



"COVERING THE PRIDE OF
THE SOUTH SIDE"

RAILSPLITTER

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL | 2600 S.W. 9TH DES MOINES, IA | Vol. 90 | RS #4 | December 19, 2013

Happy Holidays!!!

Merry Christmas!

Happy Hanukkah!

Happy Kwanzaa!



Check out our special edition of The Railsplitter Online

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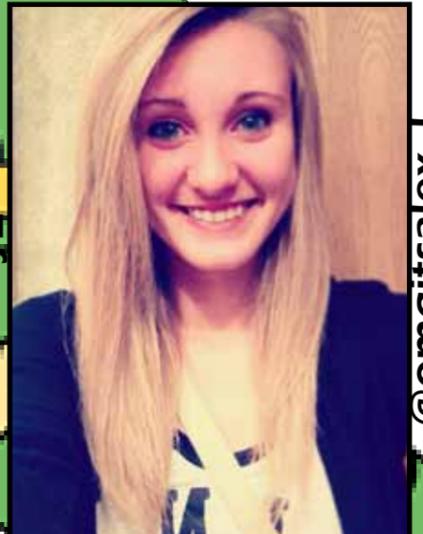
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“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”



Volunteer opportunities to get you into the spirit Lending a Hand this Holiday Season

Maddie Wright
Staff writer

Everyone wants to get involved and help out during the holiday season. We all want to give as much as we can to the less fortunate. It's the best kind of feeling! Getting involved and volunteering at our age is awesome! There are tons of different things out there for teens to do especially during this season. But where do you start looking? No worries! We're here to help.

One of the most popular things to do during the holiday season is to serve food to the needy. Hope Ministries is always in need of more volunteers. They have tons for different options that are available for volunteers to choose from. One option you can do is Supplement and Serve. Help serve the meal and help clean up. Go to http://www.hopeiowa.org/you_can_help/foodVolunteer.php to learn more.

Are you an animal lover? Then the Animal Rescue League is perfect for you! Volunteering for the animals is easy, fun and very rewarding. It's a great way to impact the lives of thousands of dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and small animals. To become a volunteer, you must fill out an application and attend an orientation. The ARL generally holds orientations the second Saturday of every month. For more information visit: <http://www.arl-iowa.org/get-involved/volunteer/default.aspx>.

If you've ever wondered what it felt like to work for Santa, then here's your chance! The City of Des Moines Parks & Recreation Department is looking for some jolly souls to brighten this holiday season at Four Mile and Pioneer Columbus Community Centers! Enjoy interacting with kids and handing out presents from "Toys for Tots". The Pioneer Columbus Holiday Party is December 12th, 5:30pm to 8pm. Contact parksvolunteer@dmgov.org for more information.

Who doesn't love Jolly Holiday Lights? Join the Jolly Holiday Lights Set-up and Tear Down crew! Give back this Holiday Season by helping to set-up and tear down the largest holiday light display in Iowa. Set-up includes unloading the displays from the trucks, checking all of the light bulbs, and setting up the displays and sponsor banners. Tear down is just the opposite. Email ashleyd@iowa.wish.org or call (515) 334-2636 for more information or to sign up to help!

Every 38 minutes, Make-A-Wish foundation grants a wish of a child with a life-threatening medical condition. Volunteers are always needed to help with Wish Granting and Fundraising events. Help raise money and grant a child's wish this holiday season. A background check is required for volunteers who

work with families and children and/or handle money at events. Visit <http://www.iowa.wish.org> for more information and to download a volunteer application.

There are so many opportunities to get involved in and around the metro area. If none of the options above interest you, then there's plenty of more you can choose from! Just visit http://volunteer.truist.com/icovs/volunteer/search-2.aspx?json_p=1&target=&form_submitted=volunteer_search_2_2&form_submitted=volunteer_search_2_3&form_submitted=volunteer_search_2_1&init_request=volunteer_search_2_2&init_request=volunteer_search_2_3&init_request=volunteer_search_2_1&keyword=&us_state=IA&city=Des+M+oines&zip=50315&radius=25&one_time_p=&term_id=26&term_id=134&term_id=31&term_id=32&term_id=2&term_id=19&term_id=101&page_number=1&ts=58572765635855&broaden_search_p=1 for more ideas and opportunities!

"We rise by lifting others."

Happy Holidays

'Tis The Season

Candy canes are now on sale!

Maddie Wright
Staff Writer

Every year around Christmas time, Key Club sells candy canes for students to purchase for their friends at school. Key Club members then deliver student's their candy canes before we leave for Christmas break.

"The candy canes are a fundraiser to raise money for our key club and to spread holiday cheer," says Senior Amy Luong, president of Lincoln's Key Club. "It's one of the biggest fundraisers we do."

Candy canes will be on sale from Wednesday December 11th to Monday the 16th in the commons before school and after school. They're 50 cents apiece and a message will be an extra 25 cents.

"Last year we sold about 150 candy canes and raised about \$75," says Luong. "My goal this year is to sell at least 500 candy canes to make about a \$250 profit."

Candy canes will be delivered to students on Thursday December 19th during 4th block by the key club members.

"You can send candy canes with messages to anyone," says Luong. "You can send them to friends and teachers! There's absolutely no limit on how many you can send!" Don't like the old fashioned candy canes? No problem! Key Club members will be selling both minty and fruity candy canes! So what are you waiting for? Surprise your friends and spread holiday cheer!

Candy canes are no longer on sale! 200 to 250 candy canes were sold and were delivered Thursday, December 19th.

Hanukkah VS. Christmas

By Rebecca Rodrigues

We all either celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah (or Kwanzaa if you're African). This year, people are stepping it up and calling Chri-sanukkah. The "new" holiday is supposed to group in the two holidays which really makes no sense, because the two separately are totally different.

First of all, Christmas is a Christian holiday and Hanukkah is Jewish. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ and is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ and a widely observed holiday, celebrated generally on December 25 by millions of people around the world. The difference is that Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights and Feast of Dedication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt

against the Seleucid. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December. Christmas is also more of a general holiday, where you don't necessarily have to be Christian to celebrate it. And Hanukkah is more of a religious holiday where you use their scripture, the Torah, and the menorah to celebrate it. That's why Christmas is more popular.

Some schools had combined the two in order not to "leave any one out" or to exclude any holidays. Well, let me just point Kwanzaa left out there in the cold. And by them combining the two, they only point out the differences more. If a kid celebrates Christmas and another celebrates Hanukkah, just wish them a Happy Holiday and move on. It's not a very big deal, and peo-

ple don't need to make it one.

Combining the two is not only odd, but not really plausible. The two are different religions, last different lengths of time, and both have totally different traditions. So combining them to create one holiday that they can say in schools to not leave out any kids is kind of stupid. Plus, did they forget Kwanzaa, or what? So this year, whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Christmas, we wish you a Happy Holiday, separately.

Chri-sanukkah or Chri-smukkah???



The Jewish Torah



The Christian Nativity Scene

Special Spot!!!

Orchestra VS. Band...

Rebecca Rodrigues Staff writer

Ever thought, "What's the difference between orchestra and band? Aren't they practically the same thing?" Well, I'm here to tell you my friend, they are definitely NOT the same thing. And here are the main differences:

1. Orchestra plays mainly string instruments and band has none.
2. Band pieces tend to last 5-10 minutes, while orchestra pieces can last 1/2-1 hour long

And you might also think, "Which is better?" Honestly, it only matters for the instrument you play. Strings, orchestra. Brass, band. But what are the opinions of some people already in band or orchestra? Here's what I know--

"Orchestra is better than band because orchestra is fun and happy. We're less of colleagues and more friends. Plus, Bart likes us better." --Kassidy Bowen, freshman

"Band is awesome! We're more like a family than anything else, and we always encourage each other to be the best." --Akilah McPherson, sophomore.

At Lincoln, the band is bigger in number than the orchestra, but there is still an orchestra. Orchestra is open to new members all the time, and would gladly welcome anyone who knows how to play a string instrument. Band is big and growing every year. Sign up at the beginning of the year, or during scheduling if you want to play in the Lincoln Marching Band. Go Lincoln band and orchestra!!!



Band VS. Orchestra

Lincoln's UNKNOWN

Alex Louw, Brandon Searcy, Jordan Bryson, Tanner Smith Staff writers

Many people know that Lincoln High School is an old school. But, does everybody know what lies beneath Lincoln High? Some of the staff of *The Railsplitter* staff took off on a special tour with Principal Williamson. Remember, Lincoln High School was first opened in 1923, which means the school is about 90 years old.

Mr. Williamson showed us a little passageway to the swimming pool--little did we know there was a huge basement underneath the swimming pool. You could see inside the pool through little windows underneath. You could also see that the swimmers from past years kind of have a tradition of spray painting or writing on the walls of the basement of the pool with their name or the class they graduated. Some went as far back as 1988, but nothing farther back than that.

Another part of the basement he showed us was the boiler room. This basement was mostly used for storing chairs and



Seniors Brandon Searcy, Jordan (Ruffles) Bryson, Tanner Smith and Junior Alex Louw get ready for the tour of the basement of Lincoln High School.

old trophies. This is probably the smallest and hottest part of the school. As old as these basements are, we were surprised we didn't find any bugs or rodents.

The next part of the basement we saw was underneath the library. This is where the technology for part of the building goes on. We found some creepy tunnels and chairs sitting in random spots. We found a drop off that led to a small door that Tanner actually threw a ball at. We didn't get it back. Down that drop off there was also a ladder hanging on the wall. There was also a door that if we opened would call straight to security. Principal Williamson encouraged us to not open that and we didn't. Obviously.

Back in the day, the basement was a civil defense shelter. A civil defense shelter is somewhere you would go if there was something like a nuclear blast. Basically, known as a bomb shelter.

Overall, going into the basement was a very interesting experience.



We saw an old chair sitting by these cords. We were wondering if the was the new I.S.S. room but were afraid to ask.



This is the drop-off into the little door that Tanner threw the ball down. There were chairs by each drop-off that might have been used to help get up and down from them.



This part of the basement is like a tunnel. It goes throughout the entire school under the floors. This is where the underground pipes are located.

knowledge scholarship service leadership character

National Honor Society

CONGRATULATIONS NEW MEMBERS!

Amy Luong Editor-in-chief

Congratulations to the new members that were inducted into National Honor Society, on November 11th. Twenty-five new students were inducted into NHS by Jessica Hart, biology teacher, taking over as the teacher coordinator since Dr. Patricia Tice retired. She is accompanied by seniors on the NHS executive board: Sivani Parsa, President, Annie Johnson, Vice President, Olivia Simpson, Secretary, Paige Harper, Treasurer, Bryce Palm, Historian

and Marcus Andre, reporter and public relations. This year's agenda has so much more involvement from all of its members.

"We expect to hold a garage sale soon, inviting anyone to come donate items to sell. We also might raise money for a local charity or send volunteers to a function that needs people to work, such as a marathon," said Marcus Andre, senior and public relations NHS officer.

This year Lincoln's NHS chapter featured guest speaker Joe Gatto,

who is currently running for city council. Dinner was catered by Barrata's. New NHS Members represent the qualities of National Honor Society, which are: knowledge, scholarship, service, leadership and character. The requirements was a 3.75 GPA for sophomores and 3.5 for juniors also a teacher recommendation. They then had to fill an application and complete a series of essays concerning the qualities of NHS, and



Lincoln's NHS officers (L-R) Seniors Marcus Andre, Annie Johnson, Sivani Parsa, Olivia Simpson and Paige Harper.



Left: New members as they are inducted
Right: Parsa inducting new members.
Bottom: The newly inducted NHS members for 2013.



what they would contribute. These essays were read by a panel of teachers who ranked the anonymous essays.

NHS is a longstanding organization. "A leadership and service centered organization that allows members to serve the community

individually as well as in a group," said Sivani Parsa, senior and president.

So congratulations to those who have been inducted into NHS and hope you will maintain your "high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character."

Congratulations to our new members...

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jacob Badger – 10 | Gregory Jump – 12 |
| Gracie Benton – 11 | Arin Leopold- 12 |
| Phylicia Brown – 11 | Luis Martinez – 11 |
| Anthony Caligiuri – 11 | Ashley May – 11 |
| Tom Chidley – 11 | Sam McMichael -11 |
| Seth Chronister – 11 | Amanda Morrison – 12 |
| Thomata Doe – 12 | Federico Ortega – 10 |
| Anna Dotts – 10 | Christa Rauch -12 |
| Samona Garcia – 11 | Bryan Richter – 10 |
| Jordan Goode – 11 | Christina Romanova-11 |
| Fatima Jollah – 12 | Emilie Skartvedt – 12 |
| Madeline Jannes – 11 | Jacob Stites – 10 |
| Kailey Johnson – 12 | Emily Ung-11 |



5 Ways to be

Basic

1 . Being obsessed with Gossip Girl- Gossip Girl is like literally the classiest show ever. They live in the Upper East Side and have the most perfect closets ever. Plus, there's so much romance and drama that in order to be basic it's the obvious T.V show to be obsessed with. You have your fair share of guys to be obsessed with, Chuck, Nate and Dan and can either pick to be a Blair or Serena but whatever you do beware because once you watch that first episode you will finish all six seasons in a minimum of 1 week.

2 . Starbucks- Whether you're a coffee drinker or not Starbucks is the drink of choice. Whether it's a Skinny Grande White Mocha with Hazelnut or a Cotton Candy Frappuccino every basic girl takes a picture of her Starbucks cup and uploads it on Instagram. It's not necessarily a drink it's more of a way of life, let's be honest. Every basic girl will tweet at least 4 times a week, "If someone would bring me Starbucks my life would be made (insert heart eye emoji.)"

5 . Victoria's Secret- Yoga, hoodies, sweatpants, OH MY! Everything PINK! (heart eye emoji) Basic girls love Victoria's Secret. Yoga Pants is basically a way of life for most basic girls. Who needs pants when you have yoga pants? They're lazy and cute and perfect. A North face, yogas and pair of Uggs is all a basic girl needs to have the perfect winter outfit.

3 . Tiffany & Co.- Whether you have a blue box or not every basic girl dreams of getting her first one. Whether it's pearls, sterling silver or your already picked out engagement ring (Tiffany Soleste 1.5 Carot :)) you know what you want and you'll dream about it forever, or until you eventually get it. It's not all about the jewelry it's the feeling that Tiffany's gives you, hope. Hope that someday someone will love you enough to give you a blue box. It's iconic and classic and that's really all a basic girl wants.

4 . Lana Del Rey- Lana is the definition of class. She's fierce and knows what she wants. Her voice is perfection and makes for a girl every basic girl wants to be. With her long auburn hair, flower crowns and hipster ways who wouldn't want to be her?!?! She's so pretty, says some excellent things that are in every basic girls bio and her songs just sing teenage girls lives, "Will you still love me when I'm no longer young and beautiful?" C'MON DUDE WILL YA?!?!?!"



"Well, when I get it the only thing that does any good is to jump in a cab and go to Tiffany's. Calm me down right away. The quietness and the proud look of it; nothing very bad could happen to you there. If I could find a real life place like that'd make me feel like Tiffany's, then- then I'd buy some furniture and give the cat a name!" -Holly Golightly



holiday ponders and amazing food

It's that time of year again . . .

Black Friday Alex Louw staff writer

We all know what the Friday after Thanksgiving is... It's the day when pretty much every store has the most ridiculous sales and they're opened during the middle of the night. But those aren't the craziest things about that Friday. It's the customers.

Most stores open around midnight and are open literally throughout the entire day. The sales are usually the best sales of the year, and that's why it's so packed. People try to get most of their Christmas shopping done and out of the way.

There are always the ridiculous and sad stories on the news about someone who has died on Black Friday due to the people that are literally crazy and trample over everyone and everything in their path. How do you knock someone over on

purpose, not help them up, and then let everyone behind you step all over them?

Then there are the people that are obsessed with electronics and games and what not and they camp

out in front of Best Buy, Wal-Mart, etc. the night before. Sometimes maybe even two days before! It can be pretty interesting to see all the people out there.



SHOPS ONLINE FOR BLACK FRIDAY



TRAMPLED TO DEATH

Top left: infamous Walmart BF trampling
Bottom Left: The truth
Top Right: Bad Luck Brian is at it again...

On another note...

This year, Black Friday was definitely not as hectic as past years. Some stores didn't open until 5 AM Friday morning, while others opened the night of Thanksgiving.

Changing the time that some of the stores opened was a huge reason why there wasn't as many people out.

The great deals and huge sales weren't enough motivation for some of those crazy shoppers and extreme couponers. Actually, the more popular thing this year was "Cyber Monday" which is the Monday after black Friday when there are crazy deals for online shopping.

Even with rare deals and sales, Black Friday just wasn't a hit this year!

Did you know...

Black Friday originated from when businesses start to make profit or "go into the black" instead of being "in the red" which means they have financial losses.

Ultimate Oreo Brownie Bars

Amy Luong Editor-in-chief

Find out how to make one of Lincoln's favorite chocolate treat.

Around Lincoln, you hear students and teachers bringing up the fact that you should bring Oreo brownie treats (the name had to be changed for this article) and a select few have had them.

What is an Oreo brownie bar? What's in it? An Oreo brownie bar is a dessert that is layered with cookie dough, Oreo, and brownie on top, best served with a glass of milk or ice cream.



Is your mouth watering yet? If you haven't had the

privilege of trying one of these fantastic brownies--here's how you can make your own, especially for the holiday season. Here's the recipe and directions. Also for more delicious desserts for the holidays go to Pinterest!

1. First preheat your oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit

and line your pan with parchment paper

(makes it easier to take out and

clean up).



2. Then, with your pan put the pre made cookie dough down and spread it in the bottom of the pan.

3. Cover cookie dough with Oreo cookies.

4. Put together your brownie mix

and pour it evenly over the Oreo cookies

5. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

6. After 40 minutes, put a toothpick in the brownie. If it's

clear, it's done. If not, bake for another 10 minutes and repeat the toothpick test.

7. Once it's done, let it cool for 10 minutes and serve with whatever you want!

You made your first batch of some of the most amazing brownies!

Some serving suggestions are with ice cream or a glass of milk. Send pictures to @AmyDLuong and show me dem brownies.

Debate

Marissa Signor, Staff writer

HOW DOES THE DEBATE COACH FEEL WHEN HIS STUDENTS ARE COMPETING?

Debate can get serious and very competitive! There is a novis, intermediate and advanced category. Freshman are usually in the novis category because it is their first year and they don't have as much experience as the advanced competitors do. When you are debating your speech must be 4 minutes. They can't be any shorter or longer.

The judges are there, taking notes and seeing which one would be the best in that situation. Right before the contestant goes on they are to set their timer and hope

they make the time and get all the important information out there that they know that needs to be said.

When you are debating you have to dress nice and represent yourself the best you can. Debating is very competitive and can get very frustrating. You want to win and beat the person you are debating against. You spend over weeks preparing and backing yourself up with all the information about the topic that you can. Knowing everything about what you are debating about makes everything easier when you are answering

questions.

"I feel really proud of the kids, it's one of those moments where you understand you are the coach but to me it's the process and it is the start to our work. It's inspiring to see the kids to get their names called and to see them get their award and go up to get it," said Coach Mr. Meyer.

"When the kids are debating, I get very nervous. I feel like the parent who is watching in the audience, I feel just as nervous as them when I am out there watching. I do get nervous but in the end I know the kids have

practices and they are ready and they will do whatever it takes to get the win," said Coach Mr. Meyer.

"My favorite part is getting to travel with the unique group of kids and the team is very exciting and fun to be around. We practice at least twice a week and they practice on their own as well. We are the 5th in the state and we are currently ranked 10% of schools in the nation. We have lots and lots of tournaments coming up," said Coach Mr. Meyer.

Debate is very fun and you make lots of memories. Each team is very fun and you make lots of memories.



Great Debaters

There are different types of Debate.

In **Public Forum** the team placed 1st place at Bettendorf and at Marshalltown.

In **Humorous Interpretation** they placed 3rd and 4th at East and 2nd place at Roosevelt.

The team also placed 3rd at East in **Congress Debate**. LHS won 2nd at Simpson, 3rd at East and 5th at Dowling in the **Duo Interpretation**.

The Debate Team placed 5th and 2nd at Bettendorf and 2nd at East.

When students participate in debate, they learn to study issues in depth and from perspectives.

Working Hard Pays Off

Railettes going to Norwalk and getting critiqued

To the left is Senior Amanda Morrison and to the right is Sophomore Marissa Signor.



Marissa Signor, Staff writer

State is December 6 and time is coming short. Practices are more important now than they have been earlier in the year. The Railettes are going to Norwalk to get critiqued in the four dances they have. The Railmen are also going and getting their hip hop dance critiqued.

Norwalk is very competitive because most of the teams around the area are there and want to beat the other teams and support their team the best they can to represent their school. The critiques are what make the dances stronger. The judges are trying to help

you with the best feedback they can because they want you to do the best at state.

The Raillette seniors have been taking practices more seriously than usual. They want to place at state and so does the team, but it is more of the seniors because it's there last year and they want their senior year to be memorable.

This week the critiques are very important and are what the team is looking forward to. The Railettes are performing their hip hop, lyrical, and pom routine. The coed team is also performing their dance. Railettes practice four times a week

with a 2 hour time for each practice.

"I am very excited to be dancing at Norwalk. It's my last Norwalk performance with the team and I can't wait to show everyone what we have been working on these past months. Are dances are looking cleaner and I am excited to see what the judges have to say about us performing. After Norwalk the pressure is really on because we only have 4 more practices until state," said Senior Amanda Morrison.

"After being on the team for 4 years, I am sad knowing that this is my last year.

I have made so many memories especially this year because I have made a ton of memories with the team. Were different this year than we have been in the past and I am so happy I get to share and spend my time with the 2013-2014 Railettes this year," said Senior Amanda Morrison.

To the left is Senior, Courtney

VanDeBow and To the right is Junior, Antonia Mihalovich.



Raillette's Winter Season

Carlie McCleary, staff writer

The Railettes are ready for another good winter season. After a hard summer and fall of practicing hard and performing in shows, we are excited to move on into the year. In the winter season of railettes, we compete in State, we perform during halftime at basketball games, and we prepare for our show, Raillette Rhythm, which is in April.

During State week, things get very serious

and intense. We have morning practice 3 days a week and each afternoon practice is extended by an hour. There's no fooling around at practice during state week. All the seniors make sure that we are prepared. This year, we're hoping to place as high as possible! We've been working so hard and we hope we have something to celebrate after the whole thing is over.

Basketball games are another part of the winter season. The Railettes

perform at boys' and girls' varsity games during halftime. For these performances, the seniors usually make up "fun" dances that we perform at pep rallies also. The basketball season starts on December 3rd, so that's what we will be practicing for after State week.

Senior Raven Sharp is a great leader on Railettes. She says "The most stressful thing about being a senior during state week and during the winter season is trying to get

as much cleaning done as possible but also trying to keep peace among the team." Her plans after State ends are to increase the technique and uniformity of the team to prepare for larger competitions such as regionals or nationals. If we place well at State, we will consider competition in competitions out of state!

Railettes is a lot of fun, but when it's time to work, we get serious. To most girls on the team, the winter season is the best part about being on the team. Between the basketball games, the kickoff pep rallies, and all the commotion with State, we're having fun but we also have a lot to work towards. Best of luck to us this season!



The Railettes Dance Team ride to state in a limo!



Sophomore Marissa Signor performing halftime at the Lincoln basketball game.



The Railettes Team stopped down at the Capital before they went to perform at state.

railsplitter accomplishments

Winning isn't everything

The Railmen competed at state this year in hopes for a 3rd State Title but fall short.

Kenzy Cooper Staff writer

The Lincoln Railmen competed at State this year in hopes of winning a 3rd consecutive State title. Unfortunately, they fell short. Their competition was tough but they left no regrets on the dance floor.

This was Senior, Phi Nguyen's last year competing at State. Although, he was disappointed he knew winning wasn't the only reason why they went to State. "Yes, we were disappointed but we are doing dance for fun, because we love dance. It isn't about the competition to us."

Not doing as well at State as they expected did not stop the Railmen from learning a lot at State. Watching the other groups perform and being able to see what they do well and what they don't do well can teach you a lot. "Getting to see all the other fantastic groups perform and learning a lot about what they do to prepare taught us a lot!" Says Senior, Marcus Andre.

State isn't all about the competition. At ISDTA State Championships, many dancers make new friends with their other competition. "Making new friends was my favorite part about State! The guys that we competed with and the other girls from the different dance groups were nice! We interacted with them and danced with them and it showed how as dancers we can relate and show off our passion," Nguyen says.

Preparing for State is definitely one of the main aspects on how a group will do at state. Andre tells us about the Railmen's preparations and how he felt his team would do at State, "We had put in about 2 months of work into our state routine, I was confident that everybody knew choreography and understood the dances. I expected we would end up with a high score and that overall we would be a crowd pleasing act! I was excited and nervous!"

The Railmen were confident but they gave it their all and that is what their coaches wanted. No regrets--leave it all on the dance floor.

The Railmen are finished with their competitions this year but are looking forward to performing at basketball games, pep rallies, and their Spring Show, Railmen Rampage.



Taking singing to new a new level

How do you feel about being selected for all-state this year?

Sam: Pretty good, I was really worried about myself because I was the only returning person from last year--so I feel good about myself.

Nick: I was happy about it, I was kind of upset the rest of the quartet I was in didn't make it but, yeah, I was excited.

Brian: I was really nervous, I actually started my audition on the wrong bar. And I got called back. And I was really excited.

David: I was really nervous, because this is my last year and ive been called back every year and not made it, so I was really happy.

What was your favorite part of the experience?

Sam: Probably just the overall sound of the choir--you could stop singing and it wouldn't matter because of the talent in the room.

Nick: I enjoyed the bonding with the guys in the car ride and in the hotel room, I also caught a grimmer and named it poopsie.

Brian: The best part was singing with all these talented singers and the quality of the music.

David: Meeting the people from all across the State and the sound of the music was amazing.

The 2013 all-state singers worked countless hours getting ready for these tryouts and in the end they prevailed. The singers from Lincoln were, Senior Sam Sides, Senior Nick Parker, Senior David Best and Sophomore Brian Richter. Here's what they had to say about their experience.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANTHONY CALIGIURI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In each issue, we are going to take a look at students who are making a difference at our school and in the south side community.

This issue we are spotlighting Lincoln's Cabin and its leaders Dallas Downey and Emily Wiese

Lincoln's Cabin is the student section for all of the sporting events...but it's way more than that. "I'd say Lincoln's Cabin is a big family," says co-cabin leader Emily Wiese. The Cabin is led this year by Seniors Emily Wiese and Dallas Downey--who take sincere pride in their work. "I pour a lot of my time into it and it means a lot to me," said Downey.

But why is a student section so important to its fans and its leaders? "It's an adrenaline rush to lead such a big roar of students but also just a really fun experience," said Wiese. Lincoln's Cabin starts its work well before kickoff at the football games.

At each home game, the leaders organize a tailgate in the parking lot for all of the student fans. There's always food, friends and fun. Then it's up to the stands to get their spirit on. The leaders are responsible for all happenings in the stands, such as the cheering and making sure everyone is participating and having a good time.



"I love helping out and I love feeding people before the game, luckily tailgating has been so successful," said Downey. Being a leader is not just a position, it's a way of life. Lincoln is fortunate enough to have dedicated students that put their heart and soul into the fan base. Being a leader is a big deal and they take their responsibility very seriously.

But how has Lincoln's Cabin been successful in the past and continues to grow stronger each year? If you ask almost anyone, they will say Lincoln's Cabin is a big family. "I think being a leader is all about bringing all kinds of different people together for one cause and that of course is to cheer on our boys," said Wiese. Just because football season has come to an end, that doesn't mean the cabin is closed for the year. Basketball season is among us, and the Cabin has much more in store for its loyal fans.



Do you know someone or a group that is making a difference in our school/community?
Tell me on twitter! @TheRailsOnline or @Anthony_theCal

BRO BLOG

Q & A EDITION

What goes on in Jordan's Head?

By Staff Writers Jordan Bryson & Tanner Smith

From his forehead wrinkles, to his crusty mustache--we all know Jordan Bryson. He is arguably one of the goofiest kids at Lincoln. Jordan has a very big head, if you didn't know that already. But does anyone ever wonder what goes on inside this oversized head? I sat down and had a little interview with Jordan and asked him some random questions to see how he thinks on every-day topics.

T: What is one confession you would like everybody to know?

J: I like turtles.....

T: What do you hate the most out of anything in this world?

J: The Alabama Crimson Tide

T: What is your favorite food?

J: I like all food, I don't dislike any food. But my least favorite is a bean burrito

T: Do you have a weird addiction?

J: With Marvel Comics.. Yes

T: What do you do on your free time?

J: I lift weights, hang with friends and watch & play sports

T: If you were stranded on an island and could only bring 3 items, what would they be?

J: Xbox, Chinese food and a razor

T: Who is your best friend?

J: Robert Downey Jr (aka Iron Man)

T: Coke or Pepsi?

J: Coca-Cola... But only Cherry flavored.

T: What is your favorite color?

J: Blanched almond

T: Polo or Hilfiger?

J: Polo--forget that Hilfiger

T: If you had to trade lives with someone, who would it be?

J: Master Chief

T: You were recently put on a popular twitter known as '@FunnyPicsDepot' how do you feel about this situation?

J: I feel a little honored, but at the same time I feel ratchet....

T: Who is the best looking girl in the eyes of Jordan Bryson?

J: Black Widow (aka Scarlett Johansen)

T: Last question, if you could be one superhero who would it be? Why?

J: Iron man. He is more than just a hero, he is a playboy millionaire.



What Jordan would look like if he was Iron Man.



Jordan's @FunnyPicsDepot picture.

Jordan is with his dream girl, Black Widdow.



It's



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Lil Mac Jammer Rappin Away

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE YEAR

Kenzy Cooper Staff writer

Lil Mac Jammer, yeah I'm back again! Christmas time here, the best it's been. It's the happiest time of the year you know, so make sure your Christmas spirit doesn't lay low! Santa, Christmas tree, lights too, only a month and yet so much shopping to do! Receiving is nice but it's all about giving but always remember the true reason for the season. Spend lots of time with your family and friends and just remember your mom wants a Mercedes Benz. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year too! S/O to my followers, you know I <3 you.



Meltdowns with Alex

It's my birthday I'll cry if I want to

Alex Louw Staff writer

If you follow me on Twitter--I'm almost positive you've seen all my tweets counting down the days until my 17th birthday--which is December 18th, by the way. I guess you can't really call this blog a "meltdown with Alex" unless you give me something to cry about. The closer it gets to my birthday, the more excited I get. OBVIOUSLY. But that means I don't really focus much on school or think about anything that's going on around me. I have a problem with putting it all over Twitter that my birthday is coming up. I even have a countdown app on my phone that tells me how long it is until my birthday. It's coming down to the final HOURS and I started it when there was about 200 some days until my birthday. I'm just a litttttle excited ☐ You would think that there aren't many things to cry about on your birthday, but trust me there are. Let's say you're getting ready for school andddd you have a bad hair or makeup day. EVERY girl knows what I'm talking about--maybe even some guys. Anyways, that's two ways to mess up your day right from the beginning. Another reason to make me mad on my birthday is to not say happy birthday to me if you KNOW it's my birthday. I mean, the least you could do is say happy birthday to someone. Whether it's a shout out on Twitter or whatever you could just say it. It's two words! If you don't know who I am, I don't expect you to say anything. But really, just say happy birthday and make my day. Please. Also, don't forget that it's my birthday if I've been letting you know for a good month or so about how many days are left until the day.... Or I really am going to have a meltdown. I'm pretty sure no one would want that. But hey, I'll cry if I want to.

The **HOT** TOPIC: Pass the Turkey... Did you forget Thanksgiving???

Rebecca Rodrigues Staff writer

Why does everyone forget Thanksgiving?! Is it so hard to remember the anniversary of when the Native Americans practically saved our butts from starvation a few centuries ago? No! The minute Halloween is over with, up goes the Christmas decorations. I guess the only reason stores don't celebrate Thanksgiving, is because there's no money to be made off of it. The school board doesn't even give us an entire week off of school! Why does everyone forget turkey day?

Ah, Thanksgiving. The magical time of year when family's gather 'round the table and eat turkey and marshmallow-yams. But what does it matter! Christmas is coming! A fat guy is stalking us RIGHT now, seeing if we're good or bad. And then he's going to bring us presents through our non-existent chimneys! Yeah! Let's just forget the Family Holiday and get on with the presents! Yeah... no.

Stores are the biggest endorser of skipping the holiday of the grate-

ful. I mean sure, Starbucks sells hot apple cider and pumpkin flavored everything, but that really applies to every winter/fall holiday. Like, three days before Halloween, Wal-Mart had little fat snowmen decorations and Santa's Cookies plates. I even heard one mother say to her crying child, "You better be good, or Santa ain't gonna get you nothin'." And I thought, "Well, the Big Turkey ain't gonna get you any cranberry sauce neither." The forgetfulness of people and Wal-Mart.

And we need a break from school! Thanksgiving is when winter starts to rear its ugly head, and we need time to adapt. And Christmas break is so far off from now, we might as well sleep at the school to stay warm! And honestly, waiting until whatever 'o clock to open the door in the morning? C'mon! We need more than 3 days to get ready for the cold weather.

And plus we need time for family! Travelling home for Christmas/Hannukah/Kwanza is always hard in Iowa's 5 feet of snow. And usually,

Thanksgiving is the holiday where everyone can make it. College students come home and Parents get days off from work. And students at least get a few days off of school. November 28th's not just another Thursday, but a special one for turkey and families alike. So please. Remember Thanksgiving and don't forget.



Creative Blog Name Here_

Reasons why me writing this blog is pointless

Maddie Wright Staff writer



A blog is defined as a way for people to share ones opinion. People share their opinions all the time and they definitely don't need a blog to do it. Writing a blog is like standing in the middle of a busy mall intensely talking to yourself and possibly having that random lady walk by and catch bits and pieces of what you're saying and if she doesn't think you're crazy (which she will), maybe she'll actually stop and join in on your one man conversation (don't count on it). Personally, I've never met anyone who blogs or reads a specific blog. Maybe you have? I don't know. Whenever I picture the type of person that reads or writes blogs, I picture your everyday, middle-aged, stay at home mother. I could be wrong, but I'm pretty dang sure neither of us are middle-aged, stay at home mothers. I'm not saying every blog out there is pointless, but this one sure is! Why you ask (I'm sure you aren't asking why but let's pretend you are for a minute)? Listed below are my somewhat ridiculous reasons why I shouldn't be writing a blog:

1. Writing a blog takes good ideas and a catchy theme. I clearly don't have either of those.
2. Since I don't have either of those two things listed in number

one, I suppose I could rant about something completely irrelevant and use the word basic about 100 times but that's what twitter is for.

3. I've never written a blog before in my life. Obviously.

4. Blogs are basic (that's only **Writing a blog is like standing in the middle of a busy mall intensely talking to yourself and possibly having that random lady walk by and catch bits and pieces of what you're saying and if she doesn't think you're crazy (which she will), maybe she'll actually stop and join in on your one man conversation (don't count on it).**

once).

5. Half the newspaper staff writes a blog. Why are you still reading this one?

6. I really don't want to have

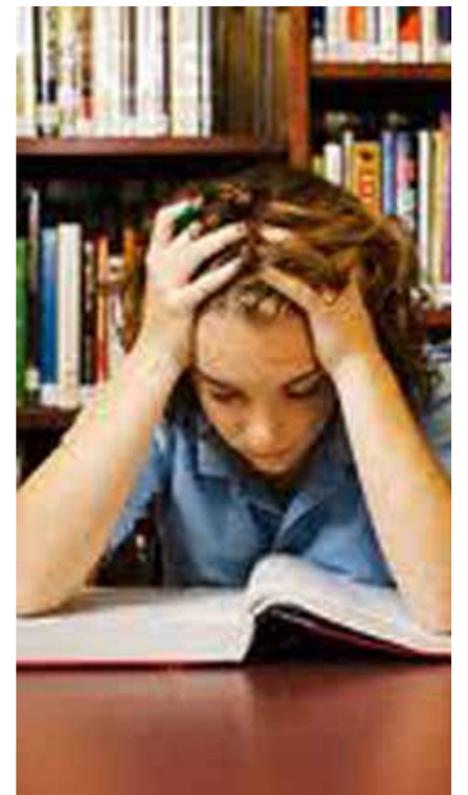
to write one of these every issue. Just making this list is hard enough!

7. Like I said before, I don't need a blog to share my opinion with people (even though most of the time they don't listen).

8. Would this even count as a blog?

9. If I could stop reading this, I would. And I'm the one writing it!

10. I'll be honest, I'm just plain lazy.



Us blogging away...

MARISSA'S

Moments . . .

Preparing FOR DANCE COMPETITION SEASON

Marissa Signor Staff writer

Competition season is only 3 months away and time is starting to run out. Each practice counts and it gets more stressful as time is running out. I dance at Brekke Dance Center which is located on the South Side of Des Moines. Dancing is very important to me and is what I want to do in my career.

This year for competition season I am in 15 dances and competing at 4 competitions including Nationals in St. Louis as a team. I am also going to be competing in a few different competitions around the area just myself performing my solo.

I practice every Monday from 6-9, Tuesday from 4-10, Wednesday from 4-9 and Saturday from 9-2. In those times I am taking a bunch of technique classes to make my dancing stronger. I love being with my team and seeing them every week. My dance family is more important to me and we are always there for each other.

Sitting up there and waiting for your awards at competitions gets very nerve racking because you are hoping for the best

score after all of the work you have put in, in the long practices. Practicing is very frustrating when everyone doesn't show up. I am really close to my dance teachers and I love their support because they are always pushing us to do are best.

When we are learning are dances for competitions everyone is arguing at each other because they all think they are right until our teachers come and change everything. My dance studio is very competitive because everyone wants to win. I love being on a team that wants to win because we get better every year. Dance drama is something that will NEVER go away.

I remember when I was in drama because I did an extra dance than my duet partner and our friendship was ruined that whole year. Today our friendship is everything to us. I dance over 30 hours a week and enjoy every moment of it. Dance describes me as who I am and what I do. I couldn't live without dancing and I love every minute of it. Practices get very frustrating but they are definitely worth it at competitions.

it's SHORDIE TIME CAR STRUGGLES

Carlie McCleary Staff writer

I was extremely lucky to get a car on my 16th birthday in February of my sophomore year. My parents got me a 2000 Audi A6 and I was so excited! But I had no idea that the car would cause so many problems...

My car worked perfectly for a while. Then came minor things that needed fixed like the trim on the side of my car, and other little things like that. I drove it well and was very safe with it. But when winter came around, I had a bad experience with ice. I tried to come to a stop at a stop sign but my car slid on the ice and I ran into the car in front of me. It wasn't a big deal because there was no damage on the other car and my license plate fell off but it was still the first accident I've ever been in. I was terrified and I'm lucky it wasn't worse than it was!

The second accident I got in was definitely the worst. A water bottle fell out of my cup holder, and when I reached down to get it, the car in front of me apparently slowed way down and when my eyes were back on the road, I rear-ended them. There wasn't any damage on their car but there was on mine. I was devastated because I knew it was my fault. I wasn't driving as carefully as I should have. There was a dent in my car and half the bumper was off. My parents were mad, but they understand that accidents happen so they paid to get it fixed.

When my car was finally fixed, plenty of things were still going wrong. My bumper fell off twice because of a bad repair job by the people we paid to fix my car, my breaks went out, and I had a problem with the oil pan on the bottom of my car spilling out oil while I was driving. Overall, my car and I have been through a lot. I'm lucky to even have a car and I've learned my lesson. Drive safe!



Blogs from the Editors

It's Lady Lincoln Time

Call me Honest Ame, tell me what's on your mind.



Why is it so hard for people to say what's actually on their minds? Heck, is it that hard to be honest? I'll admit, I'm not honest all the time and I'm trying to change that because you get so many things accomplished if you're just out front and honest--but there are people who, for whatever reason lie about something that is worthy of the truth. I'm counting the littlest twist on the truth as a lie too because if you aren't telling the whole truth and you're hiding something--it's still lying.

So much stuff gets established and done when you tell someone how you feel about something or just tell them the dang truth! Telling the truth cuts the bullcrap--isn't that what everyone

wants? If you want it, then spit it out.

It's not just the lack of honesty that bothers me, but also the fact that people hide things, such as their feelings or something they want. Communication is a key thing to a great relationship with another person, plus talking about how you feel or telling the truth will lift a HUGE weight off your shoulder.

I believe that your fate is laid out for you and your life is given to you because you are able to live it. If someone is upset over the truth--than it's for a reason. If someone told me the truth that upsets me, I'd forgive them faster than I would for someone who lied to me. Maybe telling the truth does seem right at the moment, just kidding, but there's al-

ways time to tell the truth, the time may seem inappropriate, but you just have to put on your big boy pants and spit it out.

It's not hard to spit out something when you know what you want to say and know you need to say it, like when someone says, "Oh, I have something to tell you...never mind." If you have something to say--then say it. Okay, I do that sometimes because I honestly forgot what I had to say, I have a memory span of a gold fish. But if you tell that to someone, just tell them what you had to say. Like you brought something up, you might as well finish your thought. If someone says they forget, then it obviously wasn't that important to begin with, but don't use the excuse "I forgot"

just because you don't want to say what's on your mind. If you didn't, why would you bring it up? Same with the excuse "I didn't mean what I said." Then why did you say it? I'm rolling my eyes.

Finally, do not kiss up to someone to make them feel better--this is the worst form of "lying." I'm not talking about when your friend needs a pick me up on their self-esteem, because they probably are what you say and they have no reason to be upset. But if they ask you, "Am I making a mistake trying to contact (Blank)?" or "Is my writing good?" And you lie and say what will make them feel better or what you think they want to hear, they'll be living their lives based on a lie.

Life would be hard whenever everyone is honest to you, but you can get so much more accomplished than living in a "world of disillusion" as someone once said to me. But always remember there's a line being honest and being a total jackwagon.

Peace out Lincoln --see you next year, keep it 100. #LadyLincoln

Amy Luong
Editor-in-chief



What's Up with That? Christmas Time is here

Anthony Caligiuri
Editor-in-chief

It's finally the holiday season! And that means Christmas time and forced family fun time are here as well. I don't know about you but I'm pretty pumped for the season. But this season to me has been here for a long time.... And it's not even Christmas!

Think about it. It was October 31st, Halloween night. All of the sudden the next day it was Christmas or something! Lights were up, Christmas music was playing, and girls from everywhere were lining up for Starbucks' new holiday drink. What is up with that? The holidays seem to come earlier and earlier each year. The rate we are going next year it'll kick off in July. Seriously that is insane. I blame the stores that start all this hype. They put up their Christmas decorations in like September. They are the reason people get so 'excited' over the holidays so early. And now Christmas music is playing on 62 different stations in October. Basic girls everywhere are pulling out the ugly sweaters and drinking the peppermint mocha spicy holiday latte because of all this extra nonsense.

Now don't get me wrong, I love the holiday season and Christmas time but there is a limit as to how much I can handle. I think after Thanksgiving we are clear to bust out in the holiday spirit but before then let's just focus on getting through Thanksgiving and dealing with your fun relatives. And another thing, we should be able to say whatever we want. This is America. I can say Merry Christmas or whatever I want and people shouldn't get offended. I'm sorry you want to be a bah humbug but I can't be in the holiday spirit without saying Merry Christmas. I totally respect all other holidays and whatnot but you won't be hearing Happy Holiday's from me. Its Merry Christmas.

So whatever your plans are this season, I hope you have a great time and enjoy it with family and friends or your crazy relatives. From all of us here at *The Railsplitter Online*, Merry Christmas!

Stay Studly my friends.

