

Down the Hall

What was your most disappointing holiday?



"Halloween 2000, because I only had two trick-or-treaters."
--Jennifer Carmack, senior

"Election Day, because I forgot how to count."
--Chris Price, senior



"Easter. People don't celebrate it for the right reasons."
--Tricia Beth Laswell, freshman

"Christmas '89. I found out there really wasn't a Santa Claus."
--Elizabeth Matekovich, sophomore



It's time for a lesson in acceptance

BY STEVEN WARD

There are many things that define us as human beings, such as gender, race, age, place of origin, and sexual orientation.

Despite the fact that everyone is different, people continue to employ actions of hatred and disgust towards others who aren't like the majority.

One of the more evident displays of this fact is that some people still use the word "nigger" when speaking about those of the African-American race.

This simple word and the fact that there are still those who are guilty of saying words like that appalls me.

This is the 21st century, a time of diversity and acceptance, but we still have unaccepting constituents. That idea is disgusting to me.

It's hard to think that we, the great Americans, who pride ourselves on diversity and acceptance, could recite such horrible words.

Does that note a hint of hypocrisy on our parts? Doesn't that say that America stays about as true to its word as its politicians who claim not to mudsling?

Acceptance these days isn't easy to come by. Actually, it's a rather

hot commodity to some of the residents of this country.

I'm speaking of those who make up the well-known and rather controversial group of the homosexual community who reside in the American republic.

Wait a minute though, we're not talking about the same place which prides itself on ideals of diversity.

Oh, no. I must be talking about that other place called America which denies some of its citizens the right to marry, the right to serve their country in the military openly, and the right to hold a job without the fear of termination.

I must be talking about that other America where differences are emphasized and disrespected with words such as "faggot" and "queer".

No, I couldn't be talking about that America. That America where the people's behavior is rude, disrespectful, and disgusting, with this behavior being employed only because people are different.

Over the past few years, another minority group has been ridiculed more and more because of cultural dissimilarities. These groups would be the Asians and the Mexi-

cans. They are being called such things as 'Jap' and 'Tamale'.

This again, just because they're not like the majority.

The simple choice of a person's religion could also set people off. The fact that others don't choose to be Baptists or Christians, provides some with the notion that because these people are different, they deserve to be treated differently.

I'm not saying that America is at all a bad place to live. I mean don't get me wrong, this, in my eyes, is one of the best places anyone could live.

What I *am* saying is that there are many things that Americans must learn before this country is the **BEST** place to live. One of those things is the acceptance of others.

As I was walking down the hall yesterday, I saw a poster hanging on the double doors. The poster read *Diversity. There are strengths in our similarities, but there are also strengths in our differences.*

Everyone reading this piece should remember what they're reading when down the road called life, you encounter someone who may not conform to everything you know.

Letters encourage *The Rocket* to bring back the horoscopes

Dear Editor,

I am just writing to tell you and your crew what a great job you all have done on the school paper this year. I have enjoyed reading the school paper.

You and your crew have done an outstanding job keeping me and my fellow students informed on what all is going on at RCHS.

I would like to see the horoscopes come back. I found them cool to read.

I just thought I owed you all a response. Thank you for your time and effort put forth for our school paper.

Thanks and best regards,
Keaton Pittman

Dear Editor,

I feel that you are doing an excellent job with the paper. It is well written and many of the stories are extremely interesting. However, I also feel that including the jokes and comedy that used to be on the back page again would encourage more people to

buy the paper. Many individuals purchased the paper only for that page.

Sincerely,
Warren Whitaker

Dear Editor,

I remember when I was a freshman and the back page was full of jokes and funny games. But now it's just articles like the rest of the paper. I used to buy the paper just for the back page.

Sincerely,
Eric Poynter

Dear Editor,

I think we should have the horoscopes. That's the first thing I would read, because I like to have positive thoughts about my future.

Thanks,
Amanda Parker

P.S.
I love Lindsey's stories.

Dear Editor,

I think that you should put the horoscopes back into the newspaper.

Many people liked reading the horoscopes better than anything else in the paper. The paper would also be more interesting if you added comics, because people like comics.

Sincerely,
Samantha Payne, senior

Dear Editor,

I wish the paper had more jokes. I liked the jokes it had before and the other things like "stupid things to do at Wal-Mart."

Sincerely,
Angela Mullins

How are we doing? Please, drop us a line if you have any suggestions on how to improve your school paper! Send letters to Rm. 116 or email us at norton28@highwired.com