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CRLS' *Modern Dance Company* held their first *DanceWorks* show of the 2013-2014 school year on January 10th and 11th, featuring varied forms of expression through contemporary dance and creative uses of video and human silhouettes. Full article on page 3.

Government Healthcare Website Working, Still Faces Challenges

By
Jonathan McDaniel
Register Forum Staff

On January 13th, demographic information was released regarding President Obama's Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Only about a quarter of those subscribed belong to the 18-35-year-old range, far under the 40% goal for that demographic.

In June 2012, Obamacare was upheld in the Supreme Court after being passed and signed into law earlier that year. After much controversy following the government shutdown this past year, the healthcare.gov website launched October 1st of last year, but not without issues. The site, created to allow enrollment into the health care exchange, quickly underwent heavy scrutiny as glitches plagued the participants and forced the Obama administration to address the problems and re-launch the site.

Neha Bagga, a senior, said that "The website glitches were problematic, but the American

people shouldn't lose hope in the law. Every new piece of legislation that's passed, especially one of this magnitude, should be given some wiggle-room to allow for bumps to be smoothed out."

A majority of CRLS student respondents to a survey conducted by *The Register Forum* stated that they didn't know what the Affordable Care Act was. Out of the seventy-seven students that took the survey, only thirty-two said they knew what the Act was and were able to explain their answer.

In a recent interview with the *Forum*, Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey, a man with vested interest in the law, stated that the Affordable Care Act "will allow the millions of Americans who were previously unable to obtain affordable and comprehensive health care to obtain health insurance - in some cases for the first time in their lives."

He reassured his constituents that the law "ensures that

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CRLS Mentoring Thrives

By
Rabia Khalid
Register Forum Editor

In 2006, CRLS began a student mentoring program designed to partner upperclassmen with freshmen to help them navigate the transition to high school and make the most of their CRLS experience.

Many juniors mentor in order to get community service hours for their applications to National Honor Society.

At the end of every year, incoming upperclassmen who want to mentor fill out an application, which requires recommendations from teachers, a transcript, and good academic standing as a student.

Mentors get to choose their own mentor teams within their learning communities. Each mentoring team consists of five to six students from different grades. While choosing a team, mentors

attempt to represent a diverse cross-section of CRLS. Currently, there are over a hundred mentors from all the different learning communities.

After applying to the program, dedicated mentors participate in a summer training workshop that takes place in August. Students interested in mentoring next year will receive information in their community meetings in May. However, if students can't attend the workshop in the summer, they can make it up during the school

"Mentors help me more than my parents sometimes because they are within the range of my age."

year before starting mentoring. During the school year, mentors meet with their freshman homeroom every Wednesday during community meeting.

Senior Klara Kaufman shares, "I think mentoring is a fun way to reach out to the Rindge community and meet new people."

Many students become mentors because they want to ex-

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST

THE REGISTER FORUM, JANUARY 1982

The Register Forum is the oldest continuously-run student newspaper in the U.S. Let’s take a trip back to the four-page January 4th, 1982 edition of *The Register Forum*: the Editor-in-Chief at the time was Jose Invencio, and at the time, the paper was published twice a month.

Highlights

- The cover story, on vandalism at the school, reported that almost \$10,000 of equipment was stolen from the media department including “multiple V.C.R.s.”
- “Las Vagas [sic] Night” is advertised, and it is made clear that you must be 18 years or older to play the casino games.
- The author of a column entitled “Fed Up with Girls Bathrooms,” urges female students to “use some class, if you have it!”
- In a section called *Person to Person*, an anonymous contributor tells Tracy W., “Don’t worry, I don’t have a crush on Mike C.”
- The last page includes a quiz on what kind of punk you are: a “punk”, “mode”, “skinhead”, or “skaboy”.

Is Society’s View of Beauty Too Narrow?

By
Heather Bildman
Register Forum Staff

The idea of the “perfect body” has evolved greatly with time. From the voluptuous women featured in the Renaissance Era, to the hourglass figure desired in the 1950s, up to today’s “size 0” models, the idea of beauty is ever-changing.

Queen Victoria, Coco Chanel, Marilyn Monroe, and Kate Moss are just a few examples of famous women in the media with bodies that everyday women wished to possess during their respective time periods.

Today, many critics of the media fear that the concept of the “ideal body” is creating an unachievable standard for beauty and causing many people to be dissatisfied with their appearance, especially adolescents.

A survey conducted by the national association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders concluded that 69% of girls in grades 5 through 12 believe that magazines have influenced their idea of the “perfect body shape,” a shape that is only naturally possessed by 5% of American women.

Additionally, nearly one half of teenage girls and one third of teenage boys admit to using unhealthy methods such as smoking cigarettes, skipping meals, fasting, vomiting, or taking laxatives to control their weight.

“The media definitely creates an ideal body image, which can clearly be harmful because the consumer might be inclined to look more like the image,” explains senior, Simone DeJonge in expressing her concern. “It is the consumer’s job to differentiate between the media and reality, but it’s not easy to do so -- ideal

body image creates a standard that people try to achieve.”

However, supporters of and those employed by the fashion industry argue that the goal of advertising is to make sales, and they have a point. A three year study of 420 female undergraduate students showed that 67% of women “reacted favorably” to advertisements featuring thinner models.

“I feel like consumers today are completely capable of differentiating reality and what is in the media” argues senior Stacey Badgett, urging people to consider the difference between advertising and real life.

Senior Cameron McMillian feels similarly, admitting that the media reflects generalizations and stereotypes, but that it is “up to the consumer to determine whether or not to believe them.”

Though the use of Photoshop on models certainly may not be considered admirable, it is considered necessary by many. Additionally, accusing the media for the onset of eating disorders could be jumping to conclusions.

Danice K. Eaton, research scientist for the Atlanta-based Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, points out that it is important to acknowledge that a preexisting mental conditions can influence one’s perception of his or her body as opposed to the media creating that mental condition.

It does not look like the fashion industry will be making a large shift in favor of representing all body types or reject the use of Photoshop anytime soon. Nevertheless, as Tina Fey writes in her autobiography *Bossypants*: “always remember the important rule of beauty, which is: who cares?”

“It is the consumer’s job to differentiate between the media and reality, but it’s not easy to do so...”

CRLS MENTORING

Continued from page 1

perience freshman year once again. Junior Ineze Khan shares, “I really like feeling like a freshman again but from another viewpoint while hanging out with them a bit and imparting some wisdom.”

Freshmen learn a lot from what the mentors share about their experience and they try not to make the same mistakes that their mentors may have made during their high school careers. Bukhaari Farah, a freshman, expresses that “mentors help me more than my parents sometimes because they are within the range of my

Mentoring Program

age.” He continues by saying, “ They give me information that is helpful and relevant to high school and tell me what the best route to success is.”

Mentors are influential and are willing to give their best at all times to help freshmen. As the coordinator of the mentoring program, Ms. Lozada, happily expresses, “The freshmen tend to listen to the mentors since they are closer to the real high school experience.” She continued by saying, “I’m impressed by how much the mentors want to give their time and energy to help the students in their ninth grade CMs make the most of their time here at CRLS. They really make a difference in the lives of the freshmen.”

Mentoring is a great program that helps build leadership skills and is a great way to get know new people around school.

As senior Susmit Pudasaini says, “The best thing about mentoring is that the freshmen are excited to see us every week and that makes it all worth doing.”

What You Might Not Know About Women in Islam

By
Nadwa Ibrahim
Register Forum Staff

There are around 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today, yet many Americans still do not know what Islam is about. There are lots of misconceptions about Islam, since it is mostly represented through the media and actions of those who create a bad name for the religion. One commonly-contested belief is that women in Islam are oppressed.

There are several different ways women may choose to cover herself in Islam, one being the hijab. The hijab covers a woman’s hair and leaves her face visible. The idea behind dressing modestly is that it allows viewers to focus on a female’s personality and who they truly are rather than how they look.

Based on a poll by The Pew Research Center, 38% of Muslim women in America wear the hijab all

the time, while almost 50% never do.

Senior Sophia Santos finds it interesting that it is assumed that a hijab cries out “oppression,” saying, “for many women maybe it does but I would love to hear what other values are acquired when wearing a hijab.”

In a survey that was conducted, there were many varying opinions on whether Muslim women were oppressed. Some argued that they are in fact being liberated and that their choice of religion does not oppress them. Others said that they have less rights, pointing out the fact that females have to cover up and men do not. One girl responded, “Oppression is being forced to do something that you’re unwilling to do. No one has a gun to my forehead to wear the hijab.”

Growing up today, often one is taught that freedom for women can be expressed by wearing less



The hijab is popular among female Muslims at CRLS, but it is a choice that they make.

Photo Credit: Rabia Khalid

clothing. But for most Muslim women, their freedom is this choice, according to Laila Alawa, a Muslim American feminist, cultural critic, and writer.

She argues, “Women make decisions on many levels and simply cutting it down to the most basic, the hijab, discredits our autonomy and respect as living breath human beings who just so happen to be Muslim.”

There are millions

of women across the world who are oppressed by traditional cultures and rituals native to their countries; some even in the name of religion, but Muslim women are highly respected in Islam. Islam does not allow a woman to be treated less than she is worth. “Anyone wishing to understand Islam must first separate the religion from the cultural norms and style of a society,” according to one Islamic publication.

Of course some of these women may be Muslim, but Islam does not permit any actions that degrade a woman. “Differences [in Islamic obligation between men and women] emerge most strongly when it comes to pregnancy, child-bearing and rearing, menstruation and, to a certain extent, clothing.” The Quran states that men and women “were created of a single soul” and are moral equals in the sight of God.

Darwin’s Increases Prices

By
Charlotte Rosenblum
Register Forum Correspondent

Popular local restaurant Darwin’s Ltd, located at 1629 Cambridge Street, raised its prices on January 1st. A Darwin’s employee explains that the price increases result from Darwin’s wishes to keep up the high quality of its coffee, specifically, but also its food.

He stated that “the coffee we serve is of very high quality, in the highest two percent; it’s not the commodity coffee that Starbucks serves. We have to be able to afford to keep that quality high.” The Darwin’s employee also asserted that rent on Cambridge Street is high, which factors into the cost.

The price increase is a prominent issue because many students of CRLS go to Darwin’s for lunch, and even for breakfast and afterschool snacks. This increase in prices will affect all students who purchase things there.

Some students, such as sophomore Colin Lee, a regular customer at Darwin’s, are fine with the raising of prices. He states, “I trust that there is no way they are overpricing just to gain profit, as far as I know they

are accounting for the shipping, creation and quality of the food.”

In the initial interview at Darwin’s, the employee explained that it was possible that the only prices that would raise would be the price of coffee, since that is the product that they are focused around affording.

However, a new sign outside of the Cambridge Street Darwin’s has indicated they will be raising prices across the board. As of Friday, January 17th, the prices of all drinks have increased. The price of a chai latte increased by fifty cents, making the new price for a large chai latte \$3.25.

By comparison, a chai latte at Starbucks of the same size is \$2.95. The prices of all of the sandwiches have increased as well, meaning almost all of the full sandwiches now cost over eight dollars with some costing over nine.

Naturally, some students are not so happy about this increase in costs. Freshman Bella Jaffe claims, “We are students with student budgets trying to buy lunch; it is difficult for us to afford food at Darwin’s already. Once they raise prices we will be able to go there even less.”

MDC Dance in the New Year

By
Sophia Nikolayev
Register Forum Correspondent

At their first productions of the year on January 10th and 11th, Modern Dance Company once again merged creativity and brilliant choreography into a well-executed performance. Through the use of horror, contemporary dance, hip-hop and more, MDC successfully compiled a wide variety of different pieces.

Freshman MDC dancer Eliza Luden shares, “It was really amazing and impressive to see how well it pulled together because we were all really nervous. Once I actually started dancing, my fear went away and it was super fun.”

It’s surprising to hear how stage fright can disappear the moment one steps on stage. Full of adrenaline, each dancer put their all in to their performances: and even if that nervousness remained through their performance, it certainly didn’t show.

It was fascinating for all the audience members to watch how intricately each piece was choreographed and how the dancers were synchronized. Junior MDC dancer Stephanie

Walsh exclaims, “It has been amazing watching all these pieces grow from September till now. It was even more exciting getting to see my own piece grow. I had my ups and downs but in the end it came together. I honestly thought the show went really well. We worked so hard and I think it showed!”

The audience seemed as impressed with the performance as the dancers. Sophomore Emily Olick-Llano says, “I thought it was entertaining and I liked that they incorporated a wide array of dances and music.”



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

different styles were evident throughout the production, as many of the pieces used varying genres of dance. Their use of video and silhouettes added aesthetic value to the stage and their dance moves aligned to their music choices.

Overall, there has been a positive vibe about the staging of the first 2014 MDC show. Senior Sophia Santos reflects, “This year’s January show ran smoothly and with lots of love and energy. It’s always such a delight to perform for MDC’s supportive crowd.” As new dancers and choreography enter the company, the outcome remains

President Obama, Congress Finally Pass Overdue Budget Plan



President Obama signs the budget plan into action while on vacation in Hawaii. Photo Credit: Politico

By
Tomek Maciak
Register Forum
Correspondent

On December 26th, 2013, President Barack Obama signed a two-year budget into law. The budget was previously passed by the House of Representatives on December 12th by a vote of 332-94 and by the Senate on December 18th by a vote of 64-36.

The budget deal is the first passed by Congress in almost three years, which included a sixteen-day government shutdown last year.

It is also the first two-year budget passed by a divided Congress since 1986. It is intended to lower the deficit by an estimated \$63 billion over two years and assure there will not be a government shutdown for at least two years.

Despite being considered long overdue, the budget deal brings fresh hope of bipartisanship in Congress.

Senior Dylan Vartikar says, "A step forward is a step forward. When

projects are taken step by step, little by little, there is most commonly a great success that follows." The bill comes at the end of what many analysts have called one of the least productive years in the history of Congress.

Freshman Rosa Munson-Blatt adds, "It is vital for political parties to have disagreements but still be able to compromise for the benefit of the country." The cooperation between the parties is praised by many Americans, who have

"...the bill pushes off the problem and ignores some of the most important issues, like the tax code."

a historically poor opinion of the current iteration of Congress.

However, the long-awaited deal doesn't address many problems facing the US government. Sophomore Izzy Gray was critical of the budget deal, stating that the budget deal was only "a temporary solution to a long term problem," adding that "the bill pushes off the problem and ignores some of the most important issues, like the tax code."

The budget's only real promise to the people of the United States is avoiding a government shutdown for two years and saving billions compared to the trillions of dollars of national debt.

Many Americans are critical of the cuts and the avoidance of core issues facing the divided Congress, such as the tax code, global warming, immigration, and entitlements.

Junior Simon Silvan-Recht praised the divided Congress for coming to an agreement but added that "any budget deal that aims to cut the federal budget by cutting

federal funding is inherently flawed, specifically in a time of high unemployment."

This rare moment of comity in Congress is also met by the approaching deadline on raising the nation's borrowing limit, which the US Treasury estimates needs to be accomplished by early spring in order to avoid a United States default.

GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE

Continued from page 1

pre-existing conditions cannot be a reason for being denied coverage, that women can't be charged higher premiums simply because they are women, that seniors pay less for prescription drugs, and that children have the option of staying on their parent's insurance until the age of 26."

Sophomore Kristen O'Loughlin stated she "has heard of some pretty scary statistics about health care in the United States" that have made her "glad the Affordable Care Act is being implemented." These statistics include a Families USA study which states that an American dies every 20 minutes for lack of insurance.

Statistics like these frightened much of the country and helped garner support for the act when it was going through Congress.

Lately, there has been some talk by Republicans that there should be a one year suspension of the law due to the rocky start of the website and government shutdown. Most Democrats see this as another tactic, similar to that of the government shutdown, to delay the law, while Republicans counter that the delay would be to smooth out issues that the site is facing.

Both Democrats and Republicans must be willing to make compromises or else there will be no progress. Although it is difficult to work together on issues that both sides have strong opposing opinions on, the only solution may be just that.

CRLS RESPONDS: What are your goals for second semester?



Jake Woisin
Class of '17

"I wish to make a friend."

Maddy Leonardos
Class of '16



"I want to read more books."



Jackson Damon
Class of '15

"Spend some time working on my golf swing."

Louisa Winchell
Class of '14



"Cultivate new relationships with people before I leave."



Risa Paley-Zimble
Class of '14

"Try not to get too sucked in to senioritis."

Yonathan Alemayehu
Class of '15



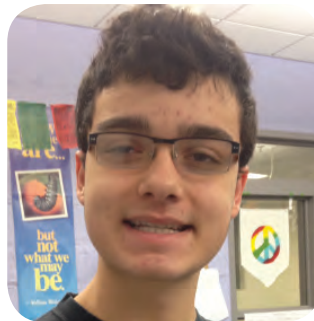
"Do everything I need to do to prepare me for the college process and to not be overwhelmed senior year."



Anna McCarthy
Class of '16

"Get more sleep on the weeknights."

Douglas Appleman
Class of '17



"To be less complacent with my work and to work as thoroughly as I can."

Research over Human Connection to Climate Change Persists

By
Tessa Tracy
Register Forum Staff

Scientists have worked tirelessly to understand the effects and extent of climate change, coming to the widely accepted conclusion that it is due to human activity. However, there are skeptics, and even believers do not feel fully aware of the exact issues.

According to a NASA report on climate change, 97% of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends are very likely due to human activities, and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide publicly endorse this position.

“I feel very well-informed about climate change because of my Marine Biology and Oceanography classes. It is serious and Congress needs to acknowledge that,” senior Amy DiPace states firmly.

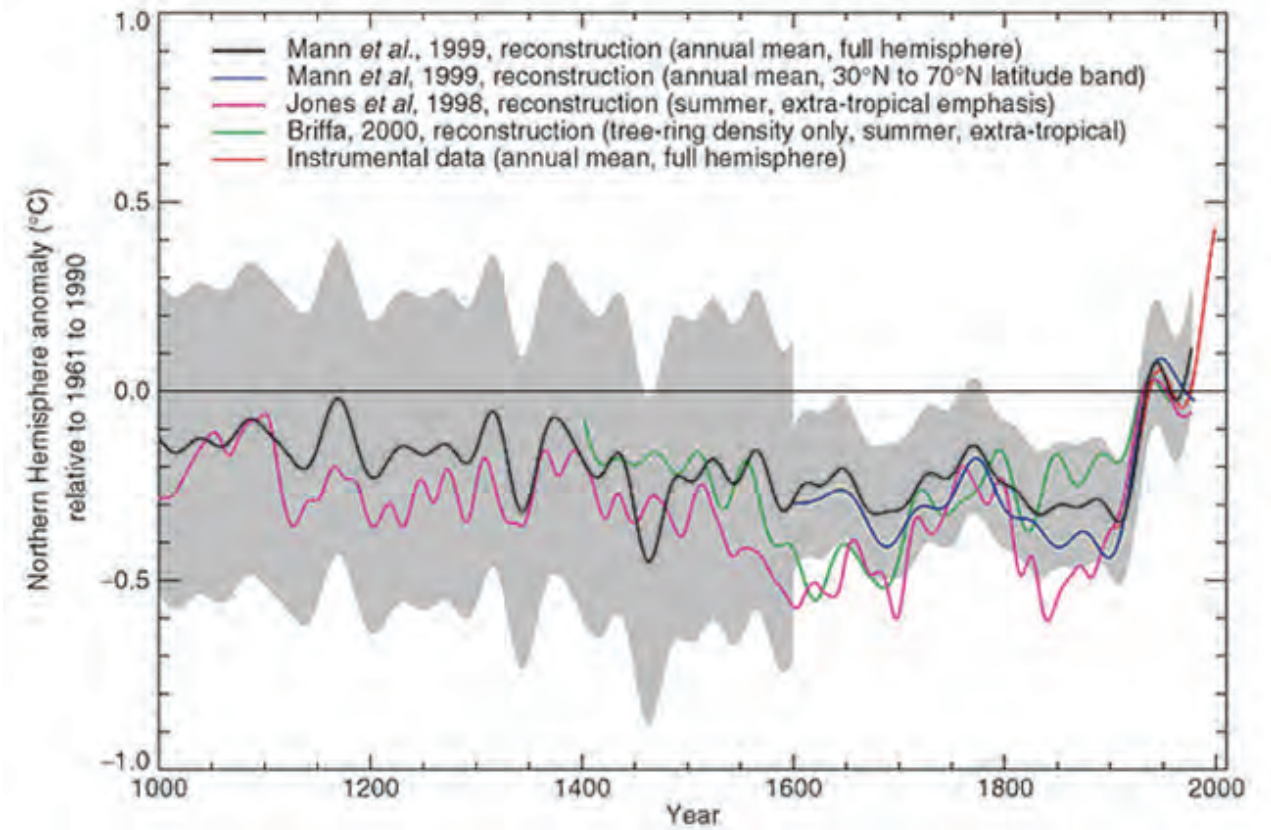
The theory is that human activity has caused an increase in greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane being released, thickening the atmosphere and making it more difficult for heat to escape. According to NASA, increased levels of these gases cause higher temperatures across the globe.

A NOAA graph based on findings from studies on ice cores shows that atmospheric carbon dioxide had not passed 300 parts per million for 650,000 years until the Industrial Revolution.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a statement saying that “...scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal.”

According to NASA, our modern climate era began 7,000 years ago, and while changes in the climate are sometimes natural, the current trend is advancing at a rate unprecedented in the past 1,300 years.

Not all CRLS students are informed on the science behind climate change. “I want to think climate change is serious; I think it can lead to extreme weather but I don’t know at all,” junior Brennan Lee admits.



The “hockey stick graph,” first created by Michael Mann and two colleagues in 1998, has become one of the most controversial scientific charts in history, supposedly depicting the massive temperature upswing in the last century.
Photo Credit: The Atlantic

Similarly, sophomore Truman Greene confessed, “I would definitely say I ‘believe’ in climate change, but if you asked me to explain the statistics and details behind it, I’m not sure how convincing I would be.” Lee and Greene are not alone in their ambiguity. According to an article in Adaptation and Climate Change, climate change may have positive effects for certain populations, a common claim amongst climate change skeptics. When a number of CRLS seniors were presented with this claim, most were surprised, and some even found hope in it.

This is not the only argument amongst the “naysayers.” The European Foundation released an article with 100 reasons that climate change is natural, claiming that although carbon dioxide levels may have risen, warmer periods of the Earth’s history came around 800 years before the rises. They also state that after World War II, recorded emissions surged but global temperatures fell for four decades after 1940.

In 2009, an event occurred that hurt the

arguments of many climatologists: ClimateGate. Email correspondences between prominent climate researchers were leaked, unveiling conversations that suggested certain scientific data should not be released if it were to harm the case for climate change.

The BBC documentary *The Truth About Climate Change* explains that the glacier melting rate has doubled in the last decade, leading to rising sea levels. However, the counter argument made by the European Foundation is that receding glaciers are not proof of anything, as they have been fluctuating in size for many centuries.

And even if every person on earth believed in climate change, there is still dispute on how to react. A November *New York Times* editorial argues that nuclear energy is the “unavoidable answer for the problem,” writing that nuclear energy has already prevented about 1.8 million air-pollution related deaths. Still, many are hesitant, fearing nuclear meltdowns. The debate over man-made climate change will continue, and every global citizen has a part to play by understanding the issue and the arguments that surround it.

Modern-Day Slavery: Human Trafficking Avoids Radar

By
Stella Plenk
Register Forum Staff

There are 2.5 million people from 127 different countries currently enslaved. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force...or of the giving or receiving of payments...to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

According to the Polaris Project, an organization dedicated to ending modern day slavery,

“100,000 children are estimated to be in the sex trade in the United States each year.. the total number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. reaches into the hundreds of thousands.” Human trafficking is a \$32 billion-a-year industry in the United States alone.

As human trafficking has become increasingly prevalent, government programs have begun efforts to educate people about this largely underground phenomenon. The FBI, CIA and Homeland Security agree that increased public awareness is a powerful tool for the defeat of human trafficking and therefore each has an educational component to their programs.

According to a Boston Globe article, “In fall 2011, state officials hailed the passage of a [new] human trafficking law” in Massachusetts. However, according to the same article, this law, the Act Relative to The Commercial Exploitation of People has not been enforced and “none of the state’s 11 District Attorney’s offices could cite a single case in which a defendant has faced even the minimum fine of \$1,000.”

Cambridge, a liberal, highly educated city, might be expected to possess greater awareness on this topic than much of America and the rest of the world. In a survey of 100 Rindge students, 92% be-

lieved human trafficking existed in the US, but only 72% believe it is happening in the Boston area. Senior Lucia Tonachel says, “As much as we [CRLS] like to think of ourselves as an exemplar that can do no wrong, this is obviously not the case, as we suffer from issues that no group of people can escape, including that of human trafficking.”

85% of surveyed students want more education about human trafficking in the CRLS community, through assemblies, curricula, or clubs dedicated to the subject. Junior Sophie Martin feels that the CRLS community should be better educated on this topic, saying, “In many history class-

es I’ve taken, the discussion of slavery has taken place in units that do not venture out of the specified time period of slavery; thoughts about modern day slavery are few and left without any answers or real discussion. I think in U.S. History classes, it would be fitting to talk about human trafficking as a kind of slavery that is still present.”

Established in 2013, January is National Human Trafficking and Slavery Prevention Month. In this fight for human dignity, the words of Nelson Mandela resonate: “To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

Avoiding an Original Sin: Slavery and the Film Industry

By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

It was almost 149 years ago that Congress passed the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in the whole of the United States. Since that time, less than twenty motion pictures have faced the subject as their focus -- our country's sins have barely been discussed through film.

With *12 Years a Slave*, the new movie directed by Steve McQueen that recently won Best Drama at the Golden Globes and is being recognized many other places as the best film of the year, I asked myself why I had never seen a movie before that showed and provoked discussion about the true horrors of slavery as they were.

Movies are important not only because they

are entertainment, but also because they are ways to have an issue gain recognition and to document the emotion behind some of our world's people and events. It is important, as a nation and as a world, to face our histories and learn the lessons they taught.

Movies don't necessarily show the complete scope of a tragic or amazing historical event -- books and

...our country's sins have barely been discussed through film.

documentaries do this better -- but they do allow many to connect with and realize the reality of people in the time, without the sterility a piece of nonfiction might bring. Movies are, ultimately, important, and this makes the fact that so few films have shown slavery as more than a sideshow even more puzzling and depressing.

Schindler's List, *The*

Pianist, and *Life is Beautiful*, as well as many others, have explored the emotions behind the Holocaust and its outcomes, and have led to, for me personally, a much more human connection to the horrible moment in history. They also have academic value: I personally saw *The Pianist* for the first time in World History II freshman year.

American slavery, however, which ended around 80 years before the Holocaust,

is only focused on in a few well-respected films -- *12 Years a Slave*, *Beloved* (an adaption of a novel), as well as, in a more fantastical and stylized way, last year's *Django Unchained*. One might argue that people simply don't want to see, or be reminded of, the bondage of a race across our country. This makes films about slavery all the more

A Word to the New Semester

By
Sun-Ui Yum
Register Forum Editor

While for many of Rindge's students this month will mark the conclusion of just another long semester, for about four-hundred of us it represents something a bit more significant: our last semester in high school. It hasn't been easy getting to this point, as high school's where a lot of our intermediate growing-up happens, and it's a bit disconcerting to even think about how much we've changed and how far we've come since we stepped into freshman academy for the first time in September of 2010.

To think that this chapter of our life is just a few months away from closing is unreal, because it's only a short amount of time before

senior events start cascading down on us: midterms, senior prom, AP exams, graduation. And then suddenly it'll be summer, and then we'll be moving in: whether it's into our dorms or just the next part of our lives.

But that's the thing -- it's not just an ending, it's also a beginning. In just about seven months, most of us will be shipping off to college, where we'll have to fend for ourselves for the first time. Whether we're prepared or not (and most of us, including myself, probably aren't), we're going to be managing our money, work, and time all by ourselves.

That's a scary prospect. See, I have a theory that senioritis isn't totally

just a social construct: it's also how we seniors deal with the fact that, well, we're going to go to college in a few short months and this is the last opportunity we have to totally coast before "real life" descends upon us. You see? It's not just us being lazy, it's a coping mechanism!

In all seriousness though, high school graduation is the type of event that's been ever-present, perched on the horizon since kindergarten: and suddenly it's right in front of us, looming large. It's not just the end of high school, it's the end of an era, the end of the days where for many of us our biggest priority was our report card, the end of our *childhood*. Suddenly, we have to take responsibility for ourselves. I barely got myself through high school, now I have to live alone?

Because no matter how much our parents nag us to get our homework done on time or our teachers get on our cases about raising our grades that extra couple points, ultimately, we're the ones who face the consequences. Our parents can get on our case and our teachers can push us all they want, but in the end it's about us.

And while high school provides a safety net that we can fall back onto if we ever have to, well, college is a whole different story. So second semester isn't just a time for us to cherish our last moments in high school: it's a time to prepare for what lays ahead, and to set the foundations for what we'll go on to do. It's time for us to take charge of our lives, and it all starts now.

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

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

important -- whether people want to watch or not is their decision, but stories about this time in history need to be told to further everyone's understanding of them.

Go see *12 Years a Slave*. See *Django Unchained*. Even the *The Pianist*. Movies are unique in that they can capture human emotion and experience better than many other mediums. While there still aren't

many films that completely show slavery as it was, it isn't too late to help change that. We need to educate ourselves about the history of the world through human eyes, and remind ourselves that facing difficult topics in movies, books, TV, and even video games is not something to shy away from: it's an important challenge to accept and embrace.

Unpacking the Common Core National Standards

By
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There are many ways that I expect the Common Core to fail and not benefit schools. But before I go into that, I will explain my frustrations with the very way these Common Core Standards were developed and adopted. Although the program insists it included education professionals in the creation of these standards, the process was mostly confidential and did not allow for teachers to contribute before they were finalized.

Additionally, the way these standards were implemented was through Obama's Race to the Top grants, which are educational grants given to states only on the condition that they adopt the Common Core. To me, that sounds like manipulation.

The Common Core is a market-driven system that I expect will provide more benefit to the creators of its educational materials than to any student. The Core has rigid expectations with specific benchmarks students are expected to

reach each year. This is contrary to the widely held knowledge that one-size-fits-all education does not work, because every student develops and learns at different speeds and in various ways.

The Core does not require a specific curriculum, and many of the standards are actually very reasonable. However, the accompaniment of annual tests erases this one positive. In order to do well on the tests that will be used to

evaluate teachers and schools, curricula will undoubtedly be adapted and in many places for students to do as well as possible in these assessments.

Although the idea of a nationally accepted set of standards sounds fine, it ideally would increase rigor and provide cross-country consistency, in fact, it ignores the unique learning needs of each student, has no research to support it, and is more focused on the ability to "compete in the global economy" than instilling an early love for learning in students.

-MOVIE REVIEW-
American Hustle

By
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There is a light chuckle throughout the audience as the movie begins with a black screen and white lettering reading, “Some of this actually happened.” From there until the end, color is thrown at the viewer in a way one could almost say was aggressive, but more than that, invigorating.

The movie *American Hustle* is based on an FBI entrapment of several-political figures, including a member of the United States Senate, with the utilization of videos of said figures taking bribes. As the opening screen states, the movie is fictionalized in an effort to create a more entertaining experience for the viewer as well as allow for the directors artistic freedom.

The Dark Knight Rises star Christian Bale takes on a role most have not seen him inhabit before, a con man who is overweight and aging, yet young and vital in spirit. His character is forced by the FBI to aid in the “outing” of these political figures. This already seemingly fictional course of events became known as ABSCAM.

The film looks almost like a dream sequence that takes place in the early eighties, from Bradley Cooper’s hair to the clothing that Amy Adams wears in the night scenes, and it greatly benefits from the aesthetics. From the beginning to

One develops a legitimate relationship with the characters, experiencing their emotions alongside them.

the end the film has loud colors thrown in the viewers face, fully illuminating the setting in the crisp picture of the modern day.



According to Box Office Mojo, as of mid-January David O. Russell’s film has grossed over \$90 million domestically and \$107 million worldwide. chicagophoenix.com

The story, while largely fiction, is incredibly real and captivating. One develops a legitimate relationship with the characters, experiencing their emotions alongside them.

In addition to being well-written and even better performed, the movie feels incredibly easy to watch. The 129-minute runtime slips by in what feels like just an hour, as the pace

never slows for long enough for the film to become stagnant. Questions are raised, entertained, and answered swiftly and expertly, motivating the viewer to travel actively through the story rather than being reluctantly dragged along.

The protagonists of the story are larger than life and wild, but are balanced out by the presence of comedian Louis C.K. throughout the movie, who steps in as the straight man and is

subsequently the subject of some of the movie’s funniest scenes. Throughout the film there are characters that the viewer can easily relate to, helping keep a diverse audience captivated to the shocking and unpredictable ending.

American Hustle is a film that should be remembered and revisited in the future, and it will certainly make a splash at the coming awards ceremonies.

-PAKISTANI CUISINE-
Sheer Khurma

By
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Pakistanis welcome each holiday with sweet dishes as traditional festive breakfasts and as desserts for celebrations. In every house at least one sweet dish is Sheer Khurma. “Sheer” in Persian means milk and “khurma” means dates. It is enjoyed hot; all of ingredients can be found in Indian, Pakistani, or Bengali stores.

Ingredients:

- Whole milk - 3 cups
- Fine semiya (vermicelli) - 1/4 cup
- Sugar - 1/8 cup
- Butter - 1 tbsp
- Rose water - 1 tsp
- Cardamom powder - a small pinch
- Dates - 2.5 tbsp, finely chopped
- Raisins - 1 tbsp
- Cashews, almonds, pistachios, charoli nuts - 1/4 cup, finely chopped

Directions:

1. Boil milk in a pan until it’s almost half its original volume. Meanwhile, chop the dry fruits and nuts. Soak dates in warm milk and set aside. Heat butter in a pan, add the nuts and raisins and fry to slightly browned and crispy.
2. Add vermicelli and roast to golden brown. Add half the milk and let the vermicelli cook. Once soft, add sugar and cardamom powder, and give a quick stir.
3. Add the remaining milk and boil in low flame. Once thick, add the roasted nuts, dates, and rose water, give it a stir, and cook for two minutes.

-MUSIC REVIEW-
Beyoncé: Pop’s Queen

By
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With millions of records sold, the surprise release of Beyoncé’s latest self-titled visual album has led it to the number one spot on iTunes charts and *Billboard*’s Top 200. With fourteen songs and seventeen music videos, Queen Bey doesn’t disappoint -- and this is her best and most personal record yet.

The album starts off strongly with the song “Pretty Hurts,” giving a strong message to women all over. This song is about the power of a woman’s mind and the world’s influence on it. Beyoncé, a modern-day feminist, is advocating for women to remove societal standards and focus on being their true selves.

Another empowering song that captures the same elements is “***Flawless.” The track includes a spoken word excerpt from “We Should All Be Feminists” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, again touching on the role of women and how women are perceived by society. The intro to this Hit-Boy-produced track was released last March as a promo for The Mrs. Carter World Tour, and it has since been reproduced to capture these elements.

The album has been described as Electro-R&B, and it’s the genre that also allows Beyoncé to freely sing about her personal life; she

is opening up through her music.

Songs like “Haunted” and “Partition” are two-part songs, and both parts are great compliments to the song as a whole. Songs like “Rocket,” “No Angel,” and “Superpower” are composed of mostly harmonies and arrangements. “Grown Woman,” “***Flawless,” and “XO” have upbeat tempos indicating a sense of power within the lyrics. But what threads all of her songs together despite where they fall on a musical spectrum are the lyrics. The story Beyoncé tells us about her life is what completes this album.

Each song is very natural and effortless; they seem like they were created in the moment. Ultimately, they capture soul and vulnerability and make this album personal.

“Jealous” is a track that shows a vulnerable side of Beyoncé that we’ve never seen before. She

opens up about human character and how she also possesses the same flaws as everyone else. Along those lines, she also opens up about motherhood in the song “Blue,” showing us yet again a completely different side of her. Mrs. Carter has crafted a creative outlet for us to experience her life with her.

Beyoncé’s fifth studio album is a success through her music, her lyrics, and her collaborations. However, it is the soul and heart in each song that’s the glue. She’s now a wife, a mother, and a much more mature Beyoncé, and it all shines through.

But what threads all of her songs together despite where they fall on a musical spectrum are the lyrics.

Hoop Dreams

Boys B-ball Aims High

By
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The boys varsity basketball team looks to continue its success this year after a 13-9 record last season. The team is off to a good start, having posted a 5-2 record through January 16th.

Junior guard Demetrius Woodson was a stand-out in their first win against West Roxbury, knocking down eight three-pointers while posting 28 points. The team will have to work together to make it far this year, and the players on the team have already put in a lot of effort this season and will continue to do so.

When asked about what he looks forward to this season, junior Eric Smith stated, “CRLS basketball is already nationally recognized because of players like Patrick Ewing, and Rumeal Robinson, but I look forward to acquiring recognition for the team

we have this year and for everyone’s hard work to be displayed as we chase the state championship title.”

The team is very different from previous years, with three freshmen having won varsity spots.

Freshman Jakigh Dottin adds, “As a freshman on varsity, it feels good knowing that all my hard work has paid off and my goal was reached. One thing that I’ve learned is that once you step on the court, you are no longer a freshman. You’re a player, just like the other nine players on that court.” With four more years to come, the three freshman on varsity look to put a stamp on the Rindge basketball program before graduating in 2017.

Coach Lance Dottin, who graduated from CRLS in 1987 and is in the 1,000 point club as a player, hopes to lead the team to another championship. But he also claims to be playing for a bigger cause: “Ultimately, winning basketball games is not the most im-



The boys varsity basketball team dribbles its way to a victory against Malden, Tuesday night January 7. Below (left to right): The basketball players are introduced before a game; junior Isaiah McLeod drives his way to scoring a bucket against Malden; junior Demetrius Woodson brings up the ball against Malden. Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

portant thing. It’s winning in the game of life. Family, school, basketball are the three things we teach the kids to focus on.”

The team definitely has talent, but if they wish to go far they need to find a deeper bond within them as well. Dottin continued, “The most important thing for me as a coach is building a team bond. We have a talented group of individuals, but this season will not come

down to whether or not we are a talented team. We need to get better everyday at school, at practice, and when we get home.” The

“...winning basketball games is not the most important thing. It’s winning in the game of life.”

team’s success will not just be measured on the court this season.

Going to the basketball games is a great way to support the school. One can feel the atmosphere at ev-

ery game and when a player from CRLS makes a difficult shot, the crowd erupts.

Students go for many different reasons;

Sophomore Luca Jaccodine claims to “go for the cheerleaders.” On the other hand, freshman Ross Baker adds, “It’s nice to see all the additions to the team and to see all of Rindge’s alumni.” Show up and support the team at any of their upcoming home games!



Gearing Up for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics

By
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The 22nd Winter Olympics will begin on February 7th in Sochi, Russia. This will mark the second Olympic games held in Russia, the first having been the 1980 Moscow Summer games.

The city of Sochi is located in the south-west of Russia, near Georgia, and enjoys a subtropical climate. This means that the winters are mild, with average temperatures in the 50s, and the summers hot and pleasant.

Sochi borders the Black Sea, which, coupled with the climate, has vaulted it to become Russia’s largest resort city. It is quite large, ap-

proximately 68 square miles, and has a permanent population of about 330 thousand people (approximately the size of Tampa, Florida).

In preparation for potential unexpected warmth, hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of snow have been stored under tarps since last winter; some are even now predicting a surplus of snow in the region as a result of this, so the concern that events could be compromised by the balmy climate seems unlikely.

As with most Olympic games, entire new stadiums and arenas have been built solely for the games. However, in Sochi, there seems to be evidence of a long-term investment. Sochi is already a resort town, but attracting tourists from around the world could help its economy and increase its size.

However, construction for the games created clouds of dust and debris that engulfed the nearby town of Akhshtyr, and many people are being forced to relocate from their homes within Sochi. Some families have resisted relocation, and the process has taken longer than originally

projected.

Laws passed in June of 2013 banning “homosexual propaganda” and effectively any demonstration in defense of the LGBT community in Russia have created controversy as well.

President Obama will not be attending the games, nor will Vice-President Biden; the presidents of Germany and France will not be attending the games either. Obama has selected many openly gay athletes for the Olympic delegation, including the legendary tennis player Billie Jean King.

Newly elected International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach says that he wants “to be president for all” in an attempt to represent all ideals and will “work hard to ensure the success” of the Sochi Olympics. The Olympics are always an enormous event, and there is no doubt that this hype will be matched come February. Senior Erin Pelham expressed excitement for the games and the arenas, stating, “it’s always so cool seeing the things that they build for the Olympics; I loved the nest in Beijing.”