

The
REGISTER FORUM
Established 1891

VOL. 129, No. 10

CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

JUNE 2017



Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington

CRLS Class of 2017 Graduates

Education, Community Celebrated at Ceremony

By
Sophie Harrington
Register Forum Contributor

On Thursday, June 8th, right before 6 PM, over four hundred CRLS seniors mingled in the gym above the Field House. Their robes, garnered with tassels and ribbons, and their caps, personalized by each student, represented the diversity and achievements of the Class of 2017. Regarding her apparel, graduate Mari Gashaw laughed, “I feel like a Christmas tree.”

Down in the Field House, proud family members, teachers, and friends were squished tightly together to watch the graduates promenade down the red carpet and up to the front rows. The CRLS orchestra played “Pomp and Circumstance” as Principal Smith and Vice Principal Tynes led the graduates to their seats.

During the three-hour long

ceremony, there were both student performances, teacher recognitions, and student speeches. The senior chorus sang the national anthem, and graduates Maria Penrice, Albert Lee, and Stephen Kim performed “Zigeunerweisen” by Pablo de Sarasate, which blew the audience away—it is clear that CRLS is losing a lot of talent this year.

Kim commented that what he will miss most about the school is how “CRLS always felt like home,

where you [can] tell stories and people are always there to support you.” people are always there to

support you.” Similar sentiments were shared by various members of the class. Two students were honored during the night, Valedictorian Maya Gunther, and Salutatorian Max Thomsen, as well as staff members Ms. Hylton, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Augustine, and Ms. Nathan, who were recognized for their com-

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Female Athletes Petition Program

By
Grace Ramsdell
Register Forum Editor-in-Chief

On June 1st, a group of female CRLS athletes submitted a petition to Principal Smith and Athletic Director Arria comprised of 22 anonymous quotations illustrating concerns about inequality between boys and girls sports at CRLS. The quotations were examples of responses to an online survey created by senior female athletes which posed the question: “If you believe girls and boys teams at CRLS are treated unequally, please explain why or give an example of this inequality.” Parts of the petition were read aloud by then-Student Representative to the School Committee Mari Gashaw at the Committee’s June 6th meeting.

An introduction and conclusion to the petition, drafted by Grace Toner ‘17 on behalf of a broader group of female athletes, cited “lack of time and space for practice for

girls teams, uniform and funding issues, and poor hiring decisions” as issues that girls teams face, calling into question the school’s adherence to Title IX, a 1972 law that prohibits gender-based discrimination or unequal benefits in educational programs. The petition also named these issues as contradictions to the school’s motto, “Opportunity, Diversity, Respect.” According to Toner, over 40 students and teachers who she saw over the course of one day signed the petition, and “most people signed with little to no hesitation.” Toner has played hockey for CRLS since eighth grade as well as playing other sports while in high school, and she elaborated on the issues she’s seen, calling the girls sports program “a real life example of gender inequality.” Maggie Bayley ‘18, who has also played CRLS hockey since eighth grade and now plays lacrosse as well, commented, “I’m definitely glad that girls at our

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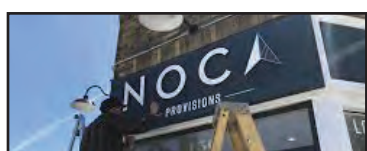
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"Listening to every voice,
printing what you need to hear"

'17- '18 Student Gov Elected

By
Yiyi Chen
Register Forum
Contributor

On June 14th, the *Register Forum* hosted their second annual Student Government Candidate Forum. The goal of the forum was to promote communication between the candidates and the student body before elections. During the forum, each grade heard from the candidates running to be their class representatives, in addition to hearing from all of the student body candidates. The candidates for class representative were asked questions about their interest in Student Government, their plans to communicate with fellow students, and a range of other questions. Since all of the student body candidates except for vice president were running un-

opposed, they were asked about what they plan on achieving next year. The candidates running for vice president were also asked to describe their leadership style.

Elections were held on June 15th and 16th in the main cafeteria. Grace McCartney was elected as

School Committee representatives are Juliette Low Fleury and Paul Sullivan, and Ajani Acloque and Nusrat Lamisa Jahan will be School Council representatives. Jahnavi Zondervan won the VP position, the only contested student body position this year. At the time of this article's publication, the races for sophomore and junior representatives are too close to call.

As Harrington prepares to lead Student Government during the 2017-2018 school year, she says, "I'm super excited to add more before and after school meetings during the year, make more cheaper events, and form a relationship with leaders of clubs who are also pushing forward social movements so that Student Government is held more accountable and accomplish[es] the goals we set for ourselves next year!"



Class of '18 candidates spoke to their class in caf.
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

senior class treasurer, Penelope Schnier will be senior class secretary, Lorra Marseille was elected as senior class vice president, and Leonardo Escobar will be senior class president.

Student body secretary is Anna Baramidze, president is Sophie Harrington,

June 6th School Committee Meeting Review

By
Isabelle Agee-Jacobson
Register Forum Contributor

Girls Athletics Petition for Equal Treatment:

Scant coverage. Not enough players. Low quality uniforms. These were only a few of the arguments that girls in a variety of different sports stated in their letter and petition for sports equality, read by Mari Gashaw to the School Committee.

These girls wanted the Committee to recognize and analyze their concerns, as they believe some situations could be violations of Title IX, an amendment which states that no person can be excluded from

a school-related activity on the basis of sex.

Recognizing Student Representatives Mari Gashaw and Paul Sullivan:

Because this meeting was the last meeting when student representatives Mari Gashaw and Paul Sullivan would be in attendance, the School Committee took the opportunity to commemorate their contributions to the group. All the members were very appreciative of Gashaw and Sullivan and gave them advice for the future. Committee member Patty Nolan has known both of them since they

were very young and said that they had matured into young adults that Cambridge should be proud of. She said that Gashaw and Sullivan both challenged members of the School Committee to think harder and be better people. Committee member Manikka Bowman said that it was "such a joy to work with both of

All the Committee members were very appreciative of Gashaw and Sullivan and gave them advice for the future.

them" and gave some extra advice to Mari: Remember your "black girl magic."

Many of the School Committee members, in addition to echoing how lucky they were to be able to work with Paul and Mari, appreciated the unique perspectives they brought as students. Mr. Harding said that they "gave a lense into the high school." Mayor Simmons, speaking last, said, "[I hope] that the Committee has made you comfortable and allowed you to share your beliefs." She continued by thanking the students for always pointing out who wasn't in the room. Mari Gashaw graduated this year and Paul Sullivan will be a senior next year.

Strategic Planning Initiatives:
The District Planning Team presented five strategic objectives, or goals for improvement, for the next five years, based on feedback they gath-

ered from many community members. They presented initiatives that address many of the concerns of CRLS students, such as enjoying school, learning life skills, and having an appropriate amount of rigor. The team's five strategic objectives are to provide equity and access to all students, ensure engaging learning for students and staff, support the whole child as an individual, expand and strengthen family partnerships and community partnerships, and lastly, im-

prove implementation and progress monitoring. To assess these goals, the team will look at many measures that are applicable to Rindge. They will look at 8th grade math proficiency, Algebra 1 pass rates, Grade 10 ELA proficiency, the proportionality of AP and Honors enrollment, college attainment and perspective, school climate surveys, and how connected to adults students feel.

CORRECTION

IN OUR MAY EDITION, WE MISIDENTIFIED KATHLEEN DONLON AS A RETIRING TEACHER. MS. DONLON IS NOT RETIRING THIS YEAR. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE ERROR AND REAFFIRM OUR INTENT TO BE AS TRUSTWORTHY AND ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE.



Pictured: Student Representatives to the Committee Mari Gashaw and Paul Sullivan.
Photo Credit: Cambridge Day

Sisters on the Runway Struts for a Good Cause

Annual Fashion Show Featured Cultural Wear to Raise Money for Transition House

By
Yiyi Chen
Register Forum
Contributor

On Saturday May 27th, the CRLS’ student-run club, Sisters on the Runway, hosted its sixth annual fashion show. Like in past years, it took place at the MIT Walker Memorial Building. The goal of the show was to raise money for Transition House, an organization that provides support and housing for individuals and families surviving domestic and intimate partner violence. All proceeds from the show went to Transition House, as did all of the fundraising done by the club throughout the year.

Since the beginning of the school year, Sisters on the Runways has met every Tuesday at 7:15 AM. These meetings consisted of discussing issues going on around the world, creating posters to put around the school to raise awareness about domestic violence and healthy relationships, and planning ways to fundraise.

In October, the club used chalk to write statistics about domestic violence outside the school. They also did a number of things to raise money and get donations around school. This included selling wristbands, having waffle sales, setting up booths at football games, and holding a clothing drive.

The show started off

with a few opening acts, including a rap performed by CRLS alum Marquis Tashawn Taylor, a spoken word poem performed by junior Nusrat Lamisa Jahan, and a performance by one of CRLS’ a cappella groups, Sassafrass. It also included a speech by Paul Pavarona, a member of the MIT administration, about the club and domestic violence awareness. In addition to the speech,

he also made a very generous donation of \$5,000 to Transition House. The start of the fashion show followed.

The theme of this year’s show was different cultures from around the world. This meant that models strutted down the runway wearing traditional clothing such as saris and kaftans, as well as clothes from brands like American Apparel. The intent of this was to celebrate and empower the many different cultures from around

around the world that have been victims of domestic violence. Following the posters were models holding up candles to honor the victims.

The show concluded with a heartwarming speech from this year’s president, Rosa-Munson Blatt. During her speech, she announced that she will be handing off her role as president to Kiva McElhiney for the 2017-

“I love the community of Sisters and how devoted all of our members are.”

2018 year. As McElhiney prepares to be the next president of Sisters on the Runway, she says, “My experience with the club has been so amazing. I love the community of Sisters and just how devoted all of our members are.”

With the school year coming to an end, Munson-Blatt and McElhiney both encouraged people to get involved with the club.

Munson-Blatt says, “While our culminating event for Sisters on the

Runway is our benefit fashion show, we work tirelessly all year to raise awareness

the world.

At the end of the fashion show, instead of wearing the traditional clothes from different cultures, the models returned to wearing all black. Everyone felt the mood dramatically shift as models walked out with posters that had the names of different women from

and funds for domestic violence. If you feel passionate about helping to eradicate gender-based violence, join this club as there are a myriad of opportunities to have an impact!”

Kiva adds that the club is “a great, powerful, and special community to be a part of.”



Pictured clockwise from top: Juniors Janet Ho, Jahnvi Zondervan, and Miles Wilson as models; a cappella group Sassafrass as an opening act; senior Arianna Thenor emcees.
Photo Credit: Stella Engel-Werman

Rindge, You’ve Got Mail: CPS Moves to Gmail July 1st

By
Grace Ramsdell
Register Forum Editor-in-Chief

In one small step for current CRLS students and one giant leap for CPS studentkind, the school district will move from FirstClass email to Gmail on July 1st, 2017.

For many students, it’s goodbye and good riddance to FirstClass email, a service which CPSD has used since 1995. In a *Register Forum* survey of 200 current CRLS students, 66.5% responded ‘excited’ when asked how they feel about the district’s transition from FirstClass to Gmail. Comparatively, 27% selected ‘ambivalent,’ and 6.5% chose ‘not excited.’

Responses included descriptions of FirstClass as “an antiquated anachronism of an email service,” “degenerate,” and “stuck in the 90’s.” Quite a few students did not shy away from giving a more profane assessment of the email service. Junior Jakari Robinson kept his criticism short and PG, stating, “I hate FirstClass.”

Respondents were also asked to approximate how often they use their school email account. Responses varied, with 36.5% of participants selecting ‘rarely/never,’ 30.5% choosing ‘once a week,’ 17.5% ‘once a month,’ 12.5% ‘once a day,’ and 3% ‘more than once a day.’

However, 73.5% of participants responded ‘yes’ when asked if they think they will use school email more often once their account is with Gmail instead of FirstClass. Just 22% responded ‘maybe/not

sure’ to this question, and 4.5% said ‘no.’

Freshman Terra Johnson noted, “FirstClass is confusing and most students are already used to the format of Google, and it is much more efficient if you are already signed into your Google Docs and you can just go to the email tab.”

In an interview with the *Register Forum*, CPS Technical Services Manager Kevin Keegan explained that Google Drive was first implemented in the spring of 2011 for tech staff, then for all other staff in the 2011-2012 school year, and for students in the 2012-2013 school year. Since then, CPSD has adopted other Google applications such as Classroom, Sheets, Docs, and Slides, which all fall within the “G-Suite” education platform.

Many praised Gmail, citing its notification and organization capabilities, the Gmail smartphone app, and Gmail’s reliability, familiarity, and aesthetics.

However, throughout the trial and implementation of Google Drive and other Google services that many CPSD community members are now very familiar with, FirstClass persisted as the district’s email client. Keegan explained, “A lot of other school districts have been switched over to Gmail early on, [but] Cambridge is very cautious about student data, so when we implement Gmail, we wanted to make sure that we have the tools in place to secure our data. We are in the process of implementing the last piece of that right now, so the data will be secure on people’s de-

vices.” Keegan described FirstClass as “painful,” but noted that switching email clients is “a very large switch of business practices.” The transition was first announced in January, and in May, Keegan began sending frequent emails to share updates about the transition. “I want to say my email list is about 4,700 accounts—it’s all accounts from kids that are from [Class of] 2023 to 2018...all those students, plus all the staff,” Keegan shared.

CRLS STARs teacher Ms. Lozada weighed in, noting, “It’s important that we find more ways to communicate with each other that are accessible and effective.” Ms. Lozada, who uses school email often to coordinate the freshman mentor program, concluded, “Beyond moving to the new Gmail system,

we need to think and act creatively so we can keep all possible channels of communication open and really tap into what works best for students, parents, staff, and our community.”

In terms of the challenges of the transition to Gmail, Keegan explained that from a technical perspective, the biggest hurdle is fine-tuning everyone’s accounts and making sure no accounts are forgotten. He added that he is most worried about staff who have been in the district for a long time and are very used to FirstClass. “That’s probably the second largest hurdle:

Getting them onto Google G-Suite and having them able to access email on the 1st [of July] or when they get back to work that following week,” Keegan added.

By his estimate, the email account Keegan set up to field questions about the transition has received about 55 questions, and Keegan commented, “A majority of them are all the same—they were early on—[Are] my FirstClass email[s] going to Gmail?” And no, they’re not, we’re just making a clean cut from FirstClass, because migrating over would just be a tremendous amount of work—FirstClass does not play well with others—so it’s a technology nightmare.” Any emails sent after June 30th will be accessible on the user’s Gmail account, which they can log into with their same school email address. Users will still be able to log on to FirstClass to read or export emails received before July 1st, but FirstClass accounts will no longer have the ability to send emails. This read-only FirstClass access will last until December 31st, 2018.

Junior Thinley Shatsang commented of Gmail school email, “It is still another email account I have to access.” However, many respondents to the *Register Forum*’s survey praised Gmail’s qualities, citing its notification and organization capabilities, the Gmail smartphone app, as well as Gmail’s reliability, familiarity, and aesthetics. Keegan noted, “As far as the feedback we’re getting from staff, it’s all been positive. I have not gotten one piece of negative feedback that someone wants to stay on FirstClass.”

Graduation *Continued from page 1*

mitment and excellence in teaching by the Class of 2017.

Perhaps, though, the most touching moment of the night was during the distribution of diplomas, when Ms. Richards announced Davonte “Sweets” Neal’s name where he would have been in line during the ceremony. Neals would have graduated this year, but he died due to cancer. The Field House erupted into cheering and clapping while many shed tears.

To honor their former teammate, members of the boys basketball team wore orange and black leis, the colors the team adopted to represent their motto “Davonte Strong.”

According to one of Neal’s former teammates, Jakigh Dottin, this motto

means “to remember what that 16 year old man had to go through every day. The sacrifices he had to make and the challenges he had to face. All through it he stayed strong, that’s why we stay strong.” Dottin later remarked of the gesture for his late friend, “When they called Sweets’s name, I felt as if he was there. And then when his brothers accepted the diploma on his behalf, it got me very emotional...Just like we walked that stage, he walked that stage too.”

Earlier in the evening, Student Body President Kester Messan-Hilla shared his personal experience living in Cambridge in his speech, recalling how he first moved to the U.S. from Togo with his mother and sister when he was six years old to meet his dad in Roxbury. When he moved, Messan-Hilla did not understand English and also

felt alienated from his classmates because of the way he looked; from a very early age he understood that there were problems with race in the U.S.

Messan-Hilla discussed problems with education, commenting that education has been used for greatness as well as used to oppress minority groups for centuries in the world. He called on his classmates to use their education to change the world, saying, “I believe that we each have a responsibility. We have a responsibility to our families, our classmates, and to ourselves—to not only cherish our education, but most importantly, to use it for good. To use it for change.”

Similarly, Superintendent Kenneth Salim encouraged the graduates to aspire to be teachers. In his speech, Salim praised the teachers he had, and noted that as a



Pictured: Senior Arianna Thenor poses before the ceremony (top), seniors Holden Rheault and Miles Toussaint (bottom).

Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington

first generation American and college graduate, his teachers were the most crucial aspect of his success.

The senior class is going to be missed at CRLS, but it is impossible that their futures won’t be #L17.





Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington

Witnessing the Wonders of MIT's Nuclear Facilities

By
Shuvom Sadhuka
Register Forum Contributor

Freshman physics is an indoctrination (of sorts) for Rindge students. Every spring and fall, CRLS' youngest students file into science classrooms, ready to be captivated by Van de Graaff generators, electrical circuits, and egg drop challenges. But few are able to experience and observe the pursuit of physics outside the confines of Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Mr. Miller's students were fortunate to break that mold with their visit to MIT's facilities on June 14th.

The group of 32 freshmen made their way to MIT's Kavli Institute first, where they heard a lecture from former Space Shuttle astronaut and current aeronautics professor Jeff Hoffman. Dr. Hoffman recounted his experiences training for and executing his five Space Shuttle missions, the most notable of which required him to join a team to fix the Hubble Space Telescope.

His lecture was accompanied by various pictures taken from his

time at NASA, including one of a stack of training manuals piled higher than his 6'2" frame and another of Cape Cod taken from the International Space Station.

"Throughout all my tasks, I tried to keep at least 5% consciousness on how incredible being out in space was," said Hoffman. "But, of course, NASA missions require tremendous concentration, so most of my energy was spent on the problem at hand." Hoffman also detailed some of the engineering solutions and innovations in the design of the spacecraft, such as the use of WD-40 coated silicon tiles to protect the shuttle during re-entry and the process of rebuilding the aluminum frame.

Dr. Hoffman's lecture inspired many of the freshmen, who asked him a plethora of questions afterwards. Owen Doyle was particularly impressed with his presentation, remarking, "I really liked the pictures; they complimented his explanations well."

Afterwards, students split off into groups, with one group visiting a fusion lab and one visiting a



Pictured: Freshmen physics students pose on their trip to MIT.

Photo Credit: Shuvom Sadhuka

fission reactor. The *Register Forum* accompanied the fission group, which visited MIT's nuclear fission reactor—one of only 18 university-sponsored nuclear reactors in the country.

The tour, headed by training specialist Frank Warmsley, weaved through the maze of control rooms and lab spaces for the reactor. Mr. Warmsley also offered his personal critique of the media's portrayal of radiation, demonstrating that uranium painted cups and radium watches were perfectly safe for everyday use.

The students then got a brief glimpse of the room housing the reactor itself before heading down to the control room, where a technician was logging a mind-boggling number of measurements. After a few more explanations and a subsequent radiation safety screening of each person to ensure no student had been exposed during the visit, Mr. Warmsley gave a warm goodbye and the freshmen boarded the bus back to Rindge. "[It was] a very interesting presentation and really cool reactor," summarized Jasper King on the ride back.

LUPITA NYONG'O VISITS CRLS ENGLISH STUDENTS



On June 1st, Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o surprised a group of CRLS students during 4th period in the Fitzgerald Theatre.

Photo Credit: Register Forum

Nest Fest Fun Sends Seniors into Summer with Style

By
Nusrat Lamisa Jahan
Register Forum Contributor

As the seniors shared their last memories of high school, Student Government presented Nest Fest as a fun, relaxing last day for them. Every year, the last day for the seniors consists of cotton candy and popcorn, while freshmen homerooms are encouraged to come and strengthen their relationships with their upperclassmen mentors. This year, many tickets were sold—about \$500 worth.

The day was designed for students to sip on lemonade, bite into fluffy cotton candy, and eat juicy burgers provided by culinary classes. There were also activities: students could run through the obstacle course, chase friends in the Hungry Hungry Hippo, or see teachers get drenched in the dunk tank. Junior Alex Henriquez commented on the dunk tank, saying that he "love[s] to stand there and watch people fall in water. It's a passion."

Ironically, there were not a lot of seniors that came to this senior event—this year's Nest

Fest fell under the Muslim holiday, Ramadan. When senior Hend Elkatta was asked about why she chose not to come, she explained, "I was fasting and didn't think it would be a good idea to go. I'd have zero energy to do much."

Even though many seniors were not there to join the fun, there were plenty of activities for students to enjoy. Student Government brought



On June 2nd, students enjoyed food and activities on the tennis courts during Nest Fest.

Photo Credit: Jae Cesario

a new addition to the entertainment this year that was very much enjoyed by students. It was Hungry Hungry Hippo, a four-player, bungee tug-of-war-style game that involves speed, strength, and agility. Junior Annie-Rose Hallet said it was "very fun."

"I enjoyed it, we should have it again next year," she added.

The day was filled with entertainment for everyone involved. Sophomore Fabbih Hossain concluded, "I thought Nest Fest was a fun way to celebrate for the seniors. It's a great community event, however, I think a couple more activities could be added to make it a better experience." This year's Nest Fest was a success, and it can only improve next year.

Former NBA Player Speaks to Students about Addiction

By
Robert Shapiro
Register Forum Contributor

On May 31st at 7:00 PM, future and current CRLS students as well as their families came to the CRLS auditorium for the opportunity to hear former NBA player Chris Herren speak about addiction. The atmosphere was relaxed as Herren joked around with Principal Smith while people took their seats, but as he took the microphone and the event began, Herren became serious, and so did the audience.

Herren grew up in Fall River, Massachusetts and went to play basketball at Boston College, but his roommate introduced him to cocaine and he got kicked out. As Herren told his story, at one point a student in the audience let out a giggle, and Herren paused to make sure the audience knew he felt drugs were not the least bit funny.

Herren shared that he got a second chance to play college ball at Fresno State for coach Jerry Tarkanian. While he was playing, he relapsed but was able to play well in his senior season.

He was taken by the Denver Nuggets with the 33rd pick in the 2nd round of the 1999 NBA draft, which had a draft class that included such players as Elton Brand and Shawn Marion.

With the help of his teammates, whom he spoke very highly of, Herren stayed clean in his first NBA season and was able to play in forty five games. However, when he went back to his hometown in the offseason, he developed a \$20,000-a-month oxycontin addiction and was traded back home to the Boston Celtics before the next season began. His former oxycontin addiction obviously stirred up emotions in Herren, who paused after mentioning it to the audience and blew into his clenched fist before continuing.

After tearing his rotator cuff, Herren signed with the Italian team Fortitudo Pallacanestro Bologna. In Italy, he developed

a heroin addiction. Herren described the little old Italian man who sold him drugs and helped him shoot up for the first time with such detail that the audience members felt they were watching it happen. His addiction became an even bigger problem when Herren was forced to choose be-



Chris Herren spoke at CRLS on May 31st.

Photo Credit: Robert Shapiro

tween drugs and the team. He chose drugs and quit the team. He played for several teams around the world until 2006, but never made it back to the NBA. When his basketball career ended, he returned to Fall River and became an alcoholic on top of his heroin use.

Herren recalled that he developed a daily routine of meeting his dealer

and shooting up at Dunkin Donuts. He shared how on December 3rd, 2004, under the influence, he crashed and flipped his car. Herren hesitated as the audience gasped, and then continued to talk about how he was hospitalized, and contemplated suicide, but was able to get a room at a rehab center in New York thanks to some help from the wife of former alcoholic, Wooden Award winner, and “Dream Team” member Chris Mullins. Herren left to be with his family when his wife went into labor, but he relapsed and fell back to his old habits. Herren recounted that when he managed to return to rehab later after a night of prayer, Herren vowed to become sober, and he has been for nine years.

Herren was a captivating speaker who told his gripping two-and-a-half hour story with great poise and followed it up with a quick ten-minute ques-

tion and answer session. The audience was moderately sized, and the attendees were very impacted by the experience. Junior Nick Reed remarked, “It’s amazing to hear how someone who was in such a bad position came so far.”

Herren’s talk was organized by CRLS family liaison Ms. Hardina, who said, “We hope to have him back next year, during the day, to speak to students.”

Herren, who now runs the Herren Project, which works to end addiction and assist others in their attempts to become sober, emphasized focusing on health education at an early age to prevent addiction, often stating his motto: “It’s about the first day, not the worst day.”

He pressed the students in the audience to consider why they would ever drink alcohol or do drugs. He left them wondering if and why these substances are a necessary part of hanging out and parties. Of course not everyone who drinks or does drugs will become an addict. But, as Herren points out with himself as an example, there can be serious consequences to substance abuse.

Social-Emotional Learning Program Thrives

By
Isabelle Agee-Jacobson
Register Forum Contributor

When you think of school, you often think of learning about the Civil War, the quadratic formula, or how to analyze Shakespeare. But Alice Cohen, the lead teacher for social-emotional learning in the district, thinks that in addition to this knowledge, the Cambridge Public Schools need to instill skills in students for dealing with their emotions.

Cohen defines social-emotional learning as “something that kids do in the area of acquiring skills to help them have good self control, make good choices, structure their time well, have good mental health, control their impulses, and deal with their feelings.” Cohen says that her job is to provide teachers and educators with the ability to teach these skills to kids. Central to this belief is the idea that teachers need to be aware of their students’ feelings and mold their behavior to best provide for a student’s needs. “The best teachers, the ones you really like the most, are the ones who really pay attention to how kids are feeling,” she explains.

She also wants moments that can be times of negative social-emotional learning to be turned into positive ones. When a teacher is frustrated with a student, the child is inclined to feel ashamed, thinking that there is something wrong with them. But if the teacher, instead of getting frustrated, was able to understand the student’s feelings and work with them in a more personalized way, that moment could become a learning opportunity.

This year, Cohen feels that she has achieved several important things, especially in the realm of helping all students feel comfortable in school settings. She has trained 1,500 people in Cambridge in trauma-sensitive practices to help with situations in which kids are struggling in the classroom because of trauma in their lives. “Trauma is present in a lot of kids’ lives—it could be family discord, or poverty, or just worries,” says Cohen. “When you add up all those stressors, it can be really hard for some students to function.”

Another success of this year

was the immense growth of participants in Cambridge’s mindfulness program. Cohen says that mindfulness is an “outside way of helping kids” to teach them “what it’s like to be really calm and to get back to that state of mind when they’re not feeling it.”

Finally, Cohen says that this year, the district introduced break boxes in all schools. These break boxes have sensory-regulation tools such as big stretchy bands and squishy balls that help students relax and focus without having to leave the room.

Despite these successes, a challenge that Cohen has faced is the common lack of interest in social-emotional learning among those who don’t understand the concept, as well as those who don’t recognize its connection to teaching. She feels that it is vital to recognize its purpose and importance. Cohen has an ambitious vision of what social-emotional learning will look like in the future. In her ideal world, students would be introduced to the language of emotion from a young age and its prac-

tices would be continued consistently throughout the child’s school career. She hopes for the usage of many different tools in classrooms, as well as greater opportunities for discussion about personal struggles. For Cohen, student-teacher relationships are key. Currently, only 70% of students at CRLS feel like there is an adult at the school they could talk to. Cohen wants to get that number up to 100%. To do that, she says that “adults have to demonstrate an attuned openness to students.” She says that adults really have to reach out to students repeatedly in order to form relationships with them, especially because older kids tend to avoid talking to adults. “Knowing that if you were really jammed up, there was somebody you could reach out to is really important,” Cohen explains.

According to Cohen, Cambridge is at the right stage to be doing work in social-emotional learning. “I really like CPS a lot; I like its diversity. I feel like I’m in the right place to do the work that I want to do,” says Cohen. “We’re on the brink of something important; we’re poised for something big and it’s going to be really exciting to watch it happen.”

“We’re poised for something big and it’s going to be really exciting to watch happen.”

When it Comes to Health, Partisanship Should Not Play a Defining Role

By
Juliana Vandermark
Register Forum Contributor

Partisan politics have always been a key issue protruding into major political decisions. From large elections to smaller bills, the two major political parties of our country often seem to make decisions through a nearsighted lense. While working to further the interests of a group you identify with and believe in is no doubt beneficial, when a country is too divided, it can lead to irrational decisions on important choices—even on seemingly universal issues.

Recently, Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren from Massachusetts has teamed up in a bipartisan union with Republican Senator Charles Grassley from Iowa to push the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. The bill seeks to make hearing assistants that could greatly help people with mild to moderate hearing loss accessible over the counter. If this bill were passed, it could give more

people the opportunity to hear better, thus giving them a better chance to be heard. Often people without the money for a doctor or hearing aids are left in a predicament where their hearing loss makes their lives more difficult or stressful, and the cost can be overwhelming. These unfair barriers result in the person affected having to settle with hearing muffled sounds while feeling ignored by society.

This bill introduces a far cheaper option, and in the long run that could really help people. “I hear from Iowans about the high cost of hearing aids, and I understand the concern,” Senator Chuck Grassley said. “If you can buy non-prescription reading glasses over the counter, it makes sense that you should be able to buy basic, safe hearing aids, too. The goal is that by making more products more easily available to consumers, competition will increase and lead to lower costs. More consumer choice and convenience are what we want to accomplish with this legislation. This won’t affect those who need pro-

fessional expertise to be fitted for hearing aids or have hearing aids implanted. The over-the-counter option is for those who would benefit from a simpler device.”

This bill would not only skip the long preliminary doctor bill for most, but it would make the hearing aids themselves less costly. It is supported by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). According to estimates, only about 15 to 30 percent of people who need hearing aids actually get them, and it’s expected that this bill could not only lower prices and give more people access, but also encourage innovation when it comes to hearing aids.

Both Republicans and Democrats have come together in support of the proposal, however the bill has gained an unlikely enemy. The NRA (National Rifle Association) has recently come out against this bill. Even though the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 is being backed by politicians of both parties, many speculate that one



Senators Warren and Grassley introduced an act to make hearing aids more accessible.

Photo Credit: Joshua Roberts / Reuters

reason the NRA is opposing the bill could be because of their long standing opponent, Elizabeth Warren’s, sponsorship of it.

In addition to the clear political tension between avid gun owners and Warren, gun owners worry that this bill could make it more difficult to buy personal sound amplifying products (PSAPs) for hunting and they claim this obstacle would be an infringement on their constitutional rights. Grassley has promised that the bill won’t interfere with hunters’ ability to buy PSAPs, however many Second Amendment supporters are still unsure. Larry Pratt, the executive director of Gun Owners of America explained, “We’re

asking Congress to make it clear that the regulation of hearing aids will not apply to those devices used by gun owners.”

In an attempt to compromise and emphasize lack of infringement, the senators proposing the bill plan on re-writing certain clauses to ease gun owners concerns and diminish the growing partisan divide. “This legislation will make a life-changing difference for the millions of Americans with untreated hearing loss who don’t have access to hearing aid technology,” Warren said in a statement. “I’m really happy about the bipartisan coalition we’ve put together on this bill, in both chambers of Congress.”

\$3.75 Is Not an Acceptable Salary for Waiters

By
Sophie Harrington
Register Forum Contributor

Let me set a scene for you: you and a friend go out to dinner on a Friday night to celebrate the end of the week. Once you are seated, your waiter comes around, bringing you drinks, checking in once or twice until you’re ready to order (they probably add a cute joke, too). They take your order, and twenty minutes later they return with your meal. After clearing your dishes and asking if you would like dessert, they finally bring you the check.

In this moment you have two choices: you can either tip your waiter at least 18% of the bill because you appreciated the service, or you can give them a meager gratuity because you did not budget for more. While other options exist, these two seem to be the most frequent. However, there is a different way to approach this situation, my fellow restaurant goer, that is often not contemplated. We should educate ourselves. Do you really know how much a server’s salary is?

As reported by the Executive

Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the minimum wage in Massachusetts is \$11.00, yet the service rate, the amount the restaurant automatically pays the servers before tips, is only \$3.75.

You may wonder how this can possibly be legal. The answer is that the restaurant industry relies on the fact that servers will make up the difference between \$3.75 and \$11.00 in tips. I find this belief ironic, considering that the definition of a tip is “a sum of money given to someone as a reward for their services.” The most important part

People who work at moderately priced restaurants are being cheated out of their pay.

of this definition is as a reward, a reward granted when someone performs more than what is expected for their services.

The problem is that in the U.S., tipping is used as a way to ensure a minimum wage is paid to workers instead of providing a way to receive additional income. That is why it is imperative that we abolish the current tipping practice and begin paying servers a real salary that

allows tips as a bonus.

Tipping originated in England during the seventeenth century and was used by aristocrats in their feudal society. Tipping was a way for the rich to parade their money and give “allowances” to the socially inferior. The practice was brought to the U.S. following the Civil War when wealthy Americans began to travel to and from Europe, but the practice was not met with open arms, according to the *New York Times*.

Citizens protested the notion that customers would be the ones paying employees instead of restaurant owners, and believed this went against democratic ideals. Employers contested these comments, and many employers used tipping

because they resented having to pay many of their African-American employees. The practice of tipping was founded on bigotry and used as a way for upper class people to have leverage over the lives of the lower class, over the marginalized groups of society.

Back in the restaurant, you decide how big of a tip to leave for your waiter, but even if you’re generous and leave 20% gratuity,

your waitress will still only walk away with a minimum wage salary at the end of the week because of the \$3.75 service rate. Tipping is a sign of appreciation, you tip someone who has done an excellent job of serving you; the job of the patron is not to help the employer fill their checks.

We mustn’t forget that this practice does benefit certain waiters and waitresses who work at high end restaurants. Local Boston eateries like Top of the Hub attract diners who are probably a part of the one percent and thus can afford to leave their waiters with hundreds of dollars in cash at the end of the night. Eliminating tipping would send these servers back to making \$11.00 an hour each night, which would displease many.

But waiters at family restaurants are barely making that—and that is the problem. People who work at moderately priced restaurants are being cheated out of their fair pay, and restaurant owners are reaping the benefits from this inequitable system.

We need our tipping practices to match the definition of the word “tip”: it’s a reward, not basic compensation for doing the job.

As U.S. Exits from Paris Accords, Developing Nations Suffer

International Community Relies on American Participation and Grants

By
Antonio Escallón
Register Forum Contributor

In an underdeveloped country that is in the process of industrializing, renewable energy projects are an undiscussed subject. In Colombia, where I grew up, this is mostly because the government's priorities are fixing problems of inequality and ending a fifty year civil war. Thirteen million out of 48 million Colombians live under the poverty line. Supporting the environmental movement may ensure their kids a "better" or a cleaner future, but there are more urgent problems to solve first. Problems like moving up in the social pyramid, in order to ensure their kids a better future.

A way to move out of poverty is by working unhealthy hours in the cattle, fossil fuels, and fishing industries. These jobs were always directly damaging the environment. But nobody cared until very recently, when the impact on air and

water quality, soil structure and erosion, plant composition, wildlife interactions, and biodiversity started to be noticeable.

Even after this, lack of resources made environmental actions impossible in Colombia or in many developing countries like Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe (countries that ended up signing the Paris Agreement). This is why the Paris Agreement includes a \$100 billion annual grant provided by developed nations in order to help developing countries convert to a green economy.

The Paris Agreement moves toward carbon neutrality, a process that aims to measure, reduce and offset

action. It was a leader to those who had just recently started the process of conversion to a green economy, and it fought for providing aid to less developed countries and limiting the rise of the temperature. This is why the withdrawal of the U.S. will not only delay the process of protecting ecosystems, but could also set off a chain reaction of exits from the treaty, as countries like Colombia might think that without the help of this global superpower, success is impossible.

The good news is that China, several European countries, and the UN have made sure that the accord will stay on track, with full implementation. This

is good, but not nearly enough. The world can only be saved if we all decide to take action

(as cheesy as that sounds, it's true).

All of us here in Cambridge can make changes in our lives in order to reduce our carbon footprint. We can demand that our representatives don't follow the president's decision, or, just

The world can only be saved if we all decide to take action.

greenhouse gas emissions sometime after 2050, but before 2100. The main goal is to stop the rising temperature of the world before the world could experience catastrophic climate change.

The U.S. was a pioneer regarding climate change



More than a quarter of Colombians live beneath the poverty line.

Photo Credit: Design Hotels

like Hawaii, enact laws that align with the Paris Agreement.

To be honest, I don't believe the treaty benefits each country equally, which is part of the reason why it's so great. With the help of other nations, environmentalists and politicians, Colombia will finally be able to fight off the illegal mining industry that has eroded 40% of the continental terri-

tory. It may also strengthen the country's wind, solar, and biomass industries that generate up to nine times as many jobs as the coal, oil, and gas industries for every \$1 million GDP contributed. Those jobs will hopefully allow those thirteen million Colombians to move up in the social pyramid, assuring their kids a better future, while also helping the planet.

Our Number One Problem

By
Beminet Desalegn
Register Forum Contributor

Climate change has been a worldwide threat for a while now, yet not everyone acknowledges it.

The Earth warms when greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, trap heat in the atmosphere, and the heat radiating from Earth towards space is blocked. These gases exist naturally, but humans add more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels for energy and clearing forests.

Burning fossil fuels, such as coal, to generate energy has the greatest impact on the atmosphere of any single human activity. Power generation causes emissions of about 23 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year, which amounts to 700 tons every second. Coal is especially harmful to our atmosphere since it releases 70% more carbon dioxide than natural gas for every unit of energy produced.

Deforestation releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which dimin-

ishes certain regions' ability to absorb carbon pollution. Scientists estimate that up to 13% of global carbon emissions come from deforestation, which is greater than emissions from every car, truck and plane on the planet combined.

Earth's oceans are also absorbing extra carbon dioxide, making them more acidic and less hospitable for sea life. As the planet warms, it will warm oceans and melt glaciers, raising the sea level.

Scientific research indicates sea levels worldwide have been rising at a rate of 0.14 inches per year since the early 1990s. This puts most islands at risk of being claimed by the ocean. Rising temperatures are also changing weather and vegetation patterns across the globe, forcing animal species to mi-

One-fourth of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate.

grate to new, cooler areas in order to survive.

Experts predict that one-fourth of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current



Deforestation is the removal of trees in order to use the land for other purposes.

Photo Credit: HuffPost

rate, and scientists predict that a 3.6 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature would wipe out 97% of the world's coral reefs.

Meanwhile, scientists in the United States and other parts of the world have reached an overwhelming consensus that climate change is real and caused primarily by humans.

Respected scientific organizations such as the National Academy of Science, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and World Meteorological Association (WMO) have all identified climate change as an urgent threat caused by humans that must be addressed.

We are not the only ones living on Earth; we share it with millions of species, so we need to take good care of it, as well.

World leaders need to come together and find ways that each country can contribute to reduce the dangers. Small steps, such as the Paris Agreement, can help our planet lower the rate at which the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere is increasing. We need to advance policies and engage with business to reduce CO₂ emissions and help nature adapt to a changing climate.

Although some may choose to ignore the existence of climate change, we cannot deny the evidence which demonstrates that, in fact, climate change is real.

The First Amendment Is Not up for Debate

By
Oscar Berry
Register Forum
Contributor

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

Above is the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The phrase in the middle, ensuring the right of free speech, is the subject of a national crisis.

Throughout the history of this country, there has always been a debate over the totality of this protection and its extension to private areas and institutions. The debate is not in the protection of the right to free speech, but what the very term “free speech” means. Does it include hateful, racist, and sexist rhetoric? Does it secure for American citizens the absolute and unquestionable right to whatever rhetoric they wish?

Last month, the local community faced those questions at the Free Speech March that nearly erupted into violence between supporters of each side on May 13th in Boston.

While these questions have for decades existed in America, they have been unveiled more than ever by the presidency of Donald Trump. These issues concerning free speech are not political in nature, but they have turned largely partisan in recent months. I believe that this is a dangerous trend for such an important topic as free speech to exhibit.

The argument for total and unquestionable freedom of rhetoric has been largely taken up by the political right and supporters of the president. Their opposition, based on defining limits on this freedom on hateful and discriminatory grounds, has been consumed by the political left and opponents of the president.

The growing partisanship and divisiveness surrounding free speech is simply a microcosm of a much

greater catastrophe looming over America, both politically and socially: the death of bipartisan interaction and cooperation.

On every issue from healthcare coverage to immigration to presidential oversight to free speech, our nation is splitting at its seams. As the two sides continue to take increasing-



Pictured above: Rally for free speech in Boston.
Photo Credit: The Goldwater

ly conflicting and opposing stances, we face a crisis that will test the resilience of the American nation, and free speech is at the center of it.

The core strength of our society, as tested today, has been safeguarded for centuries by our Constitution. At the heart of our Constitution is the First Amendment, and with it, our freedom of speech. To

face the challenges ahead, we must rely on this strong moral fiber that ties us together. For an issue as critical to our nation as this one, uncompromising partisanship is risky. We cannot afford to split our nation in two while failing to resolve the issues before us in a cooperative manner.

Each side of this argument believes strongly in their ideals, of that there is no doubt. In my mind, that is not the problem. Ideals are critical to holding up a democracy such as ours, and commitment to them is important.

What I have seen tells a different story, though. Ideals are slowly falling behind to simply opposition. The Free Speech March and the counter protest it generated began as simply two sides expressing their ideals to each other. What it devolved into quickly was two sides saying anything to oppose their counterparts.

People in America have fundamental differences of opinion, and I don't expect that will ever

change. With that in mind, we cannot afford to ignore the opinions of others, even if they hold different ones. We cannot label someone a “fascist” or a “deplorable” simply because they do not see things in the same way that we do. Their argument is no less valid than yours.

In my view America has in large part lost this understanding. We no longer attempt to convince others of our opinions, but resort to screaming “Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!” and walking away. If we are ever to solve the crisis of free speech and the many other issues that confront us, we must abandon this mentality.

At the end of the day, people can have different opinions about the extent of speech that our First Amendment protects. I'm not arguing that one opinion is the right one or one is wrong, but rather that we cannot disregard the opinions of others. Rather, we must confront them, engage them in discourse, and make our own conclusions instead of finding ourselves caught in the dangerous partisan bubble we ourselves have created.

The Hypocrisy in Outrage: Trump vs. Obama *Kathy Griffin Got Fired, But Where Was the Defense for Obama?*

By
Sanji Harrison
Register Forum Contributor

A couple of weeks ago, an image surfaced of an American stand-up comedian and television host, Kathy Griffin, holding a bloody, decapitated head effigy depicting President Donald Trump. The response to the image was so negative that Griffin felt the need to apologize, she was fired from the annual CNN New Year's Eve broadcast that she does with Anderson Cooper, and she was dropped as a marketing spokesperson by Squatty Potty.

People were outraged that a celebrity and public figure could

ed, I think the image was disrespectful, but it's ironic how much of a disapproving reaction there is.

Where were the people ranting on social media when there were pictures and mannequins of President Barack Obama being hung on posts in public? He and his wife were forced to endure name calling, such as people calling them apes, as well as the questioning of Obama's birth certificate and disbelief of his race/ethnicity, among other racist and discriminatory claims.

Where was the outrage when President Barack Obama received obvious and blatant disrespect over his eight years in office? What consequences do the people who disrespected the then-president face? Everyone who

supported Obama's offenders cried freedom of

speech...so where is Kathy's? Why are there such different responses to the treatment of these two presidents?

The hypocrisy is evident when discussing both unfortunate oc-



Before her firing. Griffin hosted a CNN New Year's Eve program with Anderson Cooper.
Photo Credit: New York Daily News

currences, but it's not being questioned. It's 2017, and race still isn't a discussion people are willing to have. Quite frankly, I'm tired of it. The reason people are so upset with Griffin and her dislike for President Donald Trump is because he's white. That's legitimately the entire reason the majority of people are mad.

Yes, they argue that Griffin was disrespectful for doing something like this, which is an argument that I agree with. Don't get me wrong,

you shouldn't wish bad things to happen to someone or think violent thoughts about them.

At the same time, America should not be flagrantly racist in 2017. If you disagree with disrespect towards one person and not another and you can't think of a reason why it's only bad when it happens to one race or person, I'd say that nine times out of ten, it's because it's racist and you don't want to admit it. Side note: The truth sets you free.

Where was the outrage when President Barack Obama received flagrant disrespect?

such a violent and immature way. Most people on social media were infuriated—even First Lady Melania Trump made a statement about considering the mental health of people who do such things. Grant-

Opposing Viewpoints

Defending Golden State

By James Kubicek
Register Forum Contributor

Potentially the largest culprit of the great consolidation of power within the NBA lies in Golden State. Cleveland’s three all stars, however, dominate the Eastern Conference, and their rule is equally apparent. This argument is not that the two teams are equally unbalanced; it is an assertion that Golden State and Cleveland both use similar practices to create their respective teams, but Golden State unjustly receives a worse reputation.

Has the world forgotten about LeBron’s movement between Cleveland and Miami? His initial departure was similar in nature to that of Kevin Durant, who left his home in Oklahoma City to join the Warriors. In his homecoming, LeBron noted that he “wouldn’t return if it wasn’t for Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving.”

After LeBron left Cleveland to form a superteam in Miami, he left Miami to form another superteam in Cleveland. It takes a startling level of ambivalent hypocrisy to label LeBron a king and Durant a villain.

Stephen Curry has seen his

reputation tarnished since Kevin Durant joined his team. His character has been unjustly judged because of good management. CRLS junior Corey Burgman commented of Curry, “He’s exactly what kids these days shouldn’t be looking up to as a role model.” This statement referred to Curry in his 2017 campaign, but referring to Curry’s past seasons, Burgman stated, “He was fun to watch...He was a stud.”

The only notable change in Golden State was the addition of Kevin Durant, which means it is their success that evokes the old saying, “Haters gonna hate.”

The fact is that Golden State is a built dynasty and the greatest team of all time. Aside from Kevin Durant, they drafted all of their superstars. Back in 2009, they gambled Stephen Curry with the seventh pick; in 2011, they stole Klay Thompson, and in the next year, they found one of the best second round draft picks of all time: Draymond Green.

These players were brought together not by greed, but by quality management and risk-taking. The truth is they are the best team of all time, and for that, they are hated.



In the past years, Golden State has drafted many players who are known to be superstars.

Photo Credit: Mike Ehrmann

A Case for the Cavaliers

By Leonardo Escobar
Register Forum Contributor

The Cleveland Cavaliers deserved to win the championship. The Golden State Warriors, and especially Stephen Curry, are ruining professional basketball.

Curry’s abuse of the 3-point shot, and lack of any other skill has not only made Golden State dependent on him, but has also influenced a large number of young athletes who look up to players in the NBA. Not every player can shoot like Stephen Curry, and not every player should. Otherwise, basketball would be made up of minimal strategy and talent.

The Warriors average 122.5 points per 100 possessions while Stephen Curry is on the court, which is a very high number for a player who is not as talented as LeBron. Without Stephen Curry on the court, the Warriors put up 99.4 points per 100 possessions.

Lebron wins, even when he loses. Most commonly, we have seen that the greatest player in the

world more frequently takes the championship, which is exemplified by LeBron James, who has earned his fair share of championship rings.

His morals, which are contrary and superior to the morals of Kevin Durant, are evidence of this greatness. LeBron James is playing for the team which not only drafted him, but is also the team that he promised a ring to thirteen years ago. LeBron

has kept this promise and has even surpassed the expectations with multiple championship titles.

On the other hand, Kevin Durant has shown his false allegiance to the team



Lebron James was first drafted by the Cavaliers in 2003. Photo Credit: The Urban Twist

that drafted him. KD proved his talent with Oklahoma City. Now that he has made it to his ideal powerhouse of players, he is suddenly being called the “best player in the world” by Celtics legend Paul Pierce. This comment was only made because of the addition of the new superstars surrounding him.

Lebron did leave the team that drafted him in order to be with a better team, but Kevin Durant went to a team that had a 73-win season, taking the easy way out.

Harvard Rescinds Applications, Rightfully So
Colleges Need to Begin Observing Students’ Character to Understand Their Potential

By Bmenet Girus
Register Forum Contributor

On June 5th, the *Harvard Crimson* reported that ten high school seniors who were admitted to Harvard this spring had their acceptance rescinded after administrators discovered deeply offensive messages and racist images they posted to a Facebook group chat. Screenshots of some of the im-

ages and messages, posted on *The Tab*, a news website about universities, show the students mocking sexual assault, the Holocaust, minorities, suicide, and child abuse.

Have you ever ques-

tioned your own personal character? Has anybody you know acted like someone they are not? In the college process, a person has to show college admissions their true, individual self. However, when schools evaluate each individual, they have the right to change their minds if they believe a student is not the right fit for the institution.

College admissions need to see thoughtfulness as a key to individual growth and character.

Harvard is one of the most prestigious universities in the country, and to some it may be the best school in the world.

The potential students seem to have believed that they had the right to do what

they wanted by making fun of images that dehumanize those who are different, and that’s a problem.

Ivy League schools are open to qualified students of color, students of varied religious beliefs, and overall, students of many backgrounds, but the high school seniors who posted vulgar images did not respect that. No matter what

race those ten students are, what they did was very wrong, and I am proud that Harvard took action for what could’ve been easily prevented. But schools in the future need to evaluate what it means to be a good person so that incidents like this do not continue to happen.

Kindness towards all is a prime example of how



Harvard College recently rescinded admissions for ten high school seniors.

Photo Credit: Glen Cooper

an individual can gain success, because what you do for others essentially comes back to you. College admissions need to see thoughtfulness as a key to individual growth and character, because thoughtful people

will realize how to better themselves over time.

The reality in the world today is very simple. People make mistakes and at times they don’t know what they are doing is wrong until it is addressed.

Why No One Group Is to Blame for Gentrification

By
Sun-Jung Yum
Register Forum Managing Editor

First, The Body Shop turned into Liquiteria, then Yenching into Clover, Yogurtland into Tom’s Bao Bao, Panera Bread into Tatte Bakery, Pinkberry into Pressed Juicery, and most recently, Crimson Corner moved to make way for &pizza. Ask anyone (seriously, I dare you) and they’ll tell you right off the bat that these transformations are all results of the growing gentrification of Harvard Square. And they’re right. But it’s not just Harvard Square, it’s all of Cambridge. In fact, it’s everywhere, and it’s the sad but inevitable truth.

Harvard Square has maintained a historic character for years, which induces a huge sense of nostalgia and bitterness when it comes to change. What once was home to local family businesses is now home to “fancy” coffee and juice chains. Even the one and only Curious George Store faces the possibility of closure. All we can do is pray that Bartley’s and Boston Tea Stop are here to stay. And that doesn’t mean just crying over the disappearances of every independent business, it means actually continuing to support them in your daily lifestyle.

These changes, however, are inevitable with the rise of today’s “hip” culture, especially in a location that is subject to hundreds of tourists. Places like Liquiteria and Pressed Juicery are businesses that are currently thriving in the consumer world. So, it’s not a surprise that they would look toward Harvard Square for new storefronts. The transformations of Harvard are

nothing but a reflection of the juice and café fads that don’t appear to be ending anytime soon. To make it even more complicated, Harvard Square is a unique location filled with two groups of people who want entirely different things: students and residents who hold the traditional, small-town center close to their hearts, and visitors who want nothing but the trendy, high-end goods. It houses one of the world’s most famous universities, as well as an endlessly busy T-station, creating a steady flow of customers of different backgrounds and desires. As much as we fear that the Square is getting “too touristy,” we

start looking at ourselves and our own habits.

It breaks all of our hearts to say goodbye to favorites such as Yogurtland and Panera Bread, but honestly, we can’t deny that we often like how things change. Deep inside, even if they aren’t within our budget, a lot of us crave a good Sweetgreen salad or a Tatte pastry—the endless lines out the door can tell you that in an instant. Sweetgreen is often packed with more people than I’ve ever seen enter Yogurtland in one day. So, to say that these new developments are unnecessary and misrepresent those in Harvard Square is a bit of an ex-

shouldn’t only be put on the emerging businesses. We, myself included, sit here and complain about such things while our own lifestyles are largely the reason for these changes. And then come factors that aren’t controllable by these companies, or us. Larger businesses can afford these high rents that are now too much for family-run businesses to handle. In many ways, it’s unfair. But, it’s almost expected in today’s rapidly changing society that seems to put aesthetic pleasures over anything else.

With this fear that Cambridge is changing often comes a highly judgmental attitude. In the past few months, I’ve watched students and adults constantly trash these new businesses—on social media, in person, on the news. I’ll be honest, I’ve done it too (I mean, who can help themselves when the Curious George Store is in danger). But sometimes, it’s no longer gentrification that we are targeting. Sometimes, it’s just a new business that started from equally small roots as those that are getting “kicked out.”

Don’t get me wrong, I still strongly believe gentrification isn’t fair and that it is not easy to watch. We shouldn’t be bystanders, and no one’s opinion should be silenced. But the factors that are conveniently blamed aren’t necessarily the things that deserve it. The society that we have created is one that becomes more prone to change. Even though you may not have gotten down on your knees to beg for a new and expensive café down the street, part of our community sure did. So, while this growing issue is definitely worth our full attention, don’t be so quick to blame the easiest target for something so inevitable.



The Curious George Store in Harvard Square has been at risk of closure.
Photo Credit: Register Forum

can’t dismiss the fact that it is one of the biggest tourist destinations in the country—the businesses in it are obviously going to cater to that. And with the skyrocketing rent, it’s not surprising that small businesses are forced out, leaving space for the entry of upscale chains. It sure would be ideal if monetary issues and changing trends didn’t exist, but they just do. We can’t change that, and we can’t blame the businesses for it. Instead, it’s time to

aggregation. I don’t mean to say, at all, that gentrification is entirely good, because it’s not. In fact, I’m very much against it. Watching larger, more upscale companies push smaller ones out of business is painful, especially when you feel powerless to stop the character of your community from changing drastically. It just doesn’t seem right that these hardworking businesses don’t get a fair chance. But the thing is, the blame

My North Cambridge Is Not Your North Cambridge

By
Robel Mahari
Register Forum Contributor

As many of you know, the Cambridge community, North Cambridge (NC) to be exact, has received a new addition to the block. NOCA Provisions, the café that now sits on Rindge Ave, where a black-owned barbershop and salon Just The Way You Like It was not long ago, has caused quite an uproar on Facebook amongst the student body.

Being a black North Cambridge native, I was devastated by the loss of Just The Way You Like It. The barbershop was a hallmark North Cambridge site. There already isn’t much NC offers, and among all other neighborhoods in Cambridge, NC is by far one of the least visited by the CRLS student body. Besides our subpar football games and the Point, there isn’t much else the neighborhood offers. North Cambridge, like the rest of Cambridge, is very socioeconomically diverse. The range in wealth amongst the residents is evident throughout the neighborhood. Places

like Food Town and Just The Way You Like It appealed more to the residents of color than they did to the white residents. Cambridge can be segregated in many aspects. Different ethnic and economic backgrounds living in close quarters with each other doesn’t necessarily equate to integration. Just look at the demographics in our classrooms across HN and CP levels, Angelo’s vs. Darwin’s, or our own main cafeteria compared to the media cafeteria. For the white residents of NC, the barbershop bared no significance as none of them were ever customers there. Their spot was Supercuts up the street on Mass Ave. People of color and white residents experience two different Cambridges. The whole Facebook debate revolved around the “gentrification” of the neighborhood and how the café’s costly menu did not appeal to the neighborhood. The truth is, it does. North Cambridge has a lot of affluent residents, espe-

cially north of the Sherman Street intersection. For many who are already in the neighborhood, this café doesn’t raise the question of affordability. Black NC—I empathize with your sadness at the loss of this hallmark business, but honestly answer me this: When was the last time you spent your dollar at that barbershop? How can a business stay afloat without money coming in the doors? Also, arguably the shop’s best barber left to open her own practice, which played a big role in the downfall of the business. For all you Coast and Port kids posting on Facebook about gentrification in NC, have you ever even been inside the shop? Gentrification by all means is a problem that the city of Cambridge has, but before we brand the opening of NOCA Provisions as such, we need to ask ourselves: As a black member in my community, how good of a job did I do supporting a black business?

Different ethnic and economic backgrounds living in close quarters doesn’t necessarily equate to integration.

Louis C.K. Is Hilarious in *Hilarious*



By
Kiva McElhiney
Register Forum Contributor

In this political, confusing, and draining climate, laughter is so important. Louis C.K.’s stand-up comedy act, *Hilarious*, from 2011 is exactly the kind of humor one needs to utterly laugh out loud and help uplift their spirits.

I stumbled upon this lovely album one day on Spotify. I gave it a listen on my walk to school. A few lines in, I could not keep a straight face—I was laughing hysterically.

Many are aware of Louis C.K.’s humor. We see him as a strong comedian through his writing on well known shows, such as *Late Night with Conan O’Brien* and *Saturday Night Live*, but not many have listened to his stand-up.

Unfortunately, at the time *Hilarious* was released, we were a little young to listen to it. Now, however, I think all of us high schoolers can value C.K.’s comments about life, which are both humorous and compelling.

Some history for those who are not to familiar with Louis C.K.: The comedian grew up in Newton, funny enough. He graduated from Newton South High School, and his first experience with stand up comedy was at age 17 at an open mic in Boston. When he was older, C.K. moved to New York City and began writing for a couple TV shows, which propelled him towards fame. Since then, he has gone on to win many Emmy Awards, mostly for his outstanding writing, and he has been nominated for two Golden Globes. He also won a Grammy for *Hilarious*.

Clearly, C.K. is well known and respected throughout the comedy industry. He performs, but he is also a producer, writer, director, and editor. But what makes his humor so special, especially on this album, *Hilarious*? The strongest feature of this album is its relatability. Now, this claim may sound unoriginal, as many comedians understand that being relatable is funny, but for C.K., it’s different. He goes where other comedians cannot for fear of offense, he states what everyone is thinking, but no one is saying.

He holds nothing back, and he has a stage presence that invigorates the listener. This is what allows Louis C.K. to stand apart. On his album, he realistically depicts the absurd thoughts and ways of everyday Americans. He focuses in on all of our stubbornness and ludicrous behaviour, describing the ways in which America has become a “dumb-downed” and spoiled nation. C.K. does this by talking all about everything from our impatience with technology, to his life post-divorce, to Americans’ lazy childrearing practices.

[Louis C.K.] states what everyone is thinking, but no one is saying.

describing them, he reaches a true level of relatability, as he is honest and greatly articulates his own parenting flaws. By exposing his own faults, C.K. is able to articulate many of the world’s idiosyncrasies.

Louis C.K. is bold, engaging, and authentic, encompassing all the qualities one needs for good stand-up. He does not hold back, making him one of the greats. I truly think that after listening to his album, you will, without a doubt, be laughing out loud. Even if you don’t listen to *Hilarious*, Spotify has a playlist consisting of over 500 hours of stand-up comedy. I encourage everyone to give it a listen so that they have a chance to find their own favorite comedian.

I think the standout acts of the album are those about C.K.’s children. When describing them, he reaches a true level of relatability, as he is honest and greatly articulates his own parenting flaws. By exposing his own faults, C.K. is able to articulate many of the world’s idiosyncrasies.

Improv Cracks Jokes

By
Louisa Monahan
Register Forum Contributor

On Thursday, June 2nd, the Rindge Improv Club performed a show in the black box theater. The show included many improv games that brought laughs from the audience.

Some of the highlights included the games “Movie Pitch Ideas” and “World’s Worst.” Both of these games required the participants to come up with ideas off the top of their heads. In improv, the circumstances can change instantly, but the actors all adapted well to each new situation.

“Movie Pitch Ideas” was led by one of the performers. The audience members would come up with two or three letters, and then the actors had to make up movie titles that began with those letters. After a few ideas, the leader of the game would pick their favorite and ask for a description of the movie by the creator of the name. Then, all of the actors made a “trailer” or “preview” of one scene of the movie. No matter the randomness of the title, the actors always found a way to twist the idea into something funny.

Another highlight of the show was “World’s Worst.” This was a game that all of the performers participated in, and it involved audience participation, like a lot of the show. The actors asked the audience for a profession, and they would come up with a few lines and an action that represented the world’s worst person at that job. After some creative job titles were listed, like plumber or astronaut, the actors asked for any actions that people take in daily life, and they proceeded to completely, and hilariously, butcher those actions as well.

Overall, the improv show was hilarious, and well worth the five dollar ticket cost. The club meets Tuesday mornings at 7 AM if you’d like to join next year.

Cambridge, Turn the Volume Up: Rindge Spring Concerts Rival Mozart

By
Cecilia Barron
Register Forum Managing Editor

On May 19th, guitars were tuned, voices were warmed, and flutes were polished as Rindge musicians prepared for the annual Spring Concert in the Fitzgerald Theatre.

Every year, just before the seniors leave but after the flowers have bloomed, Rindge’s many different music groups put on a jam-packed show. This year, the concert included concert band, percussion ensemble, orchestra, and vocal ensemble.

Concert band instructor and Rindge teacher Mr. Powers described the event with high praise: “It was the best concert that we’ve ever put on. I mean, I’ve been here three years and it was definitely the best.” He credited the success of the concert to the growth of the Rindge music program. The concert band totaled around 45 different instrumentalists this year, but he expects the number to grow as the program increases its recruitment efforts for middle-schoolers.

Josie Weissburg, a member of concert band and Rindge sophomore, joined her first semester of freshman year and plays the flute. Her favorite parts of the show, excluding her own group’s performance, were the drumline and orchestra. Weissberg hopes that in the future there can be “more integration of the groups...maybe an orchestra that has wind instruments in it.”

Josie Kuchta, also a Josie who plays the flute in 10th grade, played in the orchestra this year. Kuchta had performed in smaller groups and individually before she came to Rindge, but she enjoys being in the larger orchestra group, which now consists of about 30 people. “I think it sounds nicer as a group, and then it’s less pressure on me specifically. So it’s a little more comfortable and more fun because you’re playing with more people,” she said.

Orchestra performed some traditional classical songs, like “Night on Bald Mountain,” but also experimented with newer music, like songs from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Similarly, concert band chose some less traditional band songs,



The Spring Concert took place on May 19th at 7 PM in the Fitzgerald Theatre
Photo Credit: Nathan Powers

like a *Muppets* medley.

The Spring Concert wasn’t limited to physical instruments, however. The vocal ensemble also performed. Max Lyman, a junior who’s in the vocal ensemble, has been singing for nine years, and has been involved in Rindge arts for three of those years. As for the future of the Rindge music program, Lyman is hopeful: “Next year, I just want it to keep the same level of quality for all of it’s programs and classes. It’s a great program that

kids really learn to love.”

Mr. Powers believes that the department will only continue to grow, and, hopefully, that the strength of the music department will grow with it. He hopes that the department becomes “just a large ensemble consisting of all types of students, really. All abilities, all different backgrounds. They don’t have to necessarily primarily be musicians, but just a community where people can come together and make quality music.”

Why *Wonder Woman* Deserves Both Praise and Criticisms



By
Cecilia Barron
Register Forum Managing Editor

The new *Wonder Woman* movie has been tangled in controversies since its conception. Everything from Gal Gadot’s strong support for the Israeli Defense Forces to all female screenings of the movie has led to debates about everything except the actual film itself. All the controversies, warranted or not, take away from what *Wonder Woman* actually is: a good movie.

Wonder Woman is the first live action theatrical film starring Wonder Woman, though she has appeared in past DC movies as well as her own TV show in the 70s. The plot begins with Diana Prince (Wonder Woman), played by Gadot, learning to fight on her home island Themyscira, which is inhabited only by women. All women on the island train once reaching adolescence so that they can fend off any intruders, like men from the “real” world. When an American spy, Steve Trevor, washes up on the island while fleeing Germans, he warns all the women, who are weary of Trevor’s entire sex, about “the war to end all wars,” or World War One.

Diana, to the dismay of her mother, feels she must join Steve, played by Chris Pine, to protect any more innocent lives at risk. The duo travel through Europe as they try to prevent Doctor Poison and Erich Ludendorff, two top German officials in the war played by Elena Anaya and Danny Huston, from re-

leasing a poisonous gas that would cause mass destruction and threaten the armistice that was set to be signed between the two combatting sides. But, as expected with any movie in which a woman plays the lead, a romantic relationship blossoms as Diana and Steve free small Belgian towns from German rule.

Relative to all other movies, *Wonder Woman* was solid. Gadot’s portrayal of Diana was fairly monotone throughout the entire film, even when her own life was being threatened by German generals or, literally, the God of War.

However, Gadot played Diana’s naivete and superheroine status superbly. Gadot transitioned Diana from one environment into its polar opposite—from a utopian island full of women to English boardrooms and Belgian trenches occupied by only men—with humility and humor, rather than making Diana’s discomfort or confusion with men painfully obvious. And perhaps Gadot’s most impressive feat was simply how good she was at playing Wonder Woman. She was fearless, strong, and extremely badass.

The fact that Gadot didn’t have any significant female superhero leads to look up to may have helped

her—or hurt her. For one, she got to shape this role for other superheroines to follow. On the other hand, she may have done a really bad job playing the first leading superheroine, for there’s nothing to compare her too. This is a debate that only time, and willingness by Hollywood executives, can solve.

Chris Pine, while he could have been considered a co-star, was fairly unmemorable. He played the “hot, charmingly ignorant man surrounded by beautiful women” archetype unsurprisingly well, and he did seem to be in love with Diana Prince. Apart from those two facts, there isn’t much to say.

Now, for the controversy. *Wonder Woman* is a movie that stars a woman and was directed by a woman, and



Gal Gadot stars in the movie as *Wonder Woman*.
Photo Credit: Warner Bros

Wonder Woman, the fact that women actually produced and enjoyed a good film should be the last.

What is deserving of criticism is how *Wonder Woman* sees women. On the all-female island of Themyscira, the inhabitants are portrayed as loving, cooperative, supportive women who are all united against the threat of corruption

(men). While this is a romantic and hopeful vision of women, it pushes the inherently sexist narrative that, at their core, women are morally superior to men.

That argument was the same one used in the 1800s to justify keeping women in the home to avoid the dangers of work and stress. It’s the argument that men still use today when they ask, “why are women so petty” or “why can’t girls just get along?!” The truth is, women can be evil too. There’s no scientific evidence to prove that if you put a bunch of girls on an island together, they won’t start *Lord of the Fly*-ing each other like a group of boys would.

The only evil woman in the movie is Dr. Poison, which still doesn’t excuse or explain the fact that all the women on Themyscira were painfully kind. Still, what should be most appreciated about *Wonder Woman* is that for a superhero movie, it was excellent. While *Wonder Woman*’s historic nature may be the reason for its box-office success, it could, shockingly, be because it is actually (brace yourselves) a good movie.

It is hard to understand how *Spider Man* has had six movies, just since 2002, and a, quite literally, life threatening Broadway show, before *Wonder Woman* could be made, but we’ll take what we can get. While *Wonder Woman* is an important step in the right direction, Hollywood is far from a level playing field. True equality will only be reached when *Wonder Woman* can be remade four different times, make less money than expected, receive scathing reviews, and still be approved for a fifth rendition.

House of Cards’ New Take on National Issues We Face



By
Oscar Berry
Register Forum Contributor

On May 30th, the fifth season of the infamous Netflix show *House of Cards* was finally released.

The season is centered around the fictional American President Francis Underwood and the aspiring Vice President, his wife, Claire Underwood. Both are cunning, ambitious, and absolutely ruthless in the way they accomplish their individual goals.

For those of you who are not as obsessed with the show as myself and have not already finished watching the latest thirteen epi-

sodes, this will be a mostly spoiler free review.

The new season was highly awaited because it was known that there were going to be many connections between the show and the actions of the President, Donald Trump. Indeed, the season was written back in the early months of 2016, when the victory of Trump seemed like a far off fantasy. Screenwriters commented that when writing the script, they sought to include many parts that would mirror some of Trump’s campaign promises as well as the fears many had about him.

As I went through the season, I often found that I would have just heard about something in the show on the actual news. From executive orders, travel bans, election hacking, congressional investigations, leak-

ings, and senate hearings with the FBI, it seemed at times scarily real.

This season does seem to be just slightly different than the others. The cinematography is more diverse and fast moving than the slow shots that viewers were used to in previous seasons.

Furthermore, there seemed to be, both to myself and other critics, a great deal more of unnecessary suspense. This can be partially attributed to the departure of the show’s creator, Beau Willimon, after the end of season four.

I personally have enjoyed this season tremendously. One characteristic of the show that has been particularly popular are the frequent beyond the fourth

wall interactions that the main character, Frank Underwood, has with the audience.

In the last episode of this season, the main character, President Francis Underwood, ruthless as ever, delivers a passionate monologue to the audience to explain the reason why we watch.

“With all the foolishness and indecision in your lives, why not a man like me?” he declares.

Frank Underwood has remained, through the five season of *House of Cards*, a man of action. Even with his criminal activities, the fictional president is very popular.

A poll conducted last year during the summer found that a candidate Frank

Underwood was far more popular than both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. This show offers an escapist view to the world we live in today with seeming chaos in the government, yet it also offers us a reflection into the fact that the alternative world is not always kind and nice.

Though Underwood is popular in reality, he is viewed as malignant, cruel, and divisive in the alternate world. Perhaps this will allow us a moment to reflect that while our political system might seem broken, would it really be better in the *House of Cards* universe? Would we really be content and happy under president who is competent and determined, yet at the same time power hungry, immoral, vicious, and cruel?

[The season] seemed at times scarily real.

Fidget Spinners: Tool or Distraction?

A New Toy Craze Leaves Everyone Spinning

By
Abbott Gifford
Register Forum Contributor

A new toy craze is sweeping across the country: small, weighted disks with ball bearings in the middle that spin when you flick them. In every classroom at CRLS, you can find someone spinning away, absently flicking their toy while they stare off into space. Eight out of the top ten best selling toys on Amazon are fidget spinners, and 40 out of the top 50 spots are held by fidget toys as a whole.

What started this craze? And, do these mysterious toys really help kids focus?

Unless you live on a deserted island, you’ve probably heard of them by now. While most try to ignore the spinners, they are almost impossible not to

play with. Fidget spinners are touted as a breakthrough for children with ADHD, autism, anxiety, and stress, and manufacturers claim that they improve focus and concentration. However, many teachers think otherwise. At the Shady Hill School, fidget spinners have been banned in all classrooms from Pre-K to fifth grade. Though this fad started no more than two months ago, teachers at Shady Hill quickly became fed up with the incessant noise and the occasional flying spinner.

Mr. Goldman, a freshman English teacher at

I want to spin that.”

Still the question remains, why are these toys so appealing to kids? When asked about why she has a spinner, CRLS junior Maria Enrique said she got it “because it looked fun.” It is clear that the real motivation that kids have to buy these fidget spinners stems from the fact that they are really cool to use. You can spin it both clockwise and counterclockwise, fast and slow, and even spin it on your nose.

Even more exciting is the wide variety of spinners that are on the market.

While the most basic spinners cost around two dollars, there are almost limitless possibilities for the type, color, and shape of spinner that you can buy. Some spinners are even more advanced, containing flashing LED lights and built-in bluetooth speakers. These elaborate toys can

“In a classroom with a bunch of other kids, the negatives really outweigh the positives.”

CRLS, claimed that even he was distracted by spinners, saying, “At any point that I have seen a spinner in action, even as a teacher, my reaction is, ‘I want that, and



Pictured: Junior Elizabeth Ball poses with a fidget spinner.
Photo Credit: Abbott Gifford

cost over \$20.

With the recent advancements in spinner technology, it becomes apparent that there is a large dilemma surrounding the use of spinners in school and whether or not students have the right to use these toys at their discretion. Mr. Melon, a teacher at CRLS, believes that while they are beneficial to some, spinners are more distracting than helpful in a classroom setting. According to Melon, “In a classroom with a bunch of other

kids, the negatives really outweigh the positives.” He has no problem with spinners on principle, saying kids should “be able to use them at home as much as they want,” but they should be put away when students get to school.

Whether you are a student or a teacher, it is undeniable that fidget spinners are fun to use. However, when packing your bag for school in the morning, you might want to consider leaving your spinner at home.

The Hottest Spots in Bean Town This Summer

By
Sun-Jung Yum
Register Forum Managing Editor

Your summer plans might not include tropical vacations or adventurous backpacking trips, but you can still have a blast thanks to everything that Boston offers. And although the answer to everything may seem to be “the beach,” there are countless other events to take advantage of. Instead of slouching on your sofa watching Netflix with a lemonade in hand (as great as that sounds), jump on over to these places to make sure this summer is one to be remembered.

Kick It at a Concert

Sure, you might have missed your opportunity to go to Boston Calling (or maybe you didn’t), but there are still plenty of ways to get your music fix this summer. Multiple artists are holding events throughout the upcoming months, including Kendrick Lamar, Justin Bieber, J. Cole, and The Shins, to name just a few. And who would want to miss the opportunity to see Kidz Bop live? Blue Hills Bank Pavilion, June 23rd, 7:30PM—see you there.

Yoga It Out (for Free!)

I know it’s tempting to hibernate in your air-conditioned house for the entire summer, but sometimes it feels good to get some move-

ment in...or so they say. During the summer, many different companies and instructors hold outdoor yoga sessions in beautiful settings. Plus, they’re (mostly) free! So, when you begin feeling lazy on your couch, march on over to one of these classes, held in areas such as the pool rooftop of the Colonnade Hotel in the Back Bay (sadly, not free), the Esplanade (Wednesdays), the Frog Pond (Thursdays), Assembly Row (Saturdays), and Bunker Hill (Mondays/Wednesdays).

Visit Some Tourist Spots

Even though most of us have lived in Cambridge for years, it’s always great to stop by some tourist locations. I mean, they’re popular for a reason, right? Go up to the top of the Prudential to the Skywalk Observatory to take a look at a 360-degree view of the Boston landscape, 700 ft. up in the air. Or, stop by the New England Aquarium—who could say “no” to going to see some animals? No one, that’s who.

Watch Some Free Flicks

Did you know there are free outdoor movie screenings held three (or more) days a week throughout the summer? If you’re ever planless for the evening, head to one of the many screening locations, such as the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade and the Boston Harbor Hotel on Fridays, as well as the Prudential and Assembly Row on Saturdays. Just a



The SoWa Open Market is held every Saturday and Sunday.
Photo Credit: SoWa Open Market

few of the summer’s featured movies include *Star Wars*, *Annie*, *Casablanca*, and *The Notebook* (make sure to bring some tissues).

Chow Down on Great Food

Boston is known for holding a number of food festivals, especially during the summer. The Boston Fisheries Foundation will be holding a seafood festival on August 13th at the Boston Fish Pier, and don’t worry—there will be plenty of non-seafood goods as well. If you want to spice things up a ‘lil, head over to the South End on June 23rd-24th for the 5th Annual Boston Jerk Fest to try some Caribbean-style food. And if you can’t make those dates, the SoWa Open Market is always a good choice to get your hands on

some local products (food AND art) and is held every Saturday and Sunday off the Red Line in Boston!

“America’s Best Independence Day Celebration”

Although I’m sure this is already on your schedule...make sure you go to Boston’s July 4th celebration, one that is known to be the best across the nation. Events will be held on both the 3rd and the 4th, featuring the classic Boston Pops, but also a number of special guests. The night of the 4th will end with drum rolls, cannonfire, church bells, and, of course, beautiful fireworks that reach up to 1,500 ft. Even if you plan to do nothing else for the summer, make sure to attend this Boston classic on the Esplanade.

U.S. Politics Update: Paris Accords Withdrawal & Comey Testimony

By
Jonah Tauber
Register Forum Contributor

It's been another eventful month in the world of Donald Trump, and two specific events have been particularly important for the future of both the administration and the country.

President Trump announced on June 1st that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate accord, an agreement made to combat rampant climate change. The agreement was put into effect in November of 2016 and was signed by 195 countries. The accord's main goal is to limit global warming to at least two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels over the next 100 years. To meet this

objective, it seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The only countries who declined to sign the agreement before Trump's withdrawal were Nicaragua, which didn't believe the deal went far enough, and Syria. Many dislike the nonbinding nature of the accord and don't believe its goals will be met.

In his speech, the president claimed that the deal was unfair for the United States and said that his move was to protect American sovereignty. He said that he plans to renegotiate the deal, but leaders of nations such as France and Germany refused to renegotiate, as the United States had already signed on previously. Critics of the move are concerned that the United States, the world's second biggest polluter, will jeopardize efforts to fight climate change. Many also fear that America's standing within the international community will be diminished and it will cede its position as a global leader to another country, such as China.

Many cities and states were in opposition to Presi-

dent Trump's decision. Massachusetts, along with several other states and major cities, joined the United States Climate Alliance, a group with the objective of upholding the Paris Agreement in their jurisdictions. A letter reaffirming commitment to the climate accord was signed by 1,219 politicians, universities, and business leaders, including the mayors of Cambridge and Boston.

The withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is in



Former FBI Director James Comey testified on June 8th.
Photo Credit: Newsweek

many ways a symbolic one. Trump's move shows his opposition to globalism and his focus on isolationism. Additionally, the agreement let countries set their own goals for reducing carbon emissions and is not enforced. Thirdly, the United States won't be able to fully withdraw from the deal until November 4th, 2020, the day after the 2020 presidential election.

Another major development relating to the president this month was former FBI Director James Comey's hearing before Congress on June 8th about the investigation into Russia's interference with the 2016 presidential election

The testimony yielded potentially incriminating information about Trump.

as well as the circumstances surrounding his firing by President Trump.

While much of the information was disclosed at a later session closed to the public, the testimony yielded potentially incriminating information about Trump. Comey said that he was certain that Russia tampered

with the election, but left the details on whether the Trump campaign worked with the Russians for the closed session. He also said that the Trump administration lied about his firing. Possibly the most damning accusation Comey gave about the president was that he attempted to stop him from investigating former security adviser Michael Flynn. According to Comey, Trump said to him, "I hope you'll let this go." Many Republicans say that by saying "hope," Trump was just stating his wishes. However, others argue that "hope" was more of an underhanded demand.

The ex-FBI Director expressed confidence in his testimony, proclaiming "Lordy, I hope there are tapes," responding to Trump's threat of releasing "tapes" of his conversations with Comey.

One important point that conservatives at the hearing as well as in the media focused on was Comey's repeated saying that when he was in charge of the FBI, Trump himself was not under investigation. However, saying that this is evidence of the president's innocence is misleading. The president himself isn't under investigation, but Russia's meddling with the 2016 election and therefore Trump's potential involvement in that are being investigated. Comey clarified this point when he said, "One of the members of the [FBI] leadership team had a view that, although it was technically true [that] we did not have a counter-intelligence file case open on then-President-elect Trump...his behavior, his conduct will fall within the scope of that work."

While James Comey's hearing yielded much information about President Trump, we still have yet to hear the full story. We should learn much more in the coming weeks and months as investigations into the election progress.

NEWS TIMELINE

By
Fredrika Åkerman
Register Forum Contributor

MAY 16 <i>Experts affirm that North Korean hackers could be behind recent global ransomware attacks.</i>	MAY 18 <i>The president of the Philippines orders a ban on the use of tobacco in public spaces.</i>
MAY 20 <i>President Rouhani wins presidential re-election in Iran. He hopes to expand personal freedoms.</i>	MAY 21 <i>The North Korean government confirms it has successfully launched a ballistic missile.</i>
MAY 22 <i>A Japanese space team confirms that healthy baby mice have been born from freeze-dried sperm.</i>	MAY 23 <i>A suicide bomber sets off a bomb in Manchester Arena after an Ariana Grande concert, killing 22 and injuring 59.</i>
MAY 24 <i>Taiwan's highest court rules in favor of gay marriage, possibly becoming the first Asian nation to legalize it.</i>	MAY 25 <i>Four Arab countries block the website of the Al Jazeera network following pro-Iran comments.</i>
MAY 26 <i>Armed forces strike Libyan terrorist camps following a gunmen attack in Egypt on a bus carrying Christians.</i>	MAY 28 <i>A gunman shoots multiple people at three locations in Mississippi. Six people are confirmed dead.</i>
MAY 30 <i>A parliamentary proposal to deny convicted pedophiles passports in Australia is announced.</i>	MAY 31 <i>A suicide attacker sets off a bomb in the capital of Afghanistan, killing 90 and injuring 400.</i>
JUNE 1 <i>A gunman fires at a television and sets gambling tables on fire at a hotel in the Phillipines.</i>	JUNE 3 <i>A van hits pedestrians on London Bridge and three men stab people, killing seven and injuring 48.</i>
JUNE 4 <i>A firecracker goes off during a relay of the Champions League final; 1,500 sustain minor injuries.</i>	JUNE 7 <i>Fossils found in Morocco indicate that Homo Sapiens evolved at least 100K years earlier than previously estimated.</i>
JUNE 8 <i>The Scottish Episcopal Church becomes the first major Christian church in the UK to vote for gay marriage.</i>	JUNE 9 <i>A suicide bomber sets off a bomb in Iraq, killing 20. The Islamic State claims responsibility.</i>
JUNE 10 <i>An Afghan commando opens fire on U.S. troops during a joint operation. The Taliban claims responsibility.</i>	



By Megan Kelilher

SUMMER’S HEADLINES

Donald Trump Transitions
Rants from Twitter to
Instagram Live

Beyonce’s Twins Born
Already Singing Better
Than Taylor Swift



Rindge Student Who Swam in
Charles River Now Developing
Third Arm



Macron Trolls Trump by
Leading His Country

Alarming Number of Birken-
stocks Found Washed Ashore
at Walden Pond

Student Wonders What to
Do with \$20,000 Worth of
Fidget Spinners after
Trend Passes



Ambitious Freshman Starts
Practicing Interrupting
Upperclassmen,
“At This Rate, I’ll Be
Ready for September”

By Cecilia Barron and Grace Ramsdell

Opposing Viewpoints, Meaningless Issues

WHAT SHOULD BE THE SONG OF THE SUMMER? “Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir” by Bach

By
Cecilia Barron
Register Forum Managing Editor

If there’s anything Rindge students like, it’s a good German composer from the 18th century. Whether you’re laying on the beach during a heat wave or barbecuing with a few friends, chances are your ears crave the sound of an organ giving its last breath. “Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir” is the summer song you didn’t know you needed. One of Bach’s most famous pieces, the sound of an organ playing will fill your heart with music and your ears with pain. I should warn you, “Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir” is an emotional ballad. The intensity of the organs and the melody of the other organs will make you pause, reflect, maybe cry, and think:

“How did I end up listening to Bach on July 4th?” Obviously, Bach isn’t as young, current, or modern as Jacob Saggitaurus, but that’s where Bach’s vintage appeal kicks in. Bach isn’t trying to impress with meaningless lyrics, or uncomfortable lip bites, or lip syncing videos, he’s true to himself, and trusting in his organ. “Ich Ruf Zu’ Dir” is powerful in its simplicity. It speaks to the listener without gimmicks, because Bach knows that’s enough. And there’s nothing that high schoolers love more than a good throwback, so let’s throw it back about four centuries with “Ich Ruf’ Zu Dir”: Summer 2k17’s Hot-test Hit.

“Sweatshirt” by Jacob Sartorius

By
Sun-Jung Yum
Register Forum Managing Editor

Do you like sweat-shirts? On those chilly August nights? Yeah, I thought so. It’s OK to admit it, I do too. Jacob gets us, and sings about it, too (eight times during the song, to be exact)—what could be better than that? The lyrics of this song are incredibly amazing. I’ve never heard something so relatable! Don’t deny it; we’ve all had those days when we’re “chillin’ with a hair tie,” wanting to tell our friends that Jacob let us wear his sweatshirt (if only!). It’s something any Rindge student can deeply identify with. But, the lyrics are just one of the countless, innumerable things that make “Sweatshirt” special. Let’s just take a moment to ap-

preciate the tone of Jacob’s voice. The everpresent youthful rasp that comes through in each line just has me speechless each time I listen to it. In no time, he’ll be scouted by managers all over the world, and I’ll say I was an original fan. Do you really want to cry tears of sadness during the summer because of some rando composer (who even is Bach)? No, you don’t. Rindge kids don’t want a throwback song from centuries ago, they want a song that is as young as possible. They want a song sung by a young boy, specifically, Jacob Sartorius. Just imagine laying on the beach, being serenaded by Jacob’s voice. *Swoon,* plus, he’s singing about sweatshirts. Say hello to the new JB, Rindge!



CRLS Softball Puts in Hard Work and Perserverance

By
Robert Shapiro
Register Forum Contributor

This spring, as the days got longer and coffee drinks became iced, another exciting season of CRLS softball took place: one filled with challenges, hard work, and solid team play which led to an exciting playoff berth. Unfortunately, the team lost 8-0 to the Methuen Rangers in the first round. Even though they exited early, they proved they were capable of great things and that their future is brighter than ever.

This year’s season had plenty of highlight wins as their high-powered offense and talented pitching helped the Falcons shut out the Waltham Hawks 14-0 and blow out their rivals, the Boston Latin Wolf-pack, 10-2.

Although the team’s record was not quite as good as last year, it was still a very respectable 13-7. After an early staffing change, Rachel White stepped into the role of head coach. White played four years of softball and hockey at New England College from 2008 to 2012. Having such an experienced athlete, and especially one who played the game so recently, was definitely helpful for the team.

The squad was led by senior Eliza McNulty, a Sheila-Cornell-Douty-esque first baseman, and junior Jayla Blackmon, a pitcher with an unreal cannon. The team experienced some losses at the beginning of the season, but they were able re-

gain their mojo with a win against the powerhouse: the Westford Academy Grey Ghosts. The squad’s determination was one of their defining qualities throughout the season. McNulty praised them, saying, “I’m most proud of our team’s perseverance.”

High school sports are interesting in that rosters are never the same for long. Few people will play varsity their sophomore year and even less will play their freshman year. That leaves about two years for a player to have a serious impact. It’s not like in the NBA, where a team can keep a player for years. A constant incoming stream of talent is crucial to the success of a high school sports team.

Luckily, CRLS softball has this. Next year’s squad will include players from the JV team, which, as McNulty puts it, is “looking a lot better.” Even though the loss of the seniors will be felt by players like sophomore Tenya Gardner, who said she would “miss their leadership,” many players will be returning next season to take charge. Softball is a great sport that has the ability to be both relaxing and exciting for its viewers. If you want to support the team next season, you can catch the varsity team at St. Peter’s Field and the JV and freshman players at Danehy Park.

With a great coach, a promising returning cast, and playoff experience, next year’s team has the tools to be major contender in the Dual County League and the entire state of Massachusetts.

Warriors and Cavs Face off

By
Max Davis
Register Forum Contributor

The 2017 NBA finals pitted the Golden State Warriors against the Cleveland Cavaliers for the third year in a row. The Warriors won their first matchup in 2015, while the Cavaliers won the 2016 finals in epic fashion by coming back from being down 3-1.

The 2017 finals were set to be a tough fought match between bitter foes to determine the ultimate tiebreaker. Both teams reached the finals in historic ways. The Cavaliers tied the record for most playoff wins in a row with thirteen, spanning from the 2016 finals to Game Two of the Eastern Conference Championship. Meanwhile, the Warriors, along with their new player, Kevin Durant, entered the finals undefeated and had the largest point differential over their opponents in the history of playoff basketball.

The Warriors this year achieved a decisive victory, crushing the Cavaliers in just five games. This NBA finals could not have been sweeter for the Warriors, who have been waiting for this matchup ever since the last NBA finals.

The Warriors dominated Games One and Two by a total of 42 points. Game Three was in

Cleveland and was won by the Warriors after a heroic eleven-point run to close out the fourth quarter.

Game Four marked Golden State’s first (and only) loss in the entire playoffs. Viewers began to doubt if the Warriors could pull off a final victory this year. Others, however, did not believe the Cavaliers could pull off another impossible comeback. “Don’t expect a comeback from the Cavaliers because of X-factor Kevin Durant,” freshman Abderrezak Alfrid warned.

Game Five took place at the Warrior’s home court, Oracle Arena. The Warriors went on a dominant run in the second quarter and never looked back. They closed up



*Pictured: Golden State celebrates after winning.
Photo Credit: Kyle Terada*

the game and the series after arguably one of the best seasons in NBA history.

This NBA finals marks the fifth title for Golden State, and their second in the last three years. When asked about his thoughts on the Warriors win, junior Casey Rideout said, “Of course they won. They have a superteam.” With a starting lineup of four all-stars, who wouldn’t think so? This year’s NBA finals ring represents possibly one of the greatest superteams ever assembled. Many analysts have predicted that this is the start of an all-time great NBA dynasty. Can and will the Warriors host the Larry O’Brien trophy once again? Only time will tell.

THE REGISTER FORUM



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Phoebe Smith



Photo Credit: Margaux Harrington

By
Juliana Vandermark
Register Forum Contributor

Phoebe Smith is a student in LC R here at CRLS who runs track. Smith is a distance runner who is a determined athlete and a good spirited teammate. Recently, Phoebe raced in the two mile race at the Division I Eastern Massachusetts Championships in Lowell, MA. That race was

against 23 other high school girls, and Phoebe placed 2nd with an impressive time of 11:34. Following that, she raced at the All State Championships in Bridgewater, MA. There she ran against 27 competitors, receiving 11th place overall and second place among the freshmen with a time of 11:33. Only a 9th grader, she works incredibly hard to be her very best, with three more years here to get even better. In fact, she is among few freshmen to even qualify for the state championships because of her impressive speed. In order to qualify for the state championships, she had to prove her skills and endurance throughout multiple dual county meets in which she performed well.

Her coach, Scott Cody said, “She is a very hard worker and a great teammate,” and her teammates agree. Freshman Hersh Kanner agreed when fellow freshman track athlete Vincent Chen stated, “Phoebe is an extraordinary runner

who works extremely hard to break boundaries, defy expectations, and clear every hurdle in her way. She always goes the extra mile and demonstrates grit, determination, and effort in many things on and off the track.”

Smith is a very diligent competitor as well. Antonio Escallón, a sophomore, shared, “She is an amazing athlete. Always smart when running, she’s never intimidated by the competition, and when a race doesn’t go her way, she just shrugs it off, which I admire, and moves on with a positive attitude.”

Phoebe has participated in some form of running each season this year. In the fall she played on the junior varsity girls soccer team, and for both the winter and spring seasons, she ran with the CRLS track team. Phoebe gives everything her all; as freshman Margaux Harrington said, “Phoebe always puts in 100% in practice and in her races.”

“She always goes the extra mile and demonstrates grit, determination, and effort on and off the track.”



SPRING SPORTS REVIEW



by Freddie Gould

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The boys volleyball team finished another strong year, finishing with a 10-10 regular season record. Led by some skilled senior leadership from Bukhaari Farah and the “heart and soul” of the offense, Noah Epstein, among many others, the volleyball team entered the state tournament on a roll. “The key to our success is dedicated players who are motivated but also have fun and enjoy playing,” explained Farah. However, a tough 3-2 first round loss to Pope John spelled an unfortunately early end to a solid season.



Photo Credit: Frank Shirley

CREW

The crew teams put together another strong spring, as year-round dedication continues to get results in regional and even national races. The highlight of the season came from the boys’ lightweight 4+. The boys won their regional race, propelling them to the national championship in Florida, where they finished 10th. The girls crew team also found success in the state meet, with their top boat capturing silver in the 4, their 3rd boat also capturing silver in the 4, and their novice 4 capturing bronze.

SOFTBALL

The softball team continued their string of strong seasons this spring, finishing second in the DCL and once again qualifying for the state tournament. Explosive offense and solid defense powered the Falcons to multiple blowout wins throughout the year. With only a few graduating seniors, they clearly have what it takes to continue their success into future seasons. The team fell to Methuen in a tough first round loss by a score of 8-0.

RUGBY

The newest official sports team at CRLS looked to have another season of improvement as they continue to build the team into a respected athletic program. With a record of one win, three losses, and two ties, there are many positives coming out of this season and moving into the next one. With good size to hold them down, the team is determined to build on their program’s numbers and to pull out more close games in the future.

TRACK AND FIELD

The track team continued to experience successes up and down the roster this season. After consecutive wins at meets throughout the year, the team sent athletes in both track and field to the incredibly competitive Eastern Mass Finals. From there, both the boys 4x800 and the girls 2-mile advanced to All-States. The boys 4x800 finished 13th while freshman Phoebe Smith finished 11th. “I’m proud of the results at All-States, and think that it bodes well for the future,” said junior Jeffrey Chen.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Despite a tough season record-wise, the girls lacrosse team has pulled a lot of positives from this spring. The team made strides in improving chemistry and translating it into league success. They are far from discouraged, as a bunch of returning varsity players look to power the team to great heights in the coming years.



Photo Credit: Porter Gifford

BOYS LACROSSE

The boys lacrosse team looked to this year to improve upon some dreary finishes from the past few years, when a slew of one-goal losses doomed their record. Improvement and increasing respect for the program was one of their major goals, and by many standards, they succeeded. The team finished with a 4-14 record. “We looked to improve this year and continue to improve next year,” said junior captain Abbott Gifford.

BOYS TENNIS

The boys tennis team, despite only having a few seniors, had a successful year. With a bunch of returning talent and skilled seniors in Eric White and Alexander Chueh, the team finished narrowly below .500, at 6-8. They aren’t discouraged, however, according to junior William Daniels. “Our hearts and minds are open for the next season,” he said. With a young squad that is gaining experience and success, the future looks bright on the courts for CRLS.

SAILING

With multiple race wins as a team this time around, the sailing team had a breakout season, improving vastly upon last year’s trophy haul. With increased experience from previous years, the team was able to compete at a much higher level than in the past. The season was a good building point for a team looking to increase its rigor and respect. “It was a lot of fun, but I would’ve liked it to be more rigorous,” said junior Ben Radovitzky.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team took another step up this season, as off season work by upperclassmen and a talented younger group brought some success to the team. Unfortunately, a rainy spring and some inconsistent performances hurt what was otherwise a good season. As senior Natalia Lanzoni put it, “We got a few wins, but it didn’t go as well as we hoped. There was definitely improvement among players, especially Paula San Sanchez, and we hope to come back strong next year!”

BOYS BASEBALL

The boys baseball team experienced a breakout season this spring, reaching the state tournament for the first time since entering the DCL three years ago. Powered by experienced senior leadership and a core of three consistent starting pitchers in seniors David Kerns, Zeke Taylor, and Bill Preytis, the team cruised to a 10-8 record, highlighted by a gutsy 3-1 win against powerhouse Acton-Boxborough. After a gritty 3-2 first round victory against heavily favored Peabody, the boys fell in extra innings to Lexington, 2-3, ending their tournament run. “It all came together in the second half of the season...It definitely could’ve been longer, which hurts, but it was a great season with the bros,” said senior captain Ryan Telingator.



Photo Credit: Joe Merkel

Boys Baseball Team Makes Second Round of State Tournament

By
Julian Baxandall
Register Forum Contributor

As the spring season comes to a close for all sports, the baseball team stands out for making it to the second round of the state tournament. This has been the first time that they have made it to the playoffs since the team has joined the DCL, marking a break-out year for a team that has struggled in the past to translate talent into wins.

According to the players, they couldn't have made

it this far without a strong, well-knit team. As second baseman Casey Torres puts it, "Every single person on the roster bought into a team concept: a concept that let everyone know what their role is for the team to win."

After lengthy practices at least six days a week, the boys baseball team developed good chemistry and a competitive spirit. The best aspect of the team, besides the close bond that they have with one another, was their defensive skills. The team's pitching was incredibly consistent, mainly from their three senior start-

ing pitchers: Bill Preytis, Zeke Taylor, and David Kerns. "We had three dudes put in quality pitching performances on a consistent basis, and that was really key," explained junior Freddie Gould. "They led us to a lot of wins."

Although their offense was not as consistent as their defensive plays, it was often enough to pull away in low-scoring games. Contributions from up and down the lineup, and consistent hitting from a few seniors led a small ball lineup that could put runs on the board at any time.

A highlight of the team's season was a victory over the highly ranked Peabody team in the first round of the state tournament. They are a powerhouse in the DCL, and leading up to the game it seemed like it was going to be a battle of the titans. With a stellar pitching performance from Kerns, the Falcons kept Peabody's explosive lineup to only two runs. With the bases loaded in the final in-



The varsity baseball team finished the season with a 11-9 record.
Photo Credit: Joe Merkel

ning, senior Ryan Telingator was walked, driving in what would be the winning run, continuing the boys' season into the next round of the playoffs.

The team's last game, played against the equally strong Lexington, was an extremely close and competitive game.

Led by their senior captains, Ryan Telingator and Rafael Goldstein, the game was all tied up into the final moments. Unfortunately, Lexington hit a game winning hit in the bottom of the ninth, concluding the Fal-

con's their season with an overall record of 11-9.

As the seniors leave and the year comes to a close, the boys are optimistic about the future of the team. Losing ten seniors is a big deal, but new leaders will emerge from the rising senior class to take their place.

After asking junior Casey Torres about the prospect of another state run, he replied, "They should expect a young but highly experienced team. It's only up from this point forward for Cambridge baseball."



Boys baseball will lose ten seniors from this season.
Photo Credit: Joe Merkel

A Player's Reflection on the Boys Lacrosse Season

By
Leonardo Escobar
Register Forum Contributor

The CRLS boys lacrosse team, coached by Mr. Goldman, demonstrated exceptional effort this year beyond any season preceding it. With the loss of several great contributors to the team, including a current USC attackman and another award-winning rookie attackman for Wheelock College, the boys this year had to adjust to new dynamics. Once this plan took form on the field, the effort put forth by the players off the field went beyond the normal six out of seven days of the week.

CRLS lacrosse is traditionally full of players who have never held a stick until their freshman year. But with the guidance of Mr. Goldman, players

suffered far more from losing such standout players.

One of the team's greatest rivals is Boston Latin. This year, the team was fortunate enough to beat them twice, once at their field and once at CRLS. The first game, which took place on a scorching 80-degree day, was hard fought, ending with a 12-6 score.

After the game, the team felt confident bringing Boston Latin to Russell for a demonstration of all their hard work under the lights. But Boston Latin came ready to avoid a loss and fought to gain a lead of several points in the first half of the game.

This lead made the team uneasy, but rest assured that Mr. Goldman took proper timeouts which involved calm but persistent guidance to lead the team to triumph in front

of the family and community. Shortly after the second quarter started, the team fought to take a slight lead. Ending this game with a closer gap than expected and scraping a close win made the boys feel a surge of relief for their performance.

Two year captain Abbott Gifford described the night, saying, "[It is] one I will remember first when looking back on this team." This game was not only a great achievement for the program, but it was a source of profound joy for all who were present in the stands.

The team finished the season with proud players, coaches, and

parents. The team learned so much from winning, losing, and working together, both from Mr. Goldman and each other. The values taught through this program are lessons that are unique to being on a lacrosse team and will be carried by the players to use for the rest of their lives.



CRLS Boys Lacrosse finished the season with a 4-14 record.
Photo Credit: Porter Gifford

Petition Initiates Dialogue Between Athletes, Administration

Continued from page 1

school have banded together and are now fighting for a change.”

Toner concluded, “In the end, I want every Falcon athlete to have the best sports experience they can and work on improving themselves without having to worry about if their team bus will be on time or if their coach even knows how to play the game they are coaching.”

Over the course of interviewing students for this article, the *Register Forum* heard female athletes cite a myriad of problems with their athletic programs, ranging from coaching decisions for several sports, to lack of indoor practice space for tennis, to a need for uniforms and equipment for cheerleading, and overall funding issues for various sports.

Double standards about practice t-shirts were also brought up by multiple female athletes—while boys are allowed to practice shirtless, female athletes say that they are not allowed to practice in only sports bras. “It was really bizarre,” commented Sara Hauf ‘17, who has participated in soccer, track, and tennis at CRLS. Cheerleading captain Sidney Hammond ‘17, whose team competes as well as cheers at football and basketball games, said, “Cheer is a dangerous sport, and we need the right equipment to do better stunts. We don’t have any stuff we need, and people always say how bad we are, but how are we supposed to get good with nothing to use?” Hammond did not know about the petition before it was submitted, but she is passionate about the issue of sports equality at CRLS.

Casey Rideout ‘18, a male athlete at CRLS, commented that some of the broader concerns that the female athletes raised are also concerns shared by the boys teams. “In the two sports I play, hockey and soccer, I haven’t heard many complaints that weren’t shared by teams of both genders,” said Rideout. Track and soccer athlete Ethan Rothenberg ‘18 agreed, saying, “I can’t speak for the girls, but from my perspective the funding is definitely a shared complaint.” Other male athletes acknowledged that they couldn’t fully speak to the female athletes’ experiences. Basketball player Jonathan Cenescar ‘18 commented, “I don’t have too much to say, but I believe in equality between girls and boys sports.”

Maggie Pimlott ‘18 has been a varsity athlete since her freshman year, and she will be a captain of both the soccer team and basketball team next year. Pimlott commented that her CRLS athletics experience has been positive in terms of the teammates that surround her, but she added, “Next year is my last year, and I want it to be special. I would rather not worry about the things that should be done for girls sports that are already done for boys sports.” Pimlott cited fundraising and fan buses as issues based on her experience. “I know arguments about the girls teams not being good enough are a reason for the lack of support or treatment, but is that really an excuse? Maybe if more effort was put in to support the female sports athletes, it would encourage each new group of girls to excel,” she concluded.

In an interview with the *Register Forum*, Athletic Director Arria contextualized some of

the concerns expressed in the petition and shared that in some cases, he holds similar concerns as the athletes. Mr. Arria prefaced his comments by stating, “I’m the father of three girls: nine, seven, and five [years old]. All play sports, so equity—in all walks of life, and in sports—is obviously very, very important to me.” He went on to emphasize the importance of making informed opinions on the issue of equity in sports, which he referred to as “a very important topic.”

Mr. Arria is completing his fourth year at CRLS, and he has been an athletic director for thirteen years. His responsibilities at Rindge include managing coaches and students in the Athletic Department, coordinating with the city regarding facilities, scheduling sports events and buses, and budgeting.

In response to concerns expressed in the petition about uniforms, Mr. Arria explained that the department funds anything that is essential for competing. Team gear, like warm-up gear or sweatshirts, is not funded by the department, and

could get them packed like that.”

He also referenced the scheduling of games, which he said depends on the availability of the facilities, as a factor for turnout. He said he doesn’t see turnout as an equity issue, but rather an issue that various male, female, and coed sports at the school experience. “I think that’s more of a school pride and school culture type thing that we have to start working on next year,” Mr. Arria concluded.

On the subject of hiring coaches, Mr. Arria asked, “Who doesn’t want the very best coach that you can get for any team? Of course I do; it makes my life a lot easier and it helps the programs, and it helps the growth of our student athletes to become better people, to be better prepared, to play the sport better.” He explained that he puts a lot of work into recruiting for coaching positions and choosing the best possible candidate, but added that “there’s just not a lot of people that are lining up to apply for coaching positions at the high school level.” Mr.

Arria continued, “It’s unfortunate because I think there’s something very valuable to be gained by adults who do coach.”

In an interview with the *Register Forum*, Principal Smith explained what he and Mr. Arria have done since receiving the petition, saying, “[Mr. Arria] has met with the coaches already, he and I have talked about it on more than one occasion, we are actively trying to meet with the students who have written the letter, and we’re also thinking about ways to be responsive to the contents of the letter.” Mr. Smith also noted that

while individual circumstances should be taken into account, it is important to consider that “some [concerns] can be put together, but some are really individual to a particular sport.”

According to Mr. Arria, one of the things that he and Mr. Smith have talked about is using time during the school day next year, most likely during community meeting, “to have senior leaders’ or captains’ meetings, and hopefully address situations like this to see what we can do to try to support one another’s teams, and then try to help advertise games that are going on amongst our peers and other students.”

Mr. Smith acknowledged the frustration of many athletes, mentioning how some programs in the school “don’t have to work to get people’s interest, and that’s not true for all of our programs.” Mr. Smith also referenced the challenges that some sports, especially women’s sports, face getting representation in the media. Toner also referenced the pervasiveness of sports equality issues, saying, “By setting an example of fairness here in our city, hopefully things can change elsewhere too. Women’s sports aren’t treated equally on any level, especially the professional one.” She added, “I am in no way claiming Rindge sports are grossly unequal compared to some schools. But basic needs are not being carefully met, and it needs to be changed.” Mr. Smith commented, “Not all programs enjoy the same level of visibility, and there may be more work that needs to be done to elevate the profiles so that we can begin to generate that level of visibility.”

At the time of this article’s publication, Mr. Smith and Mr. Arria are planning to meet with athletes who took part in the petition and have concerns about sports equality on Tuesday, June 20th.



Pictured: Fans at the boys basketball 2017 championship finals.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

team-bonding events are organized by coaches on a team-by-team basis, not by the department. Mr. Arria put a cycle system in place for replacing new uniforms once he got to Rindge, but he noted, “It’s a dual responsibility, when it comes to purchasing uniforms, between the coaches and myself.” Referring to the process by which coaches reach out to request new uniforms when it’s their turn in the cycle, Mr. Arria added that “there are times when that communication does break down,” and cited the cheerleading team’s drawn-out experience getting uniforms, which eventually resulted in a new set this season, as an example of this.

Mr. Arria also admitted that sometimes things can get “lost in the shuffle” of athletic director and coaching transitions, referencing the two

“I’m the father of three girls...so equity—in all walks of life, and in sports—is obviously very, very important to me.”

athletic directors that CRLS had in the span of four years before he was hired. Regarding concerns in the petition about turnout at games, Mr. Arria commented, “A lot of the concerns in there are concerns of mine, too, to be honest.” He elaborated, “Our boys basketball team has historically been a very, very strong program...when the boys basketball team plays, the gym is filled with people. That’s something that’s been going on since the 1940s and 50s when basketball started to become very popular in Cambridge, and then obviously through Patrick Ewing’s time, so with that history comes a following, a very strong following, and a following not only within the school but within the city and the community. I would love to see all of our games packed like that if we