

# The REGISTER FORUM

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CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

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## Menstrual Hygiene Products Free in CRLS Bathrooms

By  
Ursula Murray-Bozeman  
Register Forum Editor

Per a December School Committee motion, menstrual hygiene products are now accessible for free in all girls, staff, and gender-neutral bathrooms in the Rindge and Arts buildings. During February vacation, previously empty dispensers in the bathrooms were fully stocked with Naturelle brand pads and tampons and retrofitted to make products accessible for free.

The settings on each of the 35 dispensers in the school were changed by district-employed carpenters to allow people to access products for free instead of for 25 cents, a job that usually takes 20-30 minutes per dispenser but was delayed by missing and broken parts. CRLS custodians then filled each dispenser with 32 sanitary pads and 22 tampons, a process that takes about five minutes per dispenser. The coin slots on the dispensers still read “25¢,” although paper signs will be taped to the dispens-

ers to inform the student body that products are free until new panels that read “free” arrive to replace the coin slots.

The initiative began as an English project by juniors Sophie Harrington and Pascal Beckert. They then took the matter to the School Committee, where the head of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee, Mannika Bowman, created a formal motion. Although some committee members had doubts about how the cost of products would fit into the budget and whether what is meant to be an emergency supply would be abused, they voted unanimously to approve the motion in the first December meeting. The Committee agreed to make pre-existing menstrual hygiene supplies more accessible by this winter, and Bowman said she envisions supplying products permanently in the high school and as a pilot in the middle schools and some elementary schools in the 2017-2018 school year.

Beckert told the *Register Forum* that although he and Harrington



Pictured: Carpenter Eddie Sorey replaces a spring in a Rindge building dispenser.

Photo Credit: Ursula Murray-Bozeman

were “very ambitious,” they were “not expecting it to transform into something this big, this quickly.” He said that although there “were some bumps along the way,” the process was “relatively transparent” and that now student-organizers are focused on spreading awareness in the student body that the products

are available. Organizer Juliette Low-Fleury (‘18) added, “Our next steps are to figure out how to grant the same access to transgender students who might not use the girls or gender-neutral restrooms.”

Vice Principal Mr. Tynes said

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## Famed Nobel Laureate Martin Karplus Visits Rindge

By  
Adrienne Ashe  
Register Forum Editor

On February 15th, in the Cambridge Public Library auditorium, CRLS students and staff were fortunate enough to hear Dr. Martin Karplus, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, speak on topics ranging from theoretical chemistry to everyday ethics.

Dr. Karplus earned his Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2013 alongside Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel for developing methods of predicting the courses of chemical reactions with computers, a uniquely theoretical approach to a chemical problem.

More specifically, they used quantum and classi-

cal mechanics to calculate the direction each atom took during a chemical reaction, which was particularly revolutionary as they discovered this in the late 1970s.

Born in 1930 in Austria, Dr. Karplus was only eight years old when he and his family fled to the U.S. as Austria was annexed by the Nazis. While speaking to students, he alluded to current attitudes towards immigrants and refugees, reminding the audience that he too was an immigrant. After attending elementary and high school in nearby Newton, Dr. Karplus

attended Harvard for his undergraduate studies.

He graduated at 20 years old, and only three years later, he graduated from California Institute of Technology with a Ph.D. after studying under fellow

city, and he later returned to Harvard. Though Dr. Karplus’ knowledge is highly specialized, he managed to also touch upon topics far more relatable to the average high schooler when he spoke on February 15th.

The majority of Dr. Karplus’ presentation involved answering students’ questions about how he became interested in science and how science can be used beyond the research lab.

Senior Sophie Lipkin, who is currently taking Ethics in Science with Ms. Colby, resonated with his argument that science “could easily be

applied to ethical decisions in everyday life,” as reiterated by Lipkin.

Mr. Gehant, Dean of Learning Community L, was happy to see Dr. Karplus link “his life-long curiosities in and outside of science in such a way that it was very relevant to CRLS students attending” and ultimately engage students beyond his specific field of study. “The event strengthened the greater community of Cambridge by having public school students of science and a resident with one of the highest honors in science in conversation together,” he added.

If you want to learn more about Dr. Martin Karplus, make sure to read his biography at [Nobelprize.org](http://Nobelprize.org)!



Karplus won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2013.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling. Since then, Dr. Karplus has taught at University of Illinois, Columbia Univer-

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Established in 1891 as the C.M.T.S Register

*"Listening to every voice,  
printing what you need to hear"*

## Menstrual Products

*Continued from page 1*

he fully supported ideas students might have to improve the school, telling the *Register Forum*, “The administration has opened the pathway for students to freely bring ideas, concerns, and any suggestions to our attention. We believe the voices of our students must be heard and listened to.”

Although filling and retrofitting the dispensers is a lot of work at first—approximately 20 hours altogether—Head Custodian Robbie Cataldo told the *Register Forum* that once they are all properly stocked, checking and restocking them will not add significant work for the custodians. “We check the toilet paper and paper towels every day, and we’ll check [the menstrual hygiene products] every day, too.”

Custodian Claude Lathan echoed Mr. Cataldo, saying that he didn’t think it

would add much work to his day and that he didn’t mind the initial labor because “it was voted on by the School Committee.”

Club One, commonly known as “Feminism Club,” provided a temporary supply of menstrual hygiene products earlier this year by placing baskets full of student-bought tampons in some of the girls bathrooms. Mr. Cataldo said he thought that people “took more than they needed from the baskets” and that having products in all the dispensers will discourage students from taking more than one

at a time. Club One representatives Alix Flores (‘17) and Rebecca Hornstein (‘17) told the *Register Forum* that “[they] are proud of the school for seeing that sanitary products should be free,” and that “[they] hope that this movement will be passed down to middle and

elementary schools... [and] even other schools and places in the community.”

Beckert, the only male student involved with the project, commented that although some men believe that the matter of free menstrual products might not directly affect them, “In fact it does affect them because it affects their family and their friends, and fighting for the people you care about is extremely important.”

While there are now products in the bathrooms for immediate use, students who need a more permanent supply are also able to access products in the Teen Health Center or in their Learning Community offices. Low-Fleury concluded that making products accessible is a step forward in gender equity: “We are showing our female students and faculty that their needs are equally as important as those of males in the building.”

# \$10,000 Helping 6,000 Refugees

By  
Sophie Harrington  
*Register Forum Contributor*

In only one weekend, junior Faris Rustom raised \$4,500 for the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), an organization providing mobile clinics for Aleppo, Syria evacuees. By January 24th, within four days of the fundraiser being up on Facebook, Rustom reached his goal of raising \$5,000.

Rustom commented that this was much more than he hoped for, stating, “I was really surprised, especially since my goal for the first fundraiser was just \$1,500. But the best part was seeing how many people cared about this issue. I was getting donations from lots of people I didn’t know, and people who weren’t even Syrian or Arab, which was really nice to see.”

The fundraiser started as a project for Ms. Li’s English 11 class—a part of the Genius Hour assignment. Every Friday during class, students worked on a project that they designed based on a personal interest or passion. According to Ms. Li, the goals of Genius Hour are to “empower students to be active, self-directed learners” and to foster a sense of real world problem solving that is creative and engaging. It is also for students to “use ‘failure’ as an opportunity for improving designs.”

Rustom had several inspirations for his project. He explained, “Mostly because I am originally from Syria, and because of the situation there at the moment, I thought a fundraiser [for SAMS] was probably the best way I could

help out while living in the US.” He added, “I am really interested in the medical field and hope to become a doctor in the future. I wanted to focus this fundraiser on the medical aspect of the situation in Syria, given the increased need as a result of the conflict.”

The SAMS foundation is a non-profit that is working directly on the crisis in Syria and is trying to alleviate pressure by sending medical support and technology. The foundation is currently working in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Greece. During one summer, Rustom worked at a mobile clinic in refugee camps and after “noticing how underfunded they were,” he “wanted to raise money for the mobile clinics helping civilians in Syria.”

Rustom’s fundraiser started as a Go Fund Me page to support underground hospitals in Aleppo. Before the city was completely evacuated, hospitals operated underground to be safe from air raids. Many of the patients that were taken to these hospitals were children whose homes had been hit during air strikes. The Go Fund Me page launched January 13th, but he stopped advertising it shortly after due to problems with Paypal.

Around the same time, Rustom reached out to the president of SAMS, Dr. Majd Isreb. Dr. Isreb recommended Rustom abandon Go Fund Me and start a Facebook fundraiser. Additionally, he suggested changing the fundraiser to specifically support mobile clinics for Aleppo evacuees, since the SAMS foundation workers could no longer access Aleppo. Dr. Isreb also connected Rustom with the SAMS vice-president and



Faris Rustom started his fundraiser in January.  
Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington

chairman of fundraising Dr. Basel Termanini, who helped Rustom boost his page and advertise it to a larger audience.

At that point, all Rustom had to do was invite hundreds of people—friends and strangers alike—to donate to his page. According to Rustom, “Facebook is way better [for fundraising] since you can make sure everyone on your friends list sees it by inviting them personally.”

Senior Eden Abebe donated to Rustom’s fundraiser, and after acknowledging that refugee families are living in poor conditions, she said she donated because “the least [she] could do is contribute to something that would help take care of their basic medical needs.”

The impact of Rustom’s fundraiser is significant; with \$5,000, a mobile clinic can operate for a month and provide aid to 3,000 displaced refugees. On February 12th, after just three weeks of fundraising, Rustom hit his goal of \$10,000, and currently he has raised just over that amount, much more than he ever anticipated to raise. To donate to his fundraiser, go to Mobile Clinic for Aleppo Evacuees by Faris Rustom on Facebook.



# A Cappella Groups Share the Love

By  
Charlotte Rosenblum  
*Register Forum Contributor*

This February the CRLS a cappella program continued its long held tradition of delivering Singing Valentines. The day is not only a fun day of school spirit for students, but is also a fundraiser for the VPA Department. However, there were some minor deviations from the usual agenda. Due to last year’s disbandment of the all-male a cappella group and Valentine’s Day favorite, Brocapella, there were only three groups available for Valentines this year as opposed to the usual four. This presented a financial setback for the VPA department, as around 80 less Valentines were available for sale, resulting in a loss of \$240. Additionally, due to the two snow days, Singing Valentines were postponed to Thursday, February 16th, two days after actual Valentine’s Day.

Senior Maisha Lakri, head of the a capella program, says, “We would’ve preferred to have it on actual Valentine’s Day because there is a lot more excitement, and we haven’t been able to do that for the past two years [V-Day has fallen on a weekend], but we needed the extra days to sell. Despite this, Singing Valentines are still the best part of February and fun for everyone involved.” As always, Singing Valentines were completely sold out.

The date change did result in a bit less excitement around the Singing Valentines, spe-

cifically because Valentine’s Day had already occurred, and the holiday was technically over. However, the day Valentines were delivered was still a super fun time to embarrass your friends or show affection for the people you care about. Student Body President Kester Messan-Hilla reflected on his last Singing Valentines, saying, “Singing Valentines always put a big smile on my face. While receiving them can be a bit awkward, watching your classmates be serenaded is always entertaining. They do a great job of showing that everyone is loved, appreciated, and cared for.” Furthermore, the date change pushed Singing Valentines right before February vacation week, ending school on a fun note right before the week off.

The three a capella groups still in action

are Sassafrass, Girls Next Door, and the coed group Pitches and Do’s. While each group prepares and performs a few different songs, Sassafrass shined with their performance of “Like I’m Gonna Lose You” by Meghan Trainor, Girls Next Door stood out with “Baby Love” by the Supremes, and the favorite from Pitches and Do’s

was “My Girl” by The Temptations. Junior James Kubicek of Pitches and Do’s says, “It’s really fun going into classes you don’t find yourself in every day, and the reaction from teachers and students is often rewarding.”

If you loved Singing Valentines and want more, be sure to mark your calendars for April 28th, when you can catch all the CRLS a cappella groups at the Spring A Cappella Jam.



Girls Next Door was one of the groups that delivered Valentines.  
Photo Credit: Charlotte Rosenblum

## CRLS REMEMBERS



### MARA GIBBS

CLASS OF 2015

1997-2017

“MARA LEFT A MEMORABLE MARK AT CRLS IN SO MANY WAYS. HER CREATIVE SPIRIT, GENUINE DESIRE TO LEARN, AND RESILIENCE WERE BEYOND ADMIRABLE. I AM SO SAD THAT SHE WAS TAKEN FROM US AT SUCH AN EARLY AGE AND WILL MISS HER ALWAYS.”

-MS. NATHAN

“MARA WAS ENDOWED WITH A BRILLIANT MIND, AN OLD SOUL, AND A STRONG WILL. SHE CHALLENGED HER TEACHERS AND HER PEERS WITH HER WIT AND INTELLECT. SHE WAS THE TYPE OF STUDENT YOU NEED AROUND TO KEEP YOU SHARP. WE LOST A GREAT PERSON.”

-MR. RACKI



Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington

By  
Robert Shapiro  
*Register Forum Contributor*

### Register Forum: Why do you think students should take culinary?

Michele Percoco Walsh: I think students should take culinary because not only is it a great choice for a career, I think it’s an important skill for life. So even if you didn’t choose it as a career you would still be able to make yourself some great meals and feed the people you love.

### RF: What is your teaching philosophy?

MPW: I would love every person to come into this class and take away something from it. I want them to build on what they already know and if they don’t know anything I want them to leave here with something valuable.

### RF: What about teaching appeals to you?

MPW: I love engaging with the students. I love watching them grow. I love watching them learn things and when I teach them something

## Spotlight: Michelle Peroco Walsh

and then they apply it to their work that really is great to see. I love the enthusiasm.

### RF: What do you think is the hardest part about teaching a hands on class?

MPW: The hardest part is making sure I can get to everyone in one class. It’s hard to tend to everyone at one time if they need me. I wish I had more hands.

### RF: What about teaching baking appeals to you?

MPW: Well, I went culinary school about six years ago, and before that I was a preschool teacher, so I always had a love for teaching and then I grew to love to cook and bake, so when I had the opportunity to combine the two I jumped at the chance.

### RF: What your favorite part of CRLS?

MPW: My favorite part of the school is the diversity. I love all the differ-

ent backgrounds, the cultures—it’s a great school. I went to this school when I was young so it’s nice to be in the urban setting.

### RF: What were you doing prior to this?

MPW: I was actually a chef at this school making school lunches for all the students. We fed about 800 to 1000 students between breakfast and lunch.

### RF: What do you like to do outside of cooking?

MPW: I like to play golf, believe it or not, with my husband. We also like to run 5k races. I love to spend quality time with my family most of all.

### RF: What’s your favorite item to bake and what’s your favorite item to eat?

MPW: I love Boston cream pie. I love to bake it and I love to eat it. It’s my favorite.





# A BLAST FROM THE PAST

## The Register Forum, December 1982



By  
Juliana Vandermark  
*Register Forum*  
Contributor

The push to ease state abortion laws began with medical and law professionals in the 1960s—however, it was the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that sparked the more mainstream abortion debate. *Roe v. Wade* validated the right for women to get abortions within their first trimester of pregnancy.

Recently, President Trump has made controversial and conflicting statements about this issue, leaving many clueless about where exactly he and VP Pence stand on the issue.

In 1982, an article was printed in the *Register Forum* about women’s rights to abortions. The article

was written ten years after *Roe v. Wade*, about thirty-four years ago now. A lot has changed since then, but abortion is still a hot topic in politics today.

The 1982 *RF* article sheds light on both the views of Rindge students at the time and on the changes between today. Juliet Bascom ‘83, the author of the piece, explained in detail the deci-

*A lot has changed since [1982], but abortion is still a hot topic in politics.*

seats in Congress, which shows how little things have changed in the past 34 years.

Now Trump is minimizing women’s rights and has already begun the domino effect by cutting off federal funding for organizations such as Planned Parenthood. In the same year that Bascom’s article was published, the *Planned Parenthood v. Ashcroft* case was decided.

This case had struck down the pre-existing rule that forced women seeking abortions to have abortions in hospitals as opposed to clinics. However, Trump’s recent halt on federal funding for programs such as Planned Parenthood seems to be forcing our nation back to times even before Bascom’s *RF* article was published.



# Winter Ball 2017 Lives Up to Students’ Expectations

By  
Cecilia Barron  
*Register Forum Editor*

On February 3rd, hundreds of Rindge teens dressed to the nines flowed into the Kendall Square Marriott for the annual Winter Ball. The Winter Ball is a Rindge tradition, like Blackout and Falcon Pride Day, that prompts every Rindge student to ask themselves, “Should I go?” But this year, the answer was easy. “I haven’t gone in past years because I never knew about it before,” says junior Isabella Rodriguez. “My time [there] was pretty

good.” Others were just as enthusiastic about the spectacular night, like Milo Lynch, a senior, who remarked “I liked it.” Winter Ball is the only dance of the entire year that welcomes freshmen and sophomores along with upperclassmen. “It was better than last year because I knew more people,” said sophomore Nuria Gonzalo. An often overlooked but crucial aspect of any event is the food, and Rindge students noticed the five star cuisine this year. “I liked that there were sodas there,” noted sophomore Jonathan Matsko. “I like

soda.” Students had their choice of pizza, chicken tenders, fries, and a sundae bar. “The food was really good,” added Gonzalo. The buffet was a highlight of the remarkable evening. Another necessity to any good dance party is the DJ, and he earned himself high praise from Rindge students on February 3rd. “It was really crowded on the dancefloor, but I don’t know if that was bad or not,” said Matsko, noting the unrestrained dance skills of Rindge students. “The DJ was good, the music was good,” he added. Just like any school event, there is always

room for improvement. Paul Sullivan, a member of Student Government, would like to improve the music choices. “My one hope for next year is that we can get some Taylor Swift to be played because you know Paul Sullivan needs some Taylor Swift to get down and dirty.” By the end of the night, students were wobbling out to Ubers on their stilettos with smiles on their faces. The overall consensus was extremely positive and could be eloquently described through Sullivan’s words as “so lit.” The Winter Ball was, once again, a success.



For the \$25-\$40 Winter Ball ticket fee, students had access to four straight hours of dancing and eating, all organized by Student Government.

Photo Credit: Syed Hoque



# Renewable Energy: Resistance in the Trump Era

By  
Jonah Tauber  
Register Forum  
Contributor

Lately, many liberals have been wondering how to resist the policies of President Trump. His policies include multiple restrictions on immigration, the defunding of Planned Parenthood, and a voucher program for public schools, among many others. While the Republican majorities in both houses of Congress have made many Americans feel powerless, many changes can be made at the state level.

One issue that many Cambridge residents care deeply about is climate change. Donald Trump does not seem particularly worried about this grave threat to our planet. During his campaign, he even claimed that climate change is a Chinese hoax. He nominated Scott Pruitt as the head of the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, despite—or maybe because of—the fact that he sued the EPA several times during his time as Oklahoma’s attorney general.

It may seem that nothing can be done about our massive carbon emissions given the current political situation. However, there is a bill currently in the Massachusetts state legislature that would transition Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

This bill, which is also being introduced in many other states, will be a major step forward in the fight against manmade climate change. Transitioning Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy will end our fossil fuel emissions completely. This will halt our state’s pumping of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and help us lead the way in preventing global warming.

Not only will this be beneficial to the health of our Earth, but it will also

help improve public health, as air pollution is a major health problem in the areas surrounding fossil fuel burning plants. These areas are also disproportionately populated by low-income people and people of color. For too long, their air has been heavily polluted.

Additionally, without the need to burn oil and coal, there would be no need to dig for these substances, creating a more sustainable future for our state. It would eliminate some of the most dangerous jobs, end our reliance on foreign oil, and stop us from undergoing the harmful process of fracking. No matter your stance on global warming, encouraging renewable energy is important for many reasons.

If you feel strongly about the environment, this probably sounds like an incredibly exciting proposition. I, for one, would be extremely proud to say that my state is leading the way in the push to get rid of fos-



Scott Pruitt was sworn in as the head of the EPA on February 17th.  
Photo Credit: NBC News

sil fuels and invest in its future. But unfortunately, this bill still has a long way to go.

Luckily, as constituents of the many districts within Cambridge, you can contact your state representatives and senators and urge them to do whatever they can to push this bill through.

Contacting your legis-

lators is easier than it may seem. If you go to [www.malegislature.com](http://www.malegislature.com), you can find your district and the contact information of your representatives. It’s as simple as shooting off an email to tell them why you care about this bill. With all of our collective voices, we can put pressure on our representatives to support this bill.

## Why Are Companies Like Uber and AirBNB Popular?

By  
Isabelle Agee-Jacobson  
Register Forum Contributor

Imagine you are hanging out with friends or are out to dinner with your family. It is time to leave but you walked there and now it is raining. The first thing that comes to mind? Call an Uber.

Uber has been in the news a lot recently. Its CEO, Travis Kalanick, just pulled out of President Trump’s business council after receiving criticism from both workers and consumers for being on it. Uber also made headlines because during a protest of President Trump’s new immigration ban, Uber’s prices surged, prompting many customers to delete their U b e r

people provide services to each other through the use of technology.

The main reason why consumers like Uber and other sharing economy businesses is for their convenience and affordability. With the press of button on your phone, a ride can appear, available to take you wherever you need to go for a reasonable price.

Similarly, through AirBNB, consumers are opened up to a wide array of housing accommodations. Gone is the long hunt for the right sized vacation rental, in the right place, at the right price.

Many Uber drivers also appreciate the flexibility of Uber. The company was designed so that Uber

drivers could work whenever is convenient

*The main reason why consumers like Uber and other sharing economy businesses is for their convenience.*

apps. The billion dollar ride sharing company, founded in 2009, has exploded in recent years, and has many people ogling at its convenience.

It is one of a host of new kinds of businesses that are transforming our economy, including companies like AirBNB, Etsy, and Upwork. These businesses are part of the new “sharing economy.” They are a series of startups in which ordinary

for them all the while pursuing other interests. Furthermore, unlike taxi drivers, Uber drivers don’t have to spend time and gas on finding passengers—through their apps they know exactly where a passenger is.

One controversial element of Uber is its surge pricing. Surge pricing means that at busy times, prices go up to attract more drivers. For a driver this means the potential to make a lot of money, but for cus-



200,000+ customers have deleted their Uber accounts since Trump’s immigration ban.  
Photo Credit: Classic 105

tomers this means the potential to get majorly ripped off. A ride at a busy time could cost you more than three times the amount it usually would.

Uber has also been criticized for its business model due to the fact that it treats its drivers like independent contractors, rather than actual employees. As independent contractors, drivers get no access to benefits and aren’t protected by regulations, such as mandatory overtime pay. An investigation into this is going on as the National Labor Relations Board wants to ensure that if the workers are being required to work like employees, they are getting treated that way.

Another critique of Uber is that Uber drivers don’t have to follow the same regulations as regular taxi drivers. Taxi drivers are required to go through month-long

trainings, examination periods, and have high stakes for renewing their licenses. In contrast, Uber drivers only have to have a driver’s license, a background check, and an insured car to become a driver.

This lack of regulation lessens the accountability that the drivers have. They don’t have to worry as much about getting into accidents or sexually assaulting passengers, which is incredibly dangerous for the passengers.

While Uber came up with a brilliant idea, rides from ordinary people where everything—the passengers, navigation, and payment—is done on an app, it has some very significant flaws. Given these problems, ideally new competitors will emerge that keep some elements of Uber but treat their workers better, regulate them, and hold them accountable for their actions.



# The Advanced Placement Program Is Overrated

By  
Rafael Goldstein  
*Register Forum Editor*

When we think about educational achievement, we often think in terms of what looks best for colleges. But for this piece, I ask that you step away from that and try to focus on genuine education instead, as in, going to class to actually learn about a subject, not just to get a good grade for your dream school. I also ask that you look beyond the classes you have taken at Rindge—certainly one can still take a great Advanced Placment (AP) class, but that is in spite of the College Board, not because of it (thank your teacher).

The AP program at Rindge as well as across the world is becoming increasingly popular. According to the College Board, 33% of high school graduates in 2013 took an AP exam—a sharp increase from 25% in 2010. With more and more colleges expecting APs on students’ transcripts, AP enrollment will continue to rise. But are APs as benefi-

cial as we make them out to be?

The increase in enrollment of AP classes has nothing to do with the program’s overall quality. A study done by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute showed that 90% of AP teachers believe that the growth in the program is attributed to “more students who want their college applications to look better.”

AP supporters often cite the numerous studies that show that those who take AP classes are more successful in college. But this is misleading, and relatively meaningless.

Of course the highest-achieving students will take the highest level courses and then continue their success in college. The majority of AP students are already college-bound. While an AP credit may help a student get into a college, it helps an individual rather

than the education system as a whole.

Another argument supporters of AP classes often make is that an AP class is much cheaper than taking a college-level course. However, the educational experience does not compare; what is taught in an AP Calculus class feigns in comparison to a college level

fee to take the test for no reason.

AP classes have also exacerbated educational debt—formerly known as the achievement gap—throughout the country. Although overall enrollment in AP classes has increased, many minority groups have essentially been left out of this equation. Look no further than the demographics in a Rindge AP class compared to a CP class. There are a host of reasons for this; for example, Rindge has just one African American AP teacher—for a school that is 30% African American, there is certainly something wrong with that.

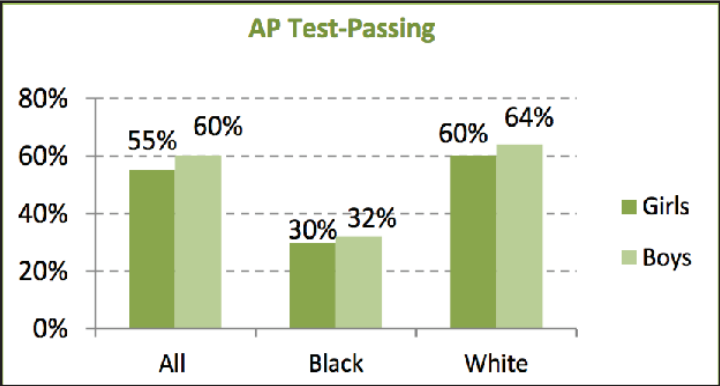
We should be asking ourselves: Why are we putting so much value on a program that benefits just a select few? As of 2010, California was receiving \$2.8 million in federal funds to subsidize AP tests, yet 41% of students were failing.

That money could be better spent, such as on curriculum development or on teachers.

What is most damaging about AP courses is their structure. Because of the ever-looming AP test, there is very little room for non-course material. This leads to a major decrease in reflection, thought, and creativity—all of which are essential to a student’s learning experience.

You’d be hard pressed to find a history teacher who’d tell you reading a textbook chapter most students will forget right after the AP test is more productive than discussing the historical context behind the current President’s executive order. The issue extends beyond the humanities, as well, although it is true that at Rindge, AP science teachers are given more freedom because their classes are full year.

For a program that drains so much money and leads to so little change in school success, we ought to question whether our money and resources are better spent elsewhere.



Recently, diversity in AP classes has been a controversial subject.  
Photo Credit: ed.gov

## Evaluating Betsy DeVos

By  
Nathan Kolodney  
*Register Forum Contributor*

President Trump’s erratic pattern of cabinet member choices did not falter when it came to his pick for education secretary, Betsy DeVos. DeVos is a wealthy Republican donor and former Michigan Republican party fundraiser who had no working experience in education before being nominated for the position by President Trump. She is not unique in that sense, as many of Trump’s appointees do not have a background in the position they are set to hold.

We cannot hope to see much more than a stand still within the public education system through DeVos’ time as a cabinet member. She has been vocal in her support of charter schools as well as home schooling and does not seem to think of public education as a priority.

DeVos is a billionaire, which her critics say separates her dramatically from the needs of your average public school student. She is also a devout Christian and has expressed that she would like religion to take a larger part in education. She in fact has referred to schools as “God’s kingdom” in past interviews. The main cause she has

backed in the past has been backing charter schools. She supports the school choice program which diverts funding from public schools to charter and private schools. DeVos has donated large sums of money to campaigns that support school choice, and seems to want to promote this idea while she is education secretary.

Besides promoting policies that detriment the poor, remove separations of church and state, and take away funding from public schools, DeVos is completely uneducated when it comes to education. She has no experience in education but also seems not to understand basic information about education in the U.S.

In DeVos’ nominee hearing, she said many controversial things, including that guns should be allowed in schools to prevent grizzly bear attacks. This led to the Senate members evaluating her hearing to give her a C- rating. Additionally, in interviews, DeVos has struggled to explain the differences between proficiency and growth when it comes to education.

Even so, on Tuesday, February 7th, after a split decision in the Senate, Betsy DeVos was confirmed to be the education secretary with a decision from Vice President Mike Pence. This was the first time in U.S.



On February 7th Betsy DeVos was confirmed to be the education secretary.  
Photo Credit: NBC News.

history the Vice President ever had to confirm a cabinet pick.

For a public school like CRLS, DeVos’ policies as education secretary could mean lack of federal funding, but the effects of DeVos’ time as education secretary will not be extremely detrimental in Cambridge because of how strong the education program is here. Unfortunately many other public schools will be affected by DeVos. This is because under DeVos, the 20 billion dollar education budget is likely to go into a federal voucher program, benefiting private schools and hurting public ones.

In essence, the voucher program pays parents back to go to private schools. This money is given

from the federal government directly to private schools. Trump plans to allot 20 billion dollars to this program. Voucher programs also blur the line between church and state by providing federal funding to private Catholic schools.

Though DeVos can not lay out all her desired policies due to federal legislation, it is likely that public education will reach a stand still for the next four years, if not taking a step backwards. Additionally, due to her support of for-profit colleges, DeVos is likely not to work on reducing college tuition whatsoever. All in all, the policies of DeVos are likely to disadvantage public schools and promote the for-profit education system in this country.



# Lego Batman Surprises



By  
Jake Friedman  
Register Forum Contributor

The *Lego Movie* was living evidence that our consumerist culture and neoliberal world order can on occasion produce cinematic masterworks. That 2014 adventure-comedy possessed an impeccable sense of humor, a rivetingly original plot, intelligent social commentary, and actual, genuine heart, all in spite of being a glorified advert for a Danish toy company. Its commercial success and surprise acclaim among critics has led to a wave of copycats, such as Dreamworks’ *Trolls* and the upcoming (probably god-awful) *The Emoji Movie*. And now *The Lego Movie* has spawned a sequel of sorts in the form of *The Lego Batman Movie*.

Except *The Lego Batman Movie* is also a kind-of sequel to *Batman v. Superman*, and *The Dark Knight Trilogy*, and Tim Burton’s *Batman*, and also the 1960s *Batman* TV show. If we are getting really technical here, it also ties into *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and several other properties.

Lego Batman plays it fast and loose with continuity, and is a veri-

table love letter to pop culture enthusiasts. References find their way into every nook and cranny of the film, and it may be overwhelming *Batman* neophytes. Thankfully, everything critical to the plot is either explained brilliantly or is well informed by context.

The film tells the story of billionaire superhero, manchild, certified loner, and bonafide narcissist *Batman* as he attempts to combat the evil schemes of the *Joker*. The poor clown desires nothing more than for *Batman* to acknowledge the bond they share as archenemies, often acting more like an unsatisfied lover than a traditional evil doer.

Meanwhile, *Batman* has to learn to cooperate with Gotham’s new police commissioner, Barbara Gordon, a recent graduate of “Harvard for Cops” who favors sensible, statistics informed policies rather than a dependency on vigilantism (her motto: It takes a village, not a *Batman*). *Batman* also accidentally adopts a bug-eyed orphan named *Dick Grayson*, with whom hijinks ensue.

Half of what makes *Lego Batman* so hilarious is the performance of Will Arnett as its titular hero. Arnett had already proved himself to be perfect as a troubled, egotistical, and stupidly rich animal-person on *BoJack Horseman*, and his voice is just deep and hoarse enough for the *Dark Knight*. The rest of the cast



Lego Batman featured Will Arnett as the voice for Batman.

Photo Credit: IMDb

delivers similarly stellar work.

*Lego Batman* constantly mocks and subverts the superhero genre. The inherently ridiculous nature of many comic book stories is thoroughly embraced, and the intentional logical fallacies and absurd set-pieces help make the film special. Jokes and witty dialogue come out of the plastic figurines’ painted-on mouths so quickly to suit nearly all comedic tastes. Yet the film also knows to vary its tone for comedic effect; my favorite scene sees *Batman* patiently heating up lobster thermidor in a microwave, a randomly realist moment in the midst of a cartoonish romp.

Also necessary to discuss are the visuals and animation—nearly everything is made from photorealistic *Lego* blocks. This leads to some marvelous settings and backdrops, and the whole film is won-

derful to look at.

Ridiculous antics aside, there is an emotional throughline that ties the film together in the form of *Batman* learning to once again become part of a family. It occasionally borders on being cheesy, and it does not compare to the unexpectedly hard-hitting sentimentality of *The Lego Movie*’s twist ending. Nonetheless, its conclusion is heartwarming and the message given at the end, which I dare not spoil here, is amiable.

In the end, *The Lego Batman Movie* is not quite on par with its stellar forerunner, not only since it lacks that film’s boldness, but also because the original songs are just grating compared to the deliciously ear-wormy “Everything is Awesome.” Regardless, *The Lego Batman Movie* is an intensely fun and memorable lampoon of the *Caped Crusader*.

# McAvoy Shines in Split



By  
Aviv Yaacobi  
Register Forum Contributor

*Split* is written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, the man behind *Unbreakable*, *Avatar the Last Airbender*, and *The Sixth Sense*. *Split* features a man, played by James McAvoy, who has multiple-personality disorder. The leading personalities McAvoy plays are Patricia, Hedwig, Dennis, Barry, and a new personality, which all live in Kevin.

The film’s plot starts at the end of character *Claire Benoit*’s party where the status of *Casey*, one of the main characters, as a loner and a person that gets into trouble is established. *Casey* can’t get a ride home, so *Claire*’s dad says he’ll give her and *Marcia*, who is *Claire*’s friend, a ride home. As seen in the trailers, her father gets knocked out by *Dennis*, and he kidnaps the girls. They awaken in a cel-

lar, unable to escape.

In the movie, we learn that *Kevin* suffers from the disease *DID* (Dissociative Identity Disorder), which is the new term for multiple personality disorder.

The characters we mostly see in the movie are known as *The Horde*. *The Horde* is made up by *Hedwig*, *Dennis* and *Patricia*. We learn that in *Kevin*’s body, the other 20 personalities feel like something dangerous is happening so they send the psychologist emergency messages.

In addition, we learn that *The Horde* only planned to kidnap *Marcia* and *Claire* as they have been “untouched” which means have never experienced true pain and suffering.

Throughout the movie, *The Horde* bring up this creature called the *Beast*. He can climb walls, he is tall and strong with long fingernails and skin as thick as a rhino’s. We hear from the personalities that the girls are sacred food for the *Beast*.

The best part of the



James McAvoy’s character, Kevin, has 24 other personalities.

Photo Credit: Collider

movie is *James McAvoy*. He plays this role perfectly. Every one of *Kevin*’s personalities has mannerisms, accents, or speaking patterns that make it easy to tell which personality is present.

For example, *Hedwig*, one of the personalities, is meant to be nine years old. *McAvoy* plays him well giving him a particular speaking pattern and voice that makes him sound like a child. Another great example is the personality of *Dennis*. *Dennis* has severe *OCD*, and *McAvoy* constantly makes sure everything is clean.

Also, as *Dennis*, his

voice is more commanding than a more innocent child character like *Hedwig*, and he looks stronger. Another great performance is from *Betty Buckley*; she plays an amazing psychologist. Finally, *Anya Taylor-Joy* is great as *Casey*. At the beginning of the movie you may ask, why is she so calm? And why does she know so much about abuse? This all gets addressed by the use of flashbacks, and once you find out why she’s like this, you understand why she is acting in this particular manner.

There are creepy and unsettling scenes, especially *Casey*’s flashbacks which

could leave the audience feeling creeped out and unsettled. I did not find the movie scary, but someone more appreciative of scary movies might find that this movie scratches that horror itch. Either way, this movie’s acting is top notch, the cinematography is excellent, and the audio is also good.

The ending is great and not afraid of giving a non happy ending. However, the twist, which appears at the end, will only work if you know the the other movies *M. Night* has made, so you should watch his first three movies before adding *Split* to your watch list.



The Haunting Beauty of *Moonlight*, the Best Movie of 2016



By  
Christo Hays  
Register Forum  
Contributor

*Moonlight* opens with pitch blackness, the soulful instrumentation of Boris Gardiner’s “Every N\*\*\*\*\* Is a Star” filling the void before a harsh summer sun illuminates a blighted street corner.

In a woozy instance when the camera weaves and spins around Juan—protagonist Chiron’s father figure—and a younger man as they discuss family and selling drugs, the audience is introduced to the world of *Moonlight*—an impoverished black neighborhood in Miami where desperate times make good people do bad things.

Shortly thereafter, we meet Chiron. He runs across an overgrown yard, the frame shaking as he does so, and locks himself in an abandoned house; as he peeks out the window, an object flies past, hurled by a group of boys chasing him. They yell and taunt, but Chiron stays put, crouched and quiet—hollowness in his eyes.

Every film is about

identity in some capacity, but in *Moonlight*, identity is everything, the sole subject of writer-director Barry Jenkins’ pen and lens. Told in three acts by three different actors to capture three stages of Chiron’s life as a near-mute, gay, black boy, the film is a masterclass in striking harmony between visual metaphors and literalism. Jenkins’ writing is sparse and human, laying the foundation for outstanding performances and tight artistry from his cast and crew.

Chiron barely speaks for most of the film; much of the story is told via the voices of those who impact his life the most. Juan, played by Oscar winner Mahershala Ali, is the first of such influences. After finding Chiron in an abandoned house near where he does business, Juan quickly becomes the father Chiron never had, lending a caring hand and stoic advice to the young boy. Ali injects a wholesome charisma into the character, crafting a blend of optimism and hardness that contrasts powerfully with Chiron’s shy self-consciousness.

In a standout scene during the first act, Juan holds Chiron afloat amongst ocean waves—the camera

bobs beside them, half-submerged. As Chiron slaps the water un-athletically and distances himself from Juan’s good-natured laugh, composer Nicholas Britell’s anxious classical score swells and an overwhelming sense of panicked isolation permeates as Chiron struggles in the choppy sea. Throughout the first act, Chiron’s story is told in similar terms; archetypes of childhood are viewed through the warped lens of his bleak reality, framing struggles that are later explored directly.

Sexuality is Chiron’s biggest struggle. Beginning in the first act, and culminating in his first sexual encounter in the second, Chiron (played in act two by Ashton Sanders) develops feelings for his only friend, Kevin (Jaden Piner, Jharrel Jerome, André Holland). Kevin is a support for Chiron, someone who accepts and reassures his vulnerability. When the two kiss for the first time, it is Kevin who initiates it and calmly fills the awkward air. The uncertainty brought by Sanders and the sly, boyish confidence delivered by Jerome make their relationship tender—and all the more heart-wrenching when tension arises.



Moonlight won the Academy Award for Best Picture on February 26th.

Photo Credit: Vox

Act three kicks off with jarring style. Goodie Mob’s “Cell Therapy” bumps out of a car’s stereo; Chiron, now an adult, sits behind the wheel. He sports a gold grill and the muscles of a body-builder—this is a new Chiron (now played by Trevante Rhodes). Though the third act is the least overtly tense of the three acts—there is a sense of a fragile stability that hasn’t been seen before—it is the most sorrowful. Rhodes gives the best performance of the film, depicting Chiron at his most broken-down, despite his physique and hardened attitude.

The moments when his old vulnerability manifests itself clearly (note the diner scene where he visits Kevin for the first time in years)

are bar none in terms of nuanced acting.

Rarely are films able to provide genuine, wholesale examinations of the human soul. When attempted, the effort is often too encyclopedic or too light, rather than authentically emotional. *Moonlight* treads the knife-thin overlap between the two effects, immersing the viewer in Chiron’s story while maintaining a nerve-deep connection to his emotional arc. It’s never heavy-handed, nor is it overly vague. Instead, *Moonlight* achieves a feat few films ever have: being simultaneously profound and grounded. Fitting of its title, the result is a heart-breaking story told in stark, evocative language, beautiful and haunting.

Scripting Transgender Stories



By  
Louisa Monahan  
Register Forum Contributor

On Thursday, February 2nd, CRLS students had the opportunity to see *Trans Scripts Part I: The Women*, a show at the ART (American Repertory Theater) in Harvard Square for free. The small group of CRLS attendees was made up of faculty, students, and families.

*Trans Scripts* is about transgender women and their stories. The cast consists of seven trans-women actors and two non-trans male actors dressed as women of all ages, races, and ethnicities.

The script was made up of interviews with real people and their stories of coming out and transitioning. The writer of the play, Paul Lucas, had cut and pasted the transcripts of the interviews and weaved them together, creating one nine-part story. Each actor played the role of a few of the interviewees. The writer announced at the beginning of the show that the hundreds

of interviews all started with the same request: “Tell me your story.” The whole show is made up of the answers to that question.

Each answer to “tell me your story” was different. The people interviewed each had different backgrounds and were of different races. Some of the women had been married before coming out and others were in their 70s when they transitioned. Some wanted to quietly transition or, in their words, “disappear in the crowds of people.” Other women became activists fighting for transgender people’s rights or helped other transgender people come out and transition.

*Trans Scripts* dealt heavily with the troubles of coming out to family. Most of the interviewees had at least one parent that had trouble accepting their own child’s gender identity. One woman shared a story about how her nephew was the most accepting of her. He asked her questions, the final one being, “Are you happy?” After she answered yes, he replied with “Well that’s all that matters I guess.”

*Tran Scripts* shows how people of younger generations are of-



Rindge students saw Trans Scripts Part I: The Women in February, and it has since left the ART.

Photo Credit: The American Repertory Theater

ten more accepting of the ideas in the modern world. The show also talked about how some trans-people decide not to ever get surgery or take hormones to physically change their gender appearance or can’t because it is too expensive.

The performance had very few props because the main focus was telling the stories of the women who were interviewed. For most of the show I was very interested and intrigued about what they would say next. The women told stories with incredible detail, and they were all personal in their own ways. Each

story was different enough that I did not feel as though I was hearing the same story every time, but similar enough that they all blended together seamlessly and I could retain a correlating message.

Unfortunately, the show is not still at the ART, but Paul Lucas will be writing *Trans Scripts Part II: The Men*. This will be similar, but it will have pieces of interviews of transgender men. Even though this play was simple with very few sets and props, it was able to pull in the audience with its engaging story and an amazing cast of actors.



# GOLD KEY SCHOLASTIC WINNERS

CRLS has 63 winners in the 2017 Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The competition is described as “the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious artist recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12.” Placements include 13 Gold Keys, 16 Silver Keys, and 34 Honorable Mentions. As explained on the CRLS website, “Gold Key Awards at the regional level move on to be juried for National Awards.” Students across the U.S. in 2016 submitted nearly 320,000 works of art to the Scholastic Awards, highlighting the competitive nature of the awards and how exciting it is that each year Rindge yields a plethora of recognitions. Images have been cropped below; an unaltered collection can be accessed via the CPS website.

By Rosa Munson-Blatt

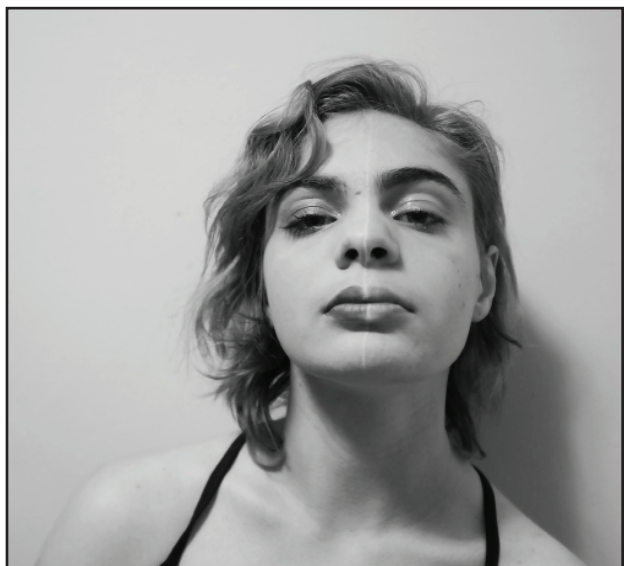


Photo by Thelma Rottersman, Class of 2017



“Just like how some students are able to do that through writing or math or science, visual arts has helped me find something I really enjoy, and the arts program at Rindge has allowed me to spend 1/4 of my day doing it.”

Pottery by Sophie Mark-Ng, Class of 2017



Photo by Jake Stout, Class of 2018



“Ceramics has always been a great outlet for me both for stress relief...[and] to foster creativity... To get outside recognition for my work means a lot. It gives a sense of validation that this art form is worth it and appreciated.”

Pottery by Allegra Berger, Class of 2017



Photo by Julia Boral, Class of 2017



“Photography is really meaningful to me in general because you are able to capture memories in different ways—by that I mean you can change the ways you photograph one subject to create something new.”

Photo by Maggie Thompson, Class of 2018



Photo by Jake Stout, Class of 2018



“The piece I did was a statement on traditional feminine roles...The main figure in the work is supposed to represent breaking away from these traditional roles and embracing freedom.”

Print by Natalia Ruiz, Class of 2018



Dress by Olivia Mariscal, Class of 2017



“I was especially excited because [most] of our class won awards and I got the American Vision Award...I was super lucky to have gotten it in [Ms. Haverty’s] last year. I’ve had her for three classes and she is an amazing teacher.”

Dress by Hanna Norris, Class of 2018



Photo by Natalie Ricardo, Class of 2017



“I love having a means of expression within school that’s not as regimented...Rindge is a school that...aspires to be accepting of everyone, and I think that having such a great arts program furthers that goal.”

Photo by Jackson Hardin, Class of 2018



# THE STATE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

## ASSESSING THE POWER OF A FREE PRESS UNDER PRESIDENT TRUMP

By  
Grace Ramsdell  
*Register Forum*  
Managing Editor

On January 11th, 2017, Donald Trump held his first press conference as President-elect, and his first since July 27th, 2016. Addressing CNN’s coverage of rumors that Russia might have incriminating information about him, President Trump said to the network’s Senior White House Correspondent, “I’m not going to give you a question. You’re fake news.”

During his campaign, President Trump denied the press credentials of reporters from various news outlets, including *Buzzfeed*, *Univision*, *Politico*, the *Huffington Post*, and others. These outlets could sometimes still send reporters to Trump rallies as part of the public, but they could not attend press events. More recently, Counselor to the President

Kellyanne Conway defended false comments made by Press Secretary Sean Spicer about the size of the crowd at President Trump’s inauguration, calling Spicer’s assertions “alternative facts.”

“Fake news is fake news. It’s unsubstantiated information,” said CRLS media journalism and sports journalism teacher Angelica Brisk in an interview with the *Register Forum*. “Trump or others cannot say that something is fake because they just don’t like it.”

At a time when WikiLeaks is becoming more of a player in the media and politics, when Pew reports that 64% of Americans feel like fake news has

appropriate to revisit the founding principles of the American free press.

**BRIEF HISTORY**  
The First Amendment to the United States Bill of Rights affirms: “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 peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Throughout the years, this amendment has led to further definition by the Supreme Court of what free speech means and what a free press means. However, adherence to the First Amendment has varied. As early as 1798,

seven years after the Bill of Rights was ratified, Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts. Created while the U.S. was on the verge of war with France, these laws repressed any protest of the government, whether it be written, printed, or spoken. More recently, the Obama administration was criticized for overclassification of government documents and intimidation of whistleblowers.

When considering limits on freedom of expression, it is also important to acknowledge accepted regulations, such as libel laws. As defined by the Supreme Court in the 1964 case *New York Times v. Sullivan*, libel encapsulates false state-

ments made with “actual malice,” meaning that false speech or any other form of expression made with the intent of doing harm does not fall under the umbrella of First Amendment rights.

On a global scale, according to the World Press Freedom Index compiled annually by Reporters without Borders, in 2016 the United States ranked 41st in terms of press freedom. This ranking is based on



Pictured: President Trump gives a press conference in the East Room at the White House on February 16th.

Photo Credit: Getty Images

factors including the media environment, levels of self-censorship, and the “quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.” In 2015, the U.S. ranked 49th and in 2014, 46th.

Reasons for the U.S.’s status include a decline in investigative reporting and publicly owned media outlets, as well as conflicts regarding journalists’ right not to disclose confidential sources, the denial or censorship of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and government surveillance.

AP Comparative Government and Politics teacher Cecilia Hylton noted that while the U.S.’s ranking may be surprising to those who have always lived in the U.S., it is “a reminder that censorship in various forms exists in many liberal democracies—it’s just often been normalized by our legal system.” While the First Amendment has been a part

100 Rindge students, 55% ranked freedom of expression as the most essential tenet of the First Amendment. Comparatively, 28% ranked freedom to assemble and petition the government as most essential, 14% chose freedom of religion, and only 3% said freedom of the press.

Sophomore Jaret Ber- man was among the few who ranked freedom of the press as most essential, explaining, “If the press is not free, then the government controls what is and isn’t known among the populace, and a government bent on censorship is opposed to the natural state of freedom that we hold so dear.” Junior Clara Benoit-Latour commented that freedom of expression is the most essential because “it simply groups every freedom together.”

As part of the same survey, students were asked whether they agreed with the statement, “The First

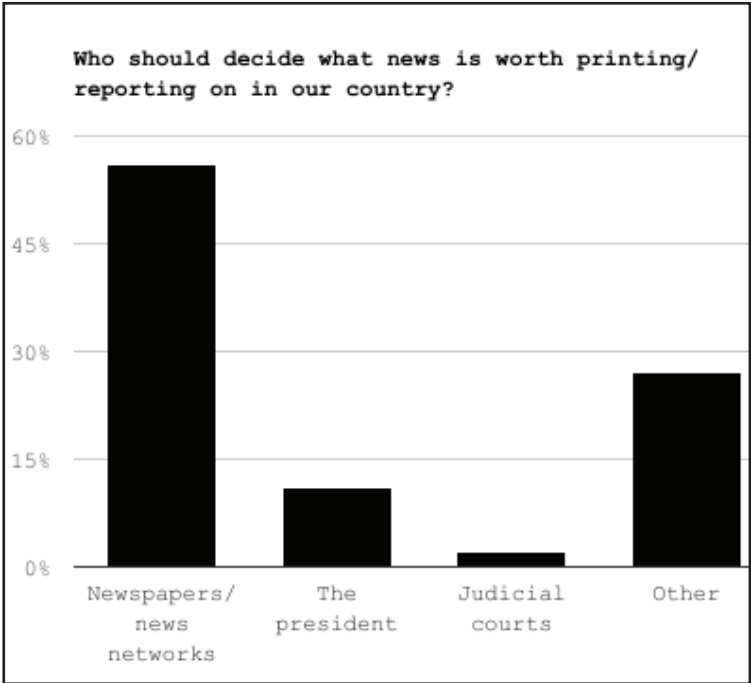
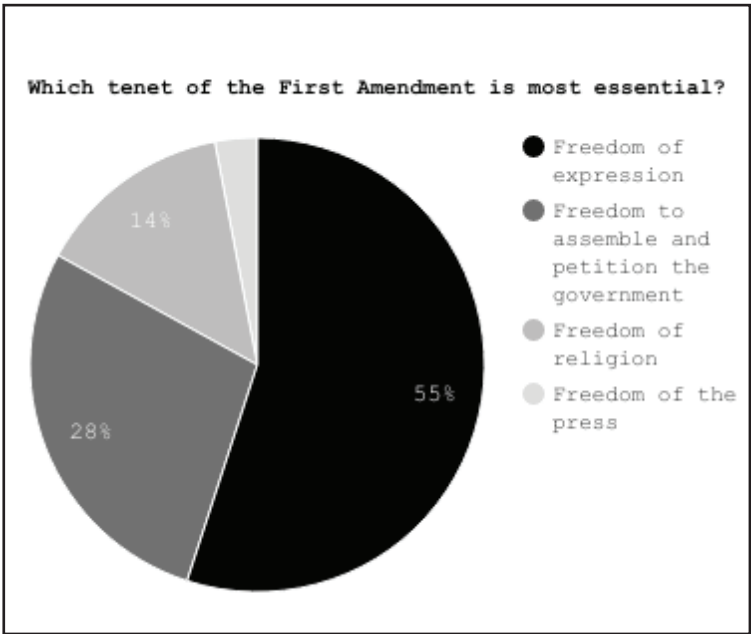
*“If the press is not free, then the government controls what is and isn’t known among the populace.”*

Amend- ment is im- por- tant.” Of the re- spondents, 72% said

they strongly agreed, 23% agreed, and 5% said they were not sure. No respondents said they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Finally, students were asked the question: “Who should decide what news is worth printing/reporting on in our country?” In response, 56% chose “news- papers/news networks,” 11% said “the president,” 4% responded “social media sites,” and 2% chose

(Continued on next page)



100 students participated in a survey about the First Amendment.  
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell





Pictured: A sign at the Boston Women's March in January supporting freedom of the press.  
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

“judicial courts.” The option “other” was selected by 27% of respondents, who most often wrote in that it should be the people who decide. Junior Oriol Gomez-Olive Fernandez explained his choice of “newspapers/news networks,” saying, “Newspapers will write even about the government and are pretty trustworthy, but if the president or judicial courts was doing it they might leave stuff out that affects them.”

The issue of media trustworthiness and bias has been particularly contentious recently. Ms. Brisk noted that journalists do have biases. “We all do,” she said, before clarifying, “The bias that a lot of politicians call them on is actually the wrong thing.” According to Ms. Brisk, journalists have “a tendency to follow the exciting story,” and in television, there is a specific bias towards striking visuals.

Ms. Brisk also commented on the biases that arise from a 24 hour news cycle in which journalists “are looking for the latest piece of news that no one else has scooped,” concluding, “We have deadline bias—we will publish something or put out something on television because we have a deadline and someone expects something at six o’clock and someone expects something at five in the morning, and we just have to put something out

there—and that’s actually the issue, it’s not so much of a political bias.”

**MOVING FORWARD**  
Students might ask: How should we—as citizens, consumers of media, and potentially future journalists—respond when the accepted protections of news and journalism seem to be changing by the day? Alexandra Ellerbeck, research associate for the Americas program at the Committee to Protect Journalists, addressed this in an email to the *Register Forum*, saying, “It’s important for students to raise awareness about press freedom issues both in the United States as well as around the world.”

Ms. Ellerbeck explained that the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has kept track of freedom of

documented a record number of journalists jailed globally. At a time when journalists face unprecedented risk, it is essential that students, activists, and politicians advocate for human rights.” In order to take action, Ms. Ellerbeck suggested that students “subscribe to reliable media sources” and “report important stories in their communities.”

On the subject of how to engage productively in the current media climate, Ms. Brisk added, “There is a freedom to say whatever you want, but you might want to ask yourself why you’re saying it before you say it, especially online...I just think it’s good to ask yourself the same questions that I ask students when they’re looking at video [in media journalism class]. What’s the purpose of publishing it?

Who’s the audience? What is fueling this? Where are you com-

ing from?”

Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, Spanish Language Editor of Global Voices Online and a CRLS parent, told the *Register Forum*, “I hope that Trump’s attitude towards the press does not cause a ‘chilling effect,’ and that, on the contrary, it may lead journalists, editors, and media institutions to be courageous and fully committed to social justice.”

When asked about how journalism is changing, Ms. Brisk said she fears hesitation among report-

ers reminiscent of the Bush era. “People stopped trying to make sure that the news was real, they were scared to question the president because we were in the middle of a war,” Ms. Brisk recalled. “There is value in respecting the president in wartime, but we have to know why people are doing what they are doing in our name,” she stated.

Ms. Shokooh Valle added that all countries need “a strong, transparent, and bold press” to hold their governments accountable, and to be accountable to the people, “especially the most marginalized and vulnerable communities.”

In January, around the same time that rumors spread of the Trump administration moving the White House press corps out of their signature briefing room, then-President Obama spoke of the importance of a free press. He reminded journalists at his

last press conference that the president does not have to like everything they report, saying, “You’re supposed to be skeptics, you’re supposed to ask me tough questions.” Mr. Obama also reaffirmed the importance of a media presence in the White House, stating that it “keeps us honest, it makes us work harder.”

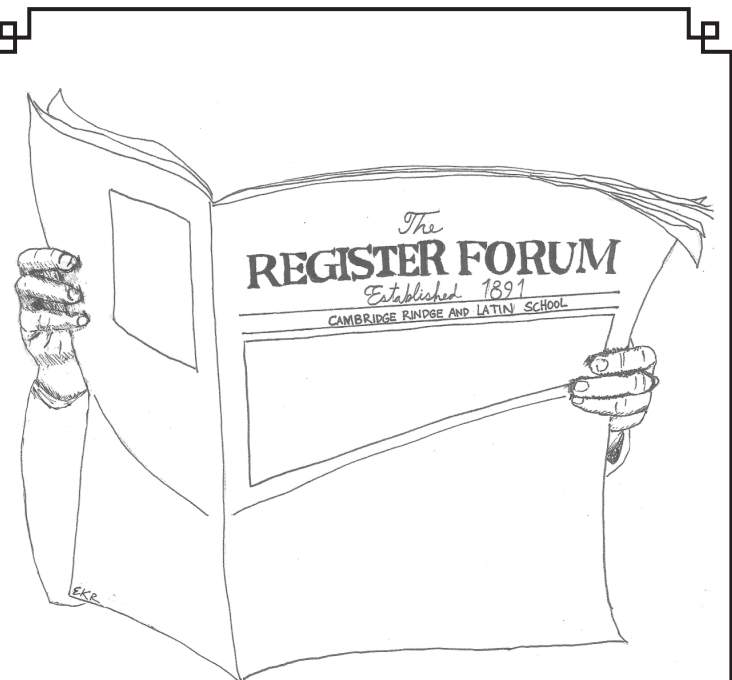
Contemplating the importance of the media, Ms. Brisk argued, “Democracy isn’t just a structure of government, it’s a structure of society. It will not work if citizens just vote and then don’t have any information about what their leadership is doing.”

Whether they look for news in print, on TV, or on a Twitter feed, the time seems right for Americans to ponder the words of Thomas Jefferson, who said, “Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.”

## EDITORIAL NOTE:

IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE LONG-FORM JOURNALISM, THE REGISTER FORUM WILL BE PRINTING SEVERAL IN-DEPTH ARTICLES IN THE COMING MONTHS. PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING A LONG-FORM ARTICLE.

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# Trump Reacts to New North Korea Nuclear Threat

By  
Sun-Jung Yum  
*Register Forum Editor*

Ever since North Korea became a country in 1948, its relations with the U.S. have been fraught, fueled by concerns regarding North Korea's numerous attempts to develop their nuclear and missile programs. This issue has always been troubling for North Korea's adversaries, but the risks of danger seem to be multiplying both for South Koreans and Americans as President Trump and his cabinet take on this crisis.

Prior to the election, President Trump claimed that he would consider cutting defensive relationships with U.S. allies South Korea and Japan. For more than sixty years, around 28,500 U.S. troops have been stationed in these two countries, and, in return, those countries have been paying the American government to cover part of the costs. However, Trump had said multiple times during his campaign that unless the countries began paying much larger quantities, the relationships would be

discontinued. This would mean that both of these countries would be left to defend themselves from North Korea without support from the U.S. However, in November, Trump walked away from this proposed policy without explanation.

On New Year's Day, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un announced that the country was finally prepared to test an intercontinental ballistic missile, which many Americans fear will be headed towards the U.S. Many analysts are still not worried; this threat could very well be a hostile warning rather than a genuine threat of attack. However, analysts have deemed Kim's announcement as much more serious than past threats in light of his nuclear tests during the last year.

In response to this,

President Trump has appeared to be fairly confident, tweeting, "It won't happen!" However, his commentary ended there; he did not explain his assurance. Despite this conviction, Trump and his administration are acting upon this issue. According to the *New York Times*, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was sent to South Korea and Japan on February 2nd in an attempt to reinforce

the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system. It is said that this system is able to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles in their terminal phase, protecting South Korea from any potential assaults. Going further, Mattis announced, "Any attack on the United States or on our allies will be defeated and any use of nuclear weapons will be met with a response that will be effective and overwhelming."

Not surprisingly, North Korea's reaction to this declaration was not a positive one; they have warned that this action will push the peninsula into a nuclear war. According to a report attributed to the National Peace Committee of Korea, Pyongyang referred to THAAD as a plan between the U.S. and South Korea to stage a "preemptive attack on the North."

The U.S.' announce-

ment regarding THAAD was met with negative outbursts from other countries as well, most notably China and its ally Russia. "Relevant countries shouldn't use Pyongyang's acts as a pretext to increase their military presence on the Korean Peninsula," said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a report released by CBS News. These two countries claim that the U.S.' interference will disturb their own territorial security.

The White House does not seem to be particularly worried about the situation. This issue, of course, is only one of many that Trump is facing in his first month as president. Though there are some who view this only as a small threat, many do not share this nonchalance; Victor Cha, a Georgetown University professor and Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, warned that North Korea will be President Trump's "September 11." Despite Trump's nonchalance toward the issue, it is clear that North Korea is, and will continue to be, a possible threat to the U.S.



Defense Secretary Mattis met with Japanese Prime Minister Abe.

Photo Credit: Washington Times

the United States' protective relationships with each of the countries.

During his visit to Seoul, Mattis pledged to protect the U.S. and South Korean troops with the implementation of THAAD,

## Protest Is Not The Only Way the Left Can Incite Change

By  
Cecilia Barron  
*Register Forum Editor*

In the time since President Trump's inauguration, protesting has become a weekend tradition. January 21st was the Women's March, the 28th there were protests nationwide against the executive order banning refugees, and on February 4th, there were marches for various causes—from Planned Parenthood to literally just science.

These protests have obviously gotten the attention of the President, who has recognized and, at times, dismissed the various protests. But, have these protests created real change? Will the imaginative cardboard signs and colorful chants last the next four years?

There's a high chance they will—that the power of the people will dissuade the President from taking uber-conservative actions and, instead, turn him to more moderate positions. But that's a risky gamble, especially since these protests have been quickly (and incorrectly) dismissed as "fake" and "well-funded" by Republicans, who control the House and Senate. Fortunately, there are many other ways to not only advance progres-

sive policies, but to ensure them.

### Five Calls A Day

The website 5 Calls refers you and your five "calls to action" to your local senator and representatives. The website also provides you with a script to recite, if you prefer to use one, when making your call. While a slim two minute phone call may seem as ineffective as retweeting an interesting article, they have already been proven to create lasting change. Susan Collins, a Republican senator from Maine, was the recipient of many calls about voting against Betsy DeVos as education secretary. Collins was one of two Republican senators to vote against DeVos, forcing Mike Pence to save the nomination by casting the tie breaking vote.

### Swing Left

While it may seem far away, 2018 is a crucial year for Democrats in the House. Swing Left is an organization that will connect you to your closest "swing" district. The website will send you emails periodically about the state of your district and how you can help, whether it's by aiding an incumbent Democrat or electing a new one. Swing Left considers there to be 52 com-

petitive seats for 2018. In order for Democrats to win the House, they would have to add an additional 24 seats while retaining all the seats they currently have. While it may seem early and slightly fantastical, as Swing Left says, "We're starting early to unify progressives who promote tolerance, equality, unity and fairness. To out-organize Republicans, we can't wait."

### Warren 2018

One of Massachusetts's own senators is up for reelection in 2018: Elizabeth Warren. While she seems like an easy candidate with little opposition and a high social media presence, especially lately when it comes to the debating and confirming of Trump's cabinet appointees, polls suggest she might not be as popular as one may think. According to a WBUR poll, 51% of voters view Warren favorably and only 44% believe she deserves reelection. In contrast, Governor Charlie Baker's favorability is 59% and only 24% of people believe someone else should get a chance at his office. While no one has announced a challenge to Warren, (though Curt Schilling, the inflammatory Red Sox player, has flirted with the idea) her reelection is not a done deal.

### Local Elections

Perhaps the easiest and most direct way to enforce change is through Cambridge politics. In 2017, there are multiple seats open in both the school and city council. Many Cantabrigians pride themselves on the social activism of their city, but voter turnout for municipal elections is only 25%. While municipal elections may seem unimportant, the City Council does make big decisions when it comes to rent control, charter schools, choosing the mayor, choosing the superintendent, and Rindge funding, to name just a few of their many tasks.

And even if you can't vote this November, there are ways for students to get involved—Will MacArthur is a former Rindge student running for School Committee, and his entire campaign staff is comprised of Rindge students. In addition, the City Council often has open meetings with opportunities to voice your concerns.

So when the protests simmer down, or you take a weekend off, consider calling a senator or checking in with a swing district. Protesting is a powerful, democratic exercise with extraordinary possibility, but it is not the only, or necessarily the most effective, option.



TONY'S TIPS  
*Valentines Edition*

by Charlotte Rosenblum

Valentine's Headlines –  
"Heartbreaking News"

"Sophomore Girl Sustains Serious Injuries after Secret Admirer Fills Her Locker with Thirty-Seven Live Doves"

"Couple Continues Asserting Status as 'Platonic Friends' Until Their Wedding"

"Junior Boy Skips School on Valentine's Day Fearing Any Gesture He Makes Will Be Interpreted as Emotion"

"Freddie the Falcon Elopes with Somerville Mascot, Somerville–Cambridge Tensions Ease"

"Senior Boy Abruptly Ends Date upon Discovering His Date Never Saw 'In the Heights'"

"Freshman Girl Blows Entire Bank Account on Singing Valentines"

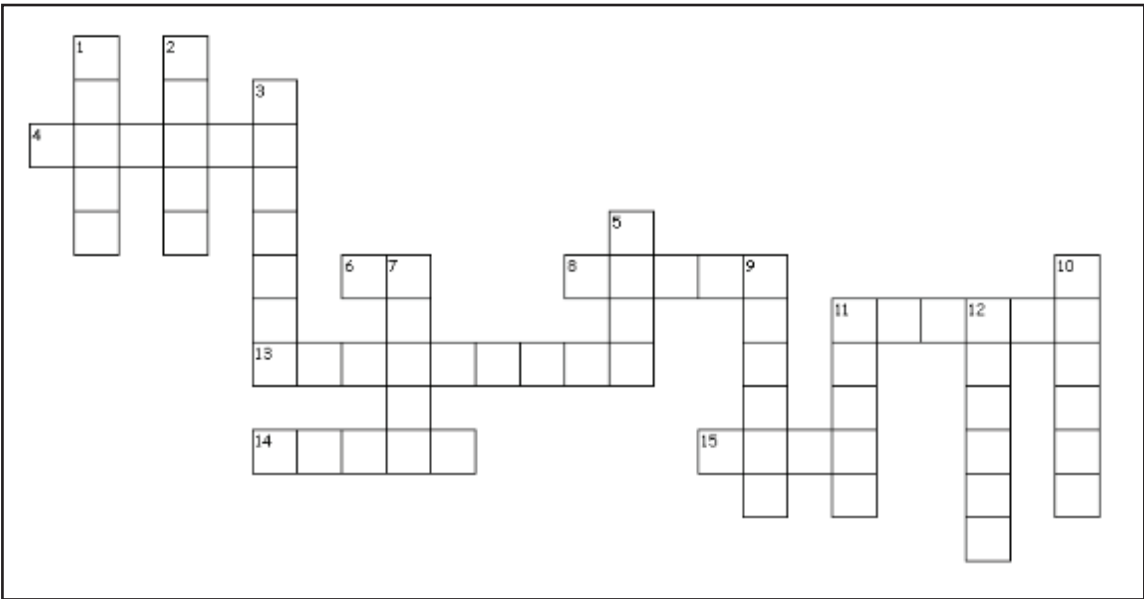
"Stu-Gov Cafeteria Jumbotron + Kiss Cam Initiative Adds More Tension to Packed Lunch A"

Fun Date Ideas

- Go to an art museum
- Dine at your favorite restaurant
- Join the KGB
- Have a picnic
- Run for Congress against one another
- Commit insurance fraud
- Bake cookies
- Flee the country and assume new identities in Iceland
- Overthrow the bourgeoisie
  - Make a scrapbook
  - Break up the big banks
  - Study for the SATs
- Execute the most elaborate art heist of all time
- Perform open heart surgery
- Watch 'The Notebook' seventeen times in a row

The above piece is a work of editorial satire.

RF CROSS WORD



ACROSS

4. BOYS HOCKEY CAPTAIN  
6. 33% OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TOOK AN  
8. OUR SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
11. THE LEGO  
13. FOUR FALCONS  
14. SPLIT GOT THIS MANY FALCONS  
15. WINTER

DOWN

1. FREEDOM OF THE  
2. TEACHER SPOTLIGHT  
3. CLIMATE CHANGE IS A  
5. \$93 FEE  
7. TIEBREAKING VOTE FOR DEVOS  
9. 'S' IN SAMS  
10. 100% RENEWABLE  
11. HOCKEY ATHLETE OF SEASON  
12. SPLIT ACTOR

ANSWER KEY:  
ACROSS  
4. HELLER  
6. AP  
8. DEVOS  
11. BATMAN  
13. MOONLIGHT  
14. THREE  
15. BALL  
DOWN  
1. PRESS  
2. WALSH  
3. PROBLEM  
5. TEST  
7. PENCE  
9. SYRIA  
10. ENERGY  
11. BAYLY  
12. MCAVOY

By Rafael Goldstein



By Megan Kelliher



# Patriots Stun in Superbowl

## *A Last Quarter Comeback Makes History in LI*

By  
Shuvom Sadhuka  
Register Forum  
Contributor

If there was any doubt about the greatness of the New England Patriots, that doubt has been dispelled. Patriots coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady now sit atop the NFL with five rings apiece after their Super Bowl LI victory over the Atlanta Falcons on February 5th.

The game will be talked about among the ranks of the greatest sporting events of all time, but the first half certainly didn't seem to indicate that. Led

by NFL MVP Matt Ryan and All-Pro wide receiver Julio Jones, the Fal-

cons offense looked unstoppable for most of the first half, marching downfield for back to back touchdowns early in the second quarter.

What little hope remained was quickly crushed when Tom Brady threw an uncharacteristic interception that was returned for a

touchdown towards the end of the second quarter. The Patriots walked into the locker room down 21-3 at halftime and were already written off by many football fans. Some Patriots fans, including senior Noah Epstein, thought the game couldn't get any worse: "Halftime nachos couldn't even save it for me. I was really bummed out...I was watching a mess."

Halftime brought a stunning show by Lady Gaga, whose performance seemed to have political undertones written all over it—she choose to sing "This Land is Your Land" and

*Patriots fans across New England can now sleep well knowing their quarterback is the Michael Jordan of football.*

"Born This Way" to a crowd consisting of Mike Pence, among others. Junior Nitant Rimal was pleasantly surprised by the halftime show, remarking, "Honestly [I] thought that Lady Gaga was going to take the L for the night...I was very very wrong."

Halftime, however,

was clearly not enough time for the Patriots to solve their issues. The Falcons came out swinging, scoring an early touchdown in the third quarter and stalling the Tom Brady-led offense twice, holding them to nine points in fifteen minutes.

By now, many Patriots fans were holding onto their last threads of hope, including junior Ethan Rothenberg who "started a good luck dance."

The fourth quarter was easily one for the ages. In a stunning yet typical Tom Brady-esque quarter, the Patriots engineered arguably the most incredible come-

back in football history. Facing a 19-point deficit, the Patriots scored an early field goal, cut-

ting the Falcons' lead to 28-12. Brady and his offense received the ball once again a few minutes later, after Dont'a Hightower forced a Matt Ryan fumble, and the defense recovered the football.

Brady threw a quick touchdown pass to Danny Amendola and thereafter



Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady threw for over 450 yards.

Photo Credit: REX/Shutterstock

converted the two point attempt on a James White rush, bringing the score to 28-20. The Patriots seemed unstoppable, but it was a race against time.

With less than six minutes left in the game, any Falcons score would essentially put the game out of reach. However, a series of key mistakes by the Falcons offense, including an 11-yard sack and holding penalty, backed up their offense out of field goal range.

Brady then drove the offense downfield for another touchdown and two-point conversion, forcing overtime, a first in Super

Bowl history. After winning the coin toss and electing to receive the ball, the Patriots offense once again marched to a game-winning touchdown by James White.

Rothenberg was particularly impressed by the comeback, calling it "better than sliced bread" and "wild." Tom Brady was named MVP after the game and hoisted the Lombardi Trophy for a record fifth time, cementing his legacy as the greatest quarterback of all-time. Patriots fans across New England can now sleep well knowing their quarterback is the Michael Jordan of football.

# Sprinting to Success: Reflecting on Girls Track Season

By  
Yiyi Chen  
Register Forum Contributor

Almost three months of dedication is coming to a close for girls indoor track and field as the winter season ends. Here's a closer look at a season filled with hard work and perseverance.

Days were filled with sprinting, hurdling, and pushing limits. Almost every day, the distance runners braved the cold, running outside in temperatures less than 40 degrees, rain, shine, or snow.

This season the team welcomed lots of newcomers. Although there were many on the team were inexperienced, the team did very well. It is the first time in three years that members from the distance team

have qualified for states. Freshman

Margaux Harrington told the *Register Forum*, "This season, many girls improved and overall it was a very good season." Freshman Phoebe Smith commented, "It's been a good intro to track for me and [I] have enjoyed the competition!" Freshman Annie

MacBeth also joined this season and says of racing, "I get that 'I'm on top of the world' feeling."

The coaches always like to push the athletes to try something new and allow the girls many opportunities at meets and practices to do something different throughout the season. This was the case with freshman Nia Betts. She says, "When I started track, I had no idea I was going to do high jump. I was originally just going to be a sprinter, but Mr. Prince made me try it and from there on out, I was a high jumper. High jump has become very important and I can't wait to continue with it."

Although track is not always a team sport, many members say that the team is important to their performance. Nia Betts says, "Everyone

on the team is really supportive, especially my fellow high jumpers. They give me tips on

how to become better and not get distracted, which is really important." Senior Giulia Johnson says, "It's just been a lot of fun, everyone is so nice and supportive!"

There have been some tough



Pictured: The girls 200x4 relay team with assistant sprinting coach Carmelle Philippe.

Photo Credit: Janessa Alston

competitions from different schools that are part of the Dual County League. According to many members of the team, the coaches always say that the most important part of the meet is doing the best you can, personally. Coach Prince always says, "Don't worry about what others are doing, worry about yourself." Almost everyone on the team has run their personal best this season. This includes freshman Phoebe Smith, who ran 5:28 for the mile.

As a result of all the hard work the girls put in, many made it to

the division 1 state meet. This includes freshmen Phoebe Smith and Margeaux Harrington, sophomores Khadija Romain, Sophie Wright, and Gudrun Adalsteinsdottir, and juniors Isabelle Kenny and Kenya Wade.

After receiving 1st place in shotput for the division 1 state meet, Khadija Romain also made it to the all state meet, receiving 5th place. Over the past three months, CRLS has been represented with excellent performances. Thanks to their dedication and persistence, the team has finished the season off strong.





THE REGISTER FORUM

ATHLETES OF THE SEASON



As the winter season draws to a close, the *Register Forum* has gathered nominations for an “Athlete of the Season” from each sports team. Below are profiles of the athletes who were nominated by a teammate or coach, along with comments from the nominators about the selected athlete.

By Freddie Gould

MAGGIE BAYLY

GIRLS HOCKEY, CLASS OF 2019



“Maggie is one of the hardest working members of our team and is always focused on improving herself and her teammates. I’m gonna miss playing with her next year.”

– Captain Adrienne Ashe



HARRY BAYLY

BOYS HOCKEY, CLASS OF 2017



“Harry brings a physical presence and hard work to the team.”

– Captain Trevor Daniliuk



ANTONIO ESCALLON

BOYS TRACK, CLASS OF 2019



“When faced with adversity, Antonio pushes through and outruns the competition. He’s a Rindge track folk hero.”

– Captain Hugo Schutzberg



“Khadija is the best thrower in the league and has placed in every big meet as just a sophomore.”

– Coach Scott Cody

KHADIJA ROMAIN

GIRLS TRACK, CLASS OF 2019

KAMARIA GOODING

GIRLS BASKETBALL, CLASS OF 2017



“Kamaria is a consistently hard working basketball player and has most definitely helped the team in many ways, especially rebounding. She has shown great leadership as a senior captain and is always helpful on and off the basketball court.”

– Captain Maggie Pimlott



AIDAN KEEFER

BOYS BASKETBALL, CLASS OF 2018



“[Aidan is] he best teammate and better person, on and off the court. The thing about Aidan is he is very humble and everything, without barely saying a word.”

– Captain Jakigh Dottin



JAMES MCMANUS

FENCING, CLASS OF 2019



“James is very dedicated to the team. He’s always there for all the practices and bouts and works hard to improve his game and help his teammates out in any way he can.”

– Senior Teammember Paul Chi

SAM PECK

WRESTLING, CLASS OF 2018

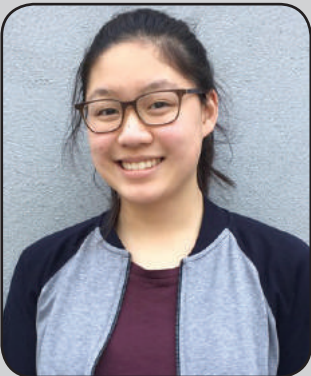


“Sam is extremely dedicated to making himself and his teammates better and works hard everyday in practice.”

– Captain Eli Zibello

MELISSA LIU

SWIMMING, CLASS OF 2019



“Melissa has been a great part of the team this year, making it to sectionals and states as a sophomore. Her competitive attitude inspires everyone on the team to try their hardest at every practice and meet.”

– Captain Sophie Mark-Ng

CRLS SPRING SPORTS

Rindge has had yet another successful winter sports season, but as winter comes to an end, it’s time for spring sports teams to prepare for their own seasons. Get ready to support them at their games!

Baseball: St. Peter’s Field  
Crew: Charles River  
Boys Lacrosse: Russell Field  
Girls Lacrosse: Danehy Park  
Rugby: Russell Field

Sailing: Community Boating  
Softball: St. Peter’s Field  
Tennis: Pemberton St. Courts  
Outdoor Track: Danehy Park  
Boys Volleyball: Main Gym



# Boys & Girls Hockey Teams Finish Seasons Strong

By  
Will Telingator  
*Register Forum Contributor*

As the winter sports season draws to a close, the CRLS hockey program has much to be proud of. Both the boys and the girls hockey teams found success this season, and the boys even hope to conclude their season with a Division III state championship.

The girls team took a great step forward this season. In the past, the team struggled to find enough experienced players to fill a roster. This season, they were able to attract more players, which helped boost their performance on the ice. Senior Grace Toner notes,

“For a while we were nervous no one would sign up to play, but finally this year girls did and we’re making a great bounce back.”

However, Toner admits that introducing all of the new players to the program was one of the biggest challenges that the team faced this season. She continues, “We have eight seniors that are graduating this year, so we wanted to make sure the team would survive when we left. But with all the new girls, we’ve really bonded as a team, and they’re used to what it’s like to play for Rindge and are always improving.”

Sophomore Maggie Bayly agrees that building team chemistry was one of the major areas of

focus this season. She believes that the emphasis on communication and team building helped contribute to their success this year. The girls finished the season with five wins, although many of their losses were only decided by a couple of goals. Even so, the improvement from past seasons is a testament to the hard work that the girls team put in this year. Bayly says, “Last year we won three games. But this year turned out different, and we’re all really glad about winning more games.”

Meanwhile, the boys hockey team is coming off one of their most successful seasons in recent history. Last year, they won the DCL title and clinched a playoff spot. Even though they ended up losing in the first round of the postseason last year, the team had high expectations coming into this year. Senior captain Sky Heller explains, “Our goals at the beginning of the season were to reassert ourselves as a top contender in our league and qualify for the tournament. Although we have struggled to win some competitive out of league games, we have had a good amount of success within the DCL.”

Although the team started off

slow, they picked up steam as the season progressed. The boys finished the regular season on an eight game winning streak, and ended up clinching the DCL title for the second year in a row with their home victory against Weston on February 22. Their run of dominance also earned them a coveted spot in the state tournament.

Junior Freddie Gould notes that a lot of younger players have risen to the occasion and helped contribute to the team’s success. “We’ve had a lot of people step up... Our younger players have taken on bigger roles and our defense has really gotten better as the year has gone on.” The team hopes to ride their hot streak right into the state playoffs. Gould continues, “The key to our success is just being amped for every game and coming ready to play so that we can get on a roll before the tournament.”

Senior captain Trevor Daniluk concludes, “The five years I have spent on this team have been a roller coaster ride. We have had good seasons and very bad seasons, but this year has the potential to be our best. There’s nothing that I want more than to make a deep run into the state tournament this year, and



The girls hockey senior night was packed with passionate fans and creative signs.  
Photo Credit: Hannah Ashe

# Girls Basketball Season Has Been a Swoosh

By  
Claire Healy  
*Register Forum Contributor*

The commentator called out each of the seniors names and the stands erupted in cheers. One by one, the seniors on the varsity girls basketball team ran through a tunnel of their cheering teammates, greeted at the end by a crowd of proud friends and family. Senior night was not the end of their season, but for many it was still a symbolic moment celebrating years of playing together. As one of the captains, senior Katarina Gooding, pointed out, “Most of the girls on the team have been playing together since elementary school, so we really enjoy being with each other everyday.”

Senior night against Boston Latin High School was a great game. The team worked towards a decisive victory, 54-23, with a considerable amount of impressive shots. Senior Kalilah Hall had a wonderful game, with shots that brought the stands to their feet. Her passion for the game, and that

of the other seniors, was evident. It will be exciting to see where their talent takes them in college.

The team’s sense of camaraderie is evident to anyone who steps foot in the gym. In between plays and on the sidelines, the players are always cheering each other on and showing their teammates unyielding support.

When asked about her team and the season, Gooding said, “Sometimes we struggle to get serious because of how close we are. I have faith that when it gets down to it, do or die, we can come together and really work as a family, which is what we are, to succeed. I’m excited to see where we end up at the end of the season, and I’m glad that I got to spend my final year playing basketball for Rindge with them.”

Senior Sahra Nur said that, at the end of every game, their coach is known to say “on to the next one.” When asked about the team, Coach Dana had only good things to say, emphasizing how well the upperclassmen and underclassmen work together—encourag-

ing and building off one another. After senior night, the team had a huge challenge in front of them. In order to qualify for playoffs, they had to win two out of their four remaining games.

Dana said, “I believe we can do it, but it won’t be easy,” and the players did not let him down. With their victory against Newton North, the team qualified for playoffs and will be headed towards States. The team has 10 wins and 10 losses, but Dana said they are better than a .500 team.

He said that this is the first team he has had such a large number of girls playing in the off season for AAU and continuing to play for the high school. The other captain, senior Demi Akins, said, “We have fought hard this season, but we have also had games where we have fallen short due to a lack of execution. We are a team that plays with heart. We are a team of laughs and jokes and we all know each other so well and that’s beneficial for us because it creates an atmosphere where we are able to bond on and off the court.” Akins will be playing divi-



The girls basketball team has a 10-10 record.  
Photo Credit: Mutsulzo Ward

sion two level basketball at Franklin Pierce University.

As their season wraps up, Coach Dana said, “The future looks bright for these

girls,” commenting both on the seniors and the underclassmen, whom he said have really been “stepping up.”