

The  
**REGISTER FORUM**

*Established 1891*

VOL. 128, NO. 5

CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

JANUARY 2016

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*Winter Concerts*



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# A Miracle on 459 Broadway

By  
Grace Austin  
*Register Forum*  
Contributor

On the Saturday before winter break, the crowds at the Fitzgerald Theater were abuzz with excitement and holiday spirit. The audience awaited a cappella performances from CRLS’s three groups along with Lexington High School and the professional group Ball In The House.

Suddenly, the night’s MCs came onto the stage. The house got quiet as everyone anticipated the first performance. Kendrick Bellan and Ehasanuzzaman Satu got the crowd riled up by talking about the diversity in voices and music at CRLS’s winter A Cappella Jam: 459 Miracle on Broadway.

Beginning the night with humor, Arlo Sims walked onto stage, pretending to be on a call. The auditorium filled with a sound of a phone ringing, leaving the crowd anticipating the music made just from the human voice, Pitches and Do’s walked onto the stage. Almost immediately, James Kubicek and Harry Greenblatt kicked off the co-ed group’s set with Drake’s “Hotline Bling.” The crowd went wild and continued to jam out to the rest of the set.

Although it seems hard to top the group’s dance moves and enthusiasm, Girls Next Door strutted onto the stage and wowed everyone with their red and black wardrobe and power medleys. Tal Ben-Anat laid down the beat for every song as the guest beatboxer. Katherine Norris showed

her confidence and power by performing the group’s first song all alone. She represents the fun, emotion, and energy that the whole group brings to the stage.

Before introducing the Pitch Pipes of Lexington Satu comforted Bellan as they reflected on the loss of Brocappella, which was the only all boys a cappella group at CRLS before its dissolution. While it is good to remember CRLS’s stars of the past, the a cappella program decided to show fresh faces from outside singing groups, both high school and professional.

Mash-ups of artists and songs were woven throughout the night, including Lexington High’s mash-up of Kanye West songs and collaborations. Girls Next

*Continued on page 5*

# RF Goes to *Boston Globe*

By  
Benno Kraehe  
*Register Forum*  
Contributor

On December 11th a group of Cambridge Rindge and Latin’s aspiring journalists trekked to *The Boston Globe* for an unforgettable experience packed with reporters, printers, and journalistic history.

The tour was led by *Boston Globe*’s Roy Greene, father of Journalism student Truman Greene. Mr. Greene began the tour with some history, showing the students the newspaper’s first edition, from March 4, 1872. The class also saw the mission of the original *Globe* founder, Charles H. Taylor, who strived to “make the *Globe* a cheerful, attractive, and useful paper.”

After this introduc-

tion, the students went to the newsroom, where news stories are discussed and planned in a daily meeting of journalists and executives. The reporters mentioned that although the meetings are generally respectful, arguments do sometimes arise.

Mark Morrow, senior Deputy Manager of the Sunday & Monday paper, described how layoffs have affected the editorial process: “There are two hundred and fifty staff members in the newsroom—smaller than in the past.” Also displayed in the newsroom were the 24 Pulitzer Prizes won by *Globe* reporters since 1961.

After visiting the newsroom, the students descended into the basement to see how the paper is

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Boys hockey team makes a comeback this season, making strides in DCL/Merrimack Valley League.

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

Foreign Students Share Their Experiences

By  
Carmen Enrique  
Register Forum  
Contributor

Cambridge has always attracted people from around the globe with its many opportunities for employment and education. This year, the city has played host to several foreign students. Although they are not here on an exchange, they have come on their own to live with host families and study at CRLS.

While these students have enjoyed their stay so far, there have obviously been difficulties. Chiara Scalia, a senior who is set to stay in Cambridge until June, remarks simply: "The [education] system is so different." According to Scalia, it's hard for a new student to know which classes to take. "I didn't know whether to choose CP, Honors, or AP classes," she says.

The same is true for Daphne Lilli, a junior from Brazil who is here only for the first semester. "You are

supposed to take Honors and AP classes," says Lilli, and the additional challenge of taking courses that are completely in English have made that hard for her.

Nevertheless, Scalia and Lilli have enjoyed Rindge so far, especially because they say they have learned a lot. Scalia's favorite class here has been Astronomy, while Lilli praises Modern World History because "it's not about what happened, but about different opinions and perspectives."

Another student who

do... it helps you get more comfortable in the new system." As for her return to Italy, she confesses that she is scared. Italy is where her friends and family are, but she will miss Cambridge: "I really enjoyed these five months; even if at the beginning it was really hard, now I really like it here so there is a part of me that would like to stay."

When asked about the experiences of foreign students, junior Rori Miller said with a laugh, "I've been asked before if I was an exchange student from China."

Miller thinks that "it must be great coming into a new culture, but foreign students might be judged for being different, either because of language, race or nationality." That said, she mostly sees the benefits of Rindge as overshadowing the difficulties, and cites "the vibrant international community in Cambridge" as evidence of this.

"It must be great to meet students here who speak the same language as them," she concludes.

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is only here until the end of January is Maddalena Tridenti, a senior from Italy. She claims that "living with a host family can be very nice but...it depends on how much they care about you," and adds, "Personally, I really like the host family I'm with right now."

Tridenti played volleyball for CRLS, and considers athletics "the best thing that a foreign student can

GLOBE TRIP

Continued from page 1

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The class then returned upstairs to see the printing press itself, a monstrous machine that guzzles eight hundred gallons of ink a day and runs papers through its gears at twenty five miles per hour. This impressive press is the only one in all of Boston, according to Morrow. The printing process was of particular interest to the budding journalists. "It's cool to see how the print pressing industry has changed," said senior Donald LaBraico. "It gives us insight into its future."

At the conclusion of the tour, the students gathered to discuss their takeaways from the unique experience. "It was nice in a nostalgic sense knowing that the building is going away," remarked Truman Greene, referring to the *Globe's* upcoming move to a downtown location in early 2017.

"My favorite part was the cafeteria," said senior Mateo Mariscal. Senior Ciyanne Muhammad added, "My favorite part was the press conference, seeing journalists in action."

Journalism teacher Mr. Matteo looked back on the trip, concluding, "Today was an amazing day. I am a very happy advocate for journalism and it was an excellent opportunity of students to come to where the action is and where some may just work someday."



The CRLS Journalism class was invited by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Roy Greene (bottom right) to take a day trip to The Boston Globe's headquarters in Dorchester.

Photo Credit: Steven Matteo



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The CRLS Journalism class was invited by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Roy Greene (bottom right) to take a day trip to The Boston Globe's headquarters in Dorchester.

Photo Credit: Steven Matteo



# Homework Over Break: Justified?

By  
Sun-jung Yum  
Register Forum  
Contributor

Just like the name suggests, school vacations are a time for students to take a break from schoolwork. So, is taking a break worth risking the loss of what students learned before? Teachers often worry that taking so much time off from their courses will cause students to fall behind when they return.

However, some students believe that vacations, which are usually centered around holidays, should be left for relaxation. Freshman Charlotte Keats thinks, “Break is a time when you’re supposed to spend time with your family and friends.”

Many believe that a large amount of work given in a short period of time is ineffective. Several students, including freshman Lucy Ducharme, believe that the several pieces of work they were assigned over winter break led to a great amount of stress.

Ducharme says, “There should be a few worksheets, not a bunch of projects,” explaining that a small amount of homework would be more helpful.

“I tend to find myself skimming when given a lot,” adds sophomore Max Lyman.

However, vacation can also be a good time for students to get immersed in longer-term assignments. Math teacher Mr. Kussner says, “The large amount of days off could also provide a good opportunity for students to work on a project that requires time outside of class to complete.”

Many teachers strongly believe that students need a break in order to reengage when they return. However, they also explain that in order for students to have a manageable amount of work at the end of the term, these assignments are occasionally necessary.

In many cases, homework assigned during vacation is not even completed. Freshman Genevieve Burnieika says, “People usually don’t do it anyways, and if they do, they do it last minute, which stresses them out.”

Stress is a large problem for many students. Many students believe that adding onto the already existing stress by assigning vacation homework is harmful. “Students need to get away from stress because stress equals no bue-

no,” says sophomore Jessica Tran.

Though students’ opinions are incredibly important, taking their word for everything is not always logical.

“I don’t actually think that kids are that good at knowing what’s good for them. Just because a young person doesn’t like something, that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s bad for them,” says English teacher Ms. Hogue. Students are often opposed to any sort of workload, making it hard for teachers to determine what is actually “too” much. “Teachers have to use their best judgment about finding the right balance,” Hogue concludes.

For years, students and educators have had disputes over vacation homework. The large majority of the CRLS community believes that the stress that they already have increases when not given time off.

But without vacation homework to refresh students’ memories, lots of hard-learned information can be quickly forgotten. Clearly, strong opinions about vacation circulate the school. However, if students wish to change the workload, opinions are not enough; action is necessary.

## CRLS RESPONDS: What celebrity would you choose to be president, and why?



**Majdee Abu-Rubieh**  
Class of 2019  
“Kanye West, because he’s Kanye West.”

**Ilan Barnoon**  
Class of 2018

“Colin Firth, because he seems like he knows what he’s doing.”



**Queen-Cheyenne Wade**  
Class of 2016  
“Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, they’ve impersonated politicians.”

**Tara Guzmán-Finn**  
Class of 2018

“Laverne Cox, because she’s a feminist and a transgender woman.”



# CRLS Fashion Spotlight: Nico Chiriboga ‘19

By  
Carmen Enrique  
Register Forum  
Contributor

If you see a sharply dressed young man sauntering through the halls of Rindge, chances are it’s freshman Nico Chiriboga. And no, he doesn’t have a class presentation or a rowing competition coming up; he dresses up every day just for the fun of it.

The Register Forum sat down with Chiriboga to obtain the inside scoop on his fashion-forward outfits.

“I first started ‘dressing up,’ if you will, around the end of eighth grade,” he says, reminiscing on the genesis of his style journey.

His older sister, senior Ana Gabriela Chiriboga, offers her perspective: “It was weird because I left over the summer for a camp...and then he came to pick me up and was in a full, three-piece suit, but I’m proud of

him for being who he is.”

The key to a perfect ensemble, according to Nico Chiriboga, is going all local. His favorite place to shop is Keezer’s, “a used suits and tuxedo store near Central Square that has been around since 1895.”

Do not fret, however, if you can’t make it to his recommended shop. Chiriboga also swears by online retailer Suitsupply.com as a source for classic attire.

For anyone who wishes to start dressing elegantly, Chiriboga outlines several steps. He puts it simply, saying, “Well, it’s just a decision you make.” In a respectful manner that matches his gentlemanly style, he assures that “there’s nothing wrong with the way anyone chooses to dress, it’s just a way one decides to present oneself.” That

*Chiriboga’s sophisticated wardrobe is a breath of fresh air.*

said, “if one does want to start,” he explains, “just start with a dress shirt in a basic color, preferably white or blue, then a tie and eventually a blazer.”



Chiriboga swears by Keezer’s and Suitsupply.com for all of his classic attire needs.  
Photo Credit: Nico Chiriboga

Nothing can shake Chiriboga’s sense of style; he doesn’t fear the imminent cold weather, proclaiming, “It’s quite simple to layer up with dressier clothing.”

Although suits were the norm for over a century, wearing one in 2016 is surprisingly avant-garde. In a society and demographic domi-

nated by casual, cheap “fast fashion,” Chiriboga’s sophisticated wardrobe offers a breath of fresh air.

Being stylish, however, does not guarantee an absolutely positive response from others. As his sister Ana Gabriela puts it, “I get a little salty when he looks better than me on any given day.”



# Winter Concerts Shine

By  
Sophia Sonnert  
*Register Forum Contributor*

The number of talented CRLS musicians has grown so large and diverse—four musical and three vocal ensembles—that they treated the CRLS community to two full-fledged winter concerts in quick succession.

The first concert took place on Friday, January 8th, in the Fitzgerald Theater, showcasing the Big Band and World Jazz Ensemble; the second happened on Thursday, January 21st, in the same venue, featuring the Orchestra, Concert Band, and Vocal Ensembles.

At the first concert, the Big Band, directed by Nathan Powers, started things off in an auditorium well filled with parents, friends, and students. Their first song, “Things Ain’t What They used to Be” by Mercer Ellington, set the tone and made clear that the more than 20 student performers had coalesced into a solid musical unit.

The Big Band went on swinging through three more pieces. “It was very impressive,” commented freshman Heather Burkhardt. The Big Band does not seem content to rest on its laurels. “We’re getting

ready to play harder stuff,” said sophomore Mariah Goldsmith, a saxophone player.

True to its name, the World Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Guillermo Nojehowicz, showed its versatility and range by playing pieces from a great variety of musical traditions. Their rhythms were crisp and tight. When they played “If I Only Had a Brain,” assistant principal Bobby Tynes sat in and showed off his skills as a saxophone player.

Guillermo Nojehowicz, Bobby Tynes, and the ensemble members themselves all contributed arrangements. “Smooth,” commented Kailash Nakagawa.

On Thursday, January 21st, the second concert was kicked off by the Chorus, Chorale, and Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Ivan Ste-

*“We did really well on the areas that we worked on, and I think we made a nice sound.”*

fanov. In different configurations, they sang seven songs, some traditional and some modern, ranging from 13th century “Stabat Mater” to “When I’m Gone” made popular in the *Pitch Perfect* movie. “It was an excellent performance,” said



Orchestra members warm up backstage before the show.

Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

Crystal DelloIacono.

The String Orchestra, under the direction of Laura Umbro, performed three pieces, also showing great versatility: “Alice in Wonderland,” “Waltz No. 2,” and “Bittersweet Symphony” by the Rolling Stones. Violin player Anna Rasmussen was pleased with the performance: “I think that we did really well on the areas that we worked on, and I think we made a nice sound.”

The Concert Band, under Nathan Powers and percussion director Guillermo Nojehowicz, took the stage as an imposing presence, 40 musicians strong.

“We’ve been practicing the whole semester everyday for this concert, so we’re hoping it goes

well and we have fun!” said flute player Josie Weissburg before the show.

Saxophonist Marta Siemieniaka agreed, saying, “The band has put a colossal amount of effort into the selections that we have prepared and we are extremely excited to perform them.”

And it did go well. The group played three pieces, letting individual players showcase their talents in numerous solos.

“I can’t wait to be in band next semester, so I can be with all those school (so-cool) kids,” said freshman Kimmai Nguyen. Sakib Asraf added, “That was dope, dawg.” Overall, audience members agree that the both winter concerts were very impressive.

## A CAPPELLA

*Continued from page 1*

Door performed Gnarl Barkley’s “Crazy” and Beyonce’s “Crazy in Love.”

Sassafras performed a combination of a 21st century hit, “Survivor” by Destiny’s Child, and a disco decade favorite by Gloria Gaynor, “I Will Survive,” arranged by David Bass. Sassafras brought the “sass” by including choreography

in addition to the vocal talent.

One of Sassafras’ leaders, Charlotte Eccles, described the overall experience, saying, “A cappella has a pretty corny reputation, which is fair, but it is super fun and anyone with an interest in singing, music, or just goofy times should consider auditioning next year. Trying to recreate a song while making it original and unique is tough

with just bare voices, but it is always fun.”

To end the night, the professional group Ball In the House performed several songs from pop medleys to classic holiday songs. Each performance made the crowd want to sing along with the four men in the group.

One of the pop songs included was Nick Jonas’ 2014 hit “Jealous,” which perfectly represents how

the audience felt about the group’s incredibly unique and wide range of voices.

The last act was the classic tune and dance “Cupid Shuffle,” during which Ball In the House invited anyone and everyone onto the floor to dance and sing along. The feeling of community and kindness made it really feel like a winter “Miracle on Broadway.”

The enthusiasm and energy on the stage was mir-

rored in the crowd’s behavior as the full house shuffled out. Chelsea Darwin, the a cappella coordinator, did an impressive job organizing the event.

The winter A Cappella Jam: 459 Miracle on Broadway got all of CRLS’s students excited for the performers next serenade, singing valentines which will be sung to students throughout Valentine’s Day. Get pumped!



The a cappella groups will sell singing valentines in February.



Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell



# CHLS Notable Alumnus: A Marxist in Our School

By  
Shubhan Nagendra  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Damodar Dharmananda Kosambi (1907-1966), or more commonly known as D.D. Kosambi, is a name that resonates among Marxists, mathematicians, statisticians, and historians.

He is considered by prominent Indian historians, such as Irfan Habib, to have laid the groundwork for Indian Marxist historiography. Why, then does his name not resonate among the walls of CRLS—his own school? To rectify this, one must delve into his life and contributions.

D.D. Kosambi was born in Goa, which was formerly Portuguese India. In 1918, he moved to Cambridge with his family. It is then that Kosambi studied at the former Cambridge High and Latin School (CHLS). After graduating, he stayed in Cambridge to study at Harvard University, where he excelled in mathematics, history, arts, and philosophy.

After graduating from Harvard in 1929, Kosambi returned to India where he obtained a position as professor of mathematics and German at Banaras Hindu University. Eventually, with the invitation of promi-

nent mathematician André Weil, Kosambi was appointed professor of mathematics at Aligarh Muslim University in 1931.

Two years later, he yet again switched universities; this time he went to Fergusson College in Pune, India where he stayed for at least twelve years.

It was in Pune that he made significant contributions to both statistics and pure mathematics.

For example, Kosambi pioneered the development of the Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD). This has influenced the fields of oceanography and chemical engineering, among others.

It was also during this time that he began experimenting with his political ideas. India, which was then ruled by the British Empire, experienced the rise of several independence movements.

The Communist Party of India was very much a participant. Kosambi became a vocal Marxist spokesperson by writing several

*Upon his return to India, he was met with the cold air of the Cold War.*

political articles. While writing scathing articles, Kosambi tried to balance his political activities with mathemat-



An Indian stamp bearing the face of Damodar Kosambi.  
Photo Credit: Indian Historical Society

ics. He joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, became a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, and spent two months at the Institute for Advanced Research in Princeton, New Jersey.

Upon his return to India, he was met with the cold air of the Cold War. Kosambi campaigned for peace, joining the World Peace Council. He travelled to Helsinki, Moscow, and Beijing, trying to promote peace. Nonetheless, at his core he remained a Marxist.

It was around this time that Kosambi wrote his book *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, with intentions of focusing on Early Indian history through a Marxist lens. His work set the foundations for Marxist historiography in India.

While brief, Kosambi’s life encapsulated several adventures in everything from history to mathematics. He is considered a pioneering figure in several fields. We are fortunate to have such a name associated with our school.



Photo Credit: Cameron Lane-Flehinger

By  
Cameron Lane-Flehinger  
*Register Forum Editor*

## Register Forum: When and where did you first meet?

Steven Jordan: We were at a bar, I saw him from across the bar. No, I’m kidding.  
Brendan Kells: I wonder, I’m curious because I don’t know if I remember how long it actually took for us to interact with each other across the hall.  
SJ: It was probably like our first bet. What was our first bet, just Cubs-Mets? Because then one of our earliest interactions was we bet a Knicks-Bulls game and you had to write a poem.  
BK: That’s right.

## RF: So who’s Angelina Jolie and who’s Brad Pitt in this relationship?

SJ: That’s a great question. I think you’re more Brad Pitt and I’m more Angelina Jolie. She’s a world traveler and he’s handsome.

## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Jordan & Mr. Kells The Fifth Floor Odd Couple Dishes on Teaching, Isolation, and Friendship

BK: Umm...sure. That’s as good an answer as any. I think my problem with answering the question is I don’t know them. I’m not well-versed in any celebrity couples.

## RF: What are the advantages and disadvantages of teaching on the fifth floor?

SJ: There are no challenges, it’s totally ideal.  
BK: Best view, for sure, anyone that is up here is up here specifically because they want to be here. It filters out like a person, like they really have a desire to be here.  
SJ: If you visit us we know you genuinely like us.

## RF: What do you think is unique about teaching that forms such strong friendships?

SJ: It’s a rare job where most of your day you’re an adult on your own running your own show, so a lot of the time your interactions are only out of pleasure, only for the best of reasons, only out of necessity, whereas I think a lot of other adults have jobs where you’re forced to be with someone though it’s not chosen, not organic. I think there’s a real pleasure in adult interactions when you’re a teacher.  
BK: That’s right.

## RF: Do you feel that you’re cut off at all?

SJ: That’s part of what’s ideal.  
BK: Yeah, a little bit, in a good way.  
SJ: Yeah, we are cut off. I feel like kinda the school is happening somewhere else and that’s a mixed blessing I suppose.  
BK: It would feel more cut off if the teachers

that we teach with on the fifth floor weren’t already like a strong unit because we’re connected at least that way, on a daily basis.

## RF: Have you learned anything from each other that’s helped you as teachers?

BK: Hmm. I’ve never actually been in your class, so I don’t know. I think I would have to think about it.  
SJ: I think what I’m most aware of is the knowledge base that I don’t have, like he knows so much more about economics than I do.

## RF: Do you have a favorite class that you’ve taught?

BK: The structure of teaching a senior elective is more my preference.  
SJ: Because of more of the curricular freedom that’s available in those classes.

## RF: If you were to teach a joint course, what would it be?

SJ: A history of the Cubs and the Mets.  
BK: Something along the lines of of like Chomsky’s linguistics.  
SJ: What if it was just an American studies class, that’s just like humanities all together.  
BK: Let’s just study Chomsky, because we have a fair body of stuff.  
SJ: But also you have a class... umm...uhh.. Brendan Kells’ class on how to live life, what is it?

## RF: Any last thoughts?

SJ: Nope.



# Yemen's Tragic and Often Forgotten Proxy Civil War

*The Increasingly Explosive Conflict Is Intertwined with Old Tensions Between Iran, Saudi Arabia*

By  
Claire Healy  
Register Forum  
Contributor

Currently, the Middle Eastern nation of Yemen is undergoing what some are calling a “forgotten war,” due to a lack of worldwide attention. Throughout the 20th century, Yemen was split into separate northern and southern states, but in 1990 it was united in a power sharing agreement by the president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saleh was later ousted in the 2011 Yemeni Revolution, and since then, the country has remained devoid of structure and security. Last year, the Houthis, a Yemeni rebel group allied with Iran, captured Yemen's capital Sana'a. Iran's regional rival, Saudi Arabia, responded with daily airstrikes aiding the current disputed government.

For the past seven months, Saudi Arabia has

attempted to oust the Houthi rebels from Sana'a using a heavy bombing campaign. Recently, Saudi Arabia was accused of dropping a bomb on a Yemeni wedding, killing 15.

Similar airstrikes are currently under U.N. review due to accusations that they violate humanitarian war laws. There is overwhelming evidence that the targets of these airstrikes are not exclusively rebel forces and their supplies. Hospitals and civilian homes have been bombed incessantly as well, creating a clear indication of war crimes and a lack of respect for the rights of innocent civilians.

The BBC has reported

that 21 million people—over 80% of the entire population—now require some form of aid and the country is on the verge of a famine, with over 1.5 million citizens displaced. Despite this, many have criticized the

U.S. role in the conflict by both Britain and the United States. While Saudi Arabia is also involved in airstrikes in Syria, the conflict in Yemen is taking an enormous amount of Saudi military supplies and attention, leading many to wonder whether

UK and US-made fighter jets which are being used to carry out the majority of the airstrikes.

CRLS student Bella Jaffe commented, “It is alarming that the U.S. is partaking in this without widespread discussion or knowledge, and it makes you wonder where else our government has a harmful military presence.”

The most alarming aspect of this war is how it has evolved into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, who are historically enemies. The tension between these two countries right now is very alarming after the execution of an Iranian Shia cleric. After this execution, a group of Iranians attacked the Saudi embassy in Tehran. Currently, all diplomatic ties have been severed between these two countries, putting their regional and foreign allies on edge. It's time the world—and CRLS students—pay more attention.



Protesters on the Washington Mall objected to the war.

Photo Credit: Associated Press

international community as being complacent.

Saudi Arabia's military coalition is supported through the sale of arms, technical support, and the employment of liaison offi-

cers by both Britain and the United States. While Saudi Arabia is also involved in airstrikes in Syria, the conflict in Yemen is taking an enormous amount of Saudi military supplies and attention, leading many to wonder whether

## What *13 Hours* Got Right

By  
Sophia Nikolayev  
Register Forum Editor

The mainstream media is concerned about *13 Hours*, the new film by Michael Bay about the 2012 attack on the American outpost in Benghazi, Libya.

ABC's Lara Spencer worries that the movie will “re-open the wound.” Andrea Mitchell of NBC fears that the movie will cause problems for the Clinton campaign by lending credence to “conspiracy theories on the right.”

Why are the Clintons, the Obama administration, and their defenders so worried about a phony scandal? Because it's not phony at all. Though the movie is not about events in Washington during the attacks, it is sure to remind Americans of Hillary Clinton's deception.

As Andrew McCarthy at the *National Review* and others have recounted in great detail, within minutes of the start of the assault, Hillary Clinton received an email telling her that “15 armed individuals were attacking the compound and trying to gain entrance.”

Shortly thereafter, a message describing Ansar al-Sharia's social media claim of responsibility for the attack circulated around Foggy Bottom. Gregory Hicks, then deputy chief of the Tripoli mission who briefed Clinton that night, spoke with Ambassador Chris Stevens

during the attack and never heard about any sort of demonstration. And Clinton told both the prime minister of Egypt and her daughter that the United States knew the events were a terrorist attack, not the result of a protest gone wrong.

But despite her knowledge of the nature of the attack, Secretary Clinton and the administration kicked into overdrive immediately to peddle the video protest narrative.

In a State Department release issued the night of the attack, Clinton directly referenced the video despite the fact that it had nothing to do with the attack. When the bodies returned to American shores, Clinton denounced “rage and violence directed at American embassies over an awful Internet video that we had nothing to do with” and promised one victim's family that the United States would prosecute those responsible.

Days later, the Obama administration infamously sent Susan Rice on the Sunday shows to parrot the lie, before the American people had learned the truth.

Hicks, Stevens's deputy, said his jaw dropped when he saw Rice peddling this narrative to the American people. “I was stunned,” he testified to members of Congress investigating the attacks.

The CIA heard fairly quickly about the attack, but it took 20 minutes for the agency to respond to



Hillary Clinton testified in front of a Senate committee on the attack in Benghazi.

Photo Credit: Carolyn Kaster

the assault. Why that was the case is a matter of intense dispute. Defenders of the response claim this was merely prep time. But as reported by Steve Hayes at the *Weekly Standard*, several of the officers on the ground—the subjects of *13 Hours*—clearly felt the delay was far too long.

More controversially, some accounts suggest those on the ground were told to stand down during that time. “I just said, ‘Hey, you know, we gotta—we need to get over there, we're losing the initiative,’” recalls John Tiegen. But Tiegen was told by the CIA's top Benghazi officer, “Stand down, you need to wait.”

Was there a stand down order? Where did it originate? These are not “conspiracy theories” just be-

cause we don't have all the answers. The American people deserve to know the truth.

But the most important issues this movie may raise in the minds of viewers relate to broader questions: Why was the United States in Libya in the first place? What was our strategy to maintain order post-Gadhafi, and why did it fail? Why did we maintain our Benghazi mission when allies like the British were pulling their personnel out amid an escalation of violence, and why did Secretary Clinton's State Department deny 600 requests for additional security by Ambassador Stevens?

Benghazi matters. The American people deserve answers. And Hollywood, for once, is encouraging us to ask the right questions.



# Where Are the Women in FIFA?

## Soccer Organization’s Governing Body Needs a Change

By  
Sophie Harrington  
*Register Forum Contributor*

FIFA needs women. The organization needs females on the pitch, within the federation, and especially as part of the executive leadership team. With the announced retirement and subsequent suspension of President Sepp Blatter, the new presidential election will happen in February of 2016. The vote will represent the first step in the reform of the corrupt and sexist organization.

This past summer the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup was held in Canada, but only 20.3 million viewers tuned in to watch. Not surprisingly, the 2014 Men’s World Cup held in Brazil captivated 909.6 million viewers worldwide. There were minimal advertisements and coverage leading up to the 2015 women’s tournament.

Although Fox estimated \$17 million in ads from corporate sponsors of the elite women’s matches, this was a miniscule fraction of the \$529 million ESPN brought in from sponsor-

ship revenue in 2014’s men’s event.

In 2014, currently suspended President Sepp Blatter suggested one way to increase the audience for the women’s game, saying, “If female players [wore] ‘tighter shorts’ [the game would be] more appealing to male viewers.” That this disgusting, prehistoric, and wrong-headed statement came from the mouth of the leader of the most important global soccer organization demonstrates the magnitude of the sexism problem in FIFA.

Objectifying women makes it hard for us to prove that we are real players rather than sexual objects. Hopefully the departure of Blatter will result in the removal of his sexist views from soccer’s governing body.

Favoritism of the men’s tournament is not only shown by the greater presence in the media, but also by the increased salary and prize money given to the winning team of the tournament. Following the United States Women’s National Team’s tremendous 5-2 win in the final match

in Vancouver, the women’s team received \$2 million dollars—yet when the German National Team won in Brazil in 2014 they took home \$35 million. Even the U.S. Men’s National Team received \$8 million for the men’s tournament, even though they were eliminated in the first knockout round.

Although it is unjust to have an inequity in pay, this can be attributed to the viewership. Men get more viewers, thus advertisers are willing to pay more to the broadcasters of male events; this results in more money available to pay male athletes. As women do not have nearly as large an audience, or sell out as many games, they create less income. This issue is not solely FIFA’s fault, but also that of the advertising world and overall society.

*Out of the 25 members [that form FIFA’s] council, only one is a female.*

The February election is also a chance to correct the gross underrepresentation of women on FIFA’s executive leadership committee. Out of the 25 members which make



Abby Wambach celebrates on artificial turf at the 2015 World Cup.  
Photo Credit: CNN

up the council, only one is a female. This hardly represents the composition of the world’s soccer population. All decisions being made by FIFA will be decided upon by men—and as a result women players are treated unfairly.

During the 2015 Women’s World Cup, the teams had to play on artificial turf, a surface that has never been used for the global

event due to the negative effects it brings, such as more severe injury rate and heat waves. In several games during the women’s tournament, temperatures reached all time highs of 120°F in many games, as well as a record breaking 150°F before the Australia

vs. Japan quarterfinal on June 27th.

The ideal ground is none other than a well kept natural grass pitch, but FIFA decided that it would be cheaper to maintain artificial turf leading up to the event. In October of 2014 some of the biggest names, including U.S. player Abby Wambach, Brazil’s Marta, and Germany’s Nadine Angerer, filed a gender-discrimination lawsuit against FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association due to the artificial turf issue.

Women should be treated with as much equality as men; they should receive the same playing conditions, be paid the same amount, and be given the same attention—no exceptions.

# Why We Need to Build on the Paris Agreement

## COP 21 Is Indicative of Progress, but International Community Needs to Do More

By  
Fredrika Åkerman  
*Register Forum Contributor*

“Critical,” “historic,” and “triumphant.” These were some of the adjectives used when the government officials from over 190 countries who attended the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) reached a climate change agreement on December 12, 2015.

Although the agreement’s adoption acts as an indicator that an age defined by unsustainable living has come to a close and fuels the agonizing, yet crucial, detachment from high energy consumption and fossil fuels, a convoluted and long road lies ahead before climate change can be combatted.

In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was formed, acknowledging the existence of anthropogenic climate change and allotting the chief responsibility for it to developed nations. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was produced, en-

couraging developed countries to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by five percent compared to 1990 levels. Not adopted by the biggest developed countries and excluding developing nations, the protocol was far from an international agreement. It was not until the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, that all developed countries and the largest developing nations agreed to fight climate change.

The Paris Agreement, affirming that global warming shall be kept under 1.5° or, at the highest, 2° Celsius and that the world shall be completely independent from fossil fuels by the end of the century, therefore demonstrates an enormous progress in global environmental policy.

However, as the environmental organization 350.org explains it, “Progress alone is not our goal. Our goal is a just and livable planet.” With climate change increas-

ingly threatening life’s survival on Earth, the agreement is, frankly, not enough, and, in the words of CRLS sophomore Amireh Rezaei-Kamalahad, it “[sounds] like empty promises made to the public so they can think the government is trying to fix things.”

Analysis of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) included in the agreement, which are countries’ greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, show

*It is immensely important that humans back the environmental activist movement.*

that they will exclusively limit global warming to 2.7° or, in the worst case, 3° Celsius. Global warming at these degrees will have devastating climate change consequences and expose the Earth and humans to rising sea levels and extreme weather to only bring up a few of the endless consequences—a situation CRLS sophomore Mimi Fu anticipates, yet dreads as it would be “surprising” otherwise.

INDCs will be reviewed every

five years and, hopefully, revised to achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius. Countries have also agreed to raise 100 billion dollars a year from 2020 on to fund nations’ adaptation to climate change consequences.

For government officials to act on what they have agreed to and global warming to be hampered, it is immensely important that humans back the environmental activist movement and make it tremendously clear that we will not settle for anything less than a habitable planet for our generation and those to come.

We have to prioritize combatting climate change, along with other significant issues of our generation, and allow it to define not only the people we are today but also the people we are to become. Most importantly, we have to fight the ignorance that presumably appeals to all of us out of fear, although to some more than others, and bravely confront the truth: if climate change is not combatted, it could be our doom.



# Why Police Deserve More Respect

## *Amid Controversy, Let's Appreciate Their Sacrifice*

By  
Benno Kraehe  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Imagine waking up every morning, putting on a uniform, and kissing your family goodbye to begin another day of seeing the unfortunate realities of the society in which you live. You see drug addicts on the sidewalk, homeless people sleeping, an old woman being robbed of her purse, and sometimes, the most dreaded suspect with a weapon fleeing down the street without regard for the lives of innocent citizens.

This is no nightmare, but instead a stark reality that is a part of the everyday jobs that thousands of on-duty American police officers must perform with near perfection every minute around the clock.

In our modern day society, it seems like the police are increasingly failing to do their jobs with respect for their communities. After all, it is too often that instances of po-

lice brutality make headlines causing a strong discontent among the public.

Consequently, citizens are increasingly concluding that the majority of America's police officers are corrupt, lawbreaking criminals, or even murderers.

This comes as no surprise, for mainstream and social media trends focus on the crimes, whether intentional or not, of a few officers while overlooking the good deeds and benefits that the majority of police officers give to their communities and to the force as a whole.

Even taking good deeds out of the equation, the number of citizen interactions that go smoothly are significantly higher than those that go wrong. In fact,

*“Instead of focusing on our differences we should talk about what we have in common.”*

there are hundreds of thousands of police to citizen interactions that take place across the nation everyday. According to the United

States Bureau of Justice, about 60 million Americans interact with police annually, and an estimated 1.5 million interactions are made daily.

Logically, even if as little as 1% of these interactions resulted in a police killing or police brutality, then there would be 15,000 cases of police injustice a day—certainly too many for the media to handle. Instead, if about 1,100 citizens are killed annually by police, then about 0.0002% of interactions between Americans and the police would have gone deadly awry.

I am in no way trying to downplay police brutality nor am I denying its importance. Police brutality is indeed a very important problem that I, along with millions of Americans, want to solve. 1,100 people killed by police every year is a number that is undeniably too high.

At the same time, we must stop to consider the thousands of law-abiding, diligent, and respectable police officers that put their



The CPD supported the CRLS Walkout in December 2014.  
Photo Credit: Charter School of Cambridge

life on the line everyday to create a safer community for all of us. After all, at the end of the day, many police officers come home to a family, children, and most importantly a civilian's life.

I say with confidence that police actually have more in common with everyday citizens than we might think. In the words of Cambridge Police Officer

Michael “Whitey” Daniliuk, “Instead of focusing on our differences we should talk about what we have in common and then work our way out to what’s different.”

So, next time you see a police officer, it is probably better to think of them not as an enemy but as an ally that protects and serves our community.

# To Defeat Terror, We Must Open Our Doors

By  
Will MacArthur  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Your 4th period Algebra II class on the 4th floor of the Rindge building has just ended, and you're on your way to the War Memorial after school for wrestling practice. You make your way across the second floor bridge and down the stairs, and are about to breeze out of the stairwell into the Arts Building when you hear a sound.

A member of the swim team whom you know from Community Meeting is tapping on the window, and you can now proceed in one of two ways: either you open the door and subject yourself to a sus-

*Our community is stronger than those who seek to sow chaos and distrust among us.*

pension of between 1 and 5 days, or you shake your head and turn around, walking wordlessly away from the screeching collision of “Opportunity, Diversity, Respect” with the locked door policy like an action hero.

This choice is not one that should be forced on students in the name of safety.

The past few months have forced us to confront the disturbing new normal of mass violence in modern America on an incredibly intimate level. The impulse to shut out the outside, both literally and figuratively, is natural. But this impulse should not be shaping policy.

The facts demonstrate that the locked door policy doesn't make us safer. 98% of bomb threats in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010 were hoaxes, and only 20% of bombings that did occur took place inside of buildings.

Sandy Hook Elementary School had all of its doors locked when it was tragically assaulted almost three years ago.

Locking our doors to the outside might sound comforting and make us feel safe, but no data suggest that it has a meaningful impact on our safety. Our threshold for changing the ways we go through life in the name of security should be much higher.

I'm proud to say that I go to a school that has always come together in trying times. Through “Cambridge Strong,” we proved that we



Signs warning of the policy have been placed on all side doors by school officials.  
Photo Credit: Liam Greenwell

could not be intimidated into turning against one another, and that our community was stronger than those who seek to sow chaos and distrust among us.

We can carry on this legacy now by refusing to be afraid and recommitting to normal and unique days at CRLS, but instead we have

sought solace in locked doors and armed guards.

As Dr. Young told the Register Forum after the first threat was sent, but before the locked door policy was enforced, we are “as safe as students in the U.S. can be.” Let's not sacrifice who we are striving in vain to be safer.







# Author Interview: Ruta Sepetys

## *The Bestselling Novelist on Inspiration and History*

By  
Grace Ramsdell  
*Register Forum Contributor*

*Ruta Sepetys is the author of the New York Times bestselling historical fiction novels Between Shades of Gray (2011), and Out of the Easy (2013). Between Shades of Gray, set in Lithuania at the time of Stalin’s regime, is an International Bestseller and has received more than 50 literary honors worldwide. Out of the Easy is set in the French Quarter of New Orleans during the 1950s. Sepetys has spoken in Cambridge following the publication of each of her books.*

**RF: How would you describe your high school experience? Do you think it impacted the path that led you to become a writer?**

RS: My high school experience absolutely impacted my path to becoming a writer. It was a very challenging time—definitely a period of “strength through struggle,” and that theme has carried through to my writing.

**RF: You worked in the music industry before having your first book published. What was the transition from music to writing like?**

RS: When I worked in the music industry I represented recording artists and creatives. I was very much “behind the scenes.” When I became a writer, suddenly I was the one in public. That was a difficult transition for me. I am an introvert and get quite nervous speaking in public and making presentations.

**RF: Are there any books that you find particularly inspirational?**

RS: The book *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl truly inspires me.

**RF: What motivates you to write historical fiction?**

RS: Through historical fiction we find hidden heroes. Sometimes history can be perceived as boring. But through characters and story, historical statistics become human and suddenly we care for people we’ve never met and then—the history matters. Through studying tragic stories of the past we have an opportunity to learn and create hope for a more just future.

**RF: How would you describe your research process?**

RS: I describe my research process as being a historical detective or literary archeologist. I enjoy digging up secrets of the past, tracking down witnesses, interviewing people who experienced the things I’m writing about. I adore research!

**RF: Can you describe the most interesting person you have come across while researching for a book?**

RS: There have been so many unique, beautiful, and interesting people that I could never narrow it down to just one. But I find those who have survived insurmountable odds incredible. I met a man who survived four different Gulags. I met a woman who has had to hide her real identity since she was 16. She is 88 now. These people teach large lessons of the force of life and the power of love.



*Sepetys’s books have been published in over 45 countries.  
Photo Credit: Magda Starowieyska*

**RF: What can readers expect from you in the future? Will you be coming back to Cambridge anytime soon?**

RS: I have a new book! My new World War II novel, *Salt to the Sea*, will be published in February. I will absolutely return to Cambridge! Porter Square Books in Cambridge actually assisted with my research for the new novel and I want to thank them personally. Also, I adore the Cambridge Public Library!

*Salt to the Sea is available on February 2nd, and Ruta Sepetys will be speaking at the main branch of the Cambridge Public Library at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 9th.*

# What to Read Next: Register Forum Editor’s Picks

## *Common Ground*

J. Anthony Lukas

**What:** The 1985 non-fiction book follows three families, the Twymons, the McGoffs, and the Divers during the desegregation of Boston Public Schools in the 1970s.

**Why:** Lukas effectively explores racial tensions in Boston through desegregation busing and its subsequent protests. It tells the personal stories of Bostonians of different social locations in the context of social unrest.

—Adrienne Ashe

## *The Stranger*

Albert Camus

**What:** A two part novel in which the protagonist, Meursault, is faced with the challenges of dealing with a loss.

**Why:** The book presents a different take on how to deal with loss. Although the writing is quite simple, the themes behind the novel are profound.

—Rafael Goldstein

## *American Pastoral*

Philip Roth

**What:** Examining the many political and social forces of America in the 60s and 70s, *Pastoral* follows Swede Levov, a successful businessman and, in many ways, the epitome of the American Dream. After Levov’s

daughter Merry blows up their idyllic town’s post office in a protest against the Vietnam War and subsequently disappears, the man’s inner and outer life devolve. The question becomes: can anyone truly accomplish the American Dream? Is the sought-after American Pastoral just an illusion?

**Why:** Real and human, *Pastoral* is a portrait of emotion, of want, and of questions unresolved. This book has stayed with me for a long time—its flow and powerfully realist language are immensely relatable, and its message brings up larger issues of whether everything has a purpose or if chaos is simply unresolvable.

—Liam Greenwell

## *The Cat in the Hat*

Theodor Seuss Geisel

**What:** The most iconic children’s book of all time, in which Dr. Seuss explores the shenanigans of small children and a mystical feline while their mother is away.

**Why:** A riveting and insightful look into the lives of children, *The Cat* returns the reader to their childhood and a life of idyllic ignorance.

—Cameron Lane-Flehinger

## *Dear Life*

Alice Munro

**What:** The most recent, and likely final, short-story collection from the

Nobel Prize-winning Canadian author Alice Munro.

**Why:** Through her masterful characters and sparse prose, Munro asks important psychological questions and paints a moving picture of daily life in rural Canada.

—Diego Lasarte

## *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World*

Liaquat Ahamed

**What:** In an insightful and eloquent book, Ahamed looks at the lives of central bankers in the period between the two World Wars and the ways in which their actions caused the world to devolve into chaos.

**Why:** It is an informative yet easily digestible book explaining dense economic concepts in the context of the geopolitical conflicts of the first half of the twentieth century. The book provides a great background for understanding what role central banks played during the 2007-08 financial crisis as well as what role they play today.

—Tomek Maciak

## *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*

Richard Rhodes

**What:** A grand, encyclopedic, epic story of the atomic bomb program. It starts from WWI and continues until after the end of WWII, including

short biographies of all of the major figures of the program, as well as a firm outline of the political situation which surrounded them.

**Why:** Rhodes uses harrowing detail of when the bomb itself was dropped, and what the creators thought during the whole ordeal. The book is a brilliant blend of history and science.

—Sophia Nikolayev

## *The Tao of Pooh*

Benjamin Hoff

**What:** An introduction to Taoism for Westerners, told from the perspective of Winnie the Pooh and his comrades.

**Why:** This book is an engaging, uplifting, and makes an important Eastern philosophy accessible. I strongly recommend it to anyone who is curious about Taoism or who is simply looking for a relaxing yet meaningful read.

—Paloma O’Connor

## *Nine Stories*

J.D. Salinger

**What:** A collection of short stories from the author of *The Catcher in the Rye*.

**Why:** It is very satisfying to hear Salinger’s familiar voice in short story format. “For Esmé—with Love and Squalor” is my personal favorite from the collection.

—Grace Ramsdell



# The Return of the *Star Wars* Franchise Strikes Back with New Film



By  
Christo Hays  
*Register Forum Contributor*

“The piece of junk will do,” says Rey, the new face of the *Star Wars* franchise, as she dashes into a decrepit Millennium Falcon moments before it roars to life—the first time the iconic spaceship has flown across the big screen in over thirty years. Jam-packed with newcomers and old faces alike, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, directed by sci-fi veteran J. J. Abrams, returns audiences to their beloved galaxy far, far away.

Without a doubt, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* will be remembered as the most triumphant cinematic experience of 2015. It has garnered exceptional amounts of praise from critics and fans alike and is well on its way to becoming the highest-grossing film of all time.

With a massive amount of cultural momentum, it will likely rest permanently as a major success in the minds of moviegoers worldwide. But does it deserve that status?

Upon close examination, *The Force Awakens* is no more or no less excellent than your run-of-the-mill action film. Rather, *The Force Awakens* is the most brilliant marketing move in the history of cinema.

Utilizing the bitter feelings of *Star Wars* fans who endured the much-hated prequel trilogy, the film goes full-throwback, reusing everything from the costumes to the themes of the original trilogy. Combined with the pedestrian excitement of the modern adventure film as reinvented by Marvel, the result is exciting upon first encounter but thoroughly unoriginal.

That’s not to say a return to a familiar, practical aesthetic isn’t welcome—it is, but that doesn’t make a *Star Wars* film. *Star Wars*

is about seeing fantastic worlds and facing incredible odds as an outsider, about being the underdog and persevering through self-doubt, temptation and formidable enemies. It is to feel the wonder and excitement that Luke Skywalker did when he first blasted off from the desert abyss of his home planet.

Rey, the heroine of the film, played by Daisy Ridley, is immediately comfortable with every obstacle thrown her way. She is a more than competent fighter, mowing down formidable Stormtroopers like it’s nothing, despite the fact that she has barely five minutes of experience with a blaster.

When the main characters—yes, the other leads fare similarly—adapt to

*Without a doubt, Star Wars will be remembered as the most triumphant cinematic experience of 2015.*



Disney bought the rights to the *Star Wars* franchise in 2012.  
Photo Credit: The Walt Disney Company

never do the same.

The passage of time has effectively disguised the film as fresh and exciting, while in reality this film is the least adventurous of the saga, which has been an essential component since the original *Star Wars* in 1977.

The evolution and improvement of technology and of the action genre itself work in the film’s favor by providing stark contrast to the originals.

Each scene is filled with ten times the mayhem and lasers of any preceding film and even the dialogue

and acting has been amped up to complete the wow factor, but the resulting effect isn’t a grand spectacle, it’s a loss of nuance. When the situations and characters are rip-offs of the originals, the quiet moments, which are few in number, hold no weight of their own.

*The Force Awakens* is a fun time through and through, hitting every beat a modern moviegoer expects to see. However, contrary to the extraordinary amount of fan hype and critical praise, it isn’t the masterful return to the world of *Star Wars* that some fans have been waiting over thirty years for.

# Lamar, Swift Look to Sweep This Year’s Grammy Awards

By  
Milo Lynch  
*Register Forum Contributor*

A Grammy is an award synonymous with musical achievement and is supposed to show that an artist has received widespread recognition and acclaim for their work. Additionally, the Grammys can have a large influence on album sales.

For example, last year’s album of the year winner, *Morning Phase* by Beck, experienced an over 3000% weekly sales boost following the Grammys. But who determines which artists win?

Despite the large impact they can have, the Grammys are somewhat of an enigma. There are more than ten thousand voters, music industry insiders who pay dues to the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and they are anonymous (even Chief Kooffreh claims to be one).

Thousands of songs and albums are submitted each year for the many categories and the Academy members vote for which they would like to be nominated. But before nominations are decided, there is a secret committee which reviews the top twenty choices for

nominations in the most important categories and many genre specific ones and decides which are actually nominated.

Grammy voters then pick their top choice from the five nominees per category in the specific categories in which they are voting (up to 24). The results are revealed on the

live show.

To be fair, the Grammys have a good reason for this committee. It was implemented in the 1990s due to the state of Grammys nominees and winners reflecting the views of neither music critics nor the general public, but instead those of the musically-conservative and presumably elderly voting members of the National Academy of Recording

Arts and Sciences.

Beyond the Grammy voting process, the categories themselves are confusing. There are 83 categories which often cover extremely specific sub genres, like best spoken word album for children and best polka album. This is why people like Mikhail Gorbachev, Martin Luther King Jr., Jimmy Carter, and Elmo are Grammy winners even though famous musicians including Queen, Bjork, Nas, Kiss, and Tupac Shakur are not.

Furthermore, the distinction between categories is often unclear. For example, in addition to four other R&B categories, the Grammys have an “Urban Contemporary” category, which is pretty much

only used in radio and can include a mix of genres that, in addition to various types R&B, incorporates hip hop, EDM, and various genres of Caribbean music. Based on the list of current and past nominees, it seems to be a place for R&B that is modern and often experimental but not Pop-like (then again, there are usually some pop stars nominated each year, with the Weeknd being the only one this year).

Still, the Grammys are incredibly non-transparent, strange and convoluted. One can imagine that the Oscars—which are relatively simple, straightforward, and do not have a secret, illuminati-esque committee incorporated into the voting process—could not get away with being this way. So why can the Grammys?

This year there are several artists with multiple nominations. Kendrick Lamar leads the nominations with 11, one behind the all time-record (though three of the nominations are in featured roles). Behind him Taylor Swift and The Weeknd are tied with 7 each. Kendrick Lamar, The Weeknd, Adele, Justin Bieber, and others are scheduled to performed. Make sure to tune in to CBS on February 15th at 8 to see the winners announced!



Jimmy Sturr has won 18 Grammys in his life for Best Polka Album.  
Photo Credit: The Middletown Times Herald-Record/Michael Bloom



# The Hateful Eight Is Quintessential Tarantino



By  
Jake Friedman  
Register Forum  
Contributor

Here’s quick question for you to answer; are there any specific organs or parts of the body that you could not possibly tolerate seeing brutally injured? If the answer is no, then I’d recommend you seek out the newest entry to Quentin Tarantino’s filmography. In all likelihood, a beloved biological structure may be one of the many that is afflicted throughout *The Hateful Eight*. Yes, you could already be a fan of Tarantino’s signature gratuitous violence throughout his films, but this film is especially over the top with it.

If you can swallow this fact, then *The Hateful Eight* has a ton of great stuff on offer. The film is a clear homage to the proud genre of the 20th century Western, a style that is incorporated in the movie’s content as

well as its presentation. In addition to a typical theatrical release, there is also a special “roadshow” version that is devoid of trailers and features both a musical overture and intermission.

The Somerville Theater is among the select locations playing the roadshow rendition, so try to catch this there.

The plot of *The Hateful Eight* is far from simple, but it can be summed up thusly: Taking place not long after the Civil War, about eight certifiably horrible people are all trying to get to Red Rock, Wyoming. Problems arise due to a monstrous blizzard that makes travel impossible, and there is just one small, rural inn to take refuge in. Conflicts arise, suspense takes place, and people get murdered.

All of the characters are distinct and, despite being awful examples of human beings, extremely likeable. Some of them border on the ridiculous, but this is well explained in the second half.

The script allows the



The Hateful Eight can be viewed in the 70mm road show format at the Somerville Theatre.  
Photo Credit: Weinstein Company

convoluted plot to somehow be easy to follow, and also features a good amount of naturally integrated humor.

The cinematography is gorgeous, constantly reasserting how grim the landscape is. Another phenomenal aspect is the soundtrack, which is quite fitting and highly varied.

The intermission adds a surprising amount to the film. In addition to making its length more palpable and being a way to pay homage to epics like *Ben-Hur* and *Lawrence of Arabia*, it

serves a narrative function.

Coming immediately after the most high stakes and original scene of the whole film, the fifteen minute intermission ingeniously covers that same amount of time in the film, making it an clever narrative gimmick.

Additionally the intermission naturally divides two rather different parts of the film. The first half is primarily tense, character driven, and comparably slowly paced, whereas the latter portion of the film is action packed, filled with tons of

dramatic irony, and seems to have no restrictions as to where the plot will go next.

Come intermission, I was confident I’d give a perfect score to a film as engrossing and original as this. However, the second half admittedly got unwieldy with its twists, turns, and barbarity. While still enjoyable, I could easily imagine this portion of the film being off-putting to some.

*The Hateful Eight* still comes highly recommended as an epic piece of well executed cinematic drama with a free spirited style.



## THE ARTISTS OF THE YEAR THE REGISTER FORUM’S PICKS FOR 2015



Selections are based on interviews with students and faculty of the Visual and Performing Arts department conducted by Register Forum contributor Will MacArthur between January 20th and January 22nd, 2016.

### Visual Arts

YANKA PETRI  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
CLASS OF 2016

“Yanka plays with ideas that require a great deal of risk. She thinks outside the box and she makes art that is not safe, sure, or guaranteed. She understands the importance of taking chances and confronting possible failure. This is obvious in her films and photographs. She demonstrates great perseverance and continues to try to make sense of her ideas through her own innovative visual art.”

“I am impressed with her ability to ask difficult questions in her artwork, to let the questions sit and grow, and to come back around and ask again in order to make her art. Yanka has been working on an ongoing project and portfolio of photographs of young women that is brave, interesting, and illustrates her ability to make excellent photographs in the darkroom, both analog and digital.”

-Ms. Milligan



Yanka Petri has devoted herself to photography on feminist themes.  
Photo Credit: Maggie Thompson



“Cuffed” by Yanka Petri was submitted to this year’s Scholastic Art Awards.



Bailey performed in 5 pieces, including the West African dance.  
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

### Performing Arts

JULIAN BAILEY  
DANCE  
CLASS OF 2016

“Julian is incredibly hard-working, and he’s grown an immense amount over the last few years. He’s an incredibly positive presence in rehearsals and on top of always giving 150%, he’s always very giving to other people, whether that’s helping with personal problems or teaching material. He was heavily involved in the West African dance and both hip hop pieces at Dance/Works.”

-Ms. Divelbliss

### Music

JAHNAVI ZONDERVAN  
A CAPPELLA  
CLASS OF 2018

“She’s an amazing singer, and in terms of a cappella she is great at learning her voice part. She’s also very confident when she performs and just seems very comfortable being on stage.”

-Chiaki Kirby ‘16  
Sassafras Group Leader



Zondervan sang a solo for Sassafras at the Winter A Cappella Jam.  
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell



# Pusha T's *Darkest Before Dawn* Shines Brighter Than Expected



By  
Griffin Andres  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Terrance Thornton, known by his moniker Pusha T, is taking an aggressive step towards the top of the rap game with his most recent effort: *King Push - Darkest Before Dawn: The Prelude*. Push has been consistently dropping classic albums, from 2002's *Lord Willin'* with his brother in the duo Clipse to his solo debut, *My Name Is My Name*. He is able to manipulate his flow and deliver bar after bar of crafty lyrics over a wide range of production, a skill which he displays on *Darkest Before Dawn*. The beats on the album range from Timbaland's haunting, hard-hitting "Untouchable" to Kanye West and J. Cole's minimal and somber production on "M.P.A." While few of the beats on *DBD* are as sonically jarring as some of the instrumentals on Pusha's last effort, *My Name Is My Name*, the album has enough variety and strength in production to maintain originality while showcasing his lyrical abilities.

On *DBD*, Push shoots off a plethora of sharp rhymes, but upon first listen, the album as a whole lacks a concrete direction. In the intro track, Pusha prompts the listener to "Leave your conscious at the door," suggesting the album to come is not trying to be anything more than just rap, which mostly holds to be true. Pusha T rose to prominence by rhyming about dealing drugs to make a living, which is a trend that still persists in his new album, more out of habit than a continuance of illicit activities.

The album is stocked with one-liners about exorbitant amounts of money, drug dealing, and violence ("Banana clips for you Curious Georges"); but "Sunshine," the final track of the album, finds Pusha addressing very serious issues. In "Sunshine" Pusha raps, "Still a target, but the badge is the new noose

*Pusha is cementing himself as one of the top figures in contemporary hip-hop.*

/ Yeah, we all see it, but cellphones ain't enough proof / So we still lose."

Despite Pusha raising serious points about the police's systematic violence against black americans,



DBD is a prequel to Pusha T's third album, which will be released in April 2016.  
Photo Credit: Pusha T

the subject matter of the rest of the album taints the song with hypocrisy. That discrepancy may be intentional, as the title and positioning of tracks may indicate a larger shift in the opus of Pusha T. Most of the album is composed of dark, brooding gangsta raps, but the politically charged concluding song may be a sign of the dawn of a new, more conscious Pusha T.

As the title suggests, this album is only a taste of what is to come from Pusha T, as his full-length LP *King Push* is set to drop in April. With an album of this quality

serving as only a warm-up for the full act, Pusha is cementing himself as one of the top figures in contemporary hip-hop. Though many of the acts he rose to prominence with are falling into mediocrity trying to catch up to the new wave of rappers, Pusha is transcending his early 2000's peers through the continuance of quality hip-hop. Pusha himself puts it best: "King Push is synonymous with kingpin / Chess moves on your checkerboard, king him." Recently crowned head of GOOD Music, Pusha T is demanding the crown of the rap game and making music that deserves it.

# The Big Short: The Scariest Movie of the Year

By  
Rosa Munson-Blatt  
*Register Forum Contributor*

*The Big Short*, based on Michael Lewis' best-selling book by the same name, chronicles the build up to the immensely destructive global economic crash of 2008.

The film focuses on a variety of investors who were able to capitalize on

the mortgage market. Although the investors are no angels, they are not the central villains of this complicated story. That role is filled by big banks, regulators, politicians, and academics who engaged in a fraud so extreme that the housing and credit bubble they created caused a near depression. This resulted in many people losing their homes, jobs and overall self-determination.

The investors were portrayed by well-known actors Ryan Gosling, Brad Pitt, Steve Carrell and Christian Bale. All performances are given with the high vitality and drive a film of this caliber requires. However, there is a noticeable lack of female representation, the only actress with lines is the wife to one of the main characters, and even her role is minor.

Led by Adam McKay,

director of well-known comedies such as *Anchorman* and *Stepbrothers*, *The Big Short* masterfully entwines comedy with the bleak reality of the economy's total corruption. While the film is a shoo in for many Oscar nominations, one of the strongest features of the film is the cinematography and editing that moves the film at such a quick pace the intensity of the plot is palatable.

as mortgage and credit.

Perhaps the most important takeaway, though, is the way the film shows how easy it is for this corruption and subsequent economic distress to occur again. The 1%, the people behind the banks and financial firms, as the film shows, line their pockets by exploiting the working class and the impoverished.

In 2012 people attempted to take action against them in the Occupy Wall Street movement. However, due to poor organization the campaign ended in a short span. While this was an important start, it is imperative to rise again against Wall Street, but also the government, the politicians, and companies that are completely complacent and participatory in an impending economic depression.

The film is shot in a documentary style. Several characters speak directly to the camera and famous celebrities appear at interludes throughout the film to explain the complex financial concepts. However the film falls short of successfully communicating many of the financial practices, as much remains unintelligible. This leads to one of the many important conclusions from the movie: that there needs to be a push for economic literacy, both in school and among adults. Many of the movies characters and its viewers lacked a basic understanding of finance, such

For these reasons I also highly recommend the documentary *Inside Job* for its clearly detailed exposé of the corruption of big banks, narrated by Cambridge's own Matt Damon!



The Big Short has been nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture.  
Photo Credit: Paramount Pictures



# Amid Islamophobic Climate, Muslim Americans Fight Prejudice

By  
Adrienne Ashe  
*Register Forum Editor*

Due to a recent uptick in public figures, namely presidential candidate Donald Trump, mainstreaming Islamophobic sentiments, the perception of Muslim Americans has become a national conversation.

According to a Gallup study published in 2015, 75% of nonreligious Americans acknowledge that Muslims living in America are not sympathetic towards terrorist groups such as al Qaeda, yet 43% of Americans admit to harboring prejudice towards Muslims. This raises the questions: where is prejudice against Muslims coming from, and why does it remain prevalent in our society?

Many point to the recent attacks in San Bernardino, California and Paris, France. In December the *New York Times* reported the rate of hate crimes against Muslim Americans tripled in the month following the attacks. Some argue that individuals are responsible for acts of terror and the Muslim community as a whole should not be



Mona Haydar stood with her husband, Sebastian Robins, outside of the Cambridge Public Library.

Photo Credit: Mona Haydar

blamed. But days after the attack in Paris *CNN* anchor John Vause asked, “what is the responsibility...within the Muslim community to identify what is happening within their own ranks when it comes to people who are obviously training and preparing to carry out mass murder?”

Dr. John Robbins, the director of the Massachusetts chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, disagrees with Vause and bluntly stated that “the Muslim community is not to blame for this.” CAIR has worked for over twenty

years to provide social and political assistance to Muslim American individuals and communities. In the aftermath of acts of terrorism, CAIR is one of the first voices to unequivocally condemn violence. Robbins also notices people can “make the mistake of associating Muslims with terrorism,” even though the Center for Research on Globalization reports that between 1980 and 2005 more than 90% of terrorist attacks were committed by non-Muslims.

Mona Haydar, a poet and activist, has come up

with a creative way of breaking down the stereotype that Islam fosters extremist violence. On January 2 of this year, Haydar set up a booth outside of the Cambridge Public Library and continued a project titled “Ask a Muslim.” In the cold weather she offered free donuts, coffee, and the opportunity to have a conversation. While some casually talked about the Patriots, others talked about a growing presence of Islamophobia throughout the US.

She told Al Jazeera America, “The idea that we have to speak out against

[the San Bernardino and Paris attacks], it’s hard for us because we’re hurting with everybody else.”

The Islamic Society of Boston, a mosque located in Cambridge, has been described as threatening by some and a cultural safe haven by others. Since its founding in 1981, it has been a center of Islamic education and has hosted religious services and prayers.

CRLS junior Bouchra Benghomari fondly describes “go[ing] there on Friday nights... and we would pray and afterwards there would be a lecture about how to respect your parents.” She is confused that when searching for the ISB online, she finds news articles with inflammatory titles accusing it of being “propaganda for extremism.” For example, just last year, *Fox News* reported the mosque to be one of the “most radical mosques in the United States.”

Like many others Benghomari states “I’m very lucky to be living in Cambridge because [it] is so tolerant,” while remaining in tune to the nationwide conversations regarding the perception of Muslim Americans.

## MBTA Prepares For Snow

### Many Pessimistic After Last Year’s Failures

By  
Miles Taylor  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Anyone who had to use the MBTA last winter would know that the situation was dire. As Boston received its highest snowfalls in history, the 119-year-old transit system was pushed to its absolute limits. Shuttle buses were run. All of the above ground portions of the trains had to be closed. The entire system shut down a few times.

Commuters everywhere struggled with the haggard system, such as sophomore Kenya Wade, who said that “the MBTA was super difficult last winter.” But this year, says the MBTA, things will be different. An almost \$85 million Winter Resiliency Program was unveiled in June, and it promises to better prepare the system for heavy snowfall. Money has been spent on replacing third rails along the Red and Orange Lines, repairing maintenance facilities, and purchasing new snowplow equipment.

“We’re preparing for a winter just like last one,” says MBTA

Interim General Manager Frank DePaula, “and our team is being trained for that.” One of the main reasons for the MBTA’s problems last year was simply the unpredictability of the snowfall.

No one was expecting to receive so much snow in such a short amount of time, and the system was not prepared for the highest snowfall in Boston’s history. If the new provisions are set to handle an amount of snow like what the city received last year, it should be smooth sailing through the winter.

But there has already been a problem. On the first cold day of this winter, the MBTA experienced delays across the board due to what a post from the MBTA Twitter account referred to as “rail issues.” A Commuter Rail train even derailed due to these “issues.”

According to MBTA spokesperson Jason Johnson, these problems were caused by the sudden shift in temperature.

“The exact cause remains under investigation, but it is believed to be related to the extreme drop in temperatures from fairly mild to bit-



The MBTA suffered multiple delays and shutdowns during the 2014-15 winter.

Photo Credit: Miles on the MBTA

terly cold. Such a drop can be very stressful on a running rail,” he said.

He defended the Winter Resiliency Program, though, saying that “while there were isolated incidents involving broken rail, there were no problems with switches or heaters, a credit to the months of Winter Resiliency Program work preparing for the winter season.”

Others, however, are doubtful. Joseph Larkin-Avin, a sophomore, blames the MBTA’s old infrastructure for its troubles, and says that “the Winter Resiliency Program will help slightly, but it won’t solve the problem.”

As the Boston area has not yet received any heavy snowfall, it remains to be seen whether or not the Program is doing its job. But at the very least, the Red Line runs underground through Cambridge, so it should hopefully continue to run no matter how much snow falls. Still, heavy delays on other parts of the line could impact Cambridge, too, and buses are completely unpredictable.

Cambridge is at the mercy of Mother Nature, and all its citizens can do is hope that she takes it easy this year, for the sake of the entire Boston area.



# The World’s Deadliest Infectious Disease

## TB Infection Rates Around the World Continue to Grow

By  
Will Telingator  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Over the past few years, tuberculosis has steadily been on the rise, and due to improper medical care and the development of drug-resistant strains, death totals for TB are now at an all-time high.

According to Medscape Medical News, around 1.5 million people succumbed to the disease in 2014, and it ranks alongside HIV/AIDS as the leading cause of infectious disease deaths worldwide.

This news comes as a surprise to many students, who are unaware of the havoc that TB is wreaking around the world. Junior Serena Bilal exclaims, “That’s really surprising only because you don’t hear about tuberculosis as much as AIDS and HIV. You would think it would get a lot more media coverage considering [its] severity.”

What has caused the sudden spike in tuberculosis-related deaths around the world? Junior Toru

*“You would think [TB] would get a lot more media coverage considering [its] severity.”*

Goto believes that it is because “there are specific places in the world where people are unaware of what they have and they may not have access to medication or money for those medications.”

This theory may not be too far from the truth. According to research done by the World Health Organization, the weakening of health-

care systems around the world, particularly in eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa, has allowed highly transmissible, drug-resistant strains to emerge and spread.

Due to improper medical practices in some countries, some patients do not always finish their treatment, or they take the wrong drugs, failing to kill all of the tuberculosis bacteria. The surviving TB bacteria become resistant to these antibiotics, resulting in patients developing an immunity to treatment.

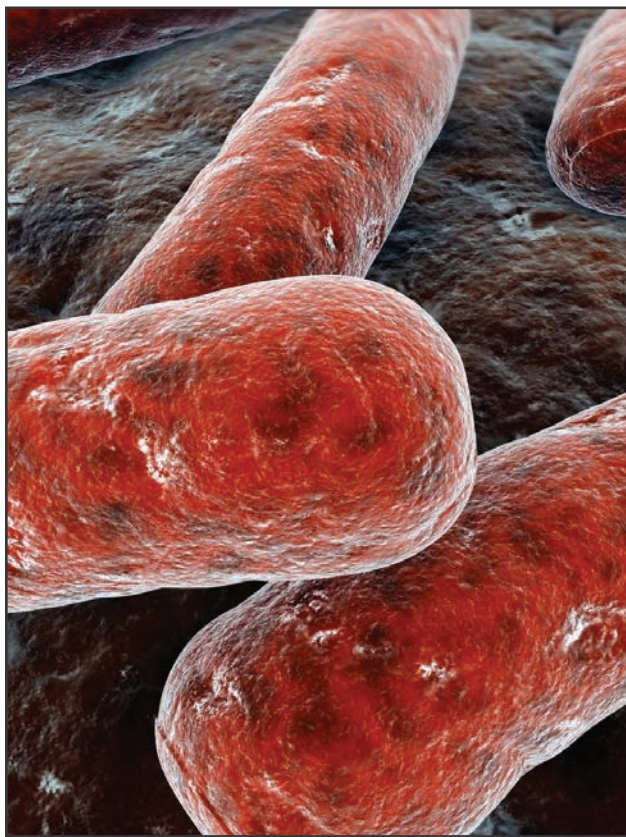
This resistance has taken shape in a couple of different forms: multi-drug-resistant (MDR-TB), and extensively-drug-resistant (XDR-TB).

Specifically, people who have already been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS are much more vulnerable to contracting tuberculosis. HIV greatly compromises a person’s immune system, in many cases rendering them completely defenseless against TB.

In fact, according to research done by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “latent TB infection is 20-30 times more likely to become active in people who have HIV.”

Many people argue that while improved worldwide medical care might not necessarily defeat tuberculosis right away, it would still help out tremendously.

Sophomore Rory Fitzpatrick acknowledges, “I think it would still be a problem, but having access to better health care could make



The U.S. spent \$279 on Tuberculosis research in 2014.  
Photo Credit: PBS

a significant difference in the number of people who die each year from TB.”

Currently, researchers are seeking funding to continue to fight against the spread of TB. In fact, the U.S. spent \$279 million on tuberculosis research and prevention in 2014, and doctors hope to continue to raise awareness about the severity of this disease.

Some students, like junior Maisha Lakri, want to do more to inform the public about TB. She notes, “I am horrified that the dangers of TB are not being publicized. I think people should be more aware of everybody that is affected by this disease.”

# The Strikingly Efficient Cuban Health Care System

By  
Donald LaBraico  
*Register Forum Contributor*

As America’s diplomatic relations with Cuba took an unexpected turn towards normalization last year, Americans will now be able to visit the island nation.

However, going on a trip to the communist island will bring its uncertainties. CRLS senior Owen Gallant says that he is unsure about visiting the country, remarking, “Maybe someday, but not anytime soon.”

Cuba has been under embargo from the United States for half a century, and the country is very poor. While sightseeing trips may seem to present risks to travelers, one thing is for sure: they won’t have trouble finding a doctor.

As an isolated, economically strapped nation, Cuba’s government needed to wisely manage its resources and set priorities for spending. As a result, Cuba devotes most of its resources to health care and education.

Cuba has one of the highest literacy rates of any country, but it’s their health care model that is blowing other countries, including America, away.

Cuba has done a lot for medical research. It is home to a top flight medical school: the Latin American

School of Medicine (ELAM). This school graduates thousands of students from all over the world.

The school is a pioneer for research and development, and the principles of preventive medicine. It has received high praise from many world leaders, including the Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-moon, who called it “the world’s most advanced medical school.”

Many CRLS students were unaware of the work that Cuba is doing to educate more doctors and aid other developing countries who do not have as many doctors.

When senior Oliver Tiu was asked to guess Cuba’s average life expectancy, he said 60. However, the average life expectancy in Cuba is 79 years, the same as in the U.S. When informed of that, Tiu exclaimed, “That’s crazy!”

Operation Miracle is a program that was started by Fidel Cas-

*“Cuba devotes most of its resources to health care and education.”*

tro and Hugo Chavez in 2004. In this program, Cuban doctors travel to poorer countries throughout the Americas to remove cataracts and correct other eye diseases. Over the last ten years, it is reported that 3.5 million patients have been operated



Operation Miracle has reached more than 3.5 million patients throughout the Americas.  
Photo Credit: 14ymedio

on, free of charge.

“This sounds like the type of program the U.S. should be running, not Cuba,” says sophomore Kayla Zion.

On top of Operation Miracle, Cuba also has many doctors in Africa to vaccinate children in the areas where malaria is most prevalent.

Cuba also has one of the lowest infant mortality rate of any country. The country only has 4.2 infant deaths for every thousand births, a rate that is better than that of the United States and is one of the best in the world.

Senior Marco Marengo had heard enough at this point. “Whatever they are doing, we need to do

it too,” he declares.

Unfortunately, it would take a dramatic change for these principles to come to America. Cuba is a Communist nation with a one party government. There isn’t as much of a debate about where their money gets spent because there’s not much money to spend, and not many leaders arguing about where it should go.

On the other hand in the U.S. there are lots of leaders trying to make these decisions, which means there are many differences in opinion. With all of that in mind, sophomore Janet Ho just wants the free healthcare. “Just model after their health care system, and keep everything else the same!” he says.



# Is the Radio Still Relevant Today?

## How Listening to Music Has Changed over Time

By  
Truman Greene  
*Register Forum Contributor*

When car radios were first implemented in 1930 in the form of the Motorola model 5T71, they were an immediate hit and soon became a widespread staple among cars across the country.

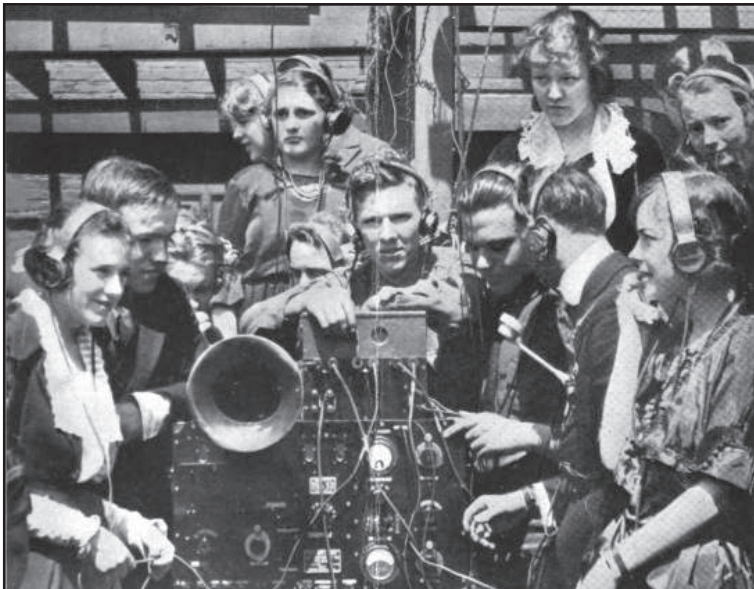
In 2016, the radio is still a driving force in terms of news and talk radio, but when it comes to music, the infamous “aux,” or auxiliary cord, along with USB input, are slowly becoming the new standard. In a recently conducted *Register Forum* survey completed by 50 people, 59% said they preferred using the aux cord over listening to the radio.

When prompted to rate how likely they were to turn on the radio in the car on a scale of one (never) to five (always), 31% selected two, suggesting many teens rarely turn to the radio as their source of music.

Seniors Ross Baker and Emily Olick acknowledged they occasionally turn on the radio, but Olick noted that “being in control” of what she listens to was a major factor in her preference of the aux cord. Baker added: “You ever hear

Young Dolph on the radio? Nope, only on the aux.”

Interestingly enough, in terms of a wider demographic, the radio has stayed a somewhat relevant source of music. According to a study performed by Edison Research, the percent of people who listen to online radio through their phone in the car has risen from a



The invention of the radio had a drastic effect on American society.  
Photo Credit: WikiMedia

meager 5% in 2010 to 35% in 2015. Although technically it is being played through the aux cord, it is nonetheless still radio in that you are not able to select specific songs.

The percent of Americans who listen to the radio weekly has only dropped from 96% to 91% since 2010, a slight decline bearing in mind the popularity of the USB connection.

“I still listen to it all the time,” says senior Noah Chisholm, citing rapper Drake as a mainstream artist he enjoys hearing on the radio because “Drizzy is an inspiration.”

The *RF* survey also explored whether or not a decline in listeners would decrease the impact top 40 radio stations have in determining what songs go on to become “hits.”

The majority, 52%, believed radio airplay was still the biggest deciding factor of popularity, while 48% thought otherwise.

Those who answered no on this question were also asked what they think determine what songs became popular. 53% of respondents cited “The Internet” (including music blogs, social media, etc.). The next highest factor, word of mouth, got only 34%.

“Soundcloud is definitely gaining popularity,” notes junior Mihir Edulbehran as a reason for the internet’s increasing influence, adding that he often peruses the site during his free time.

Although people seem to prefer choosing their own music, the radio still has a big say in what is deemed “popular,” and thus it seems many Americans are still listening. The aux cord is here to stay, but for the moment, the radio lives on.

# Turkey Downs Russian Plane, Upsets Relations

By  
Noah Beckert  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Above the Turkey-Syria border on November 17th, Turkish anti-aircraft pilots gunned down a Russian fighter jet destabilizing an already shaky relationship between the two countries’ governments.

Russia and Turkey are close economic partners. Tourists from Russia flock in the millions to Turkey, thousands of Turkish companies operate in Russia, and Russia remains Turkey’s largest energy provider.

Although both Turkey and Russia agree that a Turkish F-16 plane is responsible for the downed Russian fighter jet, it is not clear whether Russia was in violation of Turkish air space. Russian president Vladimir Putin called the action an “act of war.”

The Russian defence ministry insisted that the aircraft remained within Syria’s borders throughout its mission, did not violate Turkish airspace, and received no warnings. Russia imposed harsh sanctions on Turkey on November 28th as a direct response to the incident. The



Relations between Erdoğan and Putin have chilled considerably.  
Photo Credit: Associated Press

decree banned the imports and exports of many Russian resources to Turkey; Russia is Turkey’s second largest trade partner.

CRLS sophomore Pascal Beckert commented, “Russia and Turkey need to sit down and figure out exactly what happened. It would not be good for either country if relations were destroyed by this one incident.”

Senior Isabela Trumble responded, “Since Russia has already

lost international credibility for the annexation of Crimea, would this not only further anger world leaders?”

To date Russia has not lifted the sanctions and does not plan to do so until Turkey publicly apologizes for shooting down the Russian jet.

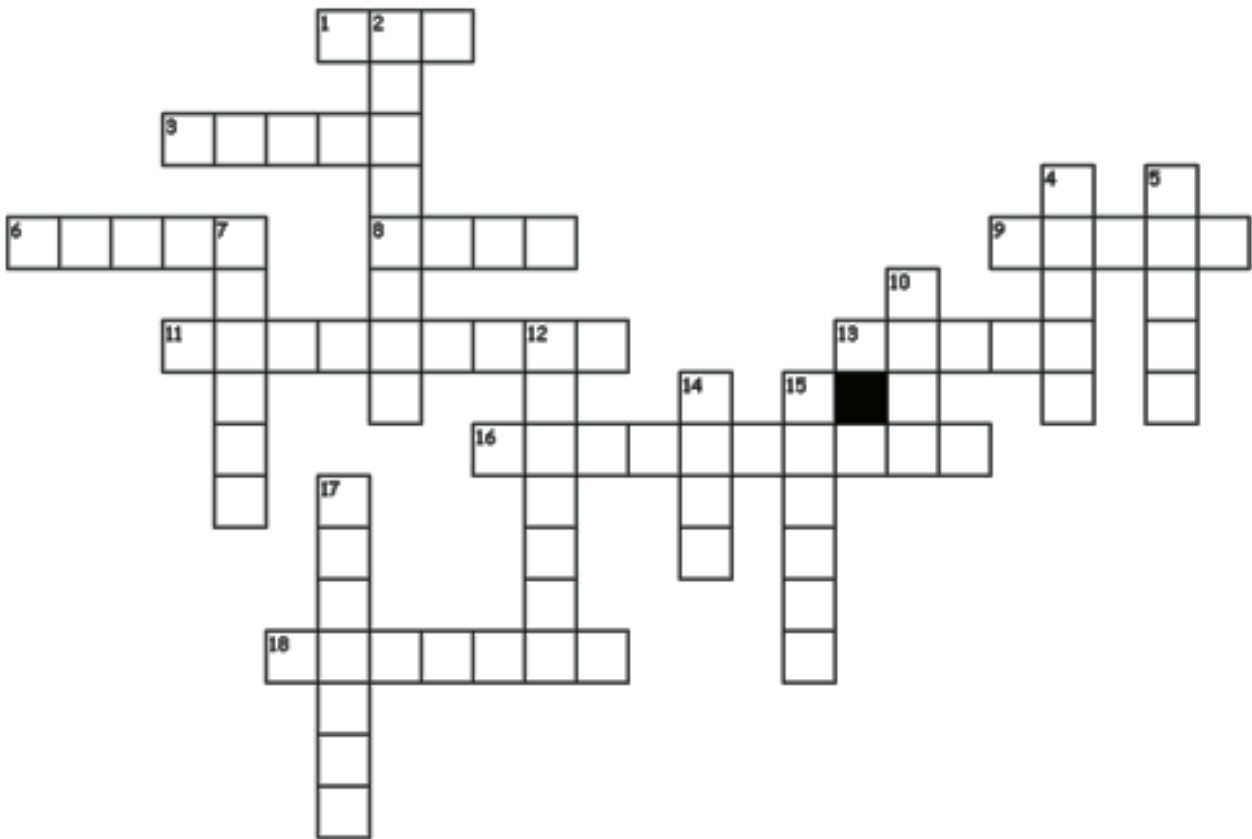
As the situation develops, Turkey may need to consider how badly the Russian sanctions could affect its economy.

## NEWS TIMELINE

By Fredrika Åkerman <i>Register Forum Contributor</i>	
<b>JAN 2</b> <i>Saudi Arabian government announces execution of 47 prisoners, including Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.</i>	<b>JAN 5</b> <i>North Korean government claims to have conducted a successful testing of a hydrogen bomb.</i>
<b>JAN 9</b> <i>The Rollins.cpsd server experiences catastrophic failure, temporarily destroying the data of over 2000 students and teachers.</i>	<b>JAN 10</b> <i>David Bowie, pop culture icon, passes away at age 69. Four days later, actor Alan Rickman also passes away at age 69.</i>
<b>JAN 11</b> <i>Aid convoy arrives at Madaya, Syria, blockaded by government forces for six months, with food for the 42,000 residents.</i>	<b>JAN 13</b> <i>In Taiwan, the Democratic Progressive Party’s leader Tsai Ing-wen wins with 56 percent of the votes cast and becomes the country’s first female president.</i>
<b>JAN 17</b> <i>Obama declares a state of emergency in Flint, Michigan over the lead contamination of the city’s water. The city’s government has been criticized for mishandling the crisis in a city plagued by poverty.</i>	<b>JAN 20</b> <i>Taliban shooters kill over 20 students and teachers at the Bacha Khan University in Pakistan.</i>
<b>JAN 21</b> <i>Astronomers from Caltech present evidence supporting the existence of a Neptune-sized planet somewhere in the outer solar system.</i>	<b>JAN 23</b> <i>Blizzard drops 66 inches (5.5 feet) of snow onto North Carolina’s Mount Mitchell, setting a new record.</i>
<b>JAN 24</b> <i>AFC championship game occurs between Patriots and Broncos. Broncos win, 20-18.</i>	<b>JAN 25</b> <i>The WHO predicts the mosquito-borne Zika virus will spread to all but two countries in the Americas.</i>



Falcon Crossword



Crossword created with Discovery Education Puzzlemaker

Answers on Page 19

ACROSS

1. Jan. 15th and 16th  
3. Big Short narrator  
6. DBD  
8. Skywalker  
9. Floor heroes  
11. 43% of America  
13. Galaxy far, far away  
16. 1:46:67  
18: *Between Shades of Gray*

DOWN

2. Junior goalie  
4. On the MBTA  
5. 18 Grammys  
7. JJ  
10. Any last thoughts?  
12. New swim coach  
14. Last year’s album of the year  
15. 4-16 last season  
17. Eight

Editorial Note: *The following are works of EDITORIAL SATIRE and do not represent the views of the Register Forum*

# NEXT MONTH’S HEADLINES

## Sixteen in ‘16: Things to Look Forward to in the New Year

By  
Stella Sieniewicz  
*Register Forum Contributor*

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (December 16)

7. February break (Week of 2/13-2/21)

8. The regular Starbucks cups are back, and they go way better with Stan Smith’s

9. The multitude of Fashion Week(s)

10. Kanye West’s American Idol Audition

11. “Icing” CRLS Winter Ball, February 5th 2016 a.k.a. an excuse to dress to the 9’s and dance like no one is watching (even though they probably are)

12. The kickstarter campaign for the “Hypnos” sweatshirt with an inflatable hood, so you can comfortably nap on the go without having to carry around a pillow (not yet on sale)

13. Coldplay and Beyoncé will perform during the 2016 Super Bowl (February 7)

14. 2016 Summer Olympics taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (August 5-21); it will be the first Olympics hosted in a South American country

15. Minimum wage in Massachusetts is now \$10 (previously \$9, and set to be raised to \$11 in 2017)

16. *The CRLS Register Forum* will celebrate its 125th year in print this coming September

1. Leonardo DiCaprio could (maybe?) win an Oscar (watch The Academy Awards February 28th. Hosted by Chris Rock!)

2. Martin Shkreli (who raised the cost of an AIDS drug from \$13 to \$750 overnight) has been indicted for fraud and is currently sitting in jail wishing he had listened to his \$2 Million Wu Tang Album while he still had the chance

3. Kanye West’s new album “SWISH”, previously “So Help Me God”, drops February 11th to many students’ delight

4. The iPhone 7 will be released this September

5. As long as you refer to them exclusively as “joggers” you can wear sweatpants to school and still feel like you made an effort

6. (Most-hyped) movies coming out this year: Zoolander 2 and Deadpool (February 12), Batman vs. Superman (featuring CRLS alum Ben Affleck as Batman, March 25), Now You See Me 2 (June 10), Finding Dory (June 17), Suicide Squad (August 5), Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (November 18)

Horse and Buggy Accidents Skyrocket After Cambridge Bans Cars to Combat Climate Change



NFL Warns Peyton Manning on HGH Use After Sudden Transformation into Giant Green Monster



Golden State Warriors Eliminated from Playoffs after Ending Season With Record 36-Game Losing Streak



Trump and Cruz Make Up, Become First Presidential Ticket to Run as Married Couple



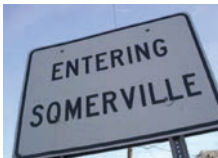
Bo Obama Finishes Second in Iowa Caucus, Reigniting Republican Fears of Third Obama Term



All 2016 Student-Athletes Fail PE Athletics Essay Requirement, Not Allowed to Graduate



Not a Single January Register Forum Found in Trash; Banner Month for Recycling Program



Matt Damon Gives Commencement Speech for Somerville Graduation, Snubs CRLS Seniors

By Rafael Goldstein, Liam Greenwell, Diego Lasarte, and Tomek Maciak



# Girls Indoor Track Team Looks to Grow from Tough Season

By  
Grace Ramsdell  
*Register Forum Contributor*

“I will really miss the supportive and fun dynamic and the sense of community that I have gotten from the CRLS track team throughout my time in high school,” says senior Mia Smith.

Smith, now captain of the distance runners, has been a team member since her freshman year, and compares the team now to its days competing in the Greater Boston League, saying, “I think we’re starting to adjust to being in a much more competitive league,” and adds, “We have a lot of talent this year and many runners that are contributing greatly to [our] wins.”

One of the team’s coaches, Coach Cody, believes that the team is still finding its footing in the DCL, and says that this season there’s a focus “on the girls improving, getting better, and really thinking of next year, two years down the line, as to how we can



Brianna Duncan has Massachusetts’s best performance in three different events this season.  
Photo Credit: Newton Sports Photography

compete with these schools [in the DCL].”

A mix of both dedicated veteran and young runners make up the team, but by working with young runners this season, Coach Cody hopes to build a more competitive future for the team in the DCL.

Brianna Duncan, senior and captain for sprinters, acknowledges the challenges that the team faces at meets. “We are a small team, so when it comes to

winning meets, it can be hard, especially when we [compete against] teams that have at least 50 girls,” Duncan says.

Nonetheless, she continues, “That doesn’t stop us from trying. That’s what makes us Cambridge—we always give our best.”

The team, although small, attracts runners for many different reasons. There are returning runners who, according to Coach Cody, “love to run and want

to keep running and get better, get fit, [and] stay fit.” However, the no-cut team is also open to girls looking to build or maintain fitness between the fall and spring seasons and those who simply want something to do after school.

Coach Cody says his hope is “that the girls join eventually because they really want to be part of a fun, good program that’s going to help them get faster [in a] good environment.”

Sophomore and returning distance runner Ella Brown embodies this goal, saying, “Last year my plan was to hopefully increase my stamina and speed by doing track so I would be ready for the spring season... but this year the reason I did it was much different...I think I somewhat found a love for running and I really want to see how I can progress over the year by doing cross country and track.”

Kenya Wade, a sophomore sprinter who has qualified for the state meet on February 14th with her relay team, adds, “Being on the track team is a commitment just like being on any other team...running [for the team] can be difficult sometimes, but it’s definitely worth it in the end.”

Duncan concludes, “It just makes me so happy to see my teammates progress; I can’t wait to see what we will do at these next meets.” The track team will be competing in the DCL championship meet on January 30th at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston.

# Swim Team Starts Season With a Serious Splash

By  
Honor O’Shaughnessy  
*Register Forum Contributor*

The CRLS swim team has rebounded quite well after losing several talented seniors last year. Despite the loss of several teammates, the team has still managed to set school wide records.

The team is in its first year being coached by newcomer Colleen This tightly knit team practices and has home meets at Rindge’s War Memorial Pool. The pool welcomes viewers to home meets with its long strings of celebratory flags.

In fact, the swim team accepts everyone to the team no matter how skilled they are. “We have a huge range of skill levels and no cuts,” says captain Clare McDermott, a senior at CRLS who first joined a swim team in fifth grade.

The swim team is made of dedicated members who practice Monday through Friday from 3:00-5:00 PM and also Sunday mornings from 8:00-10:00 AM.

Freshman Melissa Liu and Neely McKnee comment that the swim team is hard and challenging but also very positive and reward-

ing. “A goal we’ve had as a team this year is to keep a positive attitude...as a team, I think we’ve done a good job balancing a relaxed and welcoming environment outside the pool, along with working hard and staying focused in practices and meets,” says McDermott.

Personal as well as school wide records have been broken this season. One example is the 200 freestyle, broken by senior Jonah Neugeboren with a time of 1:46:67, a record that had not been beaten since 1989. Neugeboren reflects on breaking the school record, “It was my first race this season so it a great way to start the year for me. We had

a good number of people show up to that meet, so I wanted to start it off as fast as I could and get people excited.”

Sophomore Malcolm Scannell has also had very successful individual times with breaststroke and freestyle.

The CRLS swim team has yet to win a meet this season because they are a part of a very competitive swim league, but plan to make a big splash as the season progresses. Make sure to come support the Falcons swim team at their next home meet on!



Every single CRLS Swim and Dive record has been broken in the past four years.  
Photo Credit: CRLS Swim Team

FALCON CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER	
ACROSS	DOWN
1. MDC	2. Danituk
3. Damon	4. Miles
6. Pusha	5. Sturr
8. Luke	7. Abrams
9. Fifth	10. Nope
11. Prejudice	12. Clearly
13. Force	14. Beck
16. Neugeboren	15. Hockey
18. Sepetys	17. Hateful



# Boys Hockey Ices DCL, Seeks Tournament Berth

By  
Will Telingator  
*Register Forum Contributor*

The CRLS Boys Hockey Team looks like they may have a promising season this year. After finishing last season with a disappointing record of 4-16, they have hit the ground running this year.

They have already compiled seven wins within the first couple of weeks of the season. In fact, the team recently shocked the hockey community by defeating perennial powerhouse Matignon for the first time in school history. Clearly, the team is making a statement: they are ready to compete, and it is time for other teams to consider them as a serious contender in the Dual County League.

Over the past few years, the hockey team has struggled to find its footing. It has been over ten years since they made the playoffs (any team that wins at least ten games automatically qualifies). Even so, things seem to be heading in the right direction this season.

With their victory on January 9, the team has already matched their win total from last season. Junior forward Harry Bayly believes that the key to their success this season is their increased confidence. He points out, “We have a ton of confidence this year which wasn’t there last year. Guys have bought into their roles and are thriving in them. It’s exciting. We’re going to win some games this year...we’re almost there.”

Furthermore, the team’s win against cross-town rival Matignon may prove to be one of the defining moments of their season. Surely, beating a team with a winning tradition such as Matignon must have contributed to their renewed confidence, while also demonstrating that they have what it takes to compete against some of the better teams in the state.

Junior goalie Trevor Daniliuk agrees, saying, “It was a pretty crazy feeling. It was the first time we had beaten Matignon in school history, and we celebrated like we won the champion-



On January 16th, #10 Liam Doran in a faceoff (top); CRLS goalie Trevor Daniliuk stares down Bedford High (bottom).  
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

ship.” However, the hockey team has even bigger goals on their mind for this season. “It would be huge for us to make the tournament this year,” continues Daniliuk. “We’ve been really bad for a bunch of years, and now we have a good team. We want to show that Cambridge hockey is back!”

The team hopes to continue their success in the years to come. They have a relatively young squad (there are only five seniors on Varsity this

year), and although these seniors will be missed, the team is confident that their young players will be able to thrive in bigger roles. Senior captain Zachary Alves notes, “They’ve all been stepping up and filling their roles as an upperclassmen would do.”

Be sure to come out and show your support for the Boys Hockey Team as they continue to fight towards the playoffs! Their next home game is Saturday, January 30th at 5:00.

# CRLS Wrestling Team Embodies Our School Motto

By  
Tre’von Busby White  
*Register Forum Contributor*

The CRLS wrestling team has started off the season impressively. This team has gotten little recognition for the enormities of what they do and go through every day. Normally practice begins with 10-15 horseshoes, then running stairs

for 30 minutes, then sprinting for 15 minutes. Then and only then they go into their daily wrestling drills. Their slogan, “ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE,” shows that they are one of the hardest working teams at CRLS.

The wrestling team embodies the CRLS motto: Opportunity, Diversity, Respect. For starters, they are one of few teams that let persons of any gender wrestle, and the

team is very diverse and seamlessly integrates everyone.

The whole team shows respect. Win or lose, they always have smiles on their faces and shake hands with the other coaches, demonstrating that as a team they have respect for all athletes and coaches. This crew will take any opportunity to be one of the best wrestling teams in the nation. They show that by often qualifying for states.

The team participates in multiple quads each season. A quad consists of three to four hours per day of non-stop wrestling.

Everyone in this school should make coming to wrestling matches this year one of their New Year’s resolutions. Watching the wrestling team is an unparalleled experience for sheer grit, excitement and impressive individual and team behavior.



The wrestling team competed against Westford Academy at home on January 6th.

Photo Credit: Tre’von Busby White