

THE RED & WHITE

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Rutland High School's Student Publication

Are High School Students Prepared for the Real World?

By Jamie Giddings

How high school prepares students for their futures is under debate. School prepares students well with a diversity of courses, but needs improvement on preparing students how to conduct their own lives.

High School should help prepare students for what life might throw their way and for the most part RHS does a good job, with classes like Real Meals and practical skills courses. School is not the only one responsible for students' futures, the students themselves play a large role in the preparation. Sometimes they fail and stumble through the rest of their lives. RHS is very fortunate to have Stafford Technical Center in the same building and so many great opportunities at the students' disposal such as the mechanics and human services programs.

Students should take advantage of the classes at Stafford and the specialty classes offered in the high

school that help enhance life after high school. "I think everyone should have a chance to take classes in Stafford just to find out what they like," said Marybeth Radaker, a junior at RHS.

The real world is more than just local worries in and around the small towns of Vermont. "I guess life is tougher than we think and there is a lot more stuff out there than Rutland. You need social skills, and you need math skills in general to take care of bills and keep money in the bank because you don't want to be in debt," Radaker said.

Jackie White, a junior at RHS, sees the real world as, "Living off on your own without any help from anyone or anything, just being solely independent. All high school students should be required to take a course that deals with changing a tire and changing oil. The kind of stuff that people would use all the time in everyday life. I also

think that all students should take a foreign language for 1-2 years, just to get a general feel for it so if the occasion does accrue they would be prepared."

Many students are also concerned about how well they are prepared financially. Ashley Stevens, a graduating senior at RHS, looks back on her previous years. She said, "I took all of the classes for life after school so I think I will do okay ...but they probably should have classes to help people realize that money is a problem and to be sure you get a good job, that kind of stuff." RHS should offer financial classes that are designed to help students manage money and finances.

Another one of high school's shortcomings, according to some, is too much focus on history. "Teachers could make it more like the real world, the financial classes are like good and all, but we need to know what's going on

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March Madness

By Ted Lindgren

March Madness takes the nation by storm for two weeks in the spring. Here at Rutland High School the class of 2004 has their own March Madness tradition. The student-faculty game is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year and a fun time for all who participate. Students and faculty both have great times and teams are normally pretty even.

Last year was the second annual game. The students won 85-80. The only reason why the faculty stayed close was the result of great three-point shooting from Mr. Cassarino. Also Coach Norman and Mr. Geisler moving the big bodies down below provided solid rebounding.

On the students' side of the ball, dominance came from Greg McLaughlin and Quinn Meisinger. Down low Jason Fair and Chad Drake worked the boards. Coach Kyle Massie

had to resort to some Bobby Knightesque tactics for the shoddy officiating in the game. In the end, the good guys were victorious with the bad guys left sullen in defeat swearing that they would seek their revenge next year.

This year some bodies that weren't in the fold last year are coming out of retirement. Mr. Tuerk is coming off the shelf and looks to be the big man down below, a "Shaq Daddy" if you will. For veteran leadership on the floor Mr. Costello is making a one-night appearance. Costello said, "I just came out of retirement to shut you up." He looks to re-establish the patented skyhook that has not been seen since his first day on the job (a long time ago). Mr. Geisler seems to be talking trash around the school lately, "I'm going to be playing at half speed and still beat up on you." He still seems to pose no threat to the

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The Game is Wednesday Night at 7:00 p.m. in the Keefe Gym.

Come support the school.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a patriotic citizen of the U.S.A. I love my country, I respect the flag as a symbol of America, and I respect my government. However, I strongly disagree with the current policies. I personally would prefer peace to a war in Iraq, for several reasons. I know many people who agree with me and many who don't. I respect both parties' (no pun intended) points of view. I just happen to disagree with one side of the issue, that's all.

I heard a piece on VPR a few days ago about a lieutenant/pilot in the Navy, and his friend Rebecca, who is against the possibility of war in Iraq. They call each other just to peacefully and respectfully discuss their differing political views. I wish more people would be that mature about handling differences in opinion.

Some people who say they're protesting for peace actually end up doing things like dissing the whole U.S., rioting, desecrating other people's flags, and such other pointless acts of protest. To me, that's not what protesting for peace is about. That's abusing the right of free speech. If people want to desecrate a flag to demonstrate their rights as Americans, they can go right ahead, but only if it belongs to them. Taking and desecrating someone else's property is still wrong and illegal, no matter what reason the perpetrators give for it. Rioting defeats the purpose of a peace protest. And all those things make people ignore or disregard the message, whatever it is, because disrespect is a big turn-off. The best way to get someone to think about what you're trying to say is by living what you preach, and by being respectful of others' right to their own opinions, too. That, to me is what a protest should be like.

Students Voice Their

Should We Go to War?

By Adam Conway

What would it be like to be the president of the United States? He has to make important decisions about so many aspects of not only one person's life, but also the lives of an entire nation. One of the major decisions of President George W. Bush today is whether or not to go to war. Quite a difficult choice, if you ask me.

This decision will affect not only him, but also the nation and the entire world. It may be easy for someone to sit down, watch the six o'clock news and say, "What is President Bush thinking telling Iraq to disarm or face going to war?" But have those who have thought this ever considered how he comes to his decisions? Iraq has had 12 years to destroy these weapons. Not only has Iraq not done so, but also some government agencies have obtained information that conclusively proves they are still producing these weapons in high quantity.

What do you think would be in the best interests of our country? Sit back and wait for Saddam Hussein to strike the United States like Osama Bin Laden and his allies did in 2001, or face this inevitable problem with intelligence? War is not easy on anybody! Fighting to protect lives against terrorists is what this war is about.

For people to say that this war

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So if I'm ever at a protest carrying a big sign about what I believe in, and you disagree with me, hey, just tell me. I'd be happy to talk to you about it. I'll listen to you if you'll listen to me. If you want, you can protest against the protest. That's in the Constitution too. I may not agree with you, but I'll respect your decisions. Just please respect mine.

Rachel Greene

Dear Editor,

This letter goes out to those six students who decided to protest the war by trying to take down the American flag on Wednesday, March 5. I believe it was a very immature act, and made Rutland High School look like a joke. The American flag flies for a sign of freedom. It's a symbol that you should be proud of, not try to destroy, tamper with, or put upside down on the flagpole to make our country look foolish.

Take the country Iraq, for instance. If you six lived there and tried to take down the flag, you would have been locked up in jail, if not killed on the spot. The flag flies to show our freedom and the men who fought for it.

I am not against protesting, even though I am for this war. But this protest that you students participated in wasn't a good protest to try to make peace. It was a mockery of our country. If you wanted to protest the war that would have been fine, just don't mess with our flag!

Josh Terenzini

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Opinions About Iraq

Protest Gone Bad

By Joe Ferris



America's history is filled with protests. They can be traced back to the era previous to the Declaration of Independence, through the Abolition and Temperance movements, and up to the protests in support of Civil Rights in the mid-20th century. Protests have not been limited to support or dissent over legislation. The issue of war has dominated many protests, most notably with the Vietnam War.

The French philosopher Voltaire once said, "I may disagree with what you say, but I shall fight to the death for your right to say it." This ideal is carried into the first amendment of the United States Constitution. The freedom of speech, religion, the press, and most importantly, the right to assemble peacefully, are protected under that amendment. Previous articles in this paper have discussed the protests in Downtown Rutland, but on March 5, several Rutland High School students attempted to exercise their right to assemble.

It began during the morning announcements. One of the readers stated that there would be a walkout at 12:00 p.m. to demonstrate against the possible military action in Iraq. Minutes later, Mr. Folaros announced over the

intercom that he could not allow the walkout to happen because no one cleared it with him. He continued by saying anyone who did walk out would be held accountable for their actions.

As both hands on the clock reached the '12,' a handful of students walked out of class. According to reports, they stood around in what could be construed as a silent vigil. A group of three protestors then proceeded to the flagpole and began to lower the flag. At this point, a teacher notified the administration. When the administrators reached the flagpole, the protestors were about to begin whatever action they had planned. Some say they had thrown the flag into the snow, others state that the flag was on the ground while being stepped on, and still others suggest the students were about to raise the flag upside down.

The purpose of a protest is two-fold. First, it is supposed to unite those who are of the same opinion so that the public voice can be loud and unified. Second, a protest is supposed to convince others that the purpose of the protest's cause is correct. Thus, in the end, the protestors would not only have a larger group but one that is uni-

fied.

Whatever the renegade protestors were planning on doing to the flag is a moot point. Going anywhere near the flag is detrimental to the viability of not only the protest, but the views of the protestors. Going beyond the question of the constitutionality of flag desecration, all credibility is lost when the flag enters the equation. As one who is opposed to war as well, I have spent quite a bit of trying to figure out what the three protestors were trying to prove. They didn't extend the anti-war message to people who hadn't heard their arguments, because they honestly had no points to make.

Maybe they "were trying to piss off the system." Let's say there is a system. Continuing with the assumption, if the system did notice, they would be quite pleased. Why? For them it is that much easier to disregard the protests of students. Student protestors can now be labeled as anarchists, communists, and anti-American. No matter what happened, we mustn't forget that another group of protestors that afternoon stood out in the cold, embodying everything that is right with America and the constitution.

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is about oil is asinine. It is about protecting the citizens of the United States and anyone else who believes in freedom. It also concerns having a government free from fascist rulers like Hussein who hide behind armies and chemical weapons. How can anyone put a price on life or freedom?

I think that people would feel differently about going to war if they were directly affected by one of the terrorist acts that occurred on 9/11 or in the Gulf War. I completely understand that people have a right to say that war is ridiculous, but what do you call wait-

ing around for another terrorist act to occur?

Furthermore, these protestors against war have every right to express how they feel. However, when buildings start to blow up, peoples' priorities tend to change and I, for one, do not ever want to see anything remotely like the terrorist acts of 9/11 to happen again. I will do anything to make sure it does not, including standing by our President in times of crisis.

This support, to me, means that a person like Bretton Barber, a high school junior from Michigan who refers to Bush as an "international terrorist,"

is unpatriotic. Not only is Barber offending Bush, but he is also offending all those who believe in and stand behind the President in this time of turmoil. Barber, like many others, needs to consider Bush's motives. The President intends to protect all who believe in the land of the free. These unpatriotic people need to think about this and ask themselves, "If push comes to shove, will I serve my country when they need me most and support them in any way I can?" I hope we do not go to war, but if we have to, I feel President Bush and our government will protect us from further acts of terrorism.

We Need Change

By Joe Ferris

“We need change, we need it fast. Before rock’s just part of the past. ‘Cause lately it all sounds the same to me” – Joey Ramone from “Do You Remember Rock N’ Roll Radio?”

Twenty-three years after The Ramones posed that question, regrettably the answer is no. Today’s music listener is inundated with music that sounds the same. The paramount issue facing the music industry is the lack of diversity within fields of music. This drives off music aficionados who are looking for something different or interesting.

Lack of mainstream creativity is not the only problem facing the music industry. Music labels have been losing money for several years running, which forces the industry to overprice CDs. Combined with recent attacks on those who use computer technology to download music for free by several notable bands, the market has become small over the past few years. There is more to pop than the Justin Timberlake’s and Britney Spear’s. Rock has more to offer us than just Creed and Linkin Park.

The same goes for punk music where the “evolution” from groups such as the Ramones, The Clash, Blondie, and The Sex Pistols to today’s Simple Plan, Good Charlotte, and Sum 41 leave much to be desired.

A CD today costs nearly \$18 after tax. Most tracks on albums are fillers so the artists are not forced to release a single or an EP, a shorter release with generally six songs. Let’s suppose that there are three songs on an album that will be released on the radio and that each song is three minutes long. Assuming that all three songs are good, the customer has just paid \$2 per minute of music. While this is happening, another person is downloading songs from different artists for free. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) says this person is a criminal. One moment the fans are being bilked by the RIAA for mediocre music and in the next instance, they are calling foul over the consumer’s ability to freely access music. The RIAA must realize that until it markets a more diverse array of bands (they are out there), it has no right to claim innocence.

The RIAA does not deserve all the blame for this mess. Radio, TV, and record stores must also shoulder some of the burden. Clear Channel Network owns 1,200 radio stations throughout the nation while reaching 110 million listeners a week. With major corporations dictating what can be played and what cannot, the chances of hearing new artists that are not well known diminishes. Not only that, but if the networks don’t like a song, well, then those 110 million won’t be hearing it. Just ask Tom Petty. Last year, he released an album with a song entitled “The Last DJ.” In it, he bemoans the loss of voice in local radio station DJs due to the choices being made by executives instead of on-air personalities. Surprisingly, the very same people decided that it wasn’t radio worthy.

MTV, formed one year after the Ramones released the song with the above quote, only offers its viewers with music videos of artists who are currently popular. If a connoisseur of music is waiting for clips from lesser-known artists, they’ll have to wait until after mid-

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Marching to the Beat of a Different Drum

By Tracey Stubbins

Amidst the multi-rhythmic beat of drums and chants of “All we are saying is give life a chance,” thousands rallied in an organized public demonstration. They were objecting to the resolution regarding one of the most influential, far-reaching and horrific decisions in American history. January 22, 2003 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the landmark political and moral decision regarding the case of Roe versus Wade.

This case is believed to have sanctioned and “legalized” abortion in America. However, this is not the case. According to the March for Life Organization, the Supreme Court declared “punishment will not be administered under federal, state or local law for the crime against humanity of born human beings killing innocent preborn human

beings.” The courts, therefore, are currently in the aberrant position of changing history. The United States government has stated that the principle of “Crimes Against Humanity” cannot be legalized by any individual or legislative power. If this were true, then the governmental condoning and thus legalization of abortion would fly in the face of America’s history.

I, along with tens of thousands of people, attended the March for Life rally, which takes place annually in Washington, D.C.. This was a protest not only against the decision of Roe v. Wade, but against the institution of abortion as well. People attended for a variety of reasons: those who had and regret an abortion, those who assisted in abortions and now op-

pose them, and those who believe abortion is morally and humanly wrong.

Many marchers attended this somewhat morbid anniversary. One person, in particular, was seen quite frequently. His name was Joshua. He was nearly 21 weeks old. He was about 10 inches long and weighed approximately ½ pound. Joshua had a beating heart, eyelids, finger and toenails, hair, sweat glands, functional internal organs and was able to blink, grasp and move his mouth. His mangled body was portrayed rampantly on posters and banners. He had been killed by a D&E abortion, commonly known as a Dilation and Extraction. His mother’s cervix was pried open and, using forceps, the doctor tore him

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Cursing the System – The Poetry Slam

By Tracey Stubbins

“The spirit of a poetry slam is similar to what would happen if a sensitive soul stood up on a New York subway train and began to recite rhymed couplets.”

- Bay Guardian

Rock musician Mick Jagger once commented, “Curse the system stylishly enough, and the system just might love you for it.” Such is the essence of slam poetry. Some refer to it as a branch of the elitist Academy of American Poets – the universities, major and university publishers, and national organizations. Others believe it is an entity all to itself: the National Poetry Slam. It includes the coffeehouse poets, street poets and everyone else who does not belong to the “respectable” establishment of the Academy. Either way, as many slammers have discovered, it is a quickly growing phenomenon in America.

Slam poetry, simply put, is the competitive art of performance poetry. Its emphasis is not only in the writing, but in the presentation of the written

work as well. Slams focus on the recitation more than the content of the work, emphasizing not only *what* the poet is saying, but also *how* he or she is saying it.

The founding of slam poetry is nebulous, at best. While most serious slammers will claim Chicago poet Marc Smith originated the slam in 1986, C. W. Haze, a poet and author, asserts that Smith is “a fraud, and opportunist and an interloper.” Haze claims the “homeless book worm and tin collector” Casey Jones rose forth on July 21, 1986 and spewed out the words: “When you’re down and out Raise your head high and shout OH S—!” and hence, slam poetry. This could possibly be a more widely accepted theory if it was not for the fact that Haze is Jones’ step-sibling. But supporters of each will tell their story then claim, “Thus, the slam was born.” Nevertheless, the idea spread quickly, with slams being held in coffeehouses and jazz clubs across the country, and teams being sent to the National Poetry Slam.

Slam poets had a hard battle

to fight. While once ridiculed for not conforming to the “normal” poetry reading, the poets have now made a name for themselves, although the slam is still quite controversial. The idea of performance poetry, where the spotlight is taken off the writer and shifts to the performer, appalled the Academy, whose professional assessments were based solely upon the written word. However, the slam is indeed governed by rules and regulations, and the poets care deeply for the art form, similar to the world of Academia. The difference is that slams offer none of the security or politeness shown to those scholars that rule the Academy.

As the *Bay Guardian* once noted, slam poetry is similar to a sensitive soul reciting rhymed couplets on a New York subway train. It is referencing the spirit of the slam where, unlike Academia, the audience is not required to listen to the poet’s offerings. Smith once wrote, “NO audience should be thought of as obligated to listen to the

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YES Plan Trips Altered

By Chris Andrews

For the second straight year, students planning on traveling abroad during YES Plan will have to seek alternate trips. Although this year the school board did not make a ruling which cancelled all trips, they recommended student-parent meetings to discuss the dangers about the particular trip. As a result, half of the trips were either changed or cancelled.

The only trip that is still planning to travel to its original destination is Mrs. Frost’s Marine Biology trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands. “I think we are going to one of the safest places in the world right now so I don’t see any major risks of traveling there,” Frost said. However, she still held meetings with the parents to confirm that they wanted

their children traveling to the Caribbean. “I gave them the option to get out and if anything changes in the world picture that option holds,” Frost said.

She plans and does the whole trip without the aid of a touring group. “I know the islands so I am able to do everything myself. This gives me the option to get all the money back if things change,” Frost said.

Shana Duval, a senior participating in this trip is not nervous about traveling. “I feel safe about the trip and I am sure it will be fine,” Duval said.

A second trip headed for the Caribbean area was Mr. Sabataso and Mrs. Beavin’s trip to Belize. However, after holding several parent meetings they cancelled the trip. “It was a combi-

nation of safety and more and more kids dropping out,” Beavin said. As the deadline approached for their nonrefundable fee, several students dropped out of the trip. “If one more kid dropped out, it would have bumped up the price,” Beavin said.

Although Beavin thought the trip would have been safe, she didn’t want to risk it. “If it was just me traveling then I probably would have gone, but when you have a group of students you have to be very cautious,” she said. Now, they are planning a regional YES Plan that will consist of trips around the Northeast. They will camp in different locations while studying oceanography and earth science.

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Science Fair

By Kristina Collins

After years of dioramas and projects involving Lego's throughout elementary school, 188 RHS Biology and Lab and AP Biology students presented elaborate and challenging presentations at the annual RHS Science Fair last month under the direction of Mr. Hooker. Even though the projects were required and weighed heavily on their grades, these students, most of whom began work back in November, really challenged their capabilities and made the science department proud.

The main objective of the students was to design some kind of project to show its use of the scientific method. The experiment could not simply be a demonstration such as a volcano, but a complete presentation on its own, without the explanation of the student during the entire fair. This year was a great success due to the originality of the students. Andy Cunningham, a junior, presented a survey about stereotyping in a nontraditional yet impressive way. Meanwhile, Rachel Gartner, also a junior, took an exotic approach to the fair as she explained coacervates and micro encapsulation. Another unusual approach among many others to the fair was Jimmy Zhang, an RHS senior's computer based project. He created a computer program that a school could use to process grades, attendance, and even students would be able to find out their grades with this technology. The fair included projects as extraordinary as these to practical such as consumer surveys explaining which products are the best on the market.

During the fair, all 188 students were judged twice by two different judges. In all, there were 73 judges to accommodate the entire fair who only judged about five to six students each. Judges included RHS teachers, science teachers from Mill River, Mt. St. Joseph, Proctor, Barstow, Rutland Town, Otter Valley, Rutland administrators and school board members, two foresters, a doctor, a retired science teacher, a re-

tired mathematician, and even an engineer. With the help of all of these people, all of the students were scored fairly and in the end, 32 had scores higher than 95%, making them eligible to go to the State Science fair when there are only 25 spots. Mr. Hooker and the other science teachers narrowed down the list, but were impressed this year as scores were overall higher than in the past.

The State Science Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2003 at Norwich University with 21 RHS students under the direction of Mr. Hooker and Mr. Carini. Unfortunately, this is the same day as the SAT, causing eleven out of 32 students to have conflicts with this date. Fortunately, this year's fair was a success and challenged the minds of RHS students as well as the 73 judges and other observers to understand more about science.

Students Going to the Science

Fair

Heather Brouillard

Madison Campbell

Ryan Daly

Lindsay Dick

Bryan Gee

Lauren Gilligan

Brian Gormley

Ryan Goss

Madalyn Kirback

Allison Mott

Erika Notte

Brent Pennington

Benn Purcell

Zach Reich

Brandon Schultz

David Sternberg

Jon Wallett

Jessie Wetherby

Jacquelyn White

Jimmy Zhang

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poet. It is the poet's obligation to communicate effectively, artfully, honestly, and professionally so as to compel the audience to listen."

The world of slam poetry is drastically different from that of the Academy, or, namely, poetry readings. In a poetry slam, five judges are randomly chosen from the audience. These people then score the poet with a score from 1 to 10. The high and low scores are dropped, with the middle three producing a score from 0 to 30. Those poets with the highest scores advance to the next round, eventually producing a winner of the slam.

The slammers themselves have to adhere to strict guidelines. All work must be original to the poet, and no props, costumes, or music are allowed. The slammer has a three-minute time limit with a ten-second grace period. For every ten seconds after the grace period, a point is deducted. The poet must read a different poem each round of the competition.

Several students here at the high school have become interested and participated in slams here in Rutland. Patrick Abatiell, Kate Brittian, Ira Powsner, Seth Powsner and I recently qualified to compete in the National Youth Poetry Slam in Chicago this April. This slam features over two hundred national and international students competing, with another five hundred to one thousand of Chicago's teen poets exhibiting their work.

Unlike the traditional poetry reading, slam has allowed the non-traditional audience a real and stimulating route to experiencing poetry in a live setting. It provides a harsh yet encouraging critique of one's work in a dramatic environment. In its own way, the slam has indeed "curse[d] the system stylishly enough," and the system just loves it.

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night. That is when up and coming artists have their videos played. Virgin, Tower, Borders, and other conglomerates can control the music market. If a band is deemed unable to help these mega-stores turn a tidy profit, customers will not find either those artists's album in the racks or will they hear that group's song emanating from the PA system. Unfortunately, those stores make agreements with the RIAA that only the top 100 songs from each respective billboard will be carried.

Here are some albums I recommend:

1. Wilco "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot"
2. Sondre Lerche "Faces Down"
3. Neil Halsted "Sleeping on Roads"
4. Idlewild "The Remote Parts"
5. Weezer "Maladroit"
6. Stew "The Naked Dutch Painter and Other Songs"
7. Doves "The Last Broadcast"
8. Ben Kweller "Sha Sha"

Clearly, a change is needed. The status quo is not working for the music industry or the music listener.

What is needed is an influx of new talent to compete against today's musicians. Paraphrasing Rick Pitino, The Beatles won't be returning, Van Morrison won't be returning, and Otis Redding will not be returning. But that is a good thing. While the mainstream remains stagnant, there are places where music continues to evolve. The industry executives need to realize that the public wants more.

For those who are interested, there are ways of finding bands that fall outside of the interest of mass media and the mainstream music culture. The surest bet to find music that fits your listening tastes is www.popmatters.com. Here, a person can see reviews for current albums. A wide array of bands from The Notwists to DJ Shadow is available. Reviews from old classics such as the Velvet Underground, Tom Waits, and many others can be found. A hidden treasure at this site is the Best Albums of the Year reviews that give a newcomer to independent music a map with which to work. A second option is finding a radio station that is locally owned and operated. One such station is Rutland's WEBK 105.3 FM. Sometimes, the music can be a bit over the top, but if you stick with it, there will be the reward of finding new and eclectic music not available anywhere else on the radio dial.



Spring Music Festival

Trips continued from page 5

A second trip that was cancelled was Mr. Slenker and Mr. Rosenberg's trip to England. Like the other trips, they held student-parent meetings to discuss if the trip was worth it. "A lot of parents were very concerned about sending their children to Europe," Slenker said. According to Slenker, as the trip grew closer more parents voiced their concern. "Right before we cancelled the trip we held a vote with the parents and fifteen said that they did not want their kids to travel abroad," Slenker said. Although students lost from \$100 to \$400 of already deposited funds, the parents thought it was safer to eat the money and keep their children out of Europe.

Like Beavin, Slenker stressed the importance of keeping the group safe. "If it was just my family I probably would have gone, but when you have a group of students you need to be very cautious," he said.

Senior Lindsay Clark, who was planning to go on the trip agreed with Slenker. "Personally I would have felt safe, but I understand where they are coming from. They are responsible for the whole group," she said.

The other European trip was Mrs. Alonso's excursion to Spain. However, unlike the England trip, Alonso is not changing her plans. "After holding several parent meetings, all of the students' parents were in favor," Alonso said. Although earlier this year she thought about changing the venue to Costa Rica, she chose to continue her plans for Spain. "I felt more comfortable taking a group to Spain than Costa Rica. I think it is safer," she said.

Just like last year, YES plan trips have been greatly compromised to geopolitical conditions. Mr. Slenker hopes this will not continue. "Hopefully the world situation will change so we don't need to face this problem every year. If not, we will need to face it on a year to year basis," he said.

The Dollhouse: Behind the Scenes

By Colette Kulig

At RHS and STC, students don't have to worry about the "dreaded cafeteria food." Here, we are fortunate to have the option of the Dollhouse Bake Shop.

The Dollhouse is part of the culinary program at Stafford, which allows the students to participate in an actual customer business. It challenges them to deal with business, customers, and gets them prepared for the real world.

When I first walked into the kitchen (if any of you have the opportunity to do so) I had never seen so much hard work and dedication. The ovens and stoves create a hot temperature while each student plays a huge part in preparing the food for their loyal costumers.

It is a two-part business: the restaurant and the bakeshop. The restaurant is open only to the public with walk-ins and reservations both accepted. The restaurant is open from 12 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The bakeshop is only for the students, and is open Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Every Monday, the class of 16 students gets together to create the week's menu as well as assign jobs in Hoops continued from page 1 students.

On this year's student team most of the offensive pressure will come from Kyle Massie, Rob Turner and Quinn Meisinger. Meisinger said, "Complete and utter domination, Coach Cas won't score ten." Natalie White and Shawn Horvath will dominate the boards. This writer will look to shut-down all offensive threats and also put up a fair amount of points. The students this year are stacked and should have no problem showing why the teachers should stay home.

Right about now everyone should be calling Vegas and putting the farm on the students. It's gong to be an easy victory and the game will be laughable. If I were the teachers and I didn't want to be shown what's what I'd stay home. The only chance for the teachers is Larry Bird coming out of retirement and playing for them. Otherwise this game is a cakewalk for the students.

the kitchen. They create a set menu consisting of a soup, sandwich, salad, quiche, dessert and, not to forget, their famous pizza.

The Dollhouse was named after the first director at Stafford, Henry Doll in 1972. It is now advised by Barry Ferraro, and assisted by K.T. McShane. However, the students run the business. They take part in everything, to keep their business going, from creating menus, cooking and cleaning to partaking in wait staff and running the bakeshop and restaurant. Impressive? Listen to this: They make everything from scratch, down to the salad dressing and even their special seasoned butter!

Scott Jenson, a culinary student, happily states, "Besides being fun, I get the experience that I need to work in the culinary arts. I work at the Great Bonnet Inn and I use the skills I've learned here and there, because both have sharpened my skills in the culinary arts."



Mr. Moran celebrating his Irish Heritage St. Patrick's Day

The Doll House as well as other school-to-business programs at Stafford are continuing to grow and serve the community in a positive way and we hope that they continue to do so.

'Tis of Thee

Lyrics by Ani Difranco

They caught the last poor man
On a poor man's vacation
They cuffed him and they confiscated his stuff
They dragged his black ass down to the station
And said, ok, the streets are safe now
all your pretty white children can come out and see spot run
And they came out of their houses
And the looked around
But they didn't see no one

My country 'tis of thee
To take swings at each other on the talk show TV
Why don't you just go ahead and turn off the sun
Cuz we'll never live long enough
To undo everything they've done to you
Undo everything they've done to you

Above 96th street
They're handing out small pox

blankets so people don't freeze
The old dogs have got a new trick
It's called criminalize the symptoms
While you spread the disease
And I hold on something
Between my teeth when I'm sleeping
I wake up and my jaw aches
And the earth is full of earthquakes

chorus

They caught the last poor man
Flying away in a shiny red cape
They took him down to the station
And they said, boy you should've known better than to try to escape
I ran away with the circus
Cuz there's still some honest work left for bearded ladies
But it's not the same going town to town
Since they put everyone in jail
Except the Cleavers and the Brady's

chorus

Real World continued from page 1

today and not history,” said Shana Morris a junior at RHS. What is happening to our nation now is not always addressed in class. Students don’t always get objective views of the national issues.

Individual teachers can affect a student’s outlook. Some teachers enforce organization in classes that can help develop good organizational skills for later on in life. Through some teachers’ influences students are encouraged to strive for their dreams. Valery Engler a senior at RHS said, “The search for truth is always needed, also self-confidence and a faith, standing up for what you feel is right and to be willful and courageous enough to find out what is right.” Students are encouraged in school to find their dreams and strive for them, encouraged by teachers and supported by some of the school programs.

In the eyes of RHS’s principal Mr. Folaros, if students want to be ready for the real world, “We can’t pamper them too much, we need to let them hang out to dry once in a while.” Many times students are unfortunately allowed to just slip by in their studies. And ultimately the school teaches them that minimum effort is acceptable. When a teacher gets on a student’s case about his or her work and plunges the grade to the appropriate level the student will sometimes strive for greater goals and higher standards.

Contrary to many teens’ beliefs students need to learn a lot more than they think to survive in this world. The stakes have been raised since our parents grew up. Math skills are far more important and valuable in today’s world and the social standards have changed, setting different expectations for its youth.

Mr. Hooker, an RHS biology teacher, doesn’t agree that students are ready for the real world when they first come to the school and even for the next several years. Students with work experience do have a better idea of how the world works but still can’t quite truly understand it. In the work world deadlines are met on time and it isn’t a grade you are striving for but your job

and your paycheck.

Only at Stafford and at home can the student learn some of the little simple things of life that no one bothers to teach any more. Students are expected to become self sufficient but regular public school doesn’t teach them how so they have to rely on other people to do the job for them.

Mr. Hooker gave a suggestion of reform. He said, “I don’t think we do much with how to behave at a job interview. The only place they get any job experience is in Stafford. They need more real skill type things, like home making skills. I think every senior should take a home skills class, to learn how to cook a meal, how to sew a button back on a piece of cloth.” There are classes that deal with home and life skills, but there is not much done with etiquette or presenting oneself during interviews and such. These classes

could be added but some argue that things like manners should be taught at home and not in school.

Unless students take a strong hold of their own futures, many things about life won’t be covered. Regular public high school prepares a person with knowledge of the past and of what is going on around them but they fail to mentally prepare students for what life could bring. Students are really only taught about how the past was changed and what the future could bring, but not how to shape that future or how to step up to meet it.

The system is not perfect but students from RHS are more adequately prepared for life than many other students from other high schools. This is credited to the student-teacher interaction and influence as well as the curriculum that is presented to the students at RHS.

Protest continued from page 4

out of the womb, limb by limb. He was then reassembled outside the womb to ensure that no fetal parts were left inside his mother.

It was this reassembled Joshua that we saw in Washington, D.C.. It was obvious that he was at one point covered in blood and other fluids but had been wiped clean for the picture. The photograph portrayed baby Joshua in four pieces – his head and torso were together, with his right arm attached; his left arm lay near where it joined to the shoulder, but was not fastened to the body; both his left and right legs were in the appropriate places but, like his left arm, were not attached to his body. Joshua’s face was mangled and crushed, but eyes, nose and lips were recognizable, as were his ten bloody fingers and ten bloody toes.

Many marchers demonstrated their beliefs against horrors like this by carrying signs reflecting their feelings and ideas regarding the issue of abortion. Messages including “Abortion is Homicide” and “Stop Abortion NOW” flanked the posters carried by participants in the march. One group of signs

seen often was pro-life activist Gregg Cunningham’s large, gruesome pictures depicting the revulsions of abortion. Cunningham’s campaign has been far-reaching, with pictures similar to those of baby Joshua on billboards, sides of trucks, campuses and airplane-towed banners seen across the country. These images depict the gory details of abortion that America does not want to acknowledge.

When I returned to school after the march, a classmate asked me if that “man with the pictures of aborted fetuses” was there. When I replied that he was and he in fact did bring those pictures, my classmate commented on how unnecessarily aggressive this type of campaign is. While it is true that many find Cunningham’s campaign against abortion tasteless, grisly and utterly revolting, one has to realize that many others see abortion in this very same light. My classmate said he found this campaign offensive and wondered if I did as well. I replied yeah, it probably is quite offensive to a great number of people . . . but then again, the truth usually is.

Raider Skiers

By Ted Lindgren

Skiing is a leisure activity for many but for some it is a competitive sport. This year's ski team had a great showing at the district finals and looked to repeat their success at states. Although the outcome was disappointing this year's ski team made great strides towards its future. The team is relatively young with only two seniors on the roster. It can look for the success to continue in the years to come.

This season the boys' ski team won districts handily and the girls had a very strong second place finish. The boys were lead by seniors Jesse Larson and Eli See and the girls were lead by "skier goddess" Caitlin Mckane. Coach McClallen said, "our boys really made a statement and the girls were a very pleasant surprise with how well they did." With such a strong showing at districts the team had hoped to repeat their success at states but did not although they came close.

The theme this year seemed to be pushing each other to do better. Jesse Larson said, "Eli and myself push each other and I know that John, Jared, Charlie, Davey, Seth and Adam push each other and I know we're bettering ourselves." The practices were hard, though but the team seemed to be improving greatly. The girls' team has the same concept with Mckane leading the pack followed by such very talented skiers like Lindsey Dick, Amanda Bradder, Morgan MacCuaig and Liz Schindler.

The boys' team this year had

a specific strategy going into states. Coach McClallen said, "This year we're just going to tell all the guys to ski all out which is not something we normally do in team skiing. We like to have control but this year we're going to go for it and put it on the line."

The strategy was a good attempt but unfortunately, the rugged skiing did not pay off. Woodstock emerged as the champion. The boys had a huge disappointment at states when both Jesse Larson and Eli See fell in the Giant Slalom. The boys finished fifth over all, with a huge drop-off from the expectations to win it all.

This year's girls' team came in second at districts and showed great improvement. McClallen said, "This team has improved more than any other team in my 30 years as ski coach but in reality Woodstock will be really hard to beat at states. We just need to stay close to them."

States were at Mt. Ellen and the girls had great success. Mckane only lost by 1 1/100 of a second to a competitor from St. Johnsbury for the top crown. The girls finished second overall in the state and continue to show huge improvement.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. Both the boys and girls looked pretty good. Next year with everyone returning, except for See and Larson, the boys and girls look to once again capture the state championship for RHS.



Eli See and Morgan MacCuaig practicing at Pico

How Has the Death of Mr. Rogers Affected You?

By Colette Kulig

"It came as a surprise. I used to watch him all the time as a kid." - Amethyst Colomb, 11

"Wait.....Mr. Rogers DIED?" - Tyler Walker, 12

"The night before I asked my stepdad if he had died, and the next morning he did! I think I jinxed him!" - Jessica Urban, 9

"Brings back childhood memories: trips to the factories, the puppets, and an ill set up." - Evan Culver, 11 and Dylan Wraga, 10

"I forgot how to tie my shoes and zip up my sweater." - Laura Grabow, 11

"It's deeply saddened me, and I've lost all faith in daytime TV." - Jane Richards, 9 and Margaret Holland, 9

"He was an inspiration to me, and helped to jump start my creative thinking. He was stupendous and will be missed undoubtedly." - Kyle Robillard, 9

"I never really watched his show. I was more of a Sesame Street person." - Grigori Yukov, 11

"I was very depressed and upset, because I used to watch that guy all the time." - Linda Sokolowski, 9