

The
REGISTER FORUM

Established 1894

VOL. 127, NO. 6

CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2015



CRLS a cappella group Girls Next Door sing to a lucky student on Friday, February 13, 2015.

Photo Credit: Steven Matteo

By
Lucas Raagas
Register Forum Correspondent

Singing Valentines have become a tradition at CRLS every Valentine's Day, where the four A cappella groups serenade students around the school, after a Valentine is purchased for \$3 the week before. The event is a great way of getting the entire school into the Valentine's Day spirit, and it never fails to embarrass a few unsuspect-

ing students along the way.

The tradition began in 2010 shortly after the a cappella program's creation in 2009. Members of the a cappella program label this tradition as their favorite performance of the year because it is known to be comprised of embarrassment, awkwardness, and the spirit of Valentine's Day love.

"It's the only fundraiser for the a cappella program all year, so it's important to everyone in the program," said junior and Sassafras member

Jodanah Jean Baptiste, "and it's also a great way to get into the Valentine's Day spirit."

The four CRLS a cappella groups, Bro-Cappella, Girls Next Door, Pitches and Dos, and Sassafras, made sure not to disappoint this year. Due to snow days, the program only had two days to sell the Valentines but still experienced their usual success.

Singing Valentines are just another unique aspect of CRLS that keeps the halls full of spirit, music, and euphoria.

Winter Storms Juno, Linus, and Marcus Cause Record Snowfalls in Boston Area

By
Matthew Scarlett
Register Forum Correspondent

A winter for the record books: six snow days and over 100 inches of snow accumulation in Cambridge over a period of around two weeks. "Be thankful: not everyone gets snow. My people don't get it," expressed junior Esu Alemseged.

The snow came from three major storms: Juno, Linus, and Marcus. Juno struck first, and dropped about 27-30 inches of snow. This blizzard was bad enough to cause snow days on Tuesday, January

27 and Wednesday, January 28. During this storm, the MBTA had to close down and roads throughout the city were off limits due to a statewide travel ban for the entire day of January 27.

Just as Cambridge thought the worst was over, however, the city got news that another storm (Linus) was coming in strong. Though it was not nearly as bad as Juno (about 12-14 inches of snow), it still caused enough damage for Superintendent Jeff Young to call off school (twice) yet again, on Monday, February 2 and Tuesday, February 3.

Since recordkeeping began in 1880, the week of January 27 to February

3 had the most snow accumulation in a week-long period.

Then came Marcus: the first part of the snowfall started the night of Sunday, February 8. The storm lived up to its hype, dropping about 12-14 inches over the course of Sunday night and Monday, February 9. The storm was even bad enough for Governor Charlie Baker to urge people to stay inside and not travel, a step down from Juno's travel ban.

Additionally, the MBTA's rail services (subway and commuter rail) were shut down on 7 pm on February 9th through all of Tuesday, February 10 "while maintenance crews



Three snowstorms resulted in six snow days.

Photo Credit: Adrienne Ashe

continue[d] to clear snow and ice from tracks," according to an official statement.

This storm caused Jeff Young to yet again call off school twice in a row for the third time this semester

because snow was too piled up and there was nowhere to put it. With the sixth snow day since the start of the first semester, the teachers must be running around

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CRLS Represents Benin at MUN

By
Paloma O'Connor
Register Forum Editor

On the last weekend of January, CRLS students from the Model United Nations Club (MUN) participated in the Harvard MUN Conference, run by Harvard University students. Located in Boston, the conference attracts students from around the globe and offers students a hands-on experience with international affairs.

Each student was assigned to a committee specializing in areas ranging from nuclear disarmament to the international economy to world health. Committees could be as small as fifteen people or as large as four hundred, with each school representing a different country -- in CRLS's case, Benin. Their goal: to come to a consensus on a resolution, a particular policy option carefully drafted by the students.

Coming to an agreement when there are so many competing interests is difficult and requires compromise - and that is part of what makes MUN unique and educational. Junior Hibah Gul explains, "[MUN] exposes us to real concerns and priorities different nations have when it comes to different issues. It's easy to recognize the problems, but when it's your job to come up with the solutions, it's a lot harder making sure those solutions are viable." She adds, "I think [MUN is] a valuable experience because it exposes young people to policy making and diplomacy. I now have a greater understanding when it comes to policy making, because

"[MUN] exposes us to real concerns and priorities different nations have when it comes to different issues."

it's not one size fits all."

Other CRLS students agree. According to senior Kris-



CRLS senior Julie Campbell participates at HMUN.

Photo Credit: Harvard Model UN

ten O'Loughlin, Model UN "was a valuable experience because it allowed me to be immersed in a UN simulation... [and] contributed to my understanding of international diplomacy." Freshman Paul Sullivan concurs - at Harvard MUN, he says, "you get to practice diplomacy, interpersonal skills, and speech/debate skills in front of a diverse group of people from all over

the world." His favorite part? "[M]aking my first speech...it was nerve-racking, but very fun."

The club, advised by CRLS teachers Mr. Kells and Mr. Racki, goes to two big conferences every year - the Harvard conference, of course, and a second conference in New York, which is coming up in March. Stay tuned for more news from MUN!



Students from around the country and around the world collaborate at the Harvard Model United Nations.



Photo Credit: Harvard Model UN

Should There Be a 'Right to be Forgotten' on the Internet?

By
Sophia Nikolayev
Register Forum Correspondent

In May 2014, a Spanish man attempted to have all links to a negative story about a crime he had committed removed from Google, the world's most popular online search engine.

The European Union Court of Justice sided with him invoking what's now known as "The Right To Be Forgotten." The court announced that citizens have the right to ask that links be removed if they contain information that is "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant."

Junior Gabriela

Thompson, who is familiar with this subject, expresses, "I heard that now the EU wants to expand that ruling across the Atlantic. I think that it makes sense to be put into consideration if all of Europe has already agreed upon it."

Proponents of a right to be forgotten claim that search engines should have to remove outdated or overly personal information from their search results.

"It's about privacy and dignity," Michael Fertik, the founder of a company that cleans up their clients' online information, told the New Yorker, "If Sony or Disney wants fifty thousand videos removed from YouTube, Google removes them

with no questions asked. If your daughter is caught kissing someone on a cell-phone home video, you have no option of getting it down. That's wrong. The priorities are backward."

CRLS senior Jackson Damon shares "It makes sense for privacy reasons. Everyone should have the right to rid the internet of anything they find

"People have the right to share whatever they want on the internet."

is completely irrelevant to their present or may harm their security. The only thing is that it will be very hard to judge what and what isn't considered 'personal' or 'irrelevant'"

Many argue that the right to be forgotten violates the freedom of speech and freedom of expression, bringing up the question of whether or not the right trumps the free speech rights in terms of importance, or whether it's less significant.

Freshman Yusef Chisholm says, "People have the right to share whatever they want on the internet and it's the Constitution that backs them up on that; why take that right away from them just because someone's embarrassed about their past?"

Much like Yusef, the Bloomberg editorial board told NPR, "Airbrushing history, even with the best of intentions, is almost always

a very bad idea. It will place an arbitrary and costly imposition on search-engine companies. And such a sweeping new right is sure to have unintended consequences -- for starters, by potentially depriving the public of useful information."

Some question whether or not the right to be forgotten is even practical or realistic. Sophomore Katie Chun reflects: "I get why people would want there to be a right to be forgotten, but it could honestly be a huge waste of time and money for all of the search engine companies." Even if the right to be forgotten is well appreciated throughout Americans, is it worth all the money that will be lost in supporting it?

City Council Takes Aim at Plastic Bags in New Ordinance

By
Will MacArthur
RF Special Political Contributor

During the Superbowl halftime show, Katy Perry asked an eternal question: “Do you ever feel like a plastic bag?” A new City Council bill may render this question moot. The Ordinance Committee is considering a plastic bag ban. The action has been in the works for over a year, but on February 25th, some elected officials want to start again.

Cambridge environmentalist and fifth-term City Councillor Craig Kelley explained the measure to the Register Forum: “Cambridge is certain to regulate plastic bags to keep them from entering our waterways and natural areas as easily where they do horrendous things to wildlife. There may be some back and forth about the precise thickness of the bags we allow and what unique and narrow circumstances might require an exemption, but, at the end of the day, the flimsy ones that we see so often drifting in the wind will not be allowed under most conditions.”

According to Junior Danny Aschale, “I think the city should ban plastic bags to help the planet, but it’s not an easy thing to do”. Very few other cities and towns in the United States have successfully enacted bans, and those that have, including Manchester-by-the-Sea and Brookline, are generally smaller than Cambridge.

Freshman Tyrone Quigley strongly supports the ban. In his words, “Plastic bags are incredibly detrimental to the environment, as not only are they not very biodegradable, but they also pose a threat to the wellbeing of wildlife”. Quigley’s concerns are well founded: a plastic bag can take up to 1000 years to break down completely, and bags asphyxiate over 100,000



Plastic bags like these may soon be banned in the City of Cambridge.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

marine animals annually.

Sophomore Mary Gashaw stated her misgivings about a ban. She acknowledged the environmental impacts of plastic bags, but said that “When it’s pouring outside and I forgot an umbrella, I’m definitely going to hop into a store and get a plastic bag to prevent my hair from getting wet”. Gashaw prefers limits on bag use for individual businesses. She also supports city-wide environmental education campaigns, since “it all starts with us”.

Senior and Environmental Action Club Co-President Eliza Klein supports the ban, and further expressed her beliefs that “divesting from fossil fuels is the most important way to start” and that “an effective way to address climate change is to vote for politicians who will actually enact positive change”. Klein elaborated that “as [environmentalist author and journalist] Bill McKibben always says, we can’t just change our light bulbs and recycle anymore. We need real, all-encompassing, comprehensive climate change reform.”

If the bag ordinance passes its procedural hurdle in the Ordinance Committee, it will likely come before the entire City Council some time in March. Interested readers can contact individual councillors through the city website at cambridgema.gov.

Additionally, every Cambridge resident is entitled to speak for up to three minutes during each City Council meeting. Readers can register to speak by calling 617-349-4280 between 9:00 and 3:00 on the day of a meeting or by dropping in at City Hall between 5:00 and 6:00.

Late To Class School Committee Makes Changes to AVF Policy

By
Cameron Lane-Flehinger
Register Forum Editor

On October 7th, the School Committee unanimously approved a new Student Attendance Policy, effective immediately.

According to the new policy, an Attendance Violation Failure (AVF) is defined as four unexcused absences, twelve unexcused tardies, or any combination of the two, with one unexcused absence equivalent to three unexcused tardies.

The most important change in the new policy is the punishment that students receive for an AVF.

Under the old policy, students would receive a failing grade for any course in which they were in violation. However, there were opportunities to “buy back”

absences or tardies through after school and lunch detentions, which greatly reduced the actual number of students affected by the policy.

The new attendance policy has dispensed with the “buy back” system entirely, and students who violate the policy will now lose 10% from their final grade, or the equivalent of one letter grade.

Student School Committee Representative Lucy Sternbach supports the new policy, but warns that students should be aware of the policy’s potential ramifications: “Students should know that it’s a policy that is meant to help them, but if not taken seriously it can hurt them”.

Student response to the policy has been mixed, with many students confused or underinformed about the



Even Register Forum editors sometimes succumb to tardiness.

Photo Credit: Liam Greenwell

details of the new system. “[I was told] that if you have a certain number of unexcused absences you fail the class,” said freshman Max Mcgrath. Mcgrath’s sentiment was echoed by many students, including junior Evelyn Gutierrez, who believes that “[t]he school could make an effort to clarify what the policy is or any changes to it in the beginning of every year”.

Among students who were aware of the changes however, the new policy has been viewed as an improve-

ment. Junior Chris Matsko supported the new policy, stating “dropping a letter grade is more lenient than failing the entire class”.

The new policy also sets a much clearer standard of attendance by eliminating the “buy back” system.

In the past, students knew that they could safely exceed the 12 tardy limit while only receiving a handful of detentions, and the impacts of a student failing a course due to an AVF discouraged teachers and administrators from enact-

ing the policy.

The new policy seeks to address these shortcomings by finding a balance between previous solutions, one that is harsh enough to keep students in class while lenient enough to be enforced consistently.

Students interested in current or future school policies are encouraged to attend upcoming school committee meetings, held in the Dr. Henrietta Attles Meeting Room at CRLS. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 10th.

NSA: More Good than Harm?

By
Jack Kennedy
*Register Forum
Correspondent*

On Tuesday February 3, 2015 President Obama and his administration announced new regulations for the National Security Agency (NSA), a government agency which gathers data and information to prevent national security threats. NSA analysts are now to get rid of information that would not be useful.

However, this rule does not apply to non-American citizens. Privacy activists are calling for more regulations because they feel the civil liberties of many are being disregarded. However, more regulations may not be necessary. In its current form, the NSA does much more good than it does harm.

At present day the NSA has the ability to obtain things like your internet searches as well as your emails and messages. Through this data collection they have the ability to support military, and all national and inter-department operations. Network Warfare operations allow the NSA to combat terrorists and terror-

ist organizations here in the U.S. and all over the world. It is very clear the NSA has the capacity to gather information which can map one’s movements, relationships, and conversations.

With this information they are able to determine possible threats. Then, by using the “map” they have from data collection they have the ability to track suspects of possible crimes and threats. This is a problem many people have with the NSA.

They have the abil-

*Restrictions on NSA would
cripple their efforts to protect
the security of the US*

ity to stop possible threats but some do not believe they do. To many people it seems that the NSA invades the privacy of hundreds of millions without actually accomplishing anything.

However, much has been accomplished. Many threats have been mitigated. The not-so-frequent threats in the U.S. have been stopped and the very frequent threats overseas have been dealt with through drone strikes and other means. It is not known if NSA played a part in stop-

ping any of these threats. However, it is common knowledge that the NSA was operating whilst these threats were stopped. It is hard to think that an agency whose main mission is to protect the security of nation would have nothing to do with stopping these threats to national security. The NSA would simply not exist today if it was not effective in fulfilling its goal of protecting the security of U.S.

Even if there was undeniable evidence explicitly stating that the NSA had saved lives there would still be those that were anti-NSA. This is because many believe the NSA has eroded their social liberties.

The NSA was breaking the law to get information, but said information they got was for the sole purpose of keeping the integrity of national security. The information the NSA receives is not harmful to those who are not threats to national security, therefore the majority of people need not worry. Due to the reasons previously stated the NSA should be allowed to obtain any information that may be able to assist them. Further regulations and re-

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Boko Haram and *Charlie Hedbo*: Racism in the Media

By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Correspondent

On January 7th, the world was shocked by the violent deaths of 12 Parisians in a shooting at the office of a satirical cartoon magazine, *Charlie Hebdo*.

On the same day, Boko Haram militants completed a four-day massacre of what Amnesty International estimates could be as many as 2,000 people when they opened fire on the town of Baga, Nigeria, a small village on the Western shore of Lake Chad.

While the media published thousands of articles about *Charlie Hebdo*, it hardly reacted to the attack in Nigeria: The New York Times published 19 articles that included mentions of Baga during the massacre and 5 days after it, whereas in the 5 days after the attack in Paris, it published 290 articles that include the words “*Charlie Hebdo*.”

This disparity in numbers is just the latest example of pro-Western bias in the media.

The Times of London, for example, a newspaper that should have no more relation to the United States than to Afghanistan, published 3 times the number of articles on a Seattle mudslide in 2014 than on a mudslide in Afghanistan in the same year, which killed more than 8 times

number of the people who died in Seattle.

It is true that Nigeria suffers many more terrorist attacks than France, which makes the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* more “newsworthy.” However, attacks such as the Baga massacre are not so commonplace in Nigeria that they are not news. Amnesty International reports the Baga Massacre as “... [Boko Haram’s] largest and most destructive yet.” It is in such places where terrorist attacks are frequent that the media has an opportunity to make a difference.

By under-reporting the effect of violence in countries where it is a perennial issue, the media draws international attention away from where it is most needed.

Every death is tragic, and while not all deaths are newsworthy, those that are should be reported equally. By publishing 15 times more articles about the 12 people who died-- tragically-- in Paris, the media is implying that those 12 Parisians are 15 times more valuable than the 2,000 people who died in Nigeria in much the same way.

This comparison makes it starkly clear that much of the press is not objective-- that it is biased and unreliable as a source of information for those who want to know what is going on in all parts of the world. And yet, we rely on it nearly completely for all information on current events. As Eric White, a CRLS sophomore, put



A man holds a poster reading, “I am Charlie, let’s not forget the victims of Boko Haram”. 1.6 million people and over 40 world leaders attended the rally in Paris.

Photo Credit: SIA KAMBOU/AFP/Getty Images

it, “...I don’t see how I can know about something... [the media is] not reporting.”

The media has enormous power: news agencies control what we know, what we think about, and how we think about it.

It is the duty of all media outlets to their consumers to not perpetuate our society’s endless racism but to report as if they believe that all people are equal, and all lives matter equally.

Maybe if we started acting like we cared about all people, not just whites, not just Americans, not just Europeans, we would come closer to creating a more equal society.

The Arrogance of Netanyahu

How the Prime Minister of Israel is Overstepping the Boundaries of the International Community

By
Diego Lasarte
Register Forum Editor

This March, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, will address the United States Congress regarding recent progress with Iran and President Obama’s unwillingness to place new sanctions on the Persian country. He was invited by the newly-minted leaders of both the House and the Senate, the Republican Party. This is not surprising, as Mr. Netanyahu has been a longtime friend of the G.O.P. What is surprising is that the White House was not consulted in any way about the trip. In fact, they were not even notified before Israel announced it publicly in early January.

Since then, the Obama administration has signaled its outrage and anger with this partisan-fueled show of disrespect, another sign of the strained relationship between the two heads of state. An Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, quoted one senior White House official as saying that “Bibi managed to surprise even us. There

are things you simply do not do and he [Netanyahu] spat in our face publicly.” This was reminiscent of another famous unnamed White House source’s quote about ‘Bibi’ where a senior official called him “chicken-s**t.” On the Israeli side, Issac Herzog, an elected Israeli official, has famously said that Netanyahu “loathes” President Obama. And you can see the result of all this ugliness - for a world leader to side step the president of what he has called his country’s “greatest ally,” and one that has given his country over 100 billion dollars in military aid, is the very picture of arrogance.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is no stranger to American politics. He made his voice heard loud and clear in Washington in 2012 when he denounced President Obama by very publicly endorsing Mitt Romney for the presidency. In D.C. he has even acquired the nickname, “The Republican Senator from Israel”. This scuffle becomes part of the larger picture of the problems with Israel and its overbearing relationship with the world that seems to stem from an overinflated



Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu broods.

Photo Credit: Times of Israel

sense of importance and power.

A prime example of this head of state’s thinly veiled ego was put on display after the Charlie Hebdo massacre, specifically during the Unity March where close to two million French men and women rallied for peace and tolerance. Netanyahu was one of the forty world leaders who marched at the front of the crowd, even though it turns out that France’s president, Francois Hollande, asked him not to come, presumably seeing him as a poor representative of the peace and tolerance his country was demonstrating for. Mr. Netanyahu,

as already evidenced by the events of the last few weeks, is not one to respect the wishes of foreign leaders. He decided to just come anyway.

This visit caused an international incident and made France, in retaliation, invite the Palestinian Authority’s President Mahmoud Abbas. This resulted in, much to Israel’s chagrin, a soon to be infamous picture of Netanyahu and Abbas walking, arms linked, down the streets of Paris.

In the weeks leading up to Netanyahu’s speech, Vice President Joe Biden, the president of the Senate, as well as numerous

Democratic Senators and Congressman have said they will boycott the event. Congress’s longest serving Senator, Patrick Leahy, said of the Israeli Prime Minister’s address, “They [the Israeli government] have orchestrated a tawdry and high-handed stunt.”

And at its essence, the trip *is* a stunt, but it is also something much uglier. It is a sign of a world leader without scruples, something necessary in Netanyahu’s position. This characteristic cannot bode well as it means the U.S has yet another unstable ally and Israel has a leader who doesn’t know the limits of his office.

To Host or Not to Host *In Support of the Boston Olympic Bid*

By
Desiree Campbell
Register Forum Correspondent

Many American Citizens know by now that Boston is in the running to host the 2024 summer Olympics. For some of those people it may seem like a bad idea, but I on the other hand would have to say otherwise. It is about the city as a whole and being a part of something we can look back on ten years from now and say, “we did that”.

The tangible aspects aren’t what’s important, it’s deeper than that. Of course there will be a lot of risks involved, but I think Boston is capable of pulling it off.

For starters, we are equipped with an abundance of colleges and universities that would be perfect for hosting Olympic related events. Boston beat out major cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C for this spot and that says something about this city.

Mayor Marty Walsh stated

that this was “an exceptional honor for Boston... This selection is in recognition of our city’s talent, diversity, and global leadership. Our goal is to host an Olympic and Paralympic Games that are innovative, walkable, and hospitable to all. Boston hopes to welcome the world’s greatest athletes to one of the world’s greatest cities.”

It’s true, Boston is an amazing place filled with some amazing people who take pride in their city. Hosting the Olympics would be something for the history books, and it shouldn’t be something we

This selection is in recognition of our city’s talent, diversity, and global leadership.

just associate with dollar signs. Residents of Boston could walk a few blocks and see a marathon or hop on the train and watch a swim meet, and it’s as easy as that. On the flip side, there are some concerns



A temporary Olympic Stadium would be built in Boston’s Widett Circle for the Games.

Photo Credit: The Daily Mail

when it comes to planning for big events such as the Olympics.

Chris Dempsey, co-Chairman of No Boston Olympics doesn’t want any taxpayer money to go towards building new facilities for the games. He doesn’t believe it’s worth it to “see the public diverted from schools, healthcare, and infrastructure.” In addition, claims have been made that Boston colleges do not have the necessary tools (such as WIFI, media hookups, and ample concession booths) that the International Olympic Committee would require for certain events. None of these issues seem to compare with the

greater scheme of things.

The Olympics is expensive for any city and not every building will have every single criteria needed for this, but adjustments for special events like this are made all the time to make it work. If Atlanta and Los Angeles can pull it off, Boston can too.

Being considered for such a national event is truly an honor and we should embrace it with open arms and an open mind. At the end of the day these are opportunities that happen once in a lifetime, but more importantly we are making memories that will last forever.

Winter Ball Entertains and Surprises in New Location

By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

On Friday, January 30, hundreds of CRLS students flocked to the Kendall Square Marriott hotel to celebrate the winter season in a stylish way at the annual Winter Ball.

The ball -- though the weather outside was blustery, with around two feet of snow on the ground thanks to winter storm Juno -- was a huge success, and went off without a hitch. Students were encouraged to dress up for the occasion in "semi-formal dress," meaning people a way to hang out in a different way... been so at a minimum, jeans were not allowed.

After the doors opened at 7 pm, Rindge students continued to flood in until the doors closed at 9; at 11 -- after four hours of dancing -- things wrapped up for the night.

Abbott Gifford, a CRLS freshman, said that his favorite part of the night was "the dancing once it got under way,...once people stopped being shy."

Elizabeth Harkavy, a junior class representative for Student Government, stated, "[The Winter Ball] is special because it's an event the whole school can participate in... We have a lot of events that are separated by grade,

like Falcon Pride Day,... so this is a great chance to do something as a school."

Tickets started at \$25 during the first week of January, and rose by \$5 each passing week. At the door, the tickets were \$40. This money went to support the cost of the ball itself, a deposit for next year's dance, and the many other events Student Government puts on, like Nest Fest, Aloha Day, and more.

For some hopeful attendees, however, this \$40 price tag was too steep: Raiden Duffy, a CRLS junior, stated that he would

have gone to the dance if the ticket hadn't been so expensive. He also

said that the pricing system -- raising the price by \$5 per week -- was unfair "because then you have to decide early on if you're going to go...[and] I'd rather just wait closer to the date [of the dance] to purchase [a ticket]."

Partygoers certainly received plenty for their ticket price, however: full catering (including chicken tenders, pizza, and a huge ice cream sundae bar later in the night) was provided, and a DJ masterfully mixed top-40 hits and old favorites to create a fun-loving atmosphere on the dance floor.

When asked what he would eliminate from the event to lower



CRLS students thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the annual Winter Formal.

Photo Credit: Adrienne Ashe

the cost, Duffy claimed, "[The dance] probably doesn't need a sundae bar."

CRLS junior Grace Kyrk disagreed, commenting, "[It] can be hard to get a good place and stuff [for] less," remarking on the high-quality venue and amenities.

One of the major

attractions of the Winter Ball is that it is open to all grade levels at CRLS, and allows for a fun excuse to dress up a bit for those who are not attending prom.

Gifford concluded, "There aren't many opportunities for lots of kids to come together at the same time

and have fun..., so I think that this kind of event gives people a way to hang out in a different way than they may during the school day."

The next major dances of the year are the Junior and Senior Proms, happening in May.

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Continued from page 1

trying to get their classes back up to speed. During the first twelve school days into the second semester, there were only six days of classes.

"The days off were a nice vacation from school. It was the right choice to cancel school," States Sophomore Nicky Fix

One way CRLS students spend their snow days

is shoveling sidewalks or digging out cars either in or out of their neighborhood. According to some students at CRLS, it is an easy way to make good money: "I shoveled in my neighborhood mostly on my street, because people there know me better and generally pay me

"I think it is definitely pretty disruptive to miss so much school, but I guess since it's a safety concern..."

more," comments junior Donald Labracio.

However, not everyone unequivocally enjoyed the extra days off. "Although I love the time off from school as much as anyone else, the snow days have started to have a major impact on the championship swim season with the limited amount of practices per week," expressed freshman Malcolm Scannell.

The majority of the winter sports teams are having that

concern as the season starts to wind down and the teams are getting ready for the MIAA state tournaments at the end of the season.

Although we are enjoying our time off now, the days are going to add up to the end of the school year. CRLS' original last day was



Cambridge streets were rendered nearly impassable by recent storms.

Photo Credits: Adrienne Ashe

going to be June 17, but now, after the six snow days, the last day will most likely be June 26.

For seniors, they most likely will not have to worry about making up the snow days because they graduate on June 4th.

Senior Mo Nelson supports

this sentiment, saying, "[The snow days] are great, [since] we don't have to make them up."

"I think it is definitely pretty disruptive to miss so much school, but I guess since it's a safety concern they have no choice," concluded junior Anna Karayorgi.

Let it Stowe: Ski & Board Club Enjoys Annual Trip

By
Hugh Dougherty
Register Forum Editor

Every year when the weather turns cold and snow starts to fall, a group of CRLS students look forward to the wintery season and what it has to bring. These students are from the CRLS Alpine Ski & Board Club; a club open to all CRLS students.

The CRLS Ski Club tries to run 4 day trips to Waterville Valley Resort in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire and an overnight trip to Stowe Mountain Resort in Stowe Vermont. In past years, the club has skied in the Rocky Mountains and Canada.

The overnight ski trip took place over February break with about 50 skiers and boarders in attendance. Junior Jonah Neugeboren who had never been on the overnight said, “[I] had heard it was very fun and didn’t want to miss the opportunity.”

The overnight trip to Stowe Vermont is practically a three day extension to a day trip to Waterville Valley. Because of the setup of the overnight trip it too is a great place for beginners to learn as well. “It was a great experience with lots of

slopes for every skill level.” “[The CRLS] ski trips provide the opportunity for someone who would otherwise never have the chance, to go out and have an experience that will stay with them for life.” said Ski Club Adviser, Mr. Jon Baring-Gould.

The luxury bus plays a movie on the two hour trip to Waterville Valley. For skiing beginners, your day, once the bus arrives, is spent getting acquainted with the alpine ski resort and learning what you do for the day.

The day is broken up into arriving, getting oriented with your day’s schedule which includes getting prepared for your ski lesson, the layout of the ski lodge, where to eat your lunch if you brought one or where you can purchase one, where to sit, and where to meet at the end of the day.

Thought of food and lunch is frequently an initial question on arrival. A standard at alpine ski resorts like Waterville Valley is chicken fingers with fries for \$7-9.

The next step is getting ready for your ski lesson. The group will head to the ski rental area where you learn how to get the gear fitted for your feet Getting



Ski Club members enjoyed skiing at Stowe Mountain in Stowe, VT this past February break.

Photo Credit: Leonardo Escobar

the gear fitted goes quickly. As a group you head out to meet your ski instructor for your lesson.

They work with the group to learn to stand up on your equipment, get on

stop.

Your first day will be spent learning to ski a short distance and stopping and going back up the ski lift. Learning to stop while on skis is important because it is how you control your descent down the slope. You will want to stop since the vistas from the slope are very pleasant.

For each day trip to Waterville Valley there are on average about 30 people. The cost for one day trip is \$50 for those who have their own equipment and an additional \$5 for a lesson at the slopes for those who want one and an additional \$5 for those who want to rent

equipment. For beginners it would cost \$60 to get on the slopes for a day.

The next ski trip is scheduled for March 7th. If you are trying to decide between using skis or a snowboard, keep in mind that they are both difficult to pick up and learn at an instant. “Snowboarding can be very discouraging when you first start, the first few days can be painful. But once you get the hang of it, it is one of the most fun things to do,” says junior Daniel Walsh.

If you are interested in joining the CRLS Ski Club on the March 7th trip go see Jon in room #3602 (Ceramics).

“[The] ski trips...[are] an experience that will stay with them for life.”

a ski lift that takes you up a very gentle ski slope, and learn most importantly how to stop while on the skis. In the lesson you will go with the instructor up the ski lift once maybe twice. The ski instructor shows you how to go a short distance (maybe five to ten feet) and then

Pedal to the Metal

By
Ben Austin
Register Forum Correspondent

There are many privileges that high school students are granted while they are in school. At eighteen, they are given the opportunity to participate in democracy by voting. At sixteen, they can drink liquor... at least in England. In general, parents, rule makers, and society treat the high school years as a period to grant great freedoms and responsibilities. Such an example is the driving process.

If a high schooler is truly on top of their game, they can get a learners permit the day they turn sixteen. Then, when they are sixteen and a half, they can get their Junior Operator License. By the time they are seventeen they can be a completely certified driver just like any other person in society, incredible insurance rates notwithstanding.

Most high schoolers elect to go to a driving education academy. Some academies are private, but

here at Rindge is a drivers education resource of our very own. This is a rare opportunity that less than 10 other high schools in the state have.

Colin McNeely, a junior, is one of those examples of an exemplary driver. He got his permit the day he turned 16 and participated in the CRLS Driving School Program. McNeely remarked, “the program was fantastic and really worked with my busy schedule.” Recently, Colin finished his Junior Operator License period.

The head of the CRLS Driver’s Education Program, Mr. Bill Timmins, has 45 years of experience in teaching high schoolers how to drive. Mr. Timmins noted that the “reason we can continue is because the staff stays dedicated to the program.” This is especially helpful in “ensuring the the cost is kept down.”

As drivers schools go, the CRLS Program is one of the best. Approximately 100 students take the course every year, with about



CRLS Register Forum Senior Staff drive safely through room 2309.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

three out of four passing the driving test at the end of the course.

The program has an added plus because it allows participants to get driving hours during the course, unlike some private one-week crash course programs. With that said, some students prefer the week-long session.

One student, Suzannah Gifford, did her driving at the Belmont Driving school. Suzannah said that she “liked it because I got to do it over a week during the summer. I liked meeting other kids that I

wouldn’t meet otherwise.”

There isn’t too much of a discrepancy between a private course or the CRLS program, but many students enjoy the accessibility of the program here at Rindge.

Whichever one you prefer, the incredible opportunity here at Rindge is a fantastic one that is open to all students interested in getting a license.

If you are interested, keep your ear to the grindstone for future information regarding next falls class opportunities!

Protests in Germany Bring back Dark Memories

By
Noah Beckert
Register Forum Editor

Thousands of German citizens have joined the ranks of groups such as PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West) in the past weeks following the Charlie Hebdo Attacks in Paris, France. PEGIDA which consists of women men and children is looking to “end the islamization of the west” by protesting the entry of immigrants into the country.

Germany which still sees extremist groups as an everyday threat, fears that less extreme groups such as PEGIDA will be influenced by Neo-Nazis and turn to a less peaceful measure than the protests which they are currently leading.

Anti-Islamic, anti-Jewish, and anti-immigrant protests bring back memories from a dark past that German officials are trying to avoid at all costs, German Chancellor Angela Merkel says

“There’s freedom of assembly in Germany, but there’s no place for incitement and lies about people who come to us from other countries,”

PEGIDA, which started off as a group solely dedicated to the eradication of the Islamic religion in Germany has spread to try and create “A country that is free only of all immigrants and religions damaging the economy and well being of itself”, as it said in a phone interview with the *Register Forum*.

However, many living in Europe disregard the group and see it as a misrepresentation of Germany. Finn Lutz, a high school senior living in Munich, Germany, states, “I do not know

“Too many people are not really aware of the importance and danger of these events...”

of a single person who sympathizes with them, and at my school some even harbor resentment towards these racist groups and indi-



PEGIDA protestors are anti-Semitic, anti-Islam and part of a new, extremist political wave in Europe.

Photo Credit: Reuters

viduals.” He goes on to saying that local newspapers are ridiculing the group and the general attitude towards PEGIDA and other such groups is that they are considered a joke.

As the group continues to grow, Myrta Martinelli, who attends a high school in Rome, Italy, says she believes that a lack of knowledge about Islam creates an ignorance that is

further perpetuated by the fear of terrorist group ISIS. “Too many people are not really aware of the importance and danger of these events, especially in Italy, and so people continue to spread a message of racism, hatred and anger.”

Europe continues to function without much worry of these groups and sees them much as the majority of the United States views the Westboro Baptist Church. However it will

continue to heir on the side of caution, as Mr. Lutz puts it, “In the future Germany will continue to look down on racist organizations, be they anti-Semitic, islamophobic (such as PEGIDA), disrespectful or oppressive to any minority. I am confident Germany has learned an important lesson from its past, and that we as a people will do whatever it takes to prevent history from repeating itself.”

Ukraine Conflict Continues

Amid Peace Talks in Minsk, Fighting Intensifies

By
Shubhan Nagendra
Register Forum Editor

When Ukraine and the Pro-Russian forces sat in Minsk, Belarus, in September 2014, to come to an agreeable conclusion to the war in Donetsk, Ukraine, the result was a failure. Since the futile meeting, shells have thundered down on eastern Ukraine, and the war has reignited, with the West – particularly the United States, joining in the Ukrainian coalition.

September 2014 was destined to be the decisive month for an effective deadlock between the Ukrainian and Pro-Russian forces through the signing of the Minsk peace deal. Unfortunately, the Pro-Russian forces and Russian President, Vladimir Putin ditched the plan to spring another assault on eastern Ukraine. Since the war began, Ukraine has been successful in limiting the fighting to its east – particularly in the Donbass region – but even its best efforts were not enough in preventing the fall of Donetsk airport into rebel hands.

Furthermore, such a victory has inspired rebel forces to set their sights on the cities of Avdeyevka,

Schastye, and Debaltseve - which is already under artillery barrage. Worryingly for Ukraine, the casualties have been severe on the army and civilians: 5,000 people killed since April, and at least 262 people have died in 9 days of fighting since January 21st, according to The Economist. Unfortunately, the depressing war will continue to inflict damage on the people, environment, and the economy, since neither side has reached a compromise.

The life for Ukrainian citizens is getting even more devastating. CRLS Chemistry teacher Irene Zhaurova said “my husband’s step-father’s house was completely destroyed during bombing two months ago.”

“The U.S. should supply Ukraine with weapons...we should do other things to stop Russia such as trade embargoes.”

Residents of eastern Ukraine are in a state of terror. People do not have food, shelter, or any income. Mrs. Zhaurova continues: “he doesn’t have any income right now except some humanitarian help and our help. It’s extremely complicated to transfer him money because most banks simply don’t work anymore, but we found a tricky way to



Ukraine has been on the offensive ever since recapturing several key cities last fall.

Photo Credit: AlJazeera America

help him.” However, Mrs. Zhaurova fears that this method may not work all the time: “We’re not sure whether this way will work for a long time.”

Mr. Putin’s “paranoia” on Ukraine being “NATO’s legion” has caused Russia to take more action on Ukraine. An increased Russian involvement, and the Pro-Russian leader, Alexander Zakharchenko’s pledge to have 100,000 volunteers – although, expert analysts believe they will be Russian troops – has made the United States even more wary of the situation.

President Barack Obama has expressed a desire to arm the Ukrainian forces, and a plethora of Congress members agree with him.

CRLS junior Ben Kendall believes “that the U.S. should supply Ukraine with weapons, but I do believe we should do other things to stop Russia such as trade embar-

goes. Supplying weapons would be too direct and might lead to a second Cold War type situation.” Similarly, CRLS Junior, Sebastian Kimberk believes that the US should not “provide Ukraine with military weapons because Russia will just arm the separatists.”

Contrastingly, Mrs. Zhaurova believes that the West should not be involved in Ukraine as she “believe[s] it should [have been] done a year ago, but not now.”

Whether this situation leads to a Cold War remains speculative, but a peace deal remains more likely. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande are pioneering a sanguine peace deal between Russia, pro-Russian separatists, and Ukraine. However, the shadow of the Minsk peace deal still looms over the crisis, and the possibility of future deals remains fragile.

The Curious Case of India’s First Lady

By
Diego Lasarte
Register Forum Editor

Last month, the President and First Lady of the United States went on a high profile trip to India. It was their first visit to the country since it elected its new Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This visit covered a wide range of topics, and reaped many new benefits for both countries. It was also cause for many traditional Indian celebrations, large parades, and dignified state dinners. Throughout all the festivities, one thing seemed to be consistently missing, the First Lady of India.

Prime Minister Modi was married at age 18 to Jashodaben Modi, who was a year younger, in their home state of Gujarat. It was an arranged marriage set up by their parents and without their consent, in keeping with the traditions of their community and Indian culture. According to one of Modi’s biographers, Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, although they were offi-

cially married, they would have barely spoken during the ceremony and went their separate ways once it was over.

Almost immediately after his wedding, Modi left his family and community to wander the Himalayas with just a backpack and a change of clothes. A life-long Hindu, Mukhopadhyay says Modi went there to contemplate religious life. Instead he decided to become a politician, and started volunteering for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or RSS, a Hindu nationalist group.

As the decades went by, Modi steadily climbed the party’s ladder, becoming their head. He then ran for Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat under their name and won. Throughout that whole time, he only saw his wife once. It was after he had been elected Chief Minister, and he was leading a ceremony at a local temple. According to Jashodaben’s brother Ashok Modi, nothing was said between them. He said, “He [Modi]



President Obama met with Prime Minister Modi last month.

Photo Credit: ABC News

had come to the [goddess temple] for a prayer. They did not speak. They did not even say a word to each other. They just met for five seconds.” In fact Modi did not even acknowledge his wife’s existence until last year, when he ran for

“I can’t ever imagine this happening in the US.”

Prime Minister and won. He was forced too when he filed out his affidavit for his candidacy, he stated he only married her because of the customs of the time and that their union was never consummated.

The U.N. Children

Fund reports that one third of all women who were married as child brides live in India, with an estimated 240 million populating the subcontinent. Although it is technically illegal in India, arranged marriages are still widely practiced and are an intrinsic part of Indian culture. One can imagine how far-reaching the issue is, if the leader of the country is a part of it himself. When asked about this specific story, Sophomore Christo Hays said “I can’t ever imagine this happening in the US, it really highlights the radical differences between the cultures of the two countries.”

Before the elec-

tion Jashodaben Modi was a retired teacher, living with her brother in a poor town. Now, she is India’s First Lady. Surprisingly, this hasn’t changed her life much, she eats the same food, lives in the same small house, lives far away from the capitol, and goes about her life in a thoroughly ordinary way. Except for the fact that she is permanently followed by a security detail of almost a dozen men who follow her everywhere in an air-conditioned SUV, even as she goes from crowded rickshaw to crowded rickshaw. Neither Narendra or Jashodaben has spoken since there wedding day in 1970, they are both 63.

José Mujica: the “Humblest President in the World” Retires

By
Mira Rifai
Register Forum Editor

Jose Mujica is Uruguay’s current president and will be leaving office in March 2015, succeeded by newly elected president Tabare Vazquez. Throughout Mujica’s five years of presidency, his actions and influences have shown not only throughout his home country of Uruguay but has gone far beyond that of a leader of a tiny country of only 3 million people.

Unlike most presidents in the world, he lives simply and rejects the perks of presidency. Mujica has refused to live at the Presidential Palace or have a motorcade, and instead lives in a one-bedroom house on his wife’s farm and drives a 1987 Volkswagen. “There have been years when I would have been happy just to have a mattress,” said Mujica, according to The Guardian. According to the Huffington Post, he also donates over 90% of his \$12,500/month salary to charity, so that he makes the same as the average citizen in Uruguay. When called “the poorest president in the world,” Mujica says he is not poor. “A poor person is not someone who has little but one who needs infinitely more, and more and more. I don’t live in poverty, I live in simplicity. There’s very little that I need to live.”

Lucia Brown, a CRLS senior, claims “There are many corrupt leaders in the world

who need to learn that to be a good leader, they must put others and their country before their own interests. We can learn this from Mujica, who is the epitome of selflessness.”

Along with Mujica’s simplistic attitudes on life, he has approved the legalization of marijuana, same-sex marriage, and abortion, topics that are widely debated here in the U.S., bringing Uruguay closer to the title of Latin America’s most liberal country. Comparatively, Cambridge has been ranked as one of the most liberal cities in America.

CRLS senior, Jwahir Sundai, states that “It definitely seems like Uruguay might be as, if not more, liberal than Cambridge. Cambridge first has to recognize that we have problems. That we aren’t a perfect utopia or a city upon a hill. Cambridge is not immune to many of the US’ problems like achievement gap and income gap...you can tell by simply looking at neighborhoods such as West Cambridge vs Port.”

Mujica has also focused his presidency greatly on redistributing his nation’s wealth, claiming that his administration has reduced poverty from 37% to 11% and is also opposed to war and militarism, stating --according to the BBC-- that “The world spends \$2 billion a minute on military spending.”

As Jose Mujica’s presidency comes to an end, the 79-year old Uruguayan president will

“We can learn...from Mujica, who is the epitome of selflessness.”




Mujica at his humble farm.

Photo Credit: The Guardian

always be a role model for leaders and others around the world. In a world filled with turmoil that is hungry for alternatives, the innovations that president Mujica and his colleagues are championing have put Uruguay on the map as one of the world’s most exciting experiments in creative, progressive governance.

It is important to realize the lasting impact Mujica’s vision will have on the future of not just Latin America, but the entire world. He has proved that the great revolutions from Bolivar to Che are not just wishful thinking, but are a viable blueprint for a successful country.

Cinematography Enhances *Birdman*’s Appeal, but Special Effects Distract



By
Charlotte Rosenblum
Register Forum Correspondent

Birdman, or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu is a black-comedy drama film depicting the life of an ex-Hollywood superhero actor trying to find success, fulfillment, and validation on the Broadway stage in a self-written play. Michael Keaton stars as the washed up actor Riggan Thomson who used to be “Birdman”, his primary struggle throughout the film is trying to shed this old persona, while at the same time fearing he cannot move on and retain status in the present day without it.

The film’s strength lies within its unique conventions, namely camera work and music. The entire film is made to look as

though it was filmed in one continuous camera shot. In all actuality, it was filmed in five, but the majority of the film is a continuous shot or appears to be continuous. The viewer experiences the film through the eyes of someone backstage, following down corridors and stairways, and following the actors the entire route from backstage to onstage and experiencing their transition. This rarely used and difficult technique truly sets *Birdman* apart from other films and allows one to feel as though they are entirely involved and inside of this film. There are no cutaways, no jumps in time, every

moment feels as though it is happening in real time, completely raw. The soundtrack, primarily by Antonio Sanchez, features intense drums with little to no other instrumentals, characterizing the cutting tension and drama of the film while also keeping it within this modern setting.

Edward Norton of *Fight Club* (1999) stands as *Birdman*’s strongest player. He plays the arrogant, narcissistic yet necessary,

brilliant actor in Riggan Thomson’s play “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love”, an adaptation of the Raymond Carver novel. Second to Norton for strongest performance comes Amy Ryan, who plays Keaton’s ex-wife. Ryan, though a small role, displays the emotionally destructive effects that Riggan’s madness has on others.

One weak point of the film is the special effects. Compared to the rest of the movie where each moment seems very dark, and raw, and tangible, the moments where Keaton is “flying” or otherwise appears very cartoon-like, breaking up the atmosphere and overall flow of the movie. The transitions between the two “worlds” -fantasy and reality- are jolting and uncomfortable, almost laughable.

Another thing that takes away from the film is its ending, or rather a part added by the filmmakers after the movie could have come to a natural stop to create positive feelings of hope, whimsy, or magic, which were not central themes of the film. *Birdman* is a movie about the depressing crushing constant human search for validation and the fear of disappearing, what it truly




Birdman won Best Picture at the Oscars.
Photo Credit: Fox Searchlight

means to exist, not about the question of whether magic is real or not. To say more would be to give away details about the end, but the ending of *Birdman* is its weakest point, destroying themes built up by the movie to be replaced with happier more commercial yet irrelevant ones.

Overall the film can be applauded for its uniqueness in conventions and story line, but suffered from severe weak points which could have been avoided.

American Sniper: Tense, Heartwarming, but Problematic



By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

American Sniper has been called racist, propagandist, and brilliant. All of them are, to a certain extent, true.

Bradley Cooper, who plays the titular sniper (real-life Chris Kyle, the deadliest sniper in US history), is mesmerizing and hard to fault. The performance is consistent, moving, and feels real. For much of the film, Kyle is haunted by memories of war, and is conflicted between his duty at home and his perceived duty to his country abroad. Cooper masterfully weaves a sympathetic portrait of Kyle’s PTSD -- the viewer can see the strain of war on his face, and can sense the internal conflict tearing at his soul.

However, not everything is executed perfectly: the ending is sloppy, the editing is sub-par (*Sniper* has significant pacing problems, never truly deciding whether it wants to focus on the action or the

internal conflict of the main character), and the script can sometimes feel canned (especially in the now-infamous scenes starring a fake baby).

Most importantly, however, are the moral and ethical problems with the film. In reality, during the battles depicted (mainly centering around the city of Fallujah, Iraq) some of the Iraqi army fought on the side of the Americans and British against the Iraqi insurgents.

However, in the film, only Americans are seen fighting the Iraqis; the only Iraqis in the movie are villains. Not only is this unrealistic, it speaks to the film’s larger problem of painting the situation in very black and white terms. The conflict is seen as “righteous” Americans versus “evil”

The suggestion that PTSD can be “shaken off” is scientifically improbable and damaging to others.

Iraqis -- there is little gray area on either side. For example, one of the film’s major villains, The Butcher, is sadistic and amoral: at one point midway through, he kills someone in a manner that is needlessly



American Sniper has grossed more than \$428.1 million since its release in January.
Photo Credit.: Warner Brothers

gruesome and memorable in the worst way. The film consistently paints all Iraqis presented in a highly negative light -- they are one-dimensional, their motives are never explained, and, to a certain extent, seem inhuman. All nuance and complexity is lost: as a result, it turns into sloppy, propagandist -- even racist -- filmmaking.

Another major problem with the film’s messages lies with Kyle’s quick recovery. After seeing a psychologist only once at the local VA hospital, Kyle is encouraged to spend time with other veterans. Kyle devotes his life thereafter to helping former

servicemen in need, taking them hunting and helping them deal with emotional and physical injuries.

With this prescription of charity, Kyle miraculously loses the PTSD and becomes a family man and a great father. This is highly problematic for a few reasons: the suggestion that PTSD can be “shaken off” is scientifically improbable and damaging to others.

If a veteran -- struggling with PTSD -- saw this movie, it would not be far-fetched to think that he or she might be affected by the notion that one needs to just “pull through” PTSD. In other words, it minimizes the importance and severity of the disease, and dis-

courages safe treatment, by suggesting that PTSD can be solved not with medication and therapy but with a strong will and good character.

American Sniper’s problems -- both cinematically and thematically -- are plentiful. The villains are one-dimensional, the ending is strangely abrupt, and the righteousness of Kyle’s actions is never truly called into question. However, there is no denying Clint Eastwood’s prowess as director nor Bradley Cooper’s mesmerizing performance.

In the end, though, a film must be evaluated as a whole: *American Sniper* is worth seeing, but never fully reaches its potential.

Concussions: A Major Threat to Athletes at CRLS

New Study Adds to Continuing Concerns Over Contact High School Sports

By
Adrienne Ashe
Register Forum Editor

Boston University School of Medicine published a new study that showed professional football players who started playing before the age of twelve suffered significantly greater brain damage than those who started playing after the age of twelve.

Although the study has not been extended to players who stop playing after high school or college, it has raised further concerns for high school athletes and the health of their brain.

The study showed there to be a twenty per-cent difference in cognitive ability between those who started playing before and after age twelve, with those who played before scoring lower.

Dr. Robert Stern, a PhD in neurology and neurosurgery states

that, “kids during a time of rapid brain development should not be exposed to hit after hit after hit to their head.” But giving up football, or any of the sports they play, is not always viable option for students.

Between 2010 and 2012 the National Academy of Sciences found that high school football players get concussion at a rate of 11.2 per 10,000 “athletic exposures.” Exposures includes any practice or game. 11.2 may not seem like very much, but it is by far the greatest rate of concussions among high school sports with boys lacrosse immediately following at 6.9 and girls soccer having 6.7 concussions per 10,000 practices or games.

The same study found that, “college football players suffer concussions at a rate of 6.3 concussions per 10,000 ‘athletic exposures.’” It is alarming to students, parents and administrators just how vulnerable athletes are. As a result, there have



Headers in soccer have become a subject of controversy.

Photo Credit:Scientific American

“Anything to limit headers or penalize contact in soccer would fundamentally alter the game.”

been increased mandatory education for coaches and athletes, including the National Federation of State High School Association concussion course.

Some students, such as freshman Sophie Harrington, a soccer player, favors the required education and thinks there should be even more by saying that those who have gotten concussion should, “help emphasize there severity.”

Many students advocate education, but do not think any further action, such as changing the rules, should be taken. Will MacArthur, a junior who plays soccer, says, “Anything to limit headers or penalize contact in soccer would fundamentally alter the game.”

Rosa Munson-Blatt, a sophomore, believes that even though concussion rate have gone down, “they will always be inevitable.”

Superbowl Ads Dazzle and Captivate

By
Hibah Gul
Register Forum Correspondent

Super Bowl XLIX was one of the most historic games in American history, with record breaking stats, and jaw dropping plays.

But just for a moment, forget about the game winning interception by rookie Malcolm Butler, forget about the worst call in football history by Pete Carroll, forget about Richard Sherman's reaction, and forget about Katy Perry and her dancing sharks. And let's talk about the 4.5 million dollar, thirty second Super Bowl commercials.

This year we were hit with even more car commercials than ever. Brands such as Audi, Lincoln, Dodge, Fiat, Chevy, you name it, all made an appearance. So did the classic junk food commercials such as Pepsi, Coca-Cola, etc. And of course you can't be watching a sporting event and not watch multiple alcohol commercials.

However this year the super bowl commercials took an unexpected turn. Especially with Nationwide's child death commercial. This one was straight out of left field, it starts out with a boy listing everything he could never do, because he was killed in a preventable car accident. This was successful marketing-wise, as it definitely grabbed the attention of the 112.2 million viewers tuning in to the game.

However it was a dark commercial placed in a rather upbeat event, one to enjoy with friends and family. Junior Carolyn Lee agrees that although its “controversial and in ways disturbing” she thought that “the commercial did a really great job in raising awareness...nationwide did a great thing by giving a voice to this neglected subject.”

Another surprising commercial was the “Always” commercial. Now its no secret that the commercials on the sports networks do not often



Budweiser's ad included its signature Clydesdales.

Photo Credit: Budweiser

target women as much as they target men.

But what's so great about this commercial is that not only does it target girls, but it also breaks stereotypes of girls behaviors in sports and such at certain stages in their lives. Junior Gabriela Thompson described the commercial as “inspirational, progressive, and true”.

This year many commercials features star studded celebrities, such as Kim Kardashian, Kate Upton, Liam Neeson, Coach Rex Ryan, Britney Spears, Chelsea Handler, and many more.

All big advertizing companies such as T-Mobile, Pepsi etc. know that Celebrity endorsements can increase profits upto 4% in general, however it can increase even more when placed in settings such as the super bowl.

Although there is inherently a trend in every super bowl's set of commercials, whether it be car commercials, beer commercials or fast food commercials, every year it gets better, and slightly more expensive. And that is due to the increasing diversity and representation of different groups of people in these commercials.

By now we all know that Super Bowl XLIX was one for the books. But so were its commercials.

Sports Check-in

Boys Basketball

Overall record was 18-2. Isaiah McLeod was named DCL player of the year. They are the #1 seed of the D1 North in the State Tournament

Girls Basketball

They're overall record for the regular season was 11-9. They've made the State Tournament and are hosting Medford in the Preliminary Round.

Boys Indoor Track

Regular season record was 1-4. They finished 4th in the Division 1 Championship

Girls Indoor Track

Regular season record was 1-4. They finished 2nd in the State. In the Division 1 Champion Brianna Duncan was first in 55m and long jump.

Gymnastics

Competed in a tough 4 team league. In the DCL Championship, Ripley Burns finished 6th on beam and was named DCL All-Star

Fencing

In their inaugural season, they had a 1-4 record. Captains Amy Zhao and Matthew Mansoor each had an individual record of 15-0.

Swimming & Diving

The boys' record was 3-7 and the girls' was 3-6. 16 competed in the State Meet. Gabe Bamforth who repeated as Boys Diving State Champion.

Boys Ice Hockey

Their overall record was 4-16. They had a record number of participant, between Varsity and JV, at 35 members.

Girls Ice Hockey

They had a tough season with a record of 4-14-2. With a mostly underclassmen team and only 2 seniors, they are hopeful for next season.

Wrestling

Their overall record was 16-7 and had a DCL record of 6-3. Coach Roy Howard was voted Division 1 Central Coach of the Year.

Swim Team Wraps Up Record-Breaking Season

By
Tomek Maciak
Register Forum Editor

On February 22, at the annual MIAA Division I Swimming and Diving Championship hosted in the MIT pool, the Rindge swim team wrapped up the season in impressive fashion, setting a multitude of both personal and team records for the school.

The teams were led by determined and talented captains; Lestra Atlas, Elsa Mark-Ng, and Honora Gibbons for the girls’ team, and Cam Lindsey and Logan Chen for the boys’ team. They were also guided by their experienced coach, Rob Winograd.

Senior Elsa Mark-Ng was pleased at the improvement made by the younger members of the swim team. She said, “I’m really proud of how much the girl’s team has grown in the past few years. We have a lot of young swimmers now and they have all gotten a lot better this past season. And even though we had so many snow days over the past month, we still

somehow managed to swim fast and break records.”

The girls team broke records in the 200 yard medley relay through the outstanding performances by Lestra Atlas, Sophie Mark-Ng, Jackie Park, and

also missed out on setting a team best in the 400 yard freestyle relay, coming two-tenths of a second short of beating the current record.

Boys’ captain and senior Cam Lindsey was tremendously proud of

work was bound to provide the successful results that we had this season.”

The boys team broke seven school records. Logan Chen set a record of 2:03.18 in the individual medley. Cam Lindsey set

Both teams labored throughout the snow ridden season to reach new heights. Junior Raina Williams enjoyed her favorite swim season at CRLS yet. She says, “Everyone really worked hard even the people who tried swimming as a competitive sport for the first time.”

Junior Jonah Neugeborn, who was a part of the record breaking 400 yard freestyle and 200 yard medley relay, commented on the remarkable fashion in which the team managed to adapt to the new Dual County League, saying, “Considering we were just moving into a new league and were one of the smallest teams in the league, we had an incredible season.”

Captain Honora Gibbons summed up the atmosphere on the team, stating, “I’m most proud of the fact that when we improved or succeeded, we did so not only as a team, but as a family. Even with a growing team, we still managed to create strong bonds which definitely helped us to push each other and ourselves.”



The CRLS swim team looks to build on a successful season

Photo Credit: Raina Williams

Elsa Mark-Ng, with a time of 1:59.09. They also set a new school record for the 200 yard freestyle relay, with Raina Williams, Sophie Mark-Ng, and Clare McDermott finishing with a time of 1:45.55. They

the boys team’s accomplishments, stating, “We improved throughout the whole season, and I can’t think of a better team to have for my senior year. A great group of boys and a lot of determination and hard

three records, 21.45 for 50 yard freestyle, 49.09 for the 100 yard freestyle, and 56.25 for 100 yard backstroke. The boys team also broke their previous records in the 200 yard medley and 400 yard freestyle relay.

Champions Again!

By
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Register Forum Correspondent

In what will be remembered as one of the most thrilling Super Bowl games in recent memory, the New England Patriots narrowly defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24.

The win gave the Patriots their fourth title in the past fourteen years, all of which came with Tom Brady as quarterback and Bill Belichick as head coach. It was an excellent ending to a season which started off with a mediocre 2-2 record.

The first quarter was a dull and scoreless game with little offensive play. The second quarter was more promising, starting with a Brandon LaFell 11-yard touchdown.

After two quick three-and-outs from both teams, Seattle responded with a Marshawn “Beast Mode” Lynch touchdown. Rob Gronkowski then got one touchdown of his own, leaving 29 seconds on the clock.

onds on the clock.

A short series of inexcusable defensive mistakes and penalties helped the Seahawks find the endzone once again, tying the score 14-14 at halftime.

Things began to look bleak in the third quarter, as the Seahawks scored a field goals and then a touchdown to pull away 24-14.

However, Tom Brady and the offense came back in the fourth quarter with two clutch drives to take the lead, 28-24. The defense held its ground and was able to stop the Seattle offense in between.

The most heartstopping moments came towards the end, when

Seattle responded with a Marshawn “Beast Mode” Lynch touchdown.

Seattle was given the ball with just over two minutes to play with two timeouts. The drive began slowly, with a few incomplete passes and short runs.

With 1:14 left in the game, quarterback Russell Wilson threw a deep pass down the right side of the field to Jermaine Kearse, who was standing at about the five yard line. The defender Malcolm Butler had



Malcolm Butler (21) seals the game with an interception against the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl.

Photo Credit: Washington Post

a good position, but the ball incredibly ended up in Kearse’s possession without touching the ground after bouncing off his foot while he was falling.

The catch reminded many of the improbable David Tyree catch against the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII, which set up the game-winning touchdown.

Junior and ardent Patriots fan Marcus McGuffie spoke on the improbable catch saying, “My heart sank when Kearse made that catch. I was on the verge of tears.”

This time, however, things went differently. Two plays later, at the one yard line, Russell Wilson threw a game-ending interception to Malcolm Butler. The play call was questioned for a while after the game, but the Patriots undoubtedly regained their position as the NFL’s best team. Tom Brady was named the game’s MVP.

Senior Emily Schwartz-Vartikar commented on the quarterback’s success by commenting that Brady is a “national treasure for sure!”