

OPINION

It Rocks... It Reeks...

New teachers. With a new year come new faculty members. They usher in excitement about what changes may be brought to RCHS halls.

Snacks at break. The perfect remedy to your, after-lunch stomach growls are the endless snacks they sell during break. A little caffeine and chocolate help keep you awake during that long fourth block.

New Clubs. The Young Democrat's Club and the Honors Club (a combination of Beta Club and National Honors Society) have both been added to the club schedule this year. Young Democrat's Club has added necessary competition for the Young Republican's Club and has provided an outlet for all student's opinions. The Honors Club allows students to join two respected clubs at once.

New Fall T.V. Season! All your favorite shows are back again. From *Will and Grace* to the new *Lyon's Den*, an entirely new era of television is approaching. This also means students now have to juggle homework schedules with television schedules.

Mrs. Corder and Ms. Powell are gone. Good comes with the bad. We will greatly miss Ms. Powell's antics and the sweetness of Mrs. Corder.

\$75 candy bars. Although we greatly appreciate the "pick-me-ups", we don't like having to sell our souls to afford a candy bar.

\$30 for single club due. To join the Honors Club alone, it is an unexpected \$30. It was not the student's idea to have these two clubs combined, so why do they have to pay for both? Leadership roles were also picked last year for NHS. It is up in the air now if they will still be able to keep their positions. Students won't pay extra money for a club they didn't initially want to join if the leaders they elected won't be in office.

The last season of Friends. Every Thursday night people turn on their televisions and are greeted with a "How you doin'?" However, the friends that have been with us for nearly a decade are completing their final season, leaving many avid watchers without their beloved "friends".

Parking lot changes could prevent accidents

All the years I've been here, I've heard complaints about the school parking lot. You can't see. You can't park. You can't even keep your own spot. I never thought much about these problems until I recently got my license. Usually, everyday is a breeze, but a sudden wreck in the school parking lot brought me screeching to a halt.

I leaned as far back as my seat would go, attempting to see if there were any approaching cars. Seeing nothing, I slowly began to back out of my space. I was close to rear-ended right there by a car that came 90 miles an hour from nowhere. I quickly pulled back in my space, avoiding the collision. Thinking everything would be fine now, I

checked my mirrors again and slowly pulled onto the road. As I was switching gears, I looked up and saw a very worried expression on the face of a friend. I quickly glanced to my right, and before I could move, I was sideswiped by another car. We both quickly parked, and looked at the damage done to each other's vehicles. She had large scrapes on her bumper along with a dent, and I had a scratch all along the side of my car, with some paint removed. All of this could have been avoided with some simple parking lot planning.

As new drivers, we aren't experienced parkers. For this reason, don't give us straight parking slots that are half the size of usual ones. People are always

throwing their cars in reverse and having to give another go at parking in their allotted inch of space. Slanted spaces would give us more maneuvering room, and allow us to easily pull in to our spot each day.

The main problem, however, is that we are blinded as we back out of our spaces. Until we are at least half way out of our spaces, there is no way for us to tell whether a car is coming down the road and about to hit us. By then, it's usually too late to do anything about it. If we have large vehicles that park next to us, this only aggravates the problem. That was one of the

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The real animals among us

BY KYLA FRENCH

Animal cruelty occurs everyday, sometimes going unnoticed. However, after my recent experiences with it, I find myself questioning how this can go on and how people can get away with harming defenseless animals.

Every weekend, I go to Dad's house. One of the first things I do when I arrive is feed my Australian Shepherds, Comet and Dakota. As I walked through my yard one particular weekend, bucket of water in hand, I noticed that they weren't coming when I called to them. I froze midway through my trip, dropped the water, and ran out to the other side of our home. Not wanting to go any closer, I enlisted the help of my stepmother to check

on my beloved pets. As she paused by one of the dogs, I realized what had happened. The dogs I had since I was nine years old were dead.

After the initial shock wore off, my family began to question what had happened to cause this. We immediately ruled out natural causes, because one dog was half the age of the other. Our first assumption was that the outside temperature had just gotten too high for them. However, both their bowls of water were at least half full. This couldn't be the reason for their early deaths. After much thought, we can come to no other conclusion than they were poisoned.

I've always had a heart for animals, and for those people who have been affected by animal cruelty. I never realized how devastating it could be until it happened to me. We think we know who committed this crime, but are unable to prove it. I've met the boy before and I can't help but wonder what kind of person would do this to an animal. How can you want to murder a member of someone's family?

Too much leniency is put on the offenders of animal rights laws. A history of animal abuse has been found in 25% of aggressive male

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Down the Hall: Students & staff test their knowledge

What is a kaffeeklatsch?

A social gathering for informal conversation and coffee

