planting trees and working in soup kitchens. We are trying to amp up our volunteer work in Detroit. We have a group of artists who help in their own way."

This is particularly true for Betcher's next project.

She is collecting cardboard boxes that will be sent to the Apparent Project in Haiti.

"[The Apparent Project] take the cardboard boxes, break them down, and cut them into tiny paper strips to make paper beads. They make necklaces, bracelets and earrings along

with many other products that [Haitians] then can sell for income," Betcher said.

This is just the beginning of Betcher's adventures to Haiti.

Making a world of difference

Betcher's path of life doesn't just feature a Blue Devil; it also looks a little bit like Haiti.

"Haiti is a truly beautiful place with great people. There is such a strong sense of pride and community and people's willingness to help one another is

unlike anything I had ever seen," Betcher said of her first experience in Haiti last year.

After being enchanted by Haiti the first time, Betcher decided to return this year.

Betcher said, "I just had to do it. I wanted to experience what I experienced last year, so I signed up and did it again."

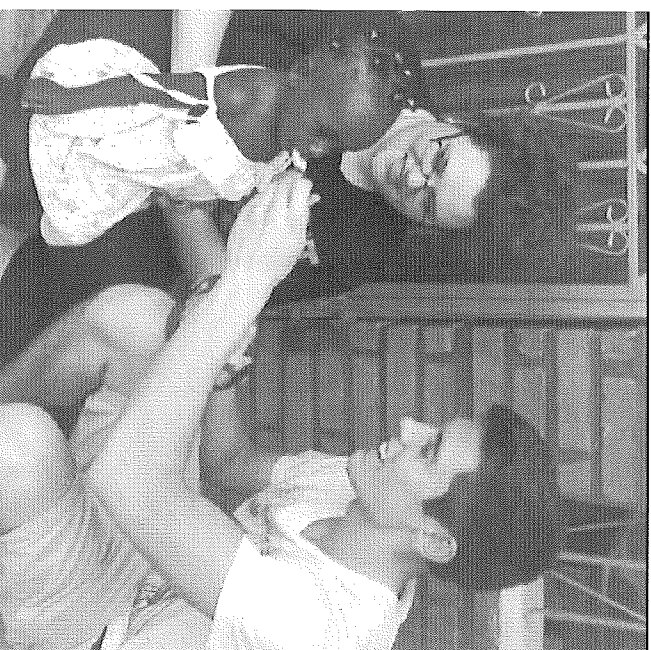
On March 9, she will begin her week long adventure at the Notre Maison orphanage just outside of Haiti's capital city, Port Au Prince. This is where she will eat, sleep and get to know the 50 orphaned children, many of whom are mentally or physically disabled and do not speak English.

Much of her time was spent at the orphanage with the children.

"My favorite memory from Haiti was on the first day around dinner time. There was this little girl who was about one-year-old, and my friend had never held or fed a baby before. It was so sweet," Betcher said.

Although there are many inconveniences while volunteering in a third world country, the conditions might not be as bad as they seem. Betcher said, "The weather there is super sunny and super warm. I don't think there was a day last year that it was lower than about 84 out. As for living conditions, they are pretty nice. We all have a bed, and are fed breakfast and a home cooked dinner each day. There is a limited supply of water because of malaria threats, so most of us only get to shower once."

These inconveniences are easily remedied with light colored clothing and bandanas for the heat and extra



Former RHS student Haley Betcher and a friend help feed a young Haitian in 2013. (Photo courtesy of Betcher.)

toothbrushes and baby wipes for the water issues.

According to Betcher, safety is also not an issue.

"I'm not at all worried about safety. We have translators who are also police and firemen with us at all times. They notify the police where we are traveling each day so if we do run into any issues we will be taken care of. But the Haitian people are so friendly that we have never had a problem," Betcher said.

When she is not at the orphanage, she will use her creativity to help the artists of Haiti create art out of the limited resources that are available to them.

"We are going down with the intention of teaching art as a form of income, which means we will be meeting with local artists and organizations and working with them on developing and improving their skills to make their art more successful and effective," Betcher said.

Last year, Betcher and her fellow CCS student volunteers focused on teaching Haitian artists to use recycled book bindings in their artwork. They also worked on developing skills in origami, paper-making for books and pottery.

Betcher said, "Their ability to adapt and learn new things so quickly was amazing to see. They truly value learning, which I think is something that really stuck with me."

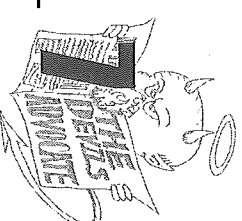
The Haitian artists aren't the only ones benefiting from the trip.

"The students from CCS and myself are also benefiting. We get to go down there and experience their culture and expand our own artwork. They do things different there than we do here in the US," Betcher said.

The people of Haiti have made a permanent mark on Betcher's life path.

Betcher said, "I love the Haitian people; the way they communicate and respect each other... I just can't not go back."

In Our Opinion



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Mission Statement
Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

Letters
We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

Staff Editorial: Beat the "winter blahs"

"Everybody loves winter, until it goes on forever. Then you a little something called the winter blahs."

Many people would have heard the main character Frankie from the TV show, The Middle, say that while sitting in their living room, under several blankets, and agreeing readily.

That quote would be a good thing to show our extended visitor: Jack Frost. He came by around Thanksgiving and lost his plane ticket back to the North Pole.

Richmond: Always Winter, Never Christmas

People thinking of this past Christmas may have it seem like it was ages ago because this winter has drawn on for so long. Weeks and weeks of subzero temperature makes spring seem like it's never coming.

Heck, even on groundhogs day it was foretold we were going to have an additional six weeks of winter.

Fingers are freezing as our newspaper team types their articles and we can hardly imagine how we're going to stand another 6 weeks.

Honestly, even a 40 degree day would be acceptable. Anything that won't have your teeth chattering every time you walk out the door. Our poor dogs

come in from outdoors, barely able to step down on their paws because they're so cold from walking out in the icy snow.

We almost missed out on going to Snowcoming had it been cancelled, because of the road conditions being so awful.

Several times over the past weeks, people walk out to their cars in six inches of snow. Regardless of the fact that someone shoveled just the night before.

Since there's no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

Except there are places to go. School, work, social events.

Mark Twain once said, "Everybody always talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

Well here's something you can do about it, make the most out of it. Find out about winter activities you can do around your town. Or perhaps go out and build an igloo. Its cold enough and we have enough snow for it.

Maybe have your neighbors hire you to do their driveways while you're shoveling your own...again.

It just keeps coming down. But that doesn't mean we have to let it bring us down with it.

Is the price tag worth it?

By: Dylan Yore
Sports Editor

When the first week of February comes around, do you look forward to the Super Bowl or the commercials that come along with it? I look forward to hysterical commercials companies pay millions of dollars for to air on television for a short period of time.

According to the website MarketCharts.com, "The average cost of a 30-second Super Bowl spot has exceeded \$3 million in the past couple of years, and is expected to hit \$4 million this year."

This seems funny to me because the commercials may be funny, but do they actually make people want to buy these products? According to study from Communics, "Only 1 in 5 Super Bowl ads sell products."

If I was going to pay millions of dollars to advertise my product for a short period of time, I would expect that product to sell like the world was going to end!

According to Kantar Media's Finding, "Last year, the average Super Bowl commercial had an audience size that was 1.6% bigger than the average audience for the game."

More people may tune into commercials, but this does not mean that

the laughs they seek make them want to purchase the advertisement that is being shown.

According to an NRF survey, "Almost 8 in 10 respondents view the commercials as entertainment, with far fewer indicating that they make them aware of advertiser brands (16.9%), influence them to buy products from the advertisers (8.6%) or influence them to search online for more information (8%)."

All in all, the viewers look forward to the commercials for entertainment instead of actually being informed about the product for personal use.

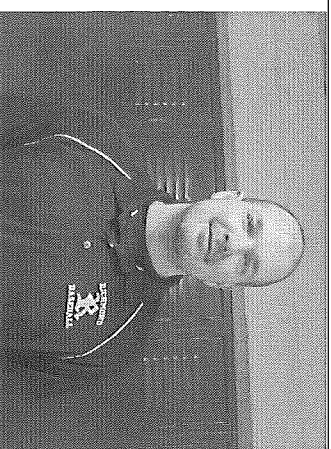
80% of the people didn't necessarily care of buying the product. The game and commercials that internix make millions of dollars combined together.

The question is which is the most anticipated? I solely watch for the entertainment of the commercials, although, their price tag doesn't always end up with the outcome these willing-to-pay companies want.

Question of the Week

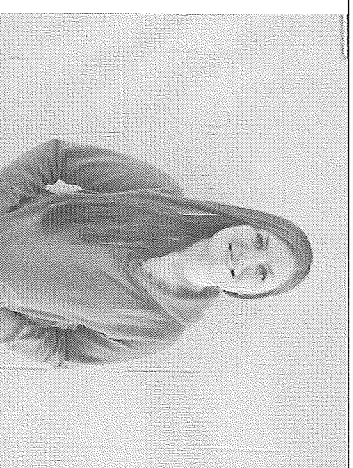
~*~
What celebrity would you want to be your VALENTINE?

Staff



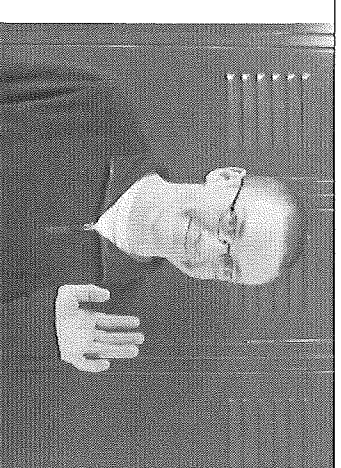
Mr. Bloink stays loyal to his wife, of course.

Senior



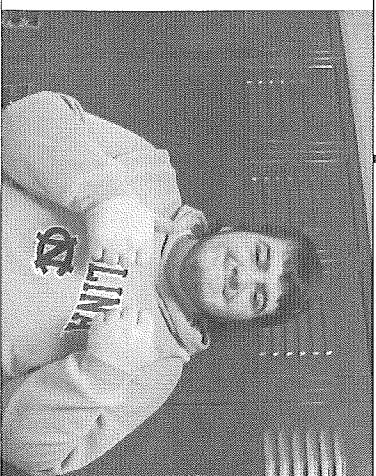
Olivia Franz is a little bit smitten with Adam Levine.

Junior



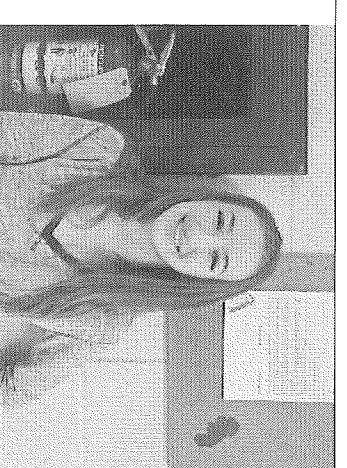
Parker Tread is looking for a little Bro-mance with Bradley Cooper.

Sophomore

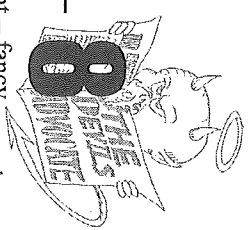


Jake Stewart has his eye on Megan Fox.

Freshman



Lauren Duche has a special Valentine for Channing Tatum.



Beliebers Baffled with Bieber

By: Beth Beindit
Staff Writer

A teenage heartthrob has turned into a jail bird. The 19-year-old singer is finding out what the real-world is all about.

And it's happened all in one week.

Justin Bieber was charged with drunken driving, resisting arrest and driving without a valid license after police saw the pop star street racing in his yellow Lamborghini early Thursday morning on January 23, according to Miami Beach police.

It turns out Bieber wasn't just drunk. Tests showed he had prescription drugs and marijuana in his system.

Hours later, Bieber sat in front of the judge awaiting the decision of the \$2,500 bond set for him.

A short time later, Bieber was released from a Miami jail. He walked out in all black, and had the guts to sit on the top of the black Cadillac he was getting into, to smile and wave to fans much like Michael Jackson did when he was released from jail as well.

I know you're thinking: Why is he waving? He just got out of jail. Is he proud of being arrested or something?

The trouble has not stopped there.

Days later, Bieber was accused of assault of a limousine driver in December last year. After hearing about the charges, Bieber turned himself

in at a local Toronto police station which was surrounded by a mixture of journalists and screaming fans, who waited in cold temperatures for over an hour.

Toronto police say the assault occurred on December 29, 2013 when the driver picked up Bieber and his friends from a night club.

According to CBC Canadian News, the Toronto police said in a statement, "While driving the group to a hotel, an altercation occurred between one of the passengers and the driver of the limousine."

It added, "In the course of the altercation, a man struck the limousine driver on the back of the head several times. The driver stopped the limousine, exited the vehicle and called police. The man who struck him left the scene before police arrived."

Bieber is also being sued by photographer Jeffrey Binton, who claims Bieber "instructed his bodyguard to attack him and steal his camera". Binton says the attack occurred last June while the famous pop star was leaving a recording studio in Miami.

Although there has been no court hearing, Binton and his lawyers are waiting for a deposition date to be set.

In early January, Bieber's neighbor complained that Bieber had thrown eggs at his house causing more than \$20,000 in damage. Local police searched Bieber's house for any clues that could convict him of this only to find a form of ecstasy, which led to the arrest of Bieber's friend, Lil Za.

Bieber simply paid his bail and continued on with life. Celebrities make a more than sufficient

living and can buy whatever they want – fancy cars, name-brand clothes, etc.

Bieber probably thinks he can do anything he wants since he has money. His bond was only set at \$2,500 for the drunk driving incident — chunk change for the pop-star. More than likely, he figures he can just pay it off and continue on in his deceptive/dangerous ways.

Just because he's a celebrity doesn't excuse what he did. By getting into that yellow Lamborghini intoxicated and under the influence, he not only put his life in danger, but the lives of the people around him.

And that is not okay.

Every day, another 28 people die from drunk driving, according to Madd.org.

But Bieber isn't the only celebrity that has run into a downward spiral.

Lindsey Lohan.

Britney Spears.

Miley Cyrus.

They are some well-known celebrities who have dealt with drug and alcohol problems in the spotlight.

To be sure, everyone makes mistakes, but we need to use them as a learning experience so we don't repeat our past mistakes.

Hopefully, Bieber will go to rehab with intentions of sewing his head back on straight.

If Justin Bieber doesn't change now, his fame will crumble and his precious fan-base "The Beliebers" will be left in the cold.

Curriculum director

Continued from page 1

Odyssey of the Mind encourages educational leaders across the United States and 25 other countries to problem solve.

According to Odyssey of the Mind's website, "Team members [that] apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level."

He has worked with this organization since high school and believes it will help provide insight and advice to better Richmond.

Although Mr. Birkmeier's attendance at extracurricular events has been halted due to the birth of his son, John, you should see him at many of the Richmond events soon. "I am a huge proponent of extracurricular activities and believe that they are vital in a well-rounded education," he said.

Here at Richmond

He said, "It was hard to leave and come here, but the opportunity to have a position here outweighed my decision."

L'Ans Creuse Central has about 1,700 kids in the building and the district has a total of 11,500 students. Although Richmond has 633 students at the high school this year and 1,705 in the district, Mr. Birkmeier said it gave him the chance to work on his leadership.

"I have a deep love for Richmond. I was happy to become part of the district. I love a strong community and I think Richmond has one," continued Mr. Birkmeier.

He said Richmond is a very strong district with very dedicated teachers that do everything they can to make Richmond the best it can be.

"We have a lot of big things coming up for the school—the bond, technological advances, infrastructure," said Mr. Birkmeier. He said as a school they are going to focus on how to change the classroom, whether it is curriculum, student

interaction or physical features.

As for the bond, Mr. Birkmeier is eager to see the changes coming. "I am excited about the possibilities and doors it is opening for us. Having a 1:1 technology initiative along with cutting edge science classroom and other updated facilities is going to make us one of the top districts in the county and I look forward to doing my part in helping reach that goal," he said.

However, Mr. Birkmeier isn't just in charge of setting the curriculum for the school; his job includes many responsibilities that he has to fulfill on a daily basis.

"My role varies every day so you have to be flexible," added Mr. Birkmeier. "I deal a lot with state mandates, county-wide meetings, professional development with districts and budget for curriculum items."

Recently, Mr. Birkmeier visited various middle school science labs to gather ideas for the new science labs that are going to be placed in the Middle School.

"Starting this semester, I'll be in classrooms a lot more. My goal is to work with teachers and listen to lessons," he said. "I believe every student can learn. It's our role to bring out the best in a student and instill ideas to ensure lifelong learning goals."

Robotics

Continued from page 1

The Chairman's Award is a prestigious award among the robotics world, as it takes a lot of preparation and hard work to receive it. The youngest team of ever heard of receiving the award is a four year team.

The Blue Devils will compete at Centerline High School on February 28 and again on March 1 then in Troy on April 4 and 5.

Mathes said, "We have a lot of things in place for the future."

Choir

Continued from page 3

This was not Rigole's first year performing in the solo and ensemble festival; she was nervous

and excited to be participating her second time.

Mrs. Schack was only able to attend the band choir and solo ensemble, but her attendance greatly encouraged and helped Rigole.

Rigole did not let her nerves affect her. She received a First Division scoring in her solo, as well as in her duet with Donato.

"I was happy and proud that I was able to get that score. The judges said I had a nice tone, and was together with my accompanist; however, I was out of tune, but that just gave me something new to work on," said Rigole.

The students, as well as Mrs. Schack were more than happy with their performances. All their hard work was paid off and it became a rewarding experience for them. Students are now beginning to prepare for states on the weekend of March 28.

"I think everyone was fairly adjudicated. The students worked hard and it shows! Lots of great comments," wrote Mrs. Schack.

Backpacks

Continued from page 2

"Zach Kasza, Aaron Liske, Klye Donato, and myself as of right now have a petition going around that has some 300 signatures that's without double checking for duplicate signatures though. We're hoping that we can get a few more signatures before we approach the Student Council and discuss this issue," said Brincefield.

Mr. Bourdeau is aware of the petition. He said, "I heard about the petition and I'm more than happy to sit down with Mrs. Michon and the Student Council and discuss the backpacks to try to come to a resolution."

As well as the backpacks there were a few minor changes that were not as controversial.

Mr. Bourdeau said, "We also stopped allowing students to park at the church, in the past it was allowed due to the crowded parking lots but as I noticed, there is plenty of room in the main parking lot. As well as the parking arrangement, we started limiting the time students are allowed to stay after school until 4 p.m. That just gets rid of students that are unsupervised that can roam the halls."

Spanish Field Trip

Continued from page 1

Hidreth said he really wants to see the museums and different cultures. He also wants to see how other countries eat and the way they live.

Sophomore Karlee Kaltz is just one more of many students who wants to go to Spain.

She said going to Spain would be a great experience. To learn about other cultures and countries would be very nice.

"I think the best part would be to expand my knowledge on other cultures and finally go overseas and travel to a different country," said Kaltz.

Kaltz plans to get a summer job and save money for the trip.

She also looks forward to seeing Barcelona and San Sebastian the most because these cities seen very interesting.

The trip to Spain takes serious preparation and dedication. This is because it is a huge responsibility. The teachers are responsible for the paperwork, meetings, the money, room situations and satisfying all the people's needs.

The company does a lot of the work for the group and makes it easier for the teachers.

The staff and students attending look forward to the trip greatly and are extremely excited.



"This is called 'Now You See Me.'"
 By: Anthony Hinojosa, Junior

Would you rather?

Would you rather have no more snow days or have to make days up at the end of the year?

Alyssa Mot, Junior, would rather have no more snow days.

Would you rather spring come early or late?

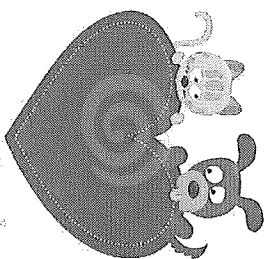
"I would rather spring come early because I'm tired of the cold," said Liberty Justice, sophomore.

On Valentine's Day, would you rather receive

a dozen roses or a dozen donuts? Olivia Kesler, senior, would rather have a dozen donuts because donuts taste better.

I Bet You Didn't Know...

- Approximately 9 million pet owners buy gifts for their pets on Valentine's Day

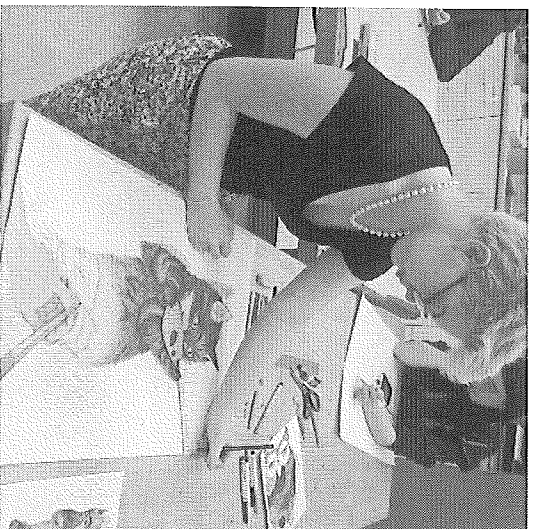


- Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S.

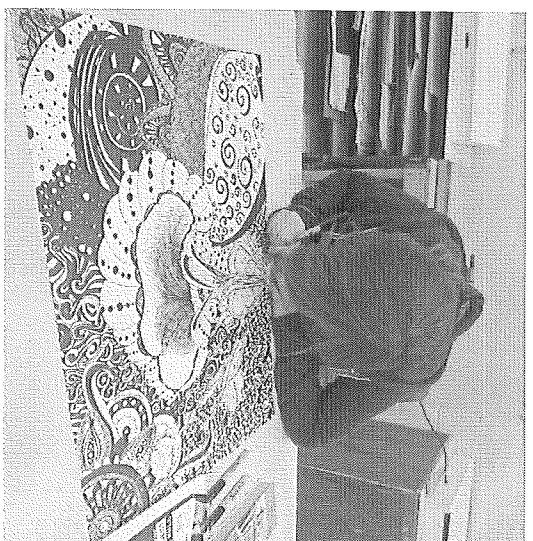
- 15% of US women send flowers to themselves



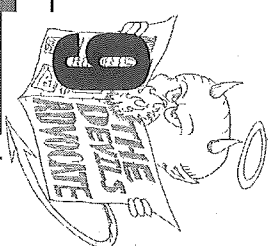
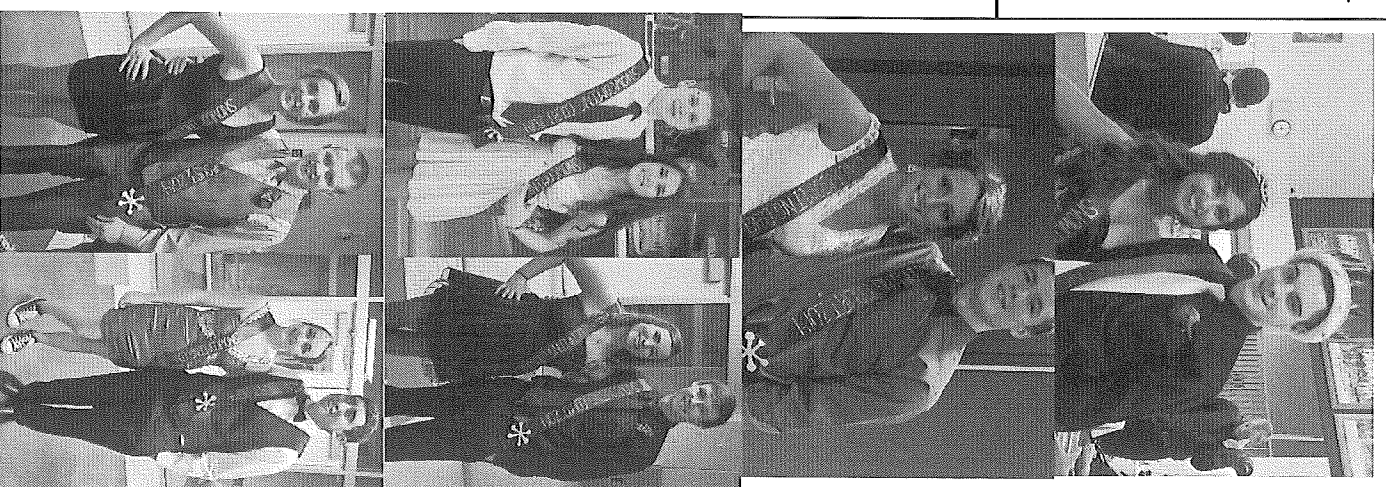
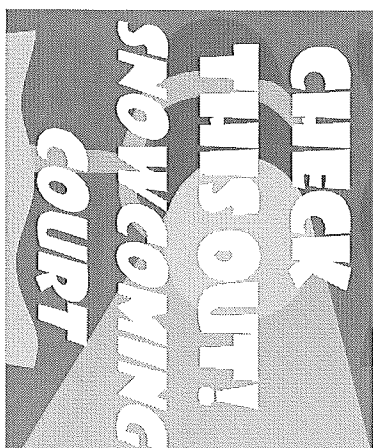
Show us your stuff!

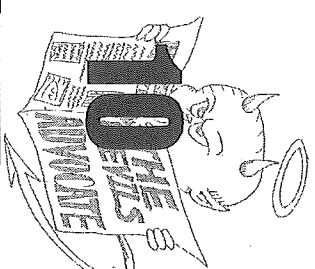


Wilcox works on her un-named cat drawing.
 By: Kaelyn Wilcox, Senior



"This is my intricate design I've been working on for a few weeks."
 By: Kaitlyn Milliken, Sophomore





Brightening the world with kindness

By: Amanda Vinson
Features Editor

"Your bill is all paid for. Have a nice day," says Katie Szczesniak, senior, as she watches yet another costumer Pay it Forward.

We all know February is the month to express love to the people in our lives... but what about love we have for strangers?

While generosity among our fellow citizens has always been admired and respected, "paying it forward" is a modern idea of doing good in the world - giving Good Samaritans a brand new meaning.

The term originated with a heart-felt novel and film that was based off a true story.

Pay it Forward is about a twelve-year-old boy who made a promise to perform good deeds to at least three people a day. He asked each of them to pay it forward and help others who need it in return.

"The movie was so inspirational. It was encouraging to see such a young kid wanting to give and not receive. It gives me hope for the next generation," said Jordan Zachow, senior. Since the movie, the idea of random acts of kindness has spread and students have gotten their fair share.

"I work at McDonald's and in the drive-through customers will pay for the people behind them at least a couple times a day," said Szczesniak. "They're always so surprised and happy when I tell them they're all set."

Szczesniak said it makes her happy to see people going out of their way to make the world more positive. "Our world is so fixated on negative things, so it's refreshing to see people helping each other."

Zachow feels this way as well. "An act of kindness can be the difference between somebody having a bad day and somebody's day being brightened up," she said.

With that being said, when she had the chance to help someone else, she jumped on it.

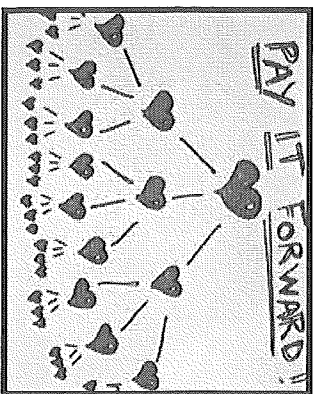
"My friend and I were in the Tim Horton's drive-through and we paid for the guy's coffee behind us. We knew we really wanted to pay it forward in some way, and there was a guy behind us so we just took the opportunity," Zachow said.

No matter the situation, random acts of kindness can really go a long way.

"The idea is to do something for others, and I can only hope that he paid it forward too and kept the chain reaction going," Zachow said. You don't have to spend money to Pay it Forward either. People can volunteer their time to a charity, donate their unused belongings, stand up to a bully, or even something as easy as giving a sincere compliment or calling someone you haven't spoken to in a while.

"If somebody drops their books in the hallway you can pick them up. Another way to pay it forward is by opening the door for someone - that's one that everybody should do!" Zachow said.

People tend to forget they have the power to change somebody else's world, and Paying it Forward is the first step.



"An act of kindness can be the difference between somebody having a bad day and somebody's day being brightened up."

- Jordan Zachow

Ideas of how to "Pay it Forward."

- Pay someone's bill at a restaurant or drive-through
- Hold the door for someone
- Give a friendly greeting
- Donate used belongings
- Give out sincere compliments
- Lend someone a hand
- Run an errand for a friend or a neighbor
- Volunteer for a charity
- Let someone go in front of you in line
- Donate blood to the Red Cross

Valentines and Mixed Emotions

By: Thomas Biafore
News Co-Editor

Their hands interlock for the first time as they walk down the hall.

He smiles.

She smiles.

Each of them genuinely cares about the other. He watches from afar as the newfound couple makes their way to class, wondering what it would be like to have someone to hold like that.

They kiss goodbye before they part for the one hour class period. The hour so excruciating because neither one can deal with being apart for such a long time.

She watches from her locker as the boy she's liked for a good year, hugs another girl before heading to class. Torn apart inside with jealousy and despair, she wonders just how long this couple will last.

There are two different ways to see Valentine's Day.

One: the happy couple who prance around the hall, excited to show off their affection.

The other: the lonely girl or boy hiding behind a locker door, watching all the happy couples pass by.

"It's such a commercial holiday," the single girl would say to someone else.

"It's a way to show my affection," the happy couple would say to spectators.

Whatever way you look at the holiday, there are many different ways people spend it. Some people out there don't really think of this holiday as anything but another ordinary day.

"I don't really do anything on Valentine's day. I never make plans for anything," said Natasha Woodruff, senior. Some people don't see Valentine's Day as much of a holiday as others.

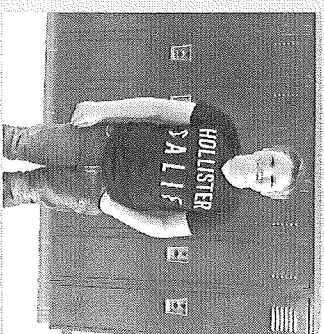
Others really enjoy the fact that we have a holiday to celebrate love. "It's so nice to have a holiday about love since it's such an important thing in life," said Daniel Seguin, freshman.

continued on page 11

Teamster Star

Students

Noah Koal



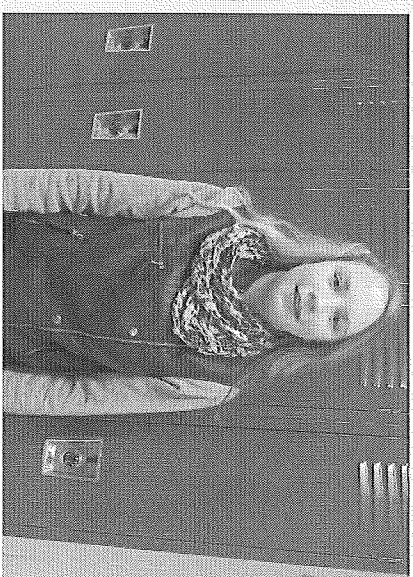
Favorite subject: Science

Favorite activity outside of school: Football

Favorite thing about high school: Sports

Role Model: Kobe Bryant

Carrie Mayo



Favorite subject: Science

Favorite activity outside of school: Running

Favorite thing about high school: The pep assemblies

Role Model: Mom

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