



Riverside's pride for its image might be in decline

Megan Dally-staff reporter

Riverside Secondary School is known to have a respectful and clean environment. Historically, there has been a sense of pride for the school and it has received praise from many visitors, such as guest speakers, Mayor Greg Moore, and school board employees. However, lately it has been noticed by staff, administration, and custodians that pride in the school might be slipping. Some students have not been respecting the facility by leaving their garbage wherever and not bothering to put it in the garbage bin. "In this day and age where a social conscience for taking care of our environment is so high, and how social responsibility is taught from a young age, it is strange that some choose not to care about their own environment – their school," said principal **Anthony Ciolfitto**, said



Riverside's hallways are not looking as good these days while students walk on.

M. Dally/the eddy

Ciolfitto. He also went to mention that it is a minority of the students that are doing this, but it is enough to make a negative impact on the

school's image, and that it also shows a level of disrespect for the school's custodians.

A general lack of respect has also been noticed lately. Due to a slipping of acceptable civil

behavior during school hours, vandalism, swearing, and in some cases, disrespect for administration and other students have been on the increase according to some staff. Ciolfitto also says that it's not what the majority of the student body represents, but that, as in many situations, the few ruin it for the many. People need to be aware of their behavior and who is around them in the building. The students of Riverside represent the school at all times, even in the community. "There are always ways to be more conscientious that everyone could do to make our school a better place," said Ciolfitto. Everyone can help out. It could be as simple as picking up garbage in the hallway or not letting swearing be a part of everyday language. Doing something positive, even if it's small, can have a big impact on the reputation of Riverside.

Green shirts: one step closer to goal with the Strut for Sierra Leone

Heather Andrews staff reporter

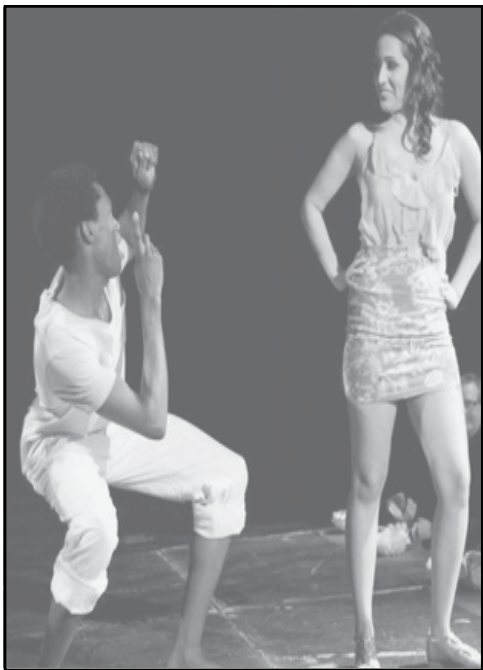
On March 10, *Rapid Change* presented a student-led fashion show that raised money for helping to build a school in Sierra Leone. Rapid change works together with *Free the Children* to take action in improving the lives of children overseas. *Free the Children* had a representative from Vancouver come to the event to speak about the organization, which began with

a young boy and his efforts to change the world - **Craig Kielburger**. Rapid Change has a goal of raising \$8,500 to help build the school in Sierra Leone and is now one step closer. The fashion show raised about \$1,600 and roughly 150 people attended. Graciously, Urban Behavior and Old Navy both donated multiple outfits, with Urban Behavior donating over 50. The models wore clothing from all over the

world, thus the shows name: "Around the World in Eighty Days." For the opening portion of the show, they had fashions from Seirra Leone, with a mix of Me-To-We attire and traditional African clothing supporting the children in need. Next, the models sported clothes with a Mexican theme, with tons of beach inspired outfits donated by Old Navy. Halfway through the show there was an intermission to keep the

audience entertained while the models were getting ready for their quick changes and new hairstyles. They had singing and guitar playing by **Tyler Shaw**, **Alexis Kim**, and others, including the hilarious hosts, **Cydney Paddon** and **Adam Bocskey**. When they were ready, the models continued with Paris, France, Mumbai, India, New York, and L.A. The show was run completely by student volunteers, students in Leadership,

as well as Green Shirts students, with the teachers helping out. **Kelsey Nickl**, a Riverside Green Shirts student, said that everyone put in a lot of effort. "While we were trying to get everything together it seemed very difficult and tiring, but in the end, it was all worth it." There were also "paparazzi" offering to take pictures of guests on the red carpet as they arrived and departed. All in all, this worthy cause was a memorable event!



photos courtesy of Samantha Jung

Riverside students from left to right: Chris Aisekhalaye, Jasmine Girn, Brian Richards, Devre Boyle, Deanna Kadota, Chelsea Salindong, Silvana Ursu.

COUNTER POINT

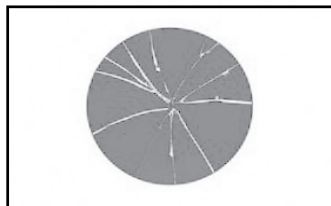
GRAFFITI - Is it art or vandalism?

Op-ed page



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Afghani protests fuel bigot's fire

Emily Chan - staff reporter

On March 20th, Terry Jones sparked worldwide controversy by committing what President Obama later condemned as an “act of extreme intolerance and bigotry”. In his Florida church, the infamous pastor held a mock trial for the Muslim holy book, the Quran, found it guilty of “crimes against humanity”, and proceeded to set fire to a kerosene-soaked copy of the book. This was not Jones’ first attempt at religious arson. In September 2010, the pastor was criticized by media and religious leaders alike for his widely publicized plans to burn volumes of the Quran on the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While international pressure was able to postpone his actions in the fall, his March 20th demonstration went forward as planned. Less than two weeks following the mock-trial, protests in Afghanistan turned violent, leading to 22 deaths. The international community has been quick to condemn both Jones and the violence in Afghanistan. Barack Obama issued a statement criticizing Jones’ actions, but also calling the resulting chaos, “an affront to human decency and dignity.” However, with protestors burning effigies of the American president and chanting, “Death to America”, it is clear that Obama holds very little influence over the angry crowds. While they may be unwilling to listen to a foreign president from a despised nation, one would think that protestors would be inclined to follow the very book they aim to defend. A passage in the Quran reads “Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you?” But this quote seems to have been conveniently forgotten in the wake of Jones’ actions. And while burning religious text is in no way acceptable, the murders that have followed are abhorrent. When it comes down to it, Jones was ignorant in his quest for publicity, but the violence that has followed goes beyond basic stupidity. Jones is a small-town pastor from the southern states. His church has less than fifty followers. His influence is limited at best. The Muslim community should recognize how pitiful his attempts for attention are and, rather than give him the response he craves, rise above the incident and ignore his childish attempts at provocation. Ironically, in their efforts to defend their holy book, these Afghani protestors are beginning to resemble the violence and evil that Jones attributes to every Muslim. Rather than proving Jones wrong, they are reinforcing his prejudice. In their outrage at Jones’ religious intolerance, they have resorted to their own destructive method of extremism. It is hypocrisy at its worst. This is not to say, of course, that every Muslim has responded in such a manner. But the large scale riots in the Middle East are evidence that Jones’ actions have been blown way out of proportion. Jones’ bigotry has been manipulated to a point that fundamentalists have turned him into a figure head for the Western World, and are using him as an excuse to murder not only Americans stationed in Afghanistan, but also Norwegian, Swedish, Romanian and Nepalese UN workers. As imprudent as his display was, Jones never encouraged violence. He never drew a knife or pulled a trigger. We cannot hold him solely responsible for the murders in Afghanistan. It was the protestors who lost control, and it is the protestors we must hold accountable. While Jones is an example of ignorance and intolerance, the response to his display has been disproportionate, and the blame must be placed primarily on the people who participated directly in the violence. In the end, by stooping to savagery, the Afghani protestors are only adding fuel to Jones’ hateful fire, and maybe even proving his point.



POINT POINT

Graffiti deserves artistic respect



Farah Ahmed
Columnist

Why is graffiti art? Let me first explain to you what art is. “Noun 1”. The quality, production, or expression, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance” as www.dictionary.com explains. Now ask yourselves, could graffiti fall into that category? Yes! Graffiti is an art; it requires thought, concentration, and talent. I realize some that there have been

some recent tagging attacks on mosques, churches, etc. And I won’t deny that there are some people who strive to only gain attention. I’m not saying that every person who can get their hands on a can of spray paint is an artist. A bunch of kids writing their names and inappropriate words on the side of a rusty train or a school is vandalism. But overall, when graffiti has been done to be symbolic, I believe it can really beautify some public places. It can be surprising what can happen when talent gets its hands on some spray paint. Since graffiti art started in the 80’s in support of the hip hop community, it has been given a bad rap (no pun intended). Who in this city has the right to define art? Cities decorate utility boxes with pictures of nature, but

if I don’t like the picture of the deer eating grass on my street, I’m not going to storm into the mayor’s office and accuse him of vandalism. Who can tell people that they don’t have the right to express themselves as long as it’s not racist, homophobic, or fascist. **Graffiti Gathering, Soul Graffiti, and Phun Factory** are all non-profit organizations that give graffiti artists safe working grounds that are showcased for a good cause. Art has never been defined as one thing, and it is entirely based on opinion. When it has been made in real hope of creating something beautiful, and doesn’t hurt anyone, let’s try and open our eyes to it. I’m pretty confident in saying that graffiti is in fact, real art deserving of respect and a place in the artistic community.

Graffiti has no place on public property



Carly Muldoon
Columnist

Graffiti and creative tagging is known as markings, initials, slogans, drawings and words spray-painted, or sketched on sidewalks, a wall of a building or any public space. Fine, my question is why does it have to be in/on public places such as schools, buildings, or bridges. However, some consider it art or making an important statement. The truth of the matter is that it is actually vandalism. With art, people have choices to view it (i.e.

art galleries, home, internet, museum, etc.). Why does it have to be forced upon the public? Graffiti is “in your face.” You have to look at it whether you like it or not! Public art is chosen by a committee and the process is fair. Graffiti “artists” also are more concerned with “creating” or “tagging” in ridiculous places, such as the underside of bridges. The more inaccessible the place, the greater the challenge. How is that art or a “statement”? Another issue is, where does the line blur between art and someone’s work being offensive? I’ve heard “no matter what you produce, no matter the materials – you are an artist.” If that is so, then why is graffiti done on public property considered illegal? Is it art when the PoCo mosque was recently spray-painted with graffiti on the front of the building and was

visible to drivers and local businesses along the Kingsway Avenue industrial strip? Or on schools such as the Richmond Elementary, which has been tagged with racist and homophobic graffiti. I do understand that the artists want their art work/ artistic ability to be shown off to the public, but yet some go a little too far with that and cross the line into a lack of respect for the property or the viewer. Maybe they are only doing their work for other Graffiti artists because so many people look at it and don’t get it. Isn’t the goal of art so that people can appreciate it? It seems, in my own opinion, that “Graffiti” is an art style, but creating it should not be an act of vandalism. Art belongs where it does not offend. Art is also a choice I want to make about where and when I view it.

Eddy Correction - With apologies to Farnaz Javadian whose name was misspelled on page 8 of Volume 15 No. 5. The correct spelling is listed here.



The Eddy has been the independent voice of the students of Riverside Secondary since 1996 and is produced monthly by the Journalism class.

Journalistic styles and standards conform to those of the Canadian Press. The Eddy welcomes letters to the editor. Letters, however transmitted, must be signed and free of libel.

Additional articles, writing, and opinion pieces are accepted and will be published as space allows.

The Eddy reserves the right to edit all submitted material for brevity, and style. Advertisers can reach the Eddy at eddy@sd43.bc.ca or by contacting Riverside

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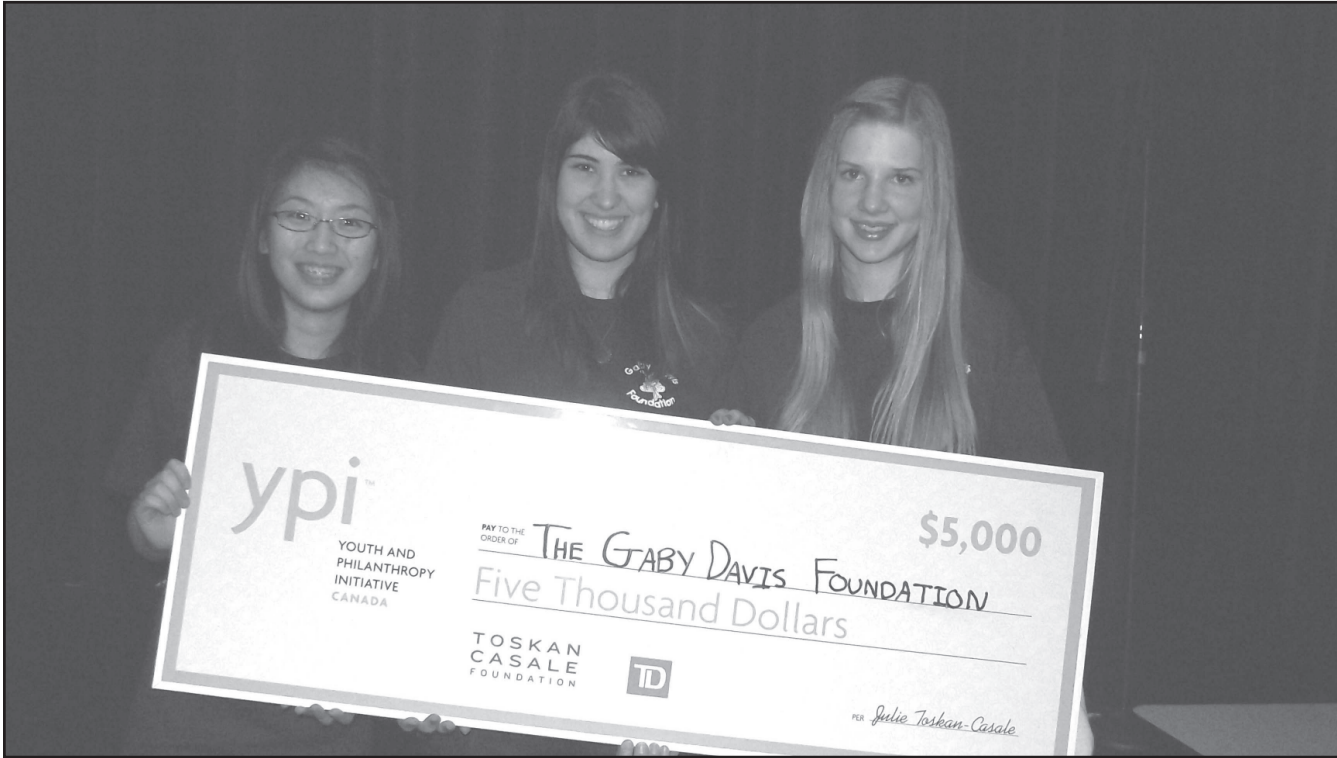


Wednesday, April 20 - 2011 - Vol 15 No 6

Riverside students get a lesson in philanthropy

Emily Chan-
staff reporter

As part of the Planning 10 curriculum, every student is required to participate in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. This is no simple task. It involves researching local, grass-roots charities, visiting the organizations, and putting together ten-minute oral presentations to be performed in competition with the rest of their grade. The group with the best presentation wins \$5,000 for their charity. According to YPI Co-ordinator Gina McKay, however, YPI is about more than research and money, "To me, YPI is a starting point. It's the first in many stepping stones towards social involvement. Especially today, with technology playing such a prominent role in student's lives, lots of teenagers tend to be really disconnected. YPI



2011 YPI winners, Tina Tsai, Marjan Beikzadeh and Katrina with the cheque for their Charity.

E. Chan/the eddy

farther, organizing a charity floor hockey tournament to benefit the Society. The event hosted ten teams of six-nine players, and raised over \$300, "I think a lot of people really understood [about Taylor]," she reflects. In the final competition on April 14th, Katrina Belser, Marjan Beikzadeh and Tina Tsai earned \$5,000 for The Gaby Davis Foundation, which supports families with childhood cancer patients. Prize money aside, YPI is a meaningful experience for every student involved. For many participants, "it opens their eyes to the types of issues that people in their community are dealing with on a daily basis," says Gina. And for others, like Jakky, it is a chance to take real life issues and find closure and empowerment. For Jakky, the point of her project is clear. "It was all about Taylor," she says.

is an opportunity to connect with something real." Grade ten student Jakky McDonald definitely connected with something real. Inspired by the suicide of her close

friend Taylor Gresham, she decided to research and profile the Josh Platzer Society, which is dedicated to teen suicide

prevention, for her YPI project. Along with her group mates Salimah Jamal and Bitu Kiasarai, Jakky even took her project a step

Fly tying club comes to Riverside



photo courtesy of Google

Nick Wang- staff reporter

Do you like fishing? Do you like to hanging out with your friends? There is a new club being offered by Mr. Meitzker and Mr. Kaiser. The "Fly Tying Club" is where you will learn to make your own baits for fishing. According to Mr. Kaiser, "Fly tying is a kind of art. For me it is an enjoying hobby because it is interesting. In the club you can also learn about biology including fishes and insects, and discussing about any experience in fishing and the practice of fishing." According to Meitzker, "Anyone who wants to join the club is welcome; it is fine if you have no idea about it because fly tying isn't that hard. Just be patient in all the steps that you are doing. The satisfaction of making your own baits, is going to be the best reason for joining the club". Anyone who is interested or wants further information please see Mr. Meitzker in room 105 or Mr. Kaiser in room 204.

Bravo to French public speaking winners!

Victor Paskov- staff reporter

On Thursday April 7th, nine students were chosen to represent Riverside Secondary in the annual District Français Concours D'art Oratoire (French Speaking Contest). These students include: Daniela Di Francesco, Irina Novikova, Srah Rajani, Petal Vitis, Hilary Buick, Joylyn Secunda, Kaitlin Pelletier, Hakira Thandi, and Eden Nzeyimina. Riverside teacher Jacques Larrivée helped prepare these students for the contest at Maple Creek Middle School. The speeches had to be 4-6 minutes long. "I really enjoy public speaking. Going in to the competition, I felt very calm and



K. Shong/the eddy

Eden Nzeyimana, Kaitlin Pelletier, Hilary Buick and Petal Vitis to represent Coquitlam in French speech Provincials.

confident; I am also very honored that I can be involved in this type of thing, and be one of the nine students that are in it," said Di

Francesco. Nzeyimina's Speech was in part inspired by a book by the name of *Freakonomics* (by: Stephen Levitt). Her speech was

about statistics and how they affect the way people view the world. Pelletier's speech was about a family camping trip in France in the summer of 2003, when they were robbed by a group of "gypsies", She mostly focused on the negative and positive lessons learned from the experience. Vitis did her speech on justice, and questioned whether or not it exists in our society. And finally, Buick did her speech on books and how they are even more relevant in today's media society. In the end, Nzeyimina, Pelletier, Buick, and Vitis won the district competition, and will be representing Coquitlam on Saturday May 7th at Simon Fraser University for the Provincials.

Mr. Gee takes home Sport BC award

Jordyne Bird- staff reporter

Riverside PE teacher Mr. Gee was awarded the Community Sport Hero Award for his many years of contributing his time and effort for club and school volleyball. This award was presented to a handful of individuals from the lower Mainland who have contributed eight or more years to a specific sport, whether they are coaches, officials, mentors or administrators. These men and women have put in countless hours working with athletes and young people, allowing them to grow and shape sport in BC. Mr. Gee is on his 14th year of coaching volleyball for the community. He was presented the award by Coquitlam mayor Richard Stewart on March 15th at Coquitlam's Executive Plaza Hotel. "It was an honor to receive this award; however, I don't like receiving awards that are individual because there are so many great people who work just as hard and put in just as much effort as me every day. Really this is an award for all the hard work of the coaches involved with the Ducks and Riverside in the girls program," said Gee. Sport BC federation for amateur sports has 64 members in the provincial sport organization and over 650,000 participant's provincial wide. The program visits one BC community each month with intentions of the awards becoming an annual tradition.



Courtesy of Mr. Gee

Alym Makhani (junior girls coach), Mr. Gee and Ryan Vijandre (grade 9 girls coach) winners of the BC sport hero award.



Disaster strikes terror and worry in Japan



Damage repair costs are estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

Courtesy of Google.

Yasmin Darcey-staff reporter

Last month, Japan was hit by an earthquake with a magnitude of 9 on the Richter Scale, making it the biggest earthquake in Japan's modern history. The resulting Tsunami was equally as

destructive, wiping towns and communities on the north east coastline. CNN reported that the quake has left more than 13,000 dead and 14,000 missing.

Fumika Chiba, a Japanese student at Riverside, who came

here from Sendai, a city badly affected by the earthquake, still has family and friends there.

"I first panicked, and I didn't know how much of Sendai was being affected. Where I live is where most of the damage happened and

my area is near the ocean. My school hasn't opened up yet, and the graduation there is cancelled. The new school year is delayed for a month because they usually start in March, but they delayed it until April," said Fumika. School graduations in many places affected by the disaster have been cancelled because facilities have been destroyed or damaged. "There isn't enough water supply and even if you want to go out for shopping you have to stand in a line up for a couple of hours and medical supplies are running out at local hospitals. Stores are only letting people fill one bag with as much as they can for 10 dollars (1000 yen)," said Fumika.

A lot of people didn't have enough water and food supplies; however, despite the chaos there has been no looting among the people.

After the earthquake, worries concerning how the Tsunami damaged the nuclear plant in Fukushima arose. This is

especially concerning for Riverside's Japanese and ESL teacher as she worries about friends in the area. "I have a friend in Iwaki, which is near the nuclear plant. They have this radiation zone circle and her town was right on the boundary of it. On Friday when it happened, I watched it on TV all day and went home, then miraculously there was an email from my friend and she said that they are fine. Right where she lives it was safe, but just 5 minutes down the road everything was just gone," said **Ms. Yamamoto**. Japan's nuclear crisis is now sharing the worst ever ranking with the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster of 1986. The radiation level went from Level 5 to Level 7 on the international system for rating nuclear accidents; level 7 is the highest on the scale.

Japan's recent tragedy has made countries and people from all over the world wonder about how vulnerable they are. As we watch the Japanese cope, we sympathize, and hope we are not next.

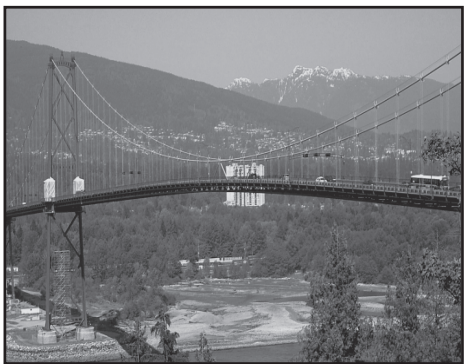
Is BC ready for the big one?

Yasmin Darcey-staff reporter

After the earthquake in Japan, many people have been wondering whether or not we are prepared for an earthquake here in BC. We live in the most active earthquake zone in Canada and it is expected that a big earthquake will hit BC's coastline at any time, but are British Columbians ready for it? "I don't think we are prepared. From a mental stand point, people are never prepared. From a physical stand point I'm

sure there's a lot that should be done in order to better prepare our buildings so that they are earthquake proof, as well as having a process set up so that if it did happen we would know what to do." said **Ms. Brittany Litz**. According to CTV, BC's many older buildings in Vancouver are not prepared for earthquakes similar to the 8.9-magnitude quake that struck Japan. Many schools in BC are not protected against earthquakes, unlike Riverside. "As far as Riverside goes, I'm one of the people that have been here as long as the school and I know that this school is very safe in the event of an earthquakes. It was built to very strict earthquake standards," said **Ms. Sue Kilpatrick**.

To better prepare yourself against an earthquake you should have a preparedness kit in your home and your car. Your kit should have contain things like, bottled water (4 liters per person for atleast 7 days), a first aid kit, shelter (tent, blankets), non-perishable foods, essential medication, toiletries and flashlights with batteries.



The Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver.

Courtesy of Google.

Japan Earthquake relief

Childrens' Day – Thursday, May 5th

Badminton tournament – Friday, May 13th and Friday, May 27th.

Benefit Concert – Tuesday, May 31st. Please see Hans Seo if you would like to perform, stay.fresh.never.stale@gmail.com

Farewell Dinner/Fundraising Evening – Wednesday, June 8th.

Please see Ms. Yamamoto in room 121 for more details



Down By the Riverside

After Japan, are you concerned about BC's preparedness?



Emily Robinson (Grade 9):

"It could happen anywhere and it could happen here."



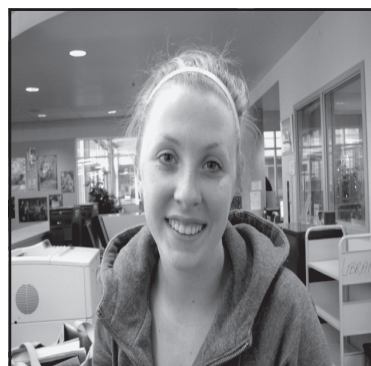
Justin Togno (Grade 10):

"I think this is all leading up to 2012."



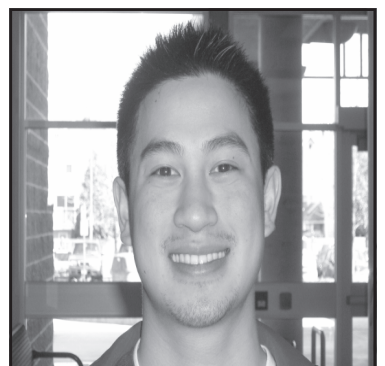
My Lynn Quan (Grade 11):

"Yes, I don't think we are as prepared as we could be."



Kaila Tuuri (Grade 12):

"It makes you concerned about how fast people could suffer."



Paul Chong (Teacher):

"I think it could have catastrophic damage to take down building, cars and people."



Environmental fatigue takes its toll

Sasha Ceperkovic
staff reporter

Many believe that the earth is dying because of our lack of interest in taking care of it. "It's time we stopped ignoring the environment; let's not let another election go by without making the environment a high priority" said **David Suzuki**. Despite this dire warning, some wonder if we are sick of environmental issues?

As Earth day approaches on April 22, it seems there are no activities planned for Riverside students. Riverside's Environmental Club has disappeared. "All the grade 12's graduated; they were the leaders," said **Ms. Yorke**. Some students feel there has not been enough promotion of a school club. "If there was an environmental club, I would join," said grade 11 **Jade Wong**. With more education and awareness our students might be motivated to get involved with environmental causes.

Lack of interest is not only a Riverside issue; Canadian leaders are procrastinating on the environment. There is an election coming up in May and the environment seems to not be on the agenda. Canada is one of the worst polluters among the G8 countries in the world. If our leaders showed



Photo Courtesy Of Google

Turning off the lights not only helps to save energy but also money from your electricity bill.

an interest, people might be motivated to follow.

Earth day is just a reminder, but environmental concerns can easily slip our minds as the day comes and goes. People need to take better care of our home planet. Earth day or hour shouldn't be turning off the lights and then going back to old habits.

Getting into good habits can be manageable. Recycling is one good habit. Riverside's leadership-run recycling club uses the money from the bottle depot to support the Best Buddies Program. Turning off the lights all the time when leaving the room, according to Team Power Smart is another good habit. "If British



K.Lidher/eddy

Can people do more to recycle?



Photo Courtesy of Google

It's up to the individual to save the earth.

Columbians implemented the same conservation measure (as they did in 2010) for just one hour every evening, the combined savings would be enough to power close to 2,200 homes for an entire year."

Ultimately people can't blame a lack of school clubs, the government, or fatigue over a cause. People have to be aware of their own habits and ways they take the earth for granted, and how a change can occur.

Young people need to become aware of election issues



Photo Courtesy of Google

NDP leader Jack Layton fighting off the stigma of being the third wheel party in Canada.



Photo Courtesy of Google

Micheal Ignatieff - leader of the federal Liberal party dispels rumours of a coalition.



Photo Courtesy of Google

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper trying to achieve a majority government this election.

Richard Kwok-staff reporter

The percentage of Canadians aged 18 through 25 who vote is startlingly low, with a mere 39.2 percent of these youths filling out ballots. There are many reasons for this. One is that most people of that age do not have a house, family, or mortgage, so politics have no relevance to their concerns. Another, (collected from a recent interview at SFU conducted by the Burnaby NOW) is that university students simply feel too busy to vote, with exams and papers as a priority. There is also the fact that the voting age is currently set at 18, making younger people feel

unwelcome and discouraging voting later on in life. Another possible reason for voter apathy is that many public schools don't teach their students enough about the different political parties, and the lack of interest in the students means they don't go learn it on their own, so most students lack the background information required to develop a strong opinion about civic issues and how important they are in the functioning of a healthy Democracy. And without a strong opinion, there is very little reason to vote.

The government has been making attempts to remedy this problem, even contemplating

lowering the minimum voting age to 16. This could possibly raise the percentage a few points, but the real changes need to be made in the curriculum. Kids need to learn about the politics of our country and the issues it faces starting in elementary school, so they feel aware and included. It's hard to make an informed decision when you have no information. However, for those young people who want to learn a bit more about which parties claim to share their beliefs, an unofficial political site has been opened called "Vote Compass." Vote Compass asks a series of 30 questions, and then proceeds to plot the results on a

chart in comparison to the 5 political parties (Conservative, Liberal, NDP, Green, and Bloc Quebecois.) It also asks participants to rate the leaders in several categories, and to select the national issues one feels most strongly about.

After creating a deal with CBC for free publicity in exchange for information, the application's fame has been growing. It is being used by voters across the nation, much to the political groups' chagrin. Some of the political leaders have attempted to shut it down, claiming it was rigged to sway voters to vote for certain parties. However, their claims remained just that, and Vote

Compass is still on the web. For more information, go to "http://votecompass.ca/federal/." Another helpful site is voteeducation.ca. It was developed by the Canadian Federation of students to inform voters where the parties stand on key issues. The youth could hold quite a large say in who runs the country and what should be on the parties' political agenda, since there are several million 18-25 year olds in Canada. If everyone voted, young people could make a difference. So when an election rolls around, get up off that couch, and go fill those ballots!



Riverside Europe trip, best trip to date

Keena Saini- staff reporter

Riverside Secondary has had yet another successful trip to Europe during spring break. After visiting Spain, France, Austria and Italy, many say it is a trip they will never forget. When asked about the group of students that attended the trip, Ms. Schmidt said "Mr. Luongo and I both agree that this was the best group we've ever travelled with; they were thoughtful, kind, helpful and well behaved at all times, really an A+ group of students."

Activities students participated in throughout Europe included visiting schools, particularly one in Austria whose students come to Riverside for the exchange program. Students also received certificates after learning the Viennese waltz in Vienna, which many students did not find easy. Other daytime activities included visiting a perfume factory, a theatre featuring gladiators and a medieval town in France.

Accommodation in Europe was either in hotels or home stays, and students were always in a group at all times to ensure safety.

Sightseeing was the number one highlight of the trip.



Europe trip 2011 students outside of the Austrian school.

Photo Courtesy of Ms. Beth David

Visiting Saint Steven's Cathedral, many art galleries and the beach by the Mediterranean Sea was breathtaking. In Spain students saw the Spanish Stallions and also a city tour in Barcelona featured a lot of architecture by the famous Antoni Gaudi.

Ms. Schmidt said the entire trip was exciting, "Spain was also great and something entirely new, but for me going back to Vienna was the best." Students also loved Vienna. "Vienna was my favourite part of the trip; the food was absolutely delicious; the people were fun and friendly, and the city was full of history and breathtaking architecture, said Grade 11 student, **Taissa Goundrova**. Some Europe trip students also said pizza in Italy wasn't anything less than magnificent as well.

When asked about any mishaps or problems during the trip, Ms. Schmidt said "We had a few mishaps, nothing that was ever our fault. My camera was stolen and 60 Euros were taken straight out of a student's wallet, but for the most part, it was just minor incidents such as the flu or a sprained ankle."

Europe trip had its good and bad days, many filled with damp colder weather. After the sightseeing, activities and jetlag there and back, students and teachers had a wonderful time and Ms. Schmidt said "the students were amazing and great troopers throughout it all."

Spring break in Quebec was all work and no play

Ashley Olsen- staff reporter

Each year **Jaques Larrivee** takes eight students in grades 11 and 12 to Oka, Quebec and Montréal, Quebec over the Spring break. This trip is not associated with a class per se, but select students volunteer their Spring Break to help others. The students who went are from the Conversations class. Unlike other students who went on trips over the break, they were there for work. The French immersion students paid around a thousand dollars each to fly to Quebec to volunteer for various philanthropic organizations such as **La Maison Revivre**, which is a program for individuals in need of a place to sleep, food and rehabilitation. Another organization the students volunteered at is **Les Petits Frères des Pauvres**, in which the students met with the elderly and spent time with them, and presented their mini-operas. "The people were so appreciative that we gave up our Spring

Breaks to spend time with them," said **Devon Dupuis**. The students also went to a homeless shelter to help prepare a buffet for the needy.

Another area of need that the students focused on was a camp called **Cite De Joie** where the students performed for people of diminished mental capacity. Dupuis added that this group was very enthusiastic for the mini-opera and the students visit.

Because this trip was all about volunteering, there was no time for sight seeing and shopping.

When asked about this year's Quebec trip, Dupuis responded that "It was rewarding helping out communities in other parts of Canada." She recommends this trip to other students who are continuing French in grade 11 and 12 and says it's a good way to broaden your horizons, while doing something good and giving the Québécois a good impression about British Columbia.



Fiona Beales, Devon Dupuis and Nathaniel Kam spending time with elderly Québécois while volunteering with Les Petits Frères des Pauvres

Courtesy of Devon Dupuis

Spring festival showcases diversity

Karen Lidher- staff reporter

The Multicultural leadership and French emersion students teamed up to celebrate the coming of spring. The spring festival was a huge success with lots of food and fun activities to do. The French Emersion students offered homemade French food including crapes and tourtieres. There was a display of different parts of the world with a significant French culture such as Québec, Sweden and of course France. There also was an intense and messy pie eating contest with students not being allowed to use their hands to eat. "It felt more diverse having the French students involved. A lot more preparation was involved in the event and I think it was a nice continuation from the Night Market," said **Lynn Quan**.

Several Riverside students showed off their musical and dancing talent while performing for the festival. Student sang in both Japanese and



Ethel Anioigbe, Charlotte Heffelfinger and Jessica Edgecombe at the Spring Festival.

French and English. "It was a lot fun, but I was really nervous about performing," said **Amethyst Kuang**. The last performance of the night was done by **Ken Do, Kaili Wang, Brett Wang and Harry Hoang** who performed a hilarious dance to the song Good Girl, Bad Girl by Miss A.Ms. David took time off from her job to read guest palms and predict their future. Face painting and

Mahjong were also available. A variety of delicious food was sold such as bubble tea, fortune cookies and fruit tarts. The Anime club also participated with a display of Anime figurines, Manga, and an Anime photo booth. "The Spring festival was a great cultural experience for me. With all the performances, the food and the activities, it was a great experience," said **Leena Jokinen**.

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Jessica competes to be world champion

Kristin Macey
staff reporter

In April, Grade 10 Riverside student **Jessica Arthur** will travel to Dublin, Ireland for the World Irish Dance Championships. Jessica has been practicing Irish dancing since she was six years old, and it's been a dream of hers to be good enough to qualify for a long time. Irish dancing is a very competitive form of dance, and it takes a lot of practice every day; Jessica goes to three hour classes twice a week and she practices at least one hour every day on her own. Irish dancing can also be quite expensive. The dresses worn for competitions can cost thousands of dollars and are usually very elaborate. It costs approximately \$90 a month for



Riverside grade 10 student Jessica Arthur.

Courtesy of Jessica Arthur

classes and her current dress for the competition cost \$2,200! This past November Arthur competed at the Western Canadian Irish

Dance Championships and came in second in BC, sixth in Western Canada, and tenth in Canada. Jessica will be in Ireland from mid-

April until the beginning of May, and she will be dancing on the 21st of April. "I have three different dances. Basically I do my first two rounds, about one and a half minutes each and I may or may not be called back to do my third dance." said Arthur. Only a select few people qualify for the World Irish Dance Championships and it has been a long term goal of Jessica's to qualify, but Jessica says that this will probably be her last year doing Irish dancing. It's very physically and emotionally draining and it's very athletic, more so than most types of conventional dance. "I have been dancing for nine years and I've really done everything I wanted to," said Arthur. We wish her the best of luck in the competition.



Daniel Baxter Courtesy of Google

Check out new movie endings

Meg Gregory-staff reporter

Everyone has heard of You Tube and many have been on it, and know that some people become famous from it, such as **Justin Bieber**. Another recent sensation to You Tube is **Daniel Baxter**. He makes new endings for movies. He does the animation, the voices and, the best part is that his new endings make sense! Some of his remakes are: The Dark Night, Saw, and many, many more. If you want to check out his videos you can find him on Twitter, Facebook, his website, and of course You Tube. On his website he also has comics and wall papers of your favorite parody. "Sometimes movies don't finish the way we'd like," said Baxter. He has been doing it for about two years. (You could say it is kind of his career.) Baxter does in fact get paid for the remakes he does; he even has a few sponsors. Who would have guessed you could become famous from almost anything on You Tube?

Students participate in the Antigone Trial



Mr. Ciolfitto and Ms. Leonard after the Antigone trial in Honours 12 class.

Courtesy of S. Kilpatrick

Shion Tanaka - staff reporter

The *Antigone* trial has been a part of **Ms. Leonard's** English 12 Honors class for many years now. The trial explores the dilemma of whether people should defy the law in order to do what is morally right. Ms. Leonard does the trial year after year because of how it engages students, and how they can

apply the Greek drama to current ethical issues. "I do this trial year after year because it is so much fun; it engages the attention of all students, and they learn so much more about the play of *Antigone* than if I just read it through with them and gave them notes. It also teaches the students to research many different people from

history, study civil rights and abuses, and see issues from more than one viewpoint," said Ms. Leonard. She also believes that students can benefit from the Antigone trial because it helps them look deeply into the issues that face both Antigone and Creon as they struggle with power and the choices between right and

w r o n g .

The trial is about how Antigone's brother was considered a traitor so when he died, his body was not supposed to be buried. Antigone felt that this was morally wrong so she went ahead and buried his body. Later she is put on trial and the debate is to determine whether or not what she did was justifiable or not.

With this year's trial, the jury (students from **Ms. Minhas's** English 11 class) found Antigone guilty of treason because by burying her brother, she does ultimately break the law. Defence counsel, **Sara Wahedi**, found it interesting that even in ancient Greek times, moral law was a consideration rather than just civil law."

The Superhero comic to film tradition continues

Richard Kwok - staff reporter

As summer approaches, so does a horde of new superhero flicks. For the past few years, lead comic publishers DC and Marvel have been working hard to put their super-characters on the silver screen.

Marvel has had a grand scheme at work for a few years, taking the heroes big time one by one, as they work towards their ultimate goal, an *Avengers* movie. The *Avengers* are a super team consisting of several different heroes from the Marvel Universe, including Iron Man, Captain America, and Thor. The movie will be a mix of the original *Avengers* comic lineup and the *New Avengers* comic lineup. The official decree so far is that the movie will include Iron Man, Thor, The Hulk, Captain America, Hawkeye, and Black Widow; it has

been confirmed that Thor and Captain America are being played by their respective actors from the upcoming movies, and Iron Man and Black Widow are being played by Robert Downey Jr. and Scarlett Johansson, same as they were in the *Iron Man* series. However, Marvel cut Edward Norton (*The Incredible Hulk*, 2008) as Bruce Banner, and hired Mark Ruffalo instead, resulting in many controversial debates on the website. Hawkeye does not have his own movie, being a minor character in the Marvel Universe. He was also only ever a member of the *New Avengers*. Marvel has cast Jeremy Renner of *The Hurt Locker* as Hawkeye.

Meanwhile, DC has also been busy. Probably one of the most anticipated superhero movies of the year has been the long awaited *Green Lantern* movie, with Ryan



Captain America character.

Courtesy of Google



Marvel characters in a movie.

Courtesy of Google

Reynolds as "Hal Jordan", an aircraft test pilot, who is chosen by a power ring to become a member of the intergalactic police, called the Green Lanterns. Hal uses his power to protect Earth and the surrounding space from intergalactic threats. While DC

appears to be sticking close to the original comic, fans have complained about the changed costume and mask, preferring the simpler original version. There has also been confirmation of the third Batman movie, called "*The Dark Knight Rises*". The movie is

supposed to bring things in a full circle, tying in with themes from the first and second films. While fans are arguing over which summer is going to be better, 2011 or 2012, one thing's for sure. They're both going to be action packed!



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Girls soccer team kicks off a rebuilding season

James Matthews - staff reporter

Soccer season is in full swing again here in Riverside. The girls started this year as a team with a very different makeup than last year's. "We are coming off a season of having nine grade 12's on the team, so the majority of the team is brand new. Having this mix is kind of nice, it's a breath of fresh air," said Ms. Cindy Cuccione, one of the team's coaches. "This is going to be a building year, but it's still good for the program overall," said Ms. Ashlee Lazar, another member of the team's coaching staff. Even though the team is new, the players are already starting to create chemistry. "That is how a team does well. If they are socially

connected, they will play better," said Cuccione. With Cuccione bringing 14 years of coaching experience, and Lazar adding another 6 years, there is no doubt that the Rapids have a strong coaching base. Riverside opened their season against Charles Best and followed that up with games against Fraser Heights, Centennial and Gleneagle losing three of the four. "They are always one of the top teams in our league," said Lazar about Centennial and Charles Best. Bouncing back well from the early season troubles that come with the territory of being a new team, the Rapids picked up a 3-0 victory over Gleneagle. "Communication was key and we did a good job of making the field

wide," said Cuccione. "The players are starting to understand and become familiar with each other's playing style," said Lazar. The Rapids are striving to finish in the top four in their league for the easiest route into the Districts. If the Districts go successfully, they will advance to the Fraser Valleys and then on to the Provincials. "We are a really good team. Even though we have lost a few of the older players from last year, we have new players that can really benefit us," said Megan Rosenlund, an outside midfielder for the Rapids. As Riverside's soccer season continues the team looks good not only for this season, but also for the upcoming seasons down the road.



James Matthews/ the eddy

Riverside's Sam Vegh stays close with her check.

Milos Raonic: The young man of "In-tennis-ity"



20 year old Canadian tennis star, Milos Raonic. Photo courtesy of Google

Brendan Williams - staff reporter

Canadians have dominated sports like hockey, lacrosse, curling for numerous years, but a young and talented Ontario native is giving Canadians hope to become a force in the tennis world as well. Born in Montenegro, 20 year old Milos Raonic has stormed into the Tennis scene and become an instant star. With a blistering serve over 150 miles per hour, he has gotten the attention of some of the biggest names not only in Tennis, but in all of professional sports. After defeating Mardy Fish (No. 11 in the world) he seems to be a hot topic around the game. In a matter of one month, Milos accomplished

a shocking feat by jumping from 152nd in the world to 37th in the world tennis rankings. "He is an excellent player with a lot of potential, and it's incredible how quickly he has succeeded. As for the serve, he doesn't have the same spin that I have on mine," said Riverside Tennis coach Mr. Ahmelich. Milos has the highest ranking ever by a male Canadian singles tennis player since computer rankings began in 1973, and considering he only turned to professional tennis three years ago, the story of Milos Raonic is nothing short of unbelievable. "This guy's main aspects to his game are: Strength, focus, and intennisity," said grade 12 student

Drac Azak. Many sports fan have been drawn to Milos simply because his serve is so astonishingly hard, that it is incredible to watch live. Since his serve has been almost impossible to touch, he has come to realize that if he can win a break point here and there, he can control every match. For many years, Daniel Nestor has been the only recognizable name for Canadian tennis players, but with the sudden rise of Milos, Canada seems to be reaching more and more tennis fame by the day. No one knows how well Milos Raonic will do in the next 10 to 20 years, or how his career will turn out. Only time will tell for this 20 year old phenom.

Riverside's senior boys rugby hopes for winning season

Lucas Robinson - staff reporter

Riverside's Senior Boys Rugby team has been improving this season; they have come a long way since last year. In exhibition play, they have had three wins and zero losses. With such an aggressive Senior Boys team and the player's great sportsmanship, "the team will definitely make it to the finals," said grade 12 student Michael Hucal. "Being a big guy," Michael has been drawn to



Lucas Robinson/the eddy

The Rapids battle for the ball in a recent scrum.

rugby mainly because it's a contact sport. He first started playing when he was in grade seven. Since playing at a higher level of the sport, Michael has set goals to be a starting forward on the Senior Boys rugby Team. He has achieved this goal very quickly. Even though Michael thinks that the senior boys Rugby team will make it to

Provincials, he says that the team could still improve on their rucking and communication skills. Players that stand out are Matthew Harrison, Nick Chow, and Liam Brett, all grade 12 students. But with these seniors leaving next year, the grade 11's on the team will have to step up and take control in order to keep their strong reputation alive.

Canucks strike for Stanley Cup

Valenica Yordonov
staff reporter

This year hopes are running high in Vancouver, and the buzz is all about hockey. Many are betting that this will be the year the Canucks will win the Stanley cup that, for the past couple of years, has been out of reach for the young hockey team. The Vancouver Canucks have been doing very well this season, winning more games and having more points than any other team in the NHL. This is mostly due to the most famous pair of twins in the history of the NHL: the Sedins. This is Daniel Sedin's best season in his career and with good reason. He has 104 points this year with

41 goals which makes up for almost one fifth of all the goals scored by the Canucks this season. Henrik is also in the top five with more assists than anyone else in the NHL. With Alex Burrows and Ryan Kesler on a hot streak, Edler and Ehrhoff doing their job in the back, and the rest of the team with high morale, they're one of the most complete teams in the NHL. When they won 3-1 against Los Angeles, the franchise also won their first Presidents Cup trophy. This trophy is only given to the team with the most points. Backed up with two phenomenal goaltenders, Cory Schneider and Roberto Luongo, the Canucks are on a roll. This year the Canucks are going to play the Chicago

Black Hawks in the first round of the playoffs. It's a repetition of last year that has many fans nervous; however the Canucks are doing much better than they ever have. The Canucks are hungry for revenge and they have won at least once against every team in the NHL. The Canucks have been consistently the strongest team in the NHL all year long, and considering how many injuries they have faced (especially from the defense), this run is never short of amazing. With a 3-1 lead in the series, the future looks strong for this young team. This may be the first year in history that the Canucks go on to win the Stanley Cup.



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