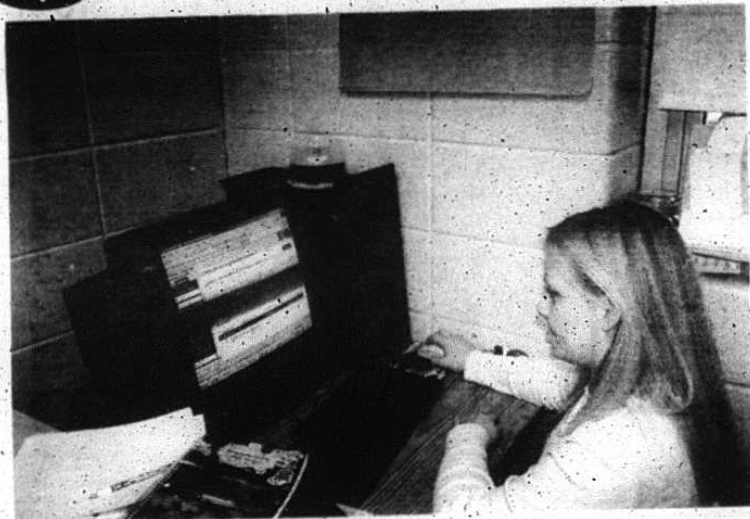




Three RCHS seniors are enrolled in Kentucky Virtual High School classes this semester. Above, Becca Alsip works on her AP French assignments via a computer in Angle Hendrickson's classroom.

Technology, other problems mar KVHS experience

By JESSICA DENNY

The state of Kentucky advanced its classroom learning with the introduction of virtual classrooms but left the students with older technology. The three RCHS seniors who signed up for on-line classes this have run into several problems that have been rather easy to solve, but difficult to deal with.

Sarah Mullins, Anna Guilfoil, and Rebecca Alsip all signed up for Kentucky Virtual High School classes, and they all seem to have faced similar problems: internet access is not always available, the software that the students use to watch on-line video cannot be accessed, and KVHS uses older materials.

Earlier this semester the students were even concerned the classes, which are all identified as Advanced Placement, would not count toward their GPA, however, they have all been assured they will.

Mullins and Guilfoil have had problems with the school's computer technology. The

school's proxy server, which is intended to be a filter which prevents users from accessing inappropriate material, will not allow them to pull up the Real Player software, which means they cannot always complete their work.

However, Principal John Hale says that the school's computer technician, Mr. Ed Peterson, has been made aware of the problem and the girls should be able to use the software soon, if not already.

Guilfoil and Mullins have also found that the internet does not always work at school. Both girls have taken tests that have not gone through, and the answers are being traced. Mullins rarely comes to school for this class. In fact she finds it easier only to come when she needs Mrs. Barker's help.

"If you can't get on the internet you have to miss class that day."

Hale says this problem should be fixed as well. "The virus that got into Frankfort's system has been taken care of."

Guilfoil and Alsip have had problems locating the older

materials the courses call for. Guilfoil's class calls for the 18th edition of a textbook and the publisher only sells the 20th. She looks up the name of the chapter and then finds the material that goes along with it. Alsip just recently received her materials after a long search, and still does not have the tapes she needs for her AP French class. She will have to make up the time she missed with the tapes on her own.

Alsip has an extra challenge the other girls don't have. She has to email her teacher in French, and she is expected to know the language well enough to do so.

These girls have had trouble starting the class, but things may be looking up.

Mr. Hale says the problems are being dealt with as they come up. The problems this semester's students are facing will hopefully be ironed out by next semester.

Every new program has wrinkles that need to be smoothed.

"They [KVHS] offer opportunities we couldn't have had before."

'Lack of responsibility' could be cause of increasing thefts

By AUDREY BURKE

Many of us have experienced the momentary panic of reaching for our purses or wallets, only to find it just a moment later. Unfortunately, an unusually high number of thefts at the high school have left many students empty-handed victims.

The list of missing items includes purses, wallets, cell phones, class rings, and anything else of value, according to Assistant Principal Barry Noble.

Several factors may be contributing to the growing problem, but "I think the biggest part is lack of responsibility," he said.

Noble also encourages students to keep a closer eye on their belongings to try and prevent ones self from becoming a victim. He also recommends students not bring unnecessary items, like cell phones, to school. If a student drives, these items should be left in the vehicle.

Students should also try to carry only the money needed for the school day.

Perhaps the greatest contributing factor to the high number of thefts is trusting our fellow man. If you don't want to be the next victim, keep your items with you at all times. Students should also keep any locker combinations private, and keep their lockers locked.

Football field soon to hold new bleachers

By Kyla French

For many seasons, fans have been forced to pack themselves into filled bleachers, elbows at their sides, to watch a Rocket football game. However, the addition of extra seating to the opposite side of the field is hoped to alleviate the problem.

The idea has been tossed about the high school for many years, but has only recently been caught by the right officials. The bleacher project was proposed by the principals and staff of RCHS, who trust that the bleachers will ease tension between fans.

"We've had problems in the past with fan and visitor crowd control," said RCHS Principal John Hale. "It was basically a safe schools issue."

The bleacher project has been passed through the public forums, as well as the local planning committee, and is currently being considered by the Kentucky Department of Education.

"We've already started preliminary work. We're just waiting for approval from Frankfort," said Rockcastle Director of Facilities Doug

see **NEW BLEACHERS** page 15

Main Street closed tonight

By INDI RUHE

Halloween is coming to Main St. this year. From 6-8 PM tonight, children will be able to go trick or treating in a safe and supervised environment on Main St. in Mt. Vernon.

Local business will be decorating, handing out candy, and putting on their scariest faces to help make this event happen. Not only are the local businesses helping, but also the Kiwanis Club along with members from RCHS's Key Club and Y-Club.

Local police and constables will help make this event safe as well as enjoyable.

"The point of Halloween on Main is so that the local children will have a safe environment to collect candy and have a good time, as well as being safe," says Jerry Renner, who is director of the Rockcastle County Development Board. "It also keeps them from having to collect candy door to door."

Due to this event Main St. will be closed tonight from 5-8 PM.

Remember, there will be no school Tuesday, November 4