

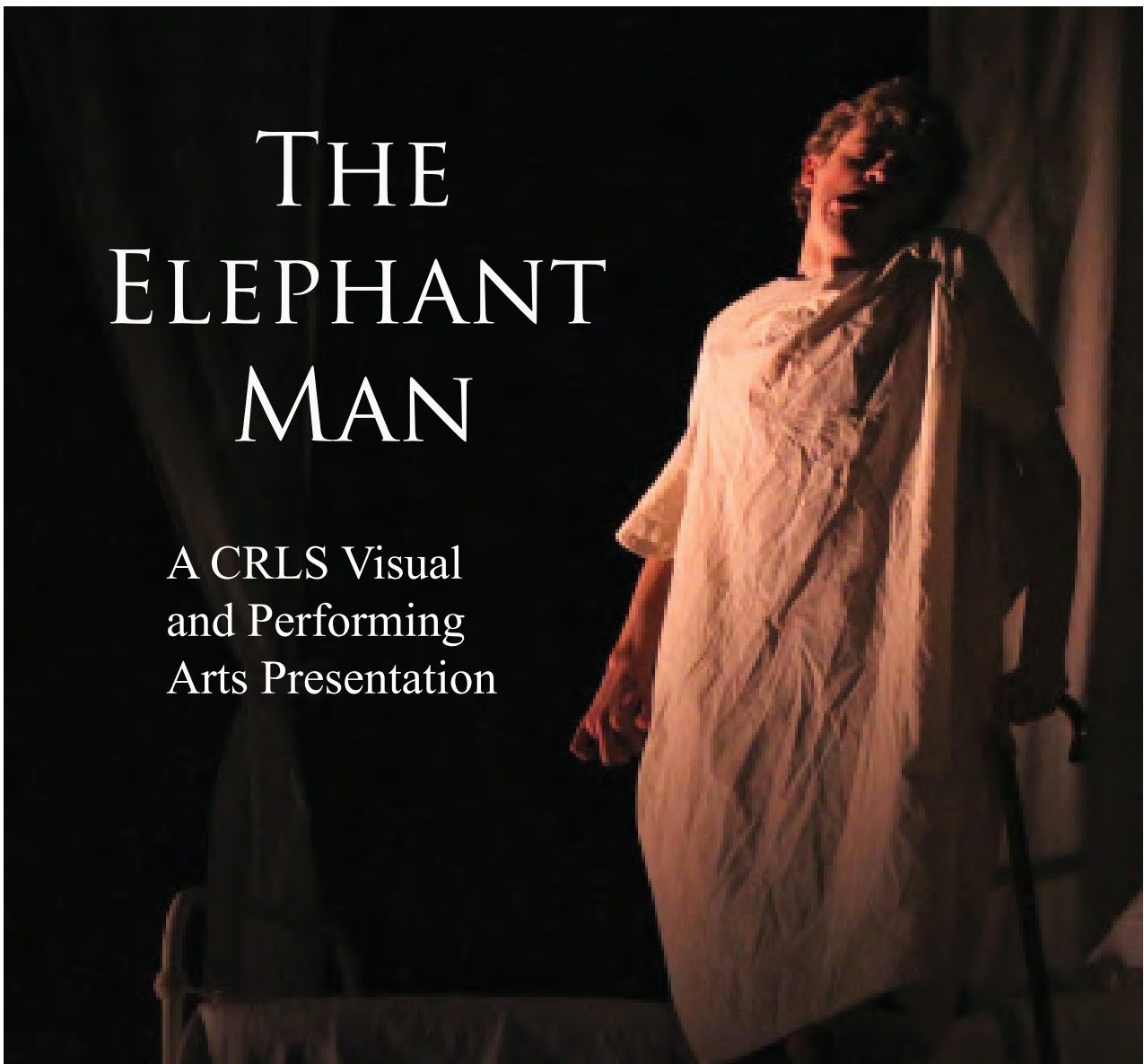
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CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

MARCH 2015



Senior Casey Mckinney is the "Elephant Man."

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

Drama Production
Reaches State Finals

By
Mira Rifai
Register Forum Editor

As the 2014-2015 school year comes to an end, CRLS students fabulously brought yet another play to life with its stellar cast and crew of performers, tech, and stage prep.

The play, *The Elephant Man*, is based on the true, heart-wrenching and beautiful story of Joseph Merrick, a man in the 19th century who is famously known for having neurofibromatosis type I and struggled to show the world that he was more than his appearance. Set in London, Dr. Frederick Treves, played by CRLS senior Nicolas Thilo-McGovern, comes across a circus freakshow called "The Elephant Man" and is immediately intrigued.

The "creature" on display turns out to be twenty-one year old John Merrick who has several physical deformities, including an oversized and disfigured skull and arm, played by CRLS senior Casey McKinney. Merrick's intelligent personality and mind are cast in the shadows behind others fear of his appearance, and no one

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Most Delicious, Most Nutritious
CPS' Food Named #1 Among Public School Districts in US

By
Cameron Lane-Flehinger
Register Forum Editor

Have you eaten a meal from the cafeteria recently? Although you may not have known it, that meal represents a sample of what was recently named the best public school food in America.

Niche.com, a website that rates high schools and colleges in a variety of categories, released their 2015 rankings, evaluating schools across the country on everything from graduation rates to extracurricular opportunities. Cambridge Public Schools were rated

first in the country among school districts for Food Services, while CRLS finished second among public high schools.

While Cambridge schools have long had a rep-

tributes to those who prepare and serve food every day.

"If it weren't for the talented and passionate folks that work in the school kitchens I doubt Cambridge would receive such the high level of praise for the meals we serve".

In recent years Cambridge has been at the forefront of advancements in what is possible in school lunch, from the creation of the all-vegetarian Media Cafe to environmental solutions like bulk milk and easily accessible compost.

CRLS students were

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The Award-Winning CRLS Cafeteria

Photo Credit: HMFH Architects

utation for excellent food, these rankings are the highest honors received by the Food Services Department, a fact Director of Food Services Mellissa Honeywood

MUNers Take Manhattan

By
Paul Sullivan
Register Forum
Correspondent

On Wednesday, March 4, twenty CRLS students headed to New York City, where they took part in the Forty-First Annual National High School Model United Nations Conference (NHSMUN). Along side them were over 3,000 other participants representing 150 schools and over twenty countries.

CRLS students participated in twelve out of the thirty-three committees at NHSMUN and discussed, debated, and developed feasible solutions on pressing world issues such as the use of unmanned air vehicles, child trafficking,

human rights of prisoners, and sustainable access to safe-drinking water, among many more topics. Junior Griffin Andres, whose committee topic was Chinese investment in Africa, noted that, "Discussing very pertinent world issues puts you into a much more global state of mind."

While learning about these global issues is truly invaluable, CRLS students gained much more from NHSMUN than just new knowledge and perspective. They refined and acquired skills such as diplomacy, public speaking, and negotiating. As sophomore Zoe Goldstein put it, "I learned about so much more than just my topic. I

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To potentially solve world hunger, WGMOs are worth the risk -- but only if we continue to study their effects.

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Save the Portraits Class From Extinction

Why Students Should Become More Involved in One of the Most Beloved Art Classes at CRLS

By
Diego Lasarte
Register Forum Editor

Walking into the CRLS Portraits classroom, you immediately get a sense of community and trust. The first thing you see are the walls covered with student art, intricate and colorful portraits of all different kinds of faces. And then you notice all the students just milling about, talking and sitting completely at ease, not in any hurry to leave even though the bell had rang almost a half hour before.

One of those loitering students was Sophomore Juliet Nadis, a strong advocate of the class. When asked why she loved it she said, “While it’s a class that lets you explore an aspect of art that is very intimate and challenging, it also manages to be a relaxing and comforting time of day for me and my classmates.”

That sentiment was confirmed from students and faculty all over the school, that’s why it is surprising that this class is in danger of being canceled if doesn’t meet its sign up quota. Most of this praise revolved around the class’s teacher Ms. Menges. From every one of these articles interviewees, they gave at least a variation of the quote “Ms. Menges is probably the best teacher I’ve ever had, she’s incredibly supportive and unendingly talented.”

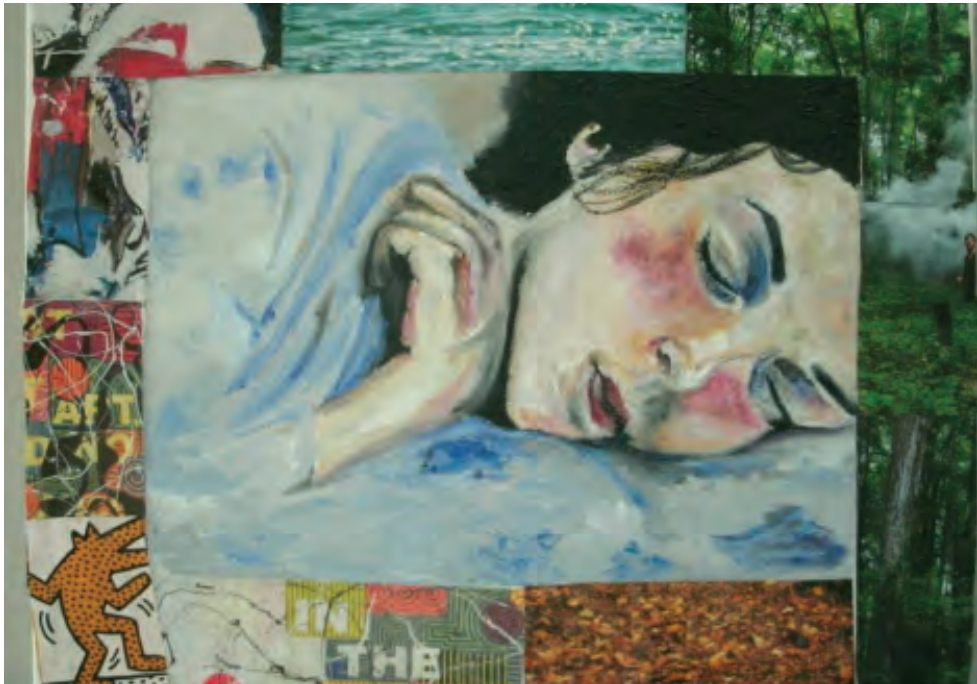
Talking to Ms. Menges about Portraits, a class she herself created 8 years ago, anyone could begin to understand why. “This class nourishes me and it nourishes the students in a way that I think is very special. My students have grown as artists, classmates, and members of the greater community and I’m proud to say that they have also learned to respect and support each other.”

Perhaps the most inspiring thing about this class is its relationship with Youville, a retirement and assisted-living home a few blocks away from Rindge. Once a week the whole class would go visit the senior citizens and paint portraits of them. Although they were there to paint, the experience quickly transformed into something more. Sophomore Claire Healy said “My time at the retirement home was nothing short of amazing as I was paired up with an incredibly inspirational woman. She told me of her childhood spent growing up in Berlin all the way through WWII, and of her coming to America and becoming a successful doctor. I felt a real and deep connection with her.”

As to be expected at CRLS, a wide range of kids take Portraits, but there was one trait that was clear all of them share -- their struggle with telling me how much Portraits means to them. This became

increasingly apparent with each interview that was done, especially one of the first. It was CRLS junior Melchit Melaku, while standing next to Ms. Menges, as much as she tried she could not seem to find the words she wanted, “The class is uh... very fun and relaxing, (turns away from microphone towards Ms. Menges) What do I say? I have such deep feelings about this class (turns back to microphone). It’s a very positive and low stress environment and its such a worthwhile class that it would be shame for our school to lose it.”

So do yourself a favor and sign up, you would help save an impressive art class, and you could make sure future CRLS students could get to have thoughtful connections with their community’s past, each other, and with themselves, like so many appreciative students before them.



From Left to Right: A painting by Juliet Oh in Portraits, Ms. Menges's Portraits class on a field trip to the Harvard Art Museums.

Photo Credit: CRLS Portraits Club

College Applications: a Long and Grueling Process

Students Stressed Over College Applications as Acceptance Rates Lower than Ever

By
Anna Karayorgi
Register Forum Staff

For many CRLS juniors, spring semester marks the beginning of the college application process. Students are scrambling to fit SAT preparation, college visits and community service into their already busy schedules. Although students everywhere are going through the same struggle, many people have complaints about the process.

When asked about how the college process makes him feel, junior Sejah Laurent commented “I feel kind of sad. I know there’s gonna be a lot of rejection.” His friend, Cris-

tina Bernard Rubio said “I feel that there’s too much pressure put on me and I’m afraid I’ll make a mistake.” Many young people fear rejection and perhaps with good reason. According to IvyWise.com, in the past decade, college acceptance rates have decreased by as much as 50%.

One reason the students feel stressed is because the application process has become more complex. English teacher Steve Jordan says “I wrote down my class rank and my ACT score and mailed it off. That’s how I got into college.” Nowadays, students are asked to show multiple accomplishments. Appli-

cants are encouraged to take the ACT, the SAT and SAT subject tests, at least one essay per college, and demonstrate engagement in some activity that serves the community. So how can

“In the past decade, college acceptance rates have decreased by as much as 50%”

students manage to do all these things, plus sports and clubs, while still maintaining their GPA?

In addition, there is a lot more emphasis on standardized testing itself than there was in the past. It’s true that SAT scores are just one factor in college applications but students

start preparing for them up to a year in advance and if a student’s scores are too low they won’t be accepted. Junior Trigonie Kaykas says that this policy is unfair; a number on a score shouldn’t define them as an overall student. She argued passionately that “you shouldn’t judge a student on a test grade that will determine their future because some people aren’t good at taking tests.”

CRLS students in particular have an additional source of pressure: living in New England, the academic center of the country, makes the stakes higher. Mr. Jordan, who used to teach in smaller rural communities

commented that the levels of stress are notably higher in cities such as Cambridge, where students are surrounded by prestigious universities.

So what should an anxious student do? Mr. Jordan quotes Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein: “The solution is to be found in the disappearance of the problem.” In other words, Mr. Jordan says to approach the process seeing it as a challenge rather than as a problem. Many students would say that “the disappearance of the problem” should be less of a philosophical idea and more of a practical one; maybe they should just make the SATs disappear!

Five RSTA Students Win Medals at Annual SkillsUSA Regionals

By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

This year, five CRLS students won medals at the SkillsUSA Regional Competitions: Georgia Watt (Bronze in Carpentry), Harley Romulus (Bronze in Power Equipment Technology), and Dylan Cabral, Ziaul Islam, and Jacob Donnelly (Gold, Silver, and Bronze respectively in Diesel Equipment Technology).

Each Spring, SkillsUSA, a nationwide organization of teachers, students, and professionals in a wide variety of fields, hosts an annual competition to search for the best technical arts students in the country. In areas from welding to commercial baking, students from across the country compete to show their skills and receive valuable scholarship money.

While CRLS’ Rindge School of Technical Arts doesn’t have a welding class, Level 2 and 3 students from almost all of the areas offered here at the school (including Carpentry, Automotive, and Culinary), if selected by their teachers, have the opportunity to take part in the regional competition. Those who

earn first or second place then get to compete in the statewide competition; the winners of States then continue onto Nationals, in Washington, DC.

Regionals, which this year was held on February 25, are composed of a written test in the subject area, while States and Nationals require a “practical” test. For Carpentry, for example, this means building something from scratch; in Culinary, it means cooking an assigned meal.

RSTA students competed against students from 13 other schools at the competition, including technical schools where students have a week on/week off schedule -- meaning that they will spend every other full school week completely in their vocational classes. According to CRLS Carpentry teacher Mr. Carey, that schedule gives those schools an inherent advantage over smaller schools like CRLS, making this year’s victories all the more impressive.

“The experience was a little crazy [and] surreal,” said Georgia Watt. “Most of the other students were very serious about the experience and I went into it without even thinking about winning, it seemed unlikely at best. It was also very



Level 1 Carpentry students Jonathan Charles and Sam Holtzman hope to one day compete in the SkillsUSA competition.

Photo Credit: Liam Greenwell

intimidating to be one of two girls in the carpentry testing room especially when it was referred to as the “boys carpentry competition” by some of [the students from other schools].”

However, many CRLS students don’t even know how to get involved in RSTA -- or what they may be able to learn. For incoming freshmen, the exploratory class -- in which students can “try out” each RSTA trade for around two weeks at a time -- is a great choice.

“Our hope is that students can, through some experience, find something they want to pursue,”

states Carpentry teacher Mr. Carey on the purpose of exploratory.

“My advice to someone who wants to get involved in a RSTA class would be to go for it, [because] they really are fun and informative,” Ziaul Islam concluded.

As for the competition, “Most students, even if they don’t win, feel they have accomplished something by going,” summarized Mr. Carey. “It’s all about being a professional craftsman in your chosen field. Our students exhibit that every year and I’m very proud of them and their performance at Skills.”

Inside the Fencing Club’s Debut Season *An Interview With Ms. Brisk*

By
Shuvom Sadhuka
Register Forum Correspondent

The inaugural season for the CRLS fencing team went well, culminating with three gold medals and a bronze medal at the state tournament. We interviewed Media and RSTA Visual Design Instructor and volunteer coach Ms. Brisk to ask her about the season.

Register Forum: Thank you for being here. It’s a pleasure to interview you. So, my first question for you is: how did the team get started?

Ms. Brisk: For several years, Dean Filo had asked me to start a team, because my older and younger daughter were fencing. Last year, Amy Zhao asked for a new team, and we started investigating. My younger daughter wanted to start a team. It took a while talking with the athletic department, acquiring materi-

als and space, and getting a time slot, but we finally got a space at Olympia Fencing Center near Alewife.

RF: And was it a success in terms of recruitment?

Ms. Brisk: We have around 12 experience fencers in the student body. Many practice 5-6 days a week outside of school. Ultimately, some people wanted to do other sports, but around 9 of them joined team. Another 9 kids started fencing as first-time fencers.

RF: That’s good to hear. How did the season go?

Ms. Brisk: Two new teams started in the league: Lexington and CRLS. We went 1-4 for our school versus school record. We also went to states and won three gold medals and one bronze.

RF: Wow. Was there anything else encouraging about the season?

Ms. Brisk: Rebecca Jean-Louis started as a foilist this year and did very well against the more experienced fencers and will try to fence beyond just the school season. Ludji called



The three types of fencing are sabre, foil, and épée.

Photo Credit: Angelica Brisk

all the colleges she applied to and found fencing teams at most. I’m excited that they wanted to keep fencing just like many of the other students.

RF: Were there any challenges?

Ms. Brisk: The biggest challenge was that we didn’t have a full team. Also, three athletes were sick on the day of the state tournament and that affected the outcome. Our biggest challenge for the future is to have all full squads-that would mean 4 blades for sabre, epee, foil for each gender. They all

require different skills. The other challenge is that I’ve never fenced foil or sabre. I’m not a really an advanced fencer either. Another parent, though, fenced all three weapons. Hopefully we can establish this as more than just a club with volunteers as coaches. I think there are a lot of people who would be interested. There are people who would enjoy this as a sport and do well. Ming, for example, did really well for first year of sabre, and Massachusetts is strong at sabre.

RF: Why hasn’t fencing

been as popular?

Ms. Brisk: Well, New Jersey has 48 public schools in fencing, and they pretty much produce the Olympic team. Fencing in general in the US didn’t become popular until the fall of the Eastern Bloc, and Chinese, Korean, and East European coaches came in.

RF: Is there anything else you’d like for us to know?

Ms. Brisk: It takes endurance and agility. Dancers can move naturally, so it’s great for dancers. A lot of strategy is required too. Join fencing!

NHSMUN

Continued from page 1

learned how the world (specifically the UN) works and how to make others listen to what I have to say. Aside from the debating and researching skills that I take from NHSMUN, I think my most important takeaway from the conference is self-confidence.”

Exploring the conference’s location, New York City, is a learning experience in itself. CRLS’ students hard work at the conference was rewarded, as they were able to dine, shop, and sightsee during their spare time. The Museum of Fine Arts, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, the famous Carnegie Deli, and Radio City Music Hall were just a few of the destinations participants were fortunate enough to visit during their stay.

Senior Kristen O’Laughlin stated that, “My favorite part was staying in New York, because I was able to experience entirely different environments than what I’m normally used to.”

Much can also be learned from other participants of the conference, as they are from different parts of the country and the world and are immersed in different cultures than those in Cambridge. Senior Cam Lindsay said, “I am not



CRLS Model United Nation Participants pose in front of The United Nations in New York representing their assigned country of Sudan.
Photo Credit: Chosen Passerby

friends with people from Italy and other parts of the U.S., so talking to them and hearing about their experiences was super intriguing for me.”

This conference was the first MUN experience for some CRLS students, like junior Stella Yeung, who says, “I really enjoyed my first experience at NHSMUN. I’d often heard that it would be the best experience of high school and it definitely was. Going away to New York to

meet hundreds of kids from all over the world was such an incredible opportunity.”

When asked how the actual conference differed from her expectations, Yeung stated, “I expected the conference to be over-

“Going away to New York to meet hundreds of kids from all over the world was such an incredible opportunity.”

whelming because of all the smart individuals there, which it was, but everyone was friendly and accommodating so I had a good time.”

For the seniors in MUN, NHSMUN was the last of many conferences during their time at Rindge. Although sad to say goodbye to the club, the seniors noted with gratitude the experiences they have had and

the skills they have obtained through MUN. In the words of the club’s president, Eva Miller, “Model UN has been a great experience for me. I’ve gotten the opportunity to learn about crucial global issues. I have

also had a lot of fun working with students from our school and meeting students from all over the world.”

Cam Lindsay added, “Although I may not actually want to participate in the UN or politics in general in the future, I do know that the skills that you can learn at these conferences (public speaking, networking, debating, compromising, etc.) are extremely relevant and applicable to all fields of work and academics.”



Mr. Racki poses in front of his favorite poster of Henry David Thoreau.
Photo Credit: Noah Beckert

By
Noah Beckert
Register Forum Editor

RF: Can you please introduce yourself?

GR: I’m Mr. Racki and I currently teach Psychology, although I have previously also taught a History class.

RF: How did you get started as a teacher?

GR: I’ve been teaching for five years

before coming to Rindge. I taught in Windham, New Hampshire and in Plaistow, New Hampshire. Before I started teaching I was an attorney at a Boston law firm. However I had wanted to be a teacher for a long time, and after a few years of being a lawyer I decided to return to my original goal of teaching.

RF: It being your first year at CRLS how would you say your transition has been?

GR: It has gone smoothly, there are definitely differences between

Teacher Spotlight: Greg Racki

The Lawyer, The Teacher, The Philosopher

teaching in Cambridge and teaching in Windham, NH. [Cambridge] has a much more diverse student body, which presents its own challenges and interests for me, but at the same time I think that High school kids are in a lot of ways the same. [High school kids] have their same interests, their same strengths, their same weaknesses, and I think the skills I had in Windham are pretty translatable to here.

RF: Do you like teaching at CRLS?

GR: I love teaching here! I think I am incredibly lucky to get a job at CRLS, to teach a class that I love, a class that kids are very excited to take. The school is very supportive of teachers here and there is a great faculty to work with, the leadership is very supportive, and the kids have been great. I consider myself lucky so far.

RF: Could you share what classes you teach and why you teach them?

GR: Currently I am teaching all HN

Psychology. Last semester I taught two Psych classes and one US History 2 class which was also very fun. I like teaching a lot of different classes, I like taking the multidisciplinary approach, and I have a lot of different interests and backgrounds in different subjects. It is cool for me to be able to teach different classes as much as I love Psychology

RF: Do you see yourself staying at CRLS?

GR: I would be happy to stay here until I get grey and they tell me to leave. Ya my life has in a lot of ways been in a state of flux since I left law. I am now trying to find my ground in teaching, and getting back to Massachusetts which was my ultimate goal. Right now though, I am in a place where I like my job, I like what I teach, I think this is a great district to stay in. Certainly, I want to stay in this area, my fiancée wants to stay in this area, so if Rindge will have me I plan on being here long term.

MBTA Struggles During Boston’s Snowiest Winter

By
Jackson Damon
Register Forum Staff

With Boston’s MBTA system being the oldest in the country, many people have felt that it has not acted that way. Clearing the roads for cars and buses as well as the tracks for our commuter rails has been a tough task. Massachusetts has recieved the most snow in recorded history, with more than 100 inches since January.

While CRLS students use our public transportation system to get to and from school, the effects of the snow go far beyond school snow days. Tens of thousands of people rely on the commuter rail and buses to get to work every single day, especially in the Boston area. Belmont Hill teacher Steve George said, “We see them clearing the snow every day. People don’t realize how much planning needs to be done.” While most trains have been open since February 9th, the service is still pretty sporadic.

The Orange and Green lines suffered the most, as they did not become fully functional until mid march. The commuter rail is still operating with roughly 69% of the locomotives being used, but only 35% of which were able to run on time to their stops in February. Senior Alex Daniels commented: “I use the bus every day. I’m sure it’s a ton of work, but the system is clearly all they can.” While our public transportation system will soon be fully functional, governor Baker has revealed his frustration with how the MBTA has dealt with the snow, referring to the system’s actions as “unacceptable.”

The General Manager of the MBTA,



Commuters exit the Red Line in Harvard square after experiencing delays due to inclement weather.

Photo Credit: Daniel Walsh

Beverly Scott, who has had the job since September of 2012, just resigned abruptly, claiming that many of the problems are due to the states lack of funding and the massive quantities of snow much more so than the MBTA’s (supposedly) insufficient way of clearing it. Scott claimed that she: “inherited a broken system.”

The reasons for Scott resigning so quickly are unknown as she claimed it was for “personal reasons.” She has been directly targeted by the governor multiple times as one of the main reasons for the systems lack of efficiency.

Criticism arose especially after several train cars were stranded, forcing passengers to

hike out and be picked up. The city recently released an offer of \$30 an hour for those willing to shovel off tracks with the most snow on them.

Boston itself has already spent \$35 million on snow removal, as well as \$550 million for supplying 342 new subway cars from China to replace ones that broke down. The new cars won’t arrive for another three years.

While this process is extremely strategic, the MBTA will be looking for new, concrete plans to continue their snow removal through what will be a similarly snowing month of March.

Former director Scott claimed before her resignation: “It’s like a war, and we’re taking this back station by station, line by line, switch by switch.”

“People don’t realize how much planning needs to be done.”

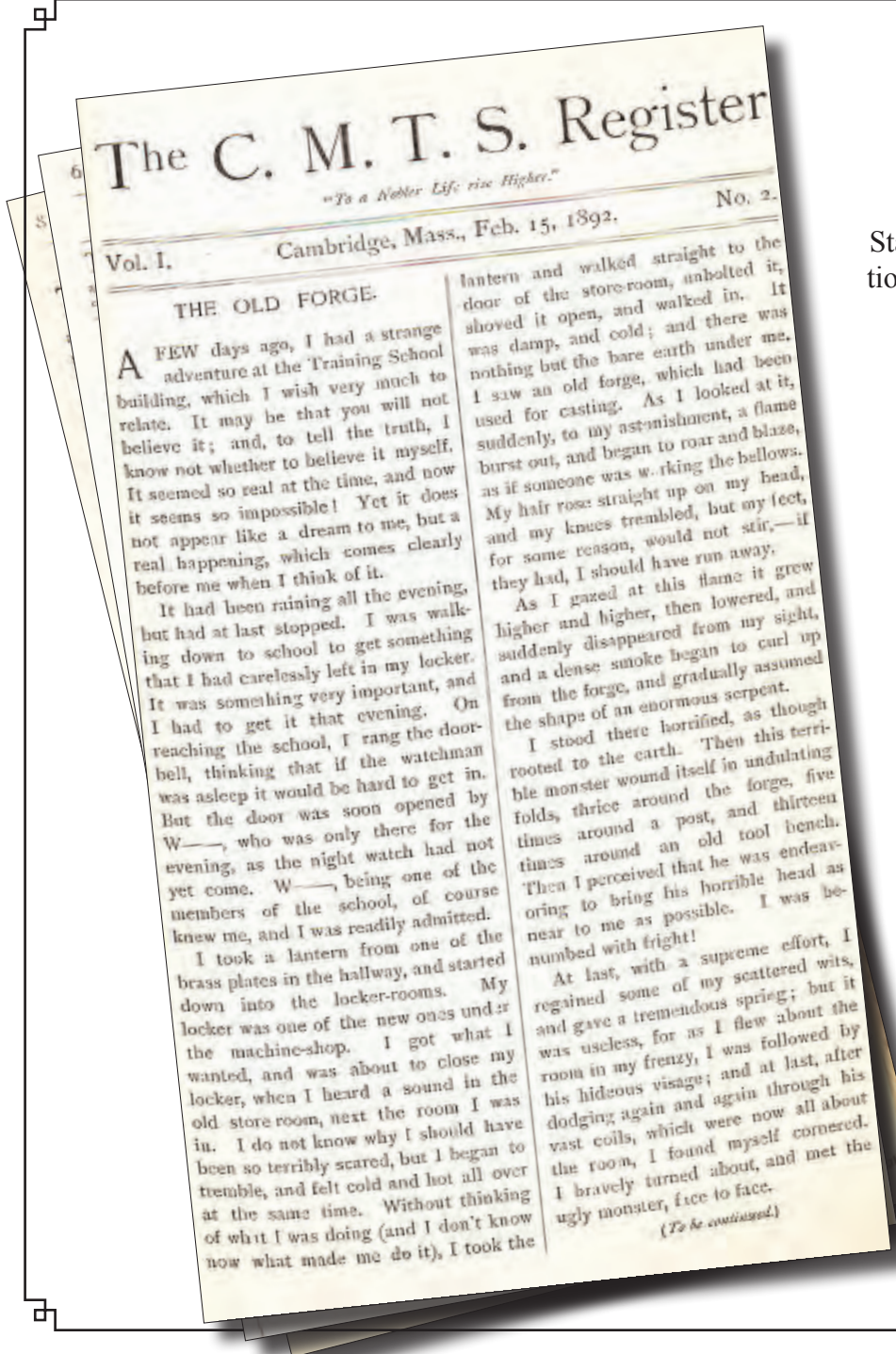
BLAST FROM THE PAST

The C.M.T.S. Register, February 1892

The Register Forum is one of the oldest student newspapers in the United States. Let’s take a trip back into the past by looking at the February 1892 edition of our predecessor, the C.M.T.S. Register. Thanks to the Cambridge Room at the Cambridge Public Library for access to their archives.

Highlights

- A front page horror story tells the tale of an editor’s adventure in the school building, including a scene of snakes made of fire dancing in the forge of the school’s basement.
- A plea is issued by the editors for students not affiliated with the paper to write articles and contribute time to the product’s creation. Some things never change: speaking of which, meetings on Thursdays in room 2309.
- The paper advertises an upcoming drama festival and concert for Cambridge students which the Register dubs “the greatest social event of the school year.”
- The paper does its journalistic duty and warns the masses about an escaped lunatic, named Crimson Potato, found wandering the halls of the school.
- Cambridge Latin is scolded for “flouting the rules of polo.”
- A poem about the perennial favorite activity of teens everywhere -- the art of wood-turning -- is included.



Why Edward Snowden is an American Patriot

A Response to Last Months' Op-Ed "NSA: More Good Than Harm?"

By
Diego Lasarte
Register Forum Editor

On March 12th, 2013 the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, attended a congressional national security hearing. There he was asked a simple question by Senator Ron Wyden, (D-Ore.) "Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?" "No sir" Clapper answered, without any hesitation.

Senator Wyden then, for clarification, asked Clapper once more. That time Clapper answered with a moments pause, "Not wittingly" A little less than three months later, in early June, NSA analyst Edward Snowden flew to Hong Kong and revealed to Glen Greenwald, a journalist at the Guardian, and Laura Poitras, a filmmaker and freelance journalist, that Mr. Clapper had flat-out lied in front of congress as well as under oath.

Specifically he revealed that the NSA (the National Security Agency) has been, for at least the last few years and without obtaining any sort of court warrants, routinely collecting the phone logs of hundreds of millions of Americans who have no links to

terrorism whatsoever. And its not just limited to Americans, "We hack everyone everywhere," Snowden said to the Guardian. "We like to make a distinction between us and the others. But we are in almost every country in the world. [Countries] we are not at war with" This means we are spying not just on our enemies but on our allies, unashamedly tapping the phones of our friends like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who angrily told the Guardian, "We need trust among al-

"Trust now has to be built anew."

lies and partners. Such trust now has to be built anew."

It did not end there, Snowden's documents also revealed that at the same time the NSA was doing all of this, it was hard at work on a new program, with the undeniably Orwellian name, Boundless Informant, a program designed to gather practically all of our data. This is not an exaggeration as Snowden's documents showed with this program the NSA collected almost 3 billion pieces of intelligence in just the month of March 2013, and that was only in the United States.

To quote Snowden himself: "The N.S.A. has built an infrastructure that

allows it to intercept almost everything. With this capability, the vast majority of human communications are automatically ingested without targeting. If I wanted to see your emails or your wife's phone, all I have to do is use intercepts. I can get your emails, passwords, phone records, credit cards."

In the weeks following Snowden's revelations, Mr. Clapper was not the only government official caught in a web of lies. General Keith Alexander, the head of the NSA had previously stated fourteen different times in a single meeting with Congress that the NSA did not even have the capability to eavesdrop on Americans.

And what was President Obama's reaction? When the stories first broke he stated on the record "When it comes to telephone calls, nobody is listening

to your telephone calls." We now know that was a blatant lie. Later, when Edward Snowden was named as the whistleblower Obama sneered, saying he wasn't going to be "scrambling the jets to get a 29-year old hacker." The very next week he did exactly that, Obama, acting with other European allies, forced the plane of

Bolivian president Evo Morales to land while it was flying over Vienna, solely because of a false rumor Mr. Snowden was on board. That's right, we forced a foreign head of state's plane to the ground, something many would agree is an act of war, and it revolved around yet another lie.

The NSA has long since charged Mr. Snowden with three felonies, two under the espionage act, and asked him to come back to the United States to stand trial. Mr. Clapper, the NSA's aforementioned head, has said this is because Snowden's leaks have done "huge, grave damage to our intelligence capabilities."

Have they? Let's look at that facts, something I presume Mr. Clapper does not do very often. Mr. Snowden passed this in-

I firmly believe he cannot have hurt this country, he loves it far too much

formation to the New York Times and the Guardian without keeping any copies for himself, the very sort of publications that would never publish information that would put lives in danger. Furthermore these documents did not reveal anything about the algorithms or specific practices the NSA employs, what in-



Edward Snowden.

Photo Credit: Wired

dividuals or groups the NSA targets, or any identities of US law enforcement agents. As the journalist Glen Greenwald pointed out on MSNBC, "[Snowden] spent months meticulously studying every document, he didn't just upload them to the internet."

At least to me, this man does not seem like a traitor to his country. In fact he sounds like the opposite, he seems to be part of a small group of brave men who have made this country great — men of conscience. I firmly believe

he cannot have hurt this country, he loves it far too much. No, in

this instance the traitors are our leaders, our generals, and us, the American public. We are traitors because we have not yet stood up to our generals and our elected officials and our president and asked them why they are lying to us and why they are targeting one of the few men who has actually told us the truth.

The President and the Terminology of Islamic Extremism

By
Sophia Nikolayev
Register Forum Staff

Last week, the White House hosted a summit on combating violent extremism during which President Barack Obama refused to link Islam to the terror carried out by the Islamic State group and al-Qaida across the Middle East. Obama said in a statement, "They no more represent Islam than any madman who kills innocents in the name of God represents Christianity or Judaism or Buddhism or Hinduism. No religion is responsible for terrorism. People are responsible for violence and terrorism."

The comments are consistent with Obama's continual statements repeated during the summit that such terrorists have "perverted" the Islamic religion and do not reflect its beliefs. In the wake of the Charlie Hebdo killings earlier this year, criticism over Obama's omission to label such violent attacks as "Islamic" terrorism has been build-

ing and has only intensified since the president referred to an attack on a Parisian kosher deli, which followed the Hebdo massacre, as an example of zealots shooting people at random when at the time, he was highlighting the role of Christians in the Crusades at the National Prayer Breakfast in February. President Obama compared the atrocities of the Islamic State to the bloodshed committed in the name of Christianity in centuries past in attempt to avoid branding recent violence by the Islamic State, to which critics, mostly republicans, felt was extremely offensive.

The Obama administration has chosen to defend its semantic choices in pragmatic terms. As deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes told the Los Angeles Times, "They need for this to be a war between the United States and Islam, for people to believe that they are religious figures and not just terrorists...We don't want to grant them that legitimacy." By calling the threat 'violent extremism' rather



President Barack Obama pointing off to the side.

Photo Credit: Presidential Twitter Account

than 'radical Islam,' Obama" sends a message to "the bureaucracy" that it needs to address threats.

The Middle East today confronts a variety of issues involving Islam and referring to them as the same thing would confuse the motives of each individual involved- the who, the what and the why. Using specific terminology it reduces the chance of shaping long-term outcomes that advance U.S. interests.

Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are obviously affiliated with

Islam, but if the president calls them "Islamic extremists," that would mean he is addressing all of Islam, which is too vague, making Islam all about the extremism. The U.S. government needs to acknowledge the marginal version of Islam practiced by the extremists while emphasizing their rejection by the vast majority of the Muslim community. The term "Islamic extremism" attempts to get at this distinction, but fails because condemns Islam or all Muslims.

Why We Need to Defeat the Islamic State

How the International Community Needs to be Prepared to Fight

By
Shuvom Sadhuka
*Register Forum
Correspondent*

In the past nine months, the proliferation of the Islamic State’s (ISIS) power has been chilling and concerning to those watching from the outside. Their territory now expands from central Iraq to the Lebanese border, with factions reportedly forming in Turkey and Libya. The unspeakable and unthinkable acts of evil - beheadings, hostage-takings, and public shamings - now receive no more than a mention in the evening news. All this violence has been done for the sake of religious purity, making many draw parallels between them and Hitler’s Nazis.

We can rant forever about the evils of ISIS, but the reality that we must defeat them is dawning upon us. There is an urgent need for action in a region already struggling with radical terrorists, and where past American military action has only worsened the situation. Another American fumble in the Middle East would be devastating.

What is clear is that invasion is and must be kept as a last resort, only when

ISIS is an imminent and direct threat to the American people. In the post-9/11 world, our on-the-ground approach in the Middle East has done little to quell the radicalization of terrorists. After killing bin Laden, the future of radical Islam looked bleak in the Middle East, but a hasty pullout in Iraq combined with their intelligent propaganda instigated yet another onslaught of radicalization in ISIS.

However, as a recent piece in The Atlantic points out, ISIS is different

[We] need to capitalize on Jordan’s and Turkey’s newfound rage against ISIS.

from other underground terrorist groups from the past decade like al-Qaeda - ISIS operates in broad daylight. They have a stricter interpretation of the Koran, one which literally exemplifies the actions of Mohammed and allows for little else outside of this realm. This key weakness will help us defeat ISIS. ISIS wants us to invade; it would be a moral victory for them. All those beheadings were a larger provocation for an invasion.

Our current military practices, including drone strikes, have done little to

stamp out radicalism and have facilitated even more resentment of the US. Instead, we need to capitalize on Jordan’s and Turkey’s newfound rage against ISIS and provide them with the military prowess needed to crush ISIS.

Jordan and Turkey are David, and ISIS is Goliath. ISIS has been receiving a slew of media attention around the world, but Jordan and Turkey have been hiding behind the veil of indifference. Also of note is that Jordan and Turkey have been allies of the US in the past, receiving lots of US aid. Now, the US should provide military equipment and training to the Jordanian and Turkish troops, especially strategic missiles.

In a recent interview with Fareed Zakaria, Jordan’s King, Abdullah II, insisted that Jordan fight the war: “This is our war. It’s been our war for a long time...a Western coalition can only do so much.”

Sure, it may be their war, but we can say that we’ve got their backs. A Middle Eastern coalition, after all, would be more personalized than a Western one, and change must ultimately come from within the Middle East.

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*“Listening to every voice,
printing what you need to hear”*

GMOs: Are They Worth Worrying About?

By
*The Register Forum
Editorial Board*

As the “anti-science” movement sweeps our nation, scientists’ widely agreed upon theories, such as global warming and the benefits of vaccines, are being cast aside by a significant portion of the population. Many would put skepticism of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) within the “anti-science” category, while others argue it does not deserve to be.

Skeptics of GMOs pose valid concerns and worry about the potential long term consequences. Scientists have not confirmed there are consequences of GMOS, but they also have not confirmed it is perfectly safe to use. It is worth while to slow down distribution and take the time to research the effect GMOs could have on people’s bodies as well as the environment.

On the other hand, GMO’s potential to solve world hunger problems is a hard opportunity to

pass up. Every year two million die of diseases “they would otherwise survive,” says Amy Harmon of the New York Times, if they consumed a sufficient amount of vitamin A, which can be found in Golden Rice. This genetically modified species of rice provides a greater source of vitamin A and is being distributed in India, the Philippines, and many more countries.

As much good as GMOs can do, farmers in Argentina and citizens near by are suffering from blood contamination. Argentina has the third largest soybean production and almost all of it is genetically modified. Modified soybean is resistant to commonly used herbicides and insecticides, but humans are not. Nearby citizens’ blood is being contaminated by these agrochemicals. They fear the effects of not only consuming genetically modified food, but being exposed to agrochemicals.

In an American anti-science movement it seems unfair to deprive the rest of our world from food that could save lives. World hunger is a



Granola bars often contain genetically modified grains.

Photo Credit: Liam Greenwell

pressing issue that requires an immediate response. Countries in need deserve the option to use GMOs to feed their hungry, while at the same time research needs to be continued, so scientists can understand

potential long term effects and alter them. People throughout the world deserve a stable, healthy food supply, but they also require some type of nutrition immediately.





THE ELEPHANT MAN
Continued from page 1

bothers to get to know him until Dr. Frederick Treves comes along. With his help, he manages to bring Merrick under his care back at the hospital, but not without several of its own obstacles. Merrick attempts to prove to others that he has an incredible mind of his own, and is given a place to finally call “home”.

“Though the story takes place in the 1880s, the themes are timeless” proudly stated Ms. Murray, director of the play and a drama teacher at CRLS, “The character John Merrick represents many of us who feel that they don’t fit in. [Those] that feel that they are ugly, or unfit, or not popular or don’t have friends. For whatever reason, this story is how we can feel on the inside. This story is also about how we treat people. We can be cruel. We can treat people as ‘the other.’ We underestimate people. We don’t know who people really are and we make judgments about others. This play makes us look at ourselves.”

The play is CRLS’ entry in the annual Massachusetts State Drama Festival, which takes place over the course of the month of March. Competitors perform the play of their choosing in under forty minutes, and the tech and stage prep is completely student driven. There are three levels of the competition: Preliminary, Semi-Final, and State Final.

On Saturday, February 28th, CRLS passed Preliminaries and, on Saturday, March 14th, passed Semi-Finals. CRLS has been chosen to advance as a Finalist against 13 other schools. Over 114 schools and 3,500 students participated in the Festival this year.

“I am definitely proud of advancing. Beyond that, I am really proud of how [the cast and crew] really clicked. We are a family. I value every member of the cast and crew,” said CRLS senior Nicolas Thilo-McGovern, who plays Dr. Frederick Treves in the performance, “This experience has been so great. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a wonderful cast.”

Another beautiful aspect of this performance was it’s simplistic set design. CRLS’ drama and technical departments have had an ever-growing reputation of excellence and creativity, thanks to past performances CRLS students and staff have masterfully showcased for years.

“You can’t help but be touched by this production,” continued Ms. Murray, “And what is so moving about it is that the actors and tech crew tell the story with such dignity and respect. I am so proud with how they have helped make The Elephant Man come alive. They have made The Elephant Man a moving and beautiful play.”

CRLS performs in the final competition at 1:30 PM at Boston’s John Hancock Hall on Saturday, March 28th.

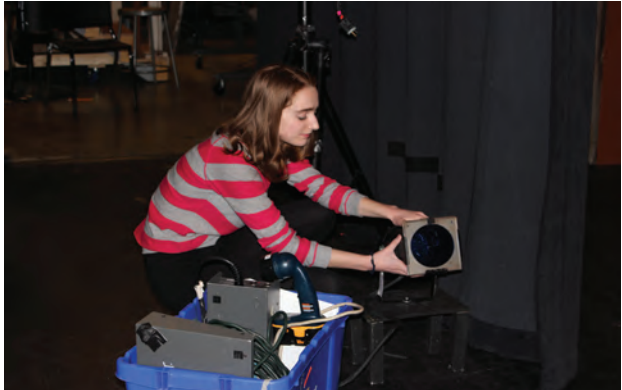


Photo Credits, pages 9 and 10: Diego Lasarte

Phosphorescent Blues: Breathtakingly Beautiful and Bold



By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Staff

While the Punch Brothers’ previous albums have done nothing but impress, their fourth album, 2015’s Phosphorescent Blues may be the best of them all. The album is a combination of breathtakingly beautiful and boldly diverse music paired with intimate and oftentimes terrifying lyrics.

The Punch Brothers are a five-man band in traditional bluegrass instrumentation who play everything from covers of Radiohead songs to tunes that are nearly bluegrass with an inventive kick. The band consists of popular mandolinist and lead singer Chris Thile (also of Nickel Creek and the Goat Rodeo Sessions), violinist Gabe Witcher, banjo-

ist Noam Pikelny, guitarist Chris Eldridge (also of The Infamous Stringdusters), and bassist Paul Kowert. Their first album came out in 2008.

Rather than a collection of songs, Phosphorescent Blues, for all its differences in musical styles, remains connected by the inspired overarching theme of cellphone usage. The band explores the cons of cellphones and expresses their fears through music in a way no other medium can.

“Familiarity,” the first song on the album, speaks to a sense of detachment from the real, tangible things. Lead singer Chris Thile intimates a fear deeper and more frightening than that of death: that life won’t be worth living if we become too ingrained in a virtual world. He sings: “I see an end to where I don’t love you like I can/ Cause

I’ve forgotten how it feels (amen)/ To love someone or thing for real (amen)...”

The 10 minute song is not only brilliant due to its lyrics. The band split it into 3 sections, the last very similar to the first, with an a cappella section -- oddly reminiscent of the Beach Boys -- in the middle, and haunting musical themes repeated throughout.

While “Familiarity” is ingenious, it is less accessible to some than many of their other songs.

“The band explores the cons of cellphones and expresses their fears through music in a way no other medium can.”

“I Blew It Off,” more of a pop song than the Punch Brothers’ usual style, is one of the most catchy songs the Punch Brothers have created to date. In it, Chris Thile sings verses to a backdrop of a driving violin and guitar groove and the cho-

rus to the supportive vocals of the rest of the band. The song expresses an increased distance from the real world and the bizarre feeling of real relationships interrupted by cellphones.

Many of the songs are clearly connected to the theme, but some are more abstract, referring briefly to what previous songs have said but not insistently pulling the listener into the conversation. There are still musical allusions to cellphones: a series of low violin thumps reminds the listener of an ominously vibrating cellphone in “Familiarity”, while harmonized licks reminiscent of notification alerts lead up to the each verse in “Between First and A.”

Although the cellphone theme brings a unique feel to the album, sometimes it is overdone. The criticisms the band

makes-- that cellphones can force people apart rather than bring them together with the virtualization of personal relationships, and that being able to communicate constantly with people far away detracts from relationships with people in the same physical vicinity-- could be true for all communication systems in any time period, from messengers to telegraphs.

The band also neglects to mention any positive aspects of cellphone use; they focus on relationships that have been destroyed by cellphones rather than the ones that are preserved.

Despite these faults, as an attempt to both musically and lyrically pull together a conceptual argument, Phosphorescent Blues is surprisingly successful and worth a listen for everyone interested in contemporary string music or the effect of cellphones.

The Tale of the Princess Kaguya



By
Christo Hays
Register Forum Correspondent

The Tale of the Princess Kaguya is a grand experience, a remarkably beautiful and unique film that is truly more about how everything adds up than how each part stands on its own.

The results of the impressive 8-year production helmed by seasoned Japanese filmmaker Isao Takahata are clear in the visual mastery and the engaging storytelling of the film. From the start, it is inherent that this is a different type of film.

The artistic style is breathtaking and draws on watercolor and charcoal illustration for its look; a far cry from the cookie-cutter, cleaned and polished look of mainstream 3D and 2D animation that companies like Disney are so fond of. The color pallet is light and pleasant without feeling faded or lacking vibrancy, creating a wonderful aesthetic when combined with the 10th century Japanese setting.

While each frame could be a piece of fine art in its own right, the distinct look has its drawbacks, which become more apparent as the initial wonder begins to wear off.

Expressions and emotions are often lost or unclear underneath

indistinct lines, which takes away from what could have been more poignant moments. This isn’t to say that there aren’t great moments in the film; they just could have been that much better.

An occasionally lackluster English dub cast doesn’t do anything to help these unfulfilling moments either. James Caan, Mary Steenburgen, and Darren Criss lend their voices to the production with Chloë Grace Moretz leading the cast as The Princess Kaguya, and they all do their fair share of tripping over dialogue.

Whether its the sometimes awkward Japanese-to-English dialogue translation or the off delivery of a few lines here and there, you get the sense that this is an experience that is best delivered in its original Japanese form; the English dub was a technicality for the filmmakers.

“The journey felt odd and vague at times, but came together slowly and purposefully to create great tension”

However, each cast member really shines during many of the moments where the writing and a good voice take combine, which highlights what could have been brilliant performances.

Any shortcomings that can be found in the film can be made up for by the masterful storytelling. The film takes a risk and decides not



Kaguya tells the tale of a girl who seems to be of divine origin.
Photo Credit: GKIDS Productions/Studio Ghibli

to hold the viewers hand and throw a simple message at them much like its western animation brethren.

The film is a multi-faceted story that explores multiple themes and more than one direction of the plot. The course the film takes is unclear much lot of the time and at points it can feel like its wandering, but once you reach the conclusion and see where its taken you, everything becomes instantly essential and you can feel the weight of each scene.

Throughout the film I was struck by the parallels it drew with Lawrence of Arabia and even Breaking Bad, with how the journey felt odd and vague at times, but came together slowly and purposefully to create great tension and a great ending that resonated strongly with me.

One of the highlights of the film is the stellar sound track that accompanies the striking visuals and the powerful story. Joe Hisaishi really brought the film together with one of the most remarkable sound tracks of recent memory. It effortlessly lifts many scenes in the film from being great to above fantastic. It can sound heart-wrenchingly sorrowful one minute, joyously grand the next, and nail-bitingly tense the one after, all while remaining deceptively simple.

The Tale of the Princess Kaguya is triumphant. It beautifully conveys an array of messages, each as poignant in delivery as the last. The noticeable flaws of the film, such as the hit-or-miss English dub cast, are overshadowed by the gorgeous animation, sweeping sound track and the wonderfully original story.

Where Are You Going for Lunch?

CRLS Students Weigh in on a Variety of Options

By
Manuel Bonder
Register Forum Staff



The lunch options offered to CRLS students are varied and diverse, making lunch a big topic.

Lunch is a big part of everyone’s day. It signifies a break from class and a chance to sit and talk with friends over a midday meal. At CRLS, lunch also means it’s time to make a choice.

From Angelo’s Pizza on Broadway to Harvard Market and Mona Lisa’s on the Cambridge Street side of campus, the choices for where to go at lunch are diverse, and students enjoy having options. “Regardless of how much money I have or what kind of food I want, there’s always a good variety of choices,” says Senior Alex Daniels, “and that’s

great!”. CRLS students can choose to eat lunch at a variety of different places, but the school cafeteria is at the top of the list. According to a recently conducted Register Forum survey, 52% of students say that the cafeteria is the most common place they go for lunch.

One person who plays a major role in the way lunch works is Vincent Connelly, the head of kitchen here at CRLS.

Every day, “Vin”

it’s at a good price.”

In the school cafeteria, Mr. Connelly, the chefs, the servers, and everyone else involved work to provide around 800 lunches daily for staff and students, and they are all “passionate about putting out a good product,” Vin says. The lunches that they do put out, however, feed less than half of the student body.

Many students eat lunch off campus. As junior Julian Cohen explains, eating off campus “lets [students] have a little time away from school, a little more freedom”.

For many students, getting lunch at school is inconvenient because of the cafeteria’s long lines and crowded serving stations. Vin realizes this, but he doesn’t think it limits what he and his crew can accomplish. “I know we could produce more food. If we got to 1,000 lunches that would be incredible”.

The choices around campus are open for several different price ranges, which is a big factor for students when lunch comes around. 75% of students take price into consideration when deciding where to go for lunch, so having variety in price range as well as food options is important.

Whether you decide to try your luck in the lines next “Taco Wednesday” or head to Broadway Market for a bagel and some coffee, lunch will remain a big part of the day at CRLS.

comes to work with a clear motive, and there is one goal at the heart of it all, he shares. “We want to serve food that kids like and that are healthy.” 86% of the students surveyed think that the food at the cafeteria is well prepared. As Daniels puts it, “You can always find something good and



CRLS Server Michelle Walsh takes a break from preparing lunch.
Photo Credit: Cameron Lane-Fleehinger

BEST FOOD

Continued from page 1

quick to praise the food offered at Rindge and Latin, and in a recent Register Forum poll 54% of students rated the food served in the cafeteria as either Good or Very Good. “This year I tried out the media caf... and it ended up being very tasty food”, said Sophomore Dewayne Green. Junior Gabriel Lubbock agreed, saying “Each meal feels unique and thought out”.

When interviewed by the Register Forum, many students cited the numerous of off-campus options as the primary reason they did not buy food from the cafeteria. “I think that having so many other options for food makes people less likely to get food from the caf” said sophomore Mia Juarez-Farnsworth.

Although the abundance of lunch options is an important part of CRLS, it

presents a unique challenge to chefs trying to compete with the quality and variety available at Broadway Market or Darwins, while still remaining affordable enough for all students.

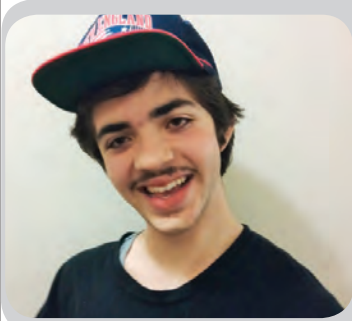
Students also expressed an interest in a wider selection of fruits and vegetables. “The cafeteria should offer at least two different fruit options at the register each day” said junior William MacArthur.

“As for any upcoming changes... I’m open to suggestions”, says Honeywood, mentioning future possibilities like “mobile food stations that could further decrease the lines.. or a scratch made pizza station”.

No matter what the future holds, Honeywood insists that some things will remain the same. “One thing that won’t change is our business goal. Our business is not about slapping food on a plate. Our business is about making students well-nourished, healthy, and ready to learn.”

CRLS RESPONDS:

What are you most excited for this spring?



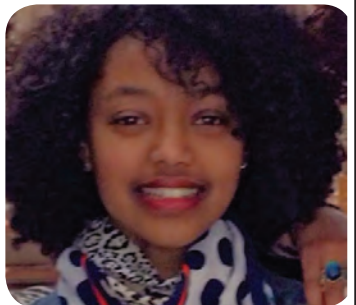
Aziz Rifai
Class of 2018
“To pull the best April Fools prank of all time”

Lucia Brown
Class of 2015
“I’m looking forward to starting tennis season!”



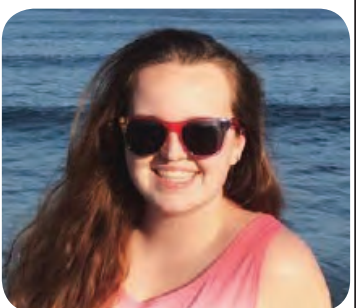
Vanessa Reyes
Class of 2017
“Warmer weather!”

Meaza Petros
Class of 2015
“To pull out my vans and floral pants”



James Yearwood
Class of 2015
“To hop back on my skateboard”

Krystle Cooper
Class of 2015
“My 18th Birthday!!!”



Satu Ehasanuzzaman
Class of 2016
“I look forward to your Spring-ingly beautiful face”

Vaccine Controversy Grows Amid Measles Outbreak

By
Grace Ramsdell
Register Forum Staff

In December 2014, the U.S. experienced an outbreak of measles, a disease for which a vaccine has been available for several decades. The outbreak has been traced to Disneyland in California, and from the beginning of January until mid February, over 150 people from 17 states and Washington D.C. were reported as having measles. Such an outbreak is not unprecedented but is unusual in scope.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), measles spread when an outbreak occurs where groups of people are unvaccinated. Across the U.S., a small but significant number of people have been refusing vaccinations because of concerns about potential side-effects of them.

In 1998, a study linking MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccines and autism was released, and became the basis for concerns about ingredients in vaccines. However, in the years following

its publication, the study was met with skepticism by some in the medical community, and was eventually declared fraudulent.

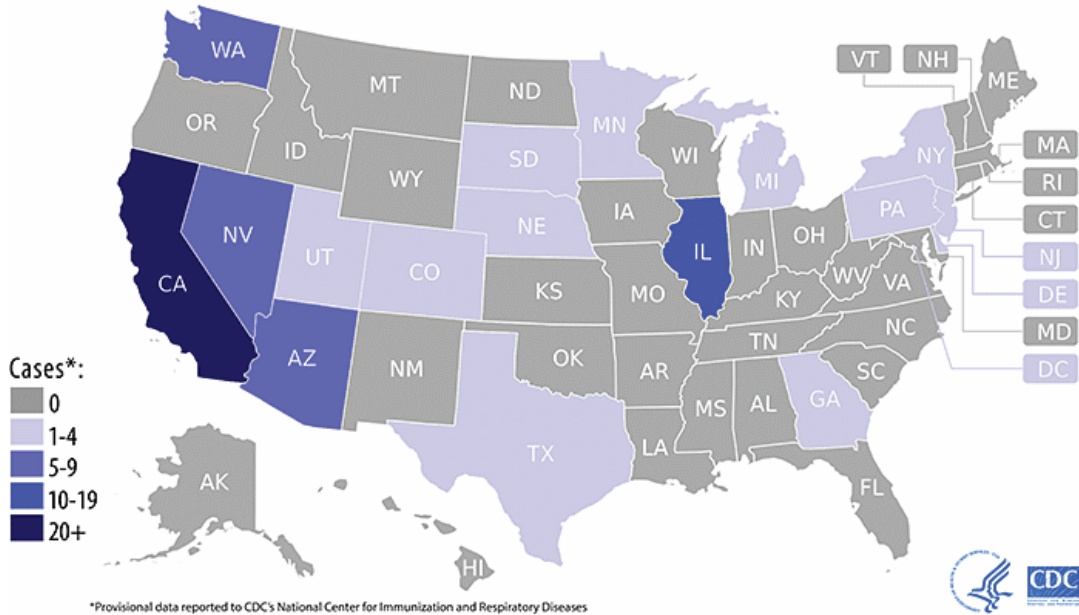
Additionally, the particular ingredient in question, thimerosal, was reexamined, and as a precautionary measure, all but trace amounts have been removed from vaccines. Even so, some parents faced with vaccinating their children still refuse, doubting whether the benefits of vaccines truly outweigh the possible side-effects.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated, "Vaccines are not free from side effects, or 'adverse effects,' but most are very rare or very mild. Importantly, some adverse health issues following a vaccine may be due to coincidence and are not caused by the vaccine."

Overall, IOM studies, and various other research from around the world, have disproven notions that there is a relationship between vaccines and autism, or vaccines and other major side-effects.

Freshman Ty Quigley contributed a different concern, saying, "By fram-

2015 Measles Cases in the U.S. January 1 to February 20, 2015



2015 saw a major increase in cases of measles, a disease which had been all but eradicated.

Photo Credit: CDC

ing the vaccination issue as a debate, the media, along with various public figures, has directly put the lives of many at risk by creating a discussion in which the argument for not vaccinating

"[T]he media...has directly put the lives of many at risk."

children is as valid as the one for vaccinating."

No federal laws about vaccinations are in effect, but children are required to receive certain vaccinations before attending public schools in

every state. However, that requirement is subject to exemptions for medical or religious reasons.

For years the decision to not vaccinate did not have many measurable consequences, because no large outbreaks occurred. Over the past few years, diseases that were largely viewed as eradicated in the U.S. are coming back with a contagious nature that puts the health of the public at risk, and conversations about vaccinations now permeate the U.S.

As far as the Cambridge community, a CPSD employee who handles immunizations says, "There are medical and religious exemptions [from vaccinating], but if you do have an exemption from say, measles, if [measles] were to reach us here, and you haven't been vaccinated, you would have to stay home for at least three weeks." The intention of this protocol is, like all vaccine policies around the country, for an individual's own protection and that of others.

New FCC Rules Concerning Net Neutrality

By
Paloma O'Connor
Register Forum Editor

On Thursday, February 26, net neutrality supporters scored a major victory when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) passed new regulations to ensure the free flow of information on the Internet. The ruling comes after many months of heated debate around net neutrality and the influence of the market on the Internet, which pitted major Internet Service Providers (ISP), such as Verizon and Comcast, against content providers like Apple and Google.

Net Neutrality is the idea that ISPs should deliver all content to consumers without discriminating against any particular sources. Without net neutrality regulations, ISPs could force content providers to pay more for faster service (called "fast lanes"), or deliberately slow down delivery of content that made them look bad or competed with them.

For example, Comcast

This content has been blocked by your service provider.

Activists fear a unregulated Internet would result in corporate censorship.

Photo Credit: studentsforliberty.org

could prevent you from accessing anti-Comcast news articles, slow down your access to Verizon's website, or force Netflix to pay them for faster service. It's like if the phone company was paid by Domino's to screw with your call every time you tried to order pizza from Pizza Hut.

Oliver Sussman, a sophomore, thinks that net neutrality is important, "Because the Internet is simply the medium with which private companies can sell, advertise, etc. This is distinct from the concept of the internet itself being a commod-

ity, where prominent organizations who already control a large portion of the Internet traffic will be able to come closer and closer to complete monopolization."

The new regulations passed by the FCC prevent ISPs from blocking or slowing down content and prohibit the creation of "fast lanes." The FCC also declared the Internet a "public utility," justifying the government's interference in an otherwise free market.

When asked if she believed that the Internet is a utility, junior Elizabeth Harkavy replied, "I think more and more it's becoming [a utility], because the Internet is such an important part of our society –

like in school, a lot of our work is online. People without [internet access] are at a huge disadvantage, and it's really unfair."

CRLS Junior Lizzie Downing echoed Harkavy's statement by saying that the "[Internet] should become a universal right." Sussman agreed, stating, "Why should we be focused on maintaining a given aspect of the economy if that portion is not able to be enjoyed to its fullest extent by many individuals? Maintaining the free market without concerning oneself with equal opportunity begs the question of why we would consider such an economy to be worth protecting in the first place."

The decision was lauded by content providers, civil liberties groups, and consumers as a victory for free speech, consumer rights, and a free and open internet. ISPs, on the other hand, condemned it as an anti-business move that would impede the free market.

The FCC's ruling has massive implications for anyone who uses the Internet. Net neutrality protects consumers, including students, from raised prices or downgraded services.

Europe Leads Way With Less Expensive College

By
Noah Beckert
Register Forum Editor

Countries in Europe, such as Germany, are offering a top class English college education at some of the world’s most prestigious universities for free.

With college tuitions in the United States hitting an all time high, surging nearly 500% since 1985, certain CRLS juniors have begun to look for an alternative to the average American college. CRLS Junior Raiden Duffy believes, “It is time to rethink the application process and start refocusing our attention on European colleges.”

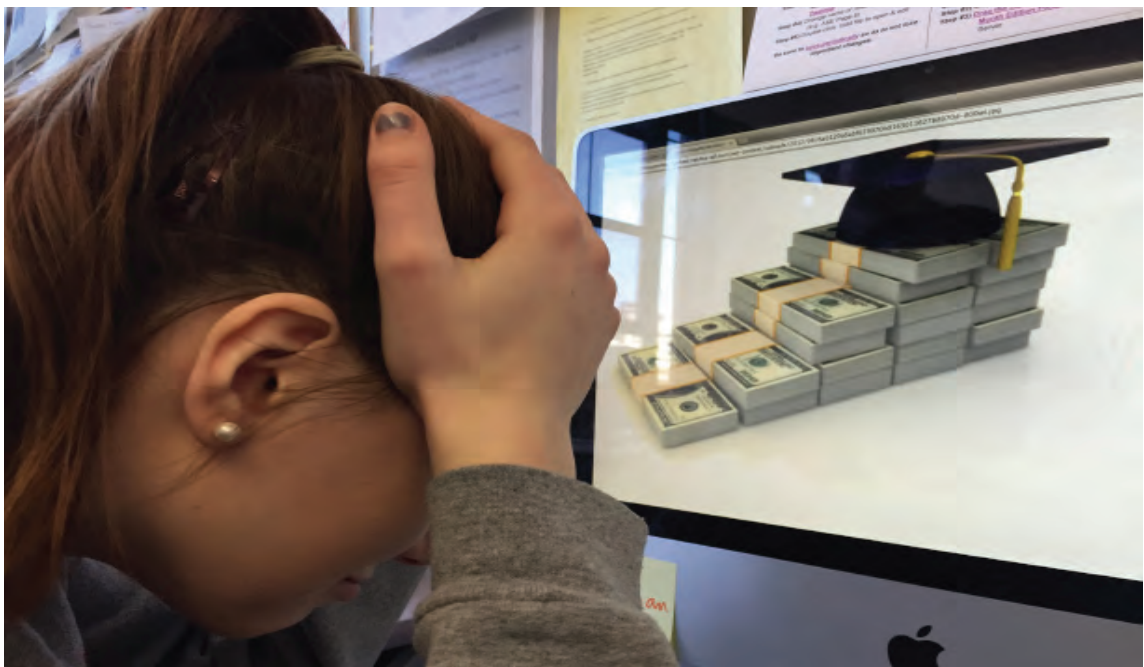
Americans can earn an undergraduate degree without speaking a word of German in Germany, Finland, France, and other European countries. With the population of Germany decreasing at a steady rate, the

current generation might be growing up into an ever expanding job market with famously good benefits.

Alaska Akbar, a college sophomore who left an American high school and currently attends the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, which ranks 29th university in the world according to *The Higher Education*, comments, “In order to attend a German college, one needs to be willing to work very hard and without an expectation that a professor will help you. I do think that it is harder than your average American high school,

“It is time to rethink the application process and start refocusing our attention on European colleges.”

but I’ve seen my friends become quickly successful after they graduated the Ludwig Maximilian Uni-



Even Register Forum Staff stress out about American tuition prices.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

versity, and so it definitely pays off.”

Free education is something that European colleges take seriously and although some do not re-

tively high SAT score. Not all European colleges offer a free education, in some cases tuition can range from 900 euros for top colleges, to 20000 euros in privately owned colleges.

With a different culture, language, and education system, many American high school students may feel more comfortable in a place that they know.

However, taking into mind an often massive student debt and a limited

job market, CRLS Junior Sam Brill-Weill says, “I see it as an experience that nobody should overlook and even with cultural differences it might be a fun experience that will certainly change your life...I think with all things considered it could be worth it.” And for many CRLS students trying to avoid student debt, Europe is a option worth considering.

Protesters in Egypt Face Prison Sentences

By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Staff

18 protesters received reduced sentences on Monday, February 23rd after violating Egypt’s 2013 protest law forbidding demonstrations that have not been cleared with police at least three days in advance. The case is under scrutiny due to unreliable evidence and testimonies presented against the defendants.

The right to protest is one most CRLS students see as an essential civil liberty, although many countries do not support the right in their constitutions. Even though the freedom to assemble is protected by the United States constitution, our country allows limits on protests by state governments through the use of necessary permits or limitations on public spaces. In 2011, the City of Boston came under popular criticism for shutting down the Occupy Boston movement in Dewey Square due to hygienic policies.

CRLS sophomore and political activist Mary Gashaw argues that “Saying what you want to say...is extremely important because we’re all individuals, [and] we all have different...perspectives, so...it’s important that we voice that out and have the freedom to do so.”

When the protest law was first introduced, the Egyptian Prime Minister at the time, Hazem al- Beblawi, argued that the purpose of the law is not to forbid protests but to make them more orderly and safe. He asserted that “...[The right to protest] must be met with a sense of responsibility so it won’t damage security or terrorize or assault establishments.”

One of the protests against the law allegedly began with a peaceful demonstration, but quickly became a chaotic and violent melee when the police used tear gas and undercover police violently arrested protesters.



Since the fall of Morsi, Egypt has been politically unstable and is now run by a military dictatorship.

Photo Credit: Reuters

According to CRLS senior Jonah Schwartz, protesters have the right to defend themselves, although Mr. Schwartz added that “No protest should start [out] violent.”

Ms. Gashaw argued that limits on protests can give too much power to a government: “[Laws against violent protests are] unfair because... when people are protesting against the

“Protests may be Egyptian citizens most powerful weapon.”

government, it’s because the government is not protecting its people, and it’s important that the government understand ... why we’re... protesting.”

Although the Egyptian government argues that the purpose of the law is not to limit

protests or resistance, because of the massive effect of political demonstrations all over the Arab World, many believe that there may also be other ideas behind it. Mr. Dagher, the CRLS Arabic teacher and an expert on Arab history, said that “[Most regimes] feel threatened by the slightest protest,” implying the Protest Law may have more to do with the preservation of the government rather than the preservation of peace.

Since 2011, when Egyptian citizens pressured President Hosni Mubarak into an early resignation through the use of mass protests, Egyptian politics have been shaped by demonstrations. Within two years, two presidents have either resigned or were removed because of public action. Protests may be Egyptian citizens’ most powerful weapon, and any unpopular government should be wary of that power.

Greece, Famous for Its Ruins, is Now in Ruins

By
Shubhan Nagendra
Register Forum Editor

“We shall squeeze blood out of stone if we need to do this on our own, and we shall do it.” So uttered the Greek Finance Minister, Yanis Varoufakis in an interview with the Associated Press (AP). His words come a few days after the German MPs announced the successful four-month extension for Greece’s Herculean debt.

January saw the arrival of the left leaning Syriza Party in Greece, which provided hope to the forlorn Greeks.

After years of the economic crisis, and an ostensible hatred for the “troika” (consist-

ing of the European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund, and European Commission) a period of calmness may be ensuing in Greece. Or is there?

Athens, Greece’s capital saw widespread violence aimed at the Euro-

pean powers and Greece’s new government just before Germany’s decision on the bailout. Alexis Tsipras promised Greece’s citizens of ending the controversial 240 Billion Euro IMF/EU bailout -- which was one of the reasons for Syriza’s election victory. Furthermore, the Syriza Party’s backtrack on anti-austerity measures are seen as a betrayal of faith for the voters.

The EU and Germany’s insistence on austerity has finally seen the Greek government fall under pressure. According to the Guardian, growth in 2014 was 0.7%, and the GDP

“the German government is the strongest supporter of a continuation of the neo-liberal reforms that have pushed large segments of the Greek population into poverty; it currently boils down to a conflict of different socio-economic projects for Europe.”

The question of Greece’s economic crisis reverberating around the world arises. Mr. Tillmanns continues: “the situation in Greece is affecting German citizens only marginally. The most important point is a pretty constant exposure to anti-Greek propaganda from government and major press organs.”

Since the crisis has hit Greece, the United States should be wary of the situation, especially since the Euro could devalue quickly if Greece falls. Mateo Mariscal, a Junior at CRLS, believes today’s economic globalization makes countries connected: “Even if the US’ economy is not extremely integrated with Greece’s,



Pressure on Yanis Varoufakis and Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

Photo Credit: Dagens Næringsliv

Greece is very connected with other European economies that are important to the US. Therefore the Greek economic crisis could negatively affect the US.”

The Greek economic crisis could backtrack the US economy, and Ben Rosand, a Junior at CRLS contemplates the impact on US exports to Europe: “The economic crisis will hurt US exports to Europe, our largest trading partner. Many investments from individuals and companies in European nations will also

be affected.”

The renowned nation of Greece, famous for its ruins, is now in ruins. Once a bastion of invincibility, it has ebbed away into mediocrity. The challenge remains for the Syriza Party under Mr. Tsipras, and the ebullient news of a four-month extension is a relief to the nascent government. However, further bailouts could fatally damage the reputation of Greece, and there are growing concerns over them.

Is the Ukraine Ceasefire Agreement Viable?

By
Sophia Nikolayev
Register Forum Staff

On February 12th, after 16 hours of intense discussion in Minsk, Belarus, the leaders of Germany, France, Ukraine, and Russia announced a new ceasefire agreement in an attempt to end the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, which, according to the BBC, has resulted in the “deaths of more than 5,400 people and displaced nearly 1 million.” The agreement also calls for the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line, the release of all prisoners, and the removal of all foreign combatants from Ukrainian territory.

Junior Gabriela Thompson, who has been keeping up with Ukraine’s situation, shares her opinion on the viability of the deal: “Given Russia’s flagrant violation of the last ceasefire, I don’t expect a different outcome from this renewed measure. President Vladimir Putin’s deceiving history has very clearly proven that he has no regard for promises that cannot be enforced by the West.”

Even after the agreement was announced, separatist rebels continued to take control of eastern parts of Ukraine and fight for the city of Debaltseve, which serves as a key rail hub. “The Russian military has deployed a large amount of artillery and multiple rocket launcher systems around Debaltseve, where it is shelling Ukrainian positions,” Jen Psaki, a state Department spokeswoman, said in a statement. “We are confident that these are Russian military, not separatist systems.”

In an interview on February 24th, Putin said that war with Ukraine was “unlikely” and that he believes “that such an apocalyptic scenario is hardly possible.”

After asking scholar sophomore Micah Wilson, whether the Europeans should induce another round of sanctions, and whether or not the United States should get involved and provide Ukraine with lethal defense weapons, he stated that “The United States may indeed have to get involved in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Vladimir Putin is a dangerous man, whose actions may



Key meeting in Minsk, Belarus among world leaders has not ended the war.

Photo Credit: Kremlin

very well lead to a cold war.”

According to the defense ministry, on February 26th, Ukraine’s army started the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line in the east as part of a truce, but after two days without casualties, the Ukrainian authorities announced the loss of three servicemen in eastern Ukraine.

According to the BBC, Russia warned it might have to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine by the end of the week if it did not receive further payments from Kiev. While

Ukraine said, Russia had piped fewer than half its prepaid shipments from Gazprom, the largest extractor of natural gas in the world.

Senior Nick Singer explains that in retrospect, the ceasefire agreement “might represent a positive step for the years of conflict ahead of Ukraine, but in order for it to hold, the Russians and their separatist proxy forces in eastern Ukraine must actually adhere to the terms of the agreement. And that’s unlikely to happen.”



THE REGISTER FORUM

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Isaiah Mcleod

By
Cameron Lane-Flehinger
Register Forum Editor

After the final whistle of his illustrious high school basketball career sounded, Isaiah Mcleod's coaches and teammates had nothing but praise for the senior captain. "Isaiah has just been incredible from his work ethic down to his leadership" said boys basketball head coach Lance Dottin. That sentiment was echoed by Mcleod's teammates, including fellow senior Marcus Collins, who described Isaiah as a "pure leader."

Mcleod, who will be attending Southern Connecticut State University in the fall, has been a member of the varsity basketball team since his sophomore Mcleod's other notable achievements include being named the GBL player of the year for the 2013-14 season, as well as the Dual County League MVP for the 2014-15 season. He was named a Boston Globe All-Scholastic player in his junior season, and

was recently named a finalist for the ESPNBoston.com Massachusetts Mr. Basketball Award.

However, despite the numerous accolades that Mcleod has

offers from several powerhouse prep school programs to remain at CRLS, and he was rewarded with a Division 1 North Championship in his senior year.

hardest worker, so when we see him doing something we trust him and just follow suit." says sophomore Jakigh Dottin.

Mcleod's impact on those around him can be seen in his relationship with Dottin, his back-court partner: "I'm like his little brother, so I just try to mimic most of the things that he does".

Mcleod's impact on the basketball team, as a player, mentor, teammate, and friend will be sorely missed, but coach Dottin believes that his leadership and dedication will provide a path for future players: "He's been that example for us, if you want to be good as a player, you're going to have to do the things that Isaiah does."

Throughout his four years at CRLS, Isaiah Mcleod has exemplified the ideal of what it means to be a Cambridge student-athlete through his character, dedication, and leadership both on and off the court. As he continues on in his basketball career, he departs CRLS as a role model for athletes in all sports.



Isaiah Mcleod -- a "pure leader" -- goes up for a layup.

Photo Credit: Cameron Lane-Flehinger

acquired during his career, he has displayed a commitment to his friends and teammates both on and off the court. Mcleod eschewed

Mcleod's loyalty and focus have not gone unnoticed, and his values have carried over into the entire basketball program. "He's our

CRLS Girl's Hockey Seeks New Recruits

Team Faces the Challenges of Small Roster on Ice

By
Adrienne Ashe
Register Forum Editor

After the girl's hockey season winded down during February break, the players had to reflect on the team's season as well looking towards their team's future. With a mere fourteen girls, three of which are 8th graders, filling out the Cambridge- Somerville Varsity hockey team, Coach Katelyn Greene and her team try to understand how Cambridge can raise interest is girl's hockey.

Girls hockey in general is not a widely popular sport and is still growing, but Dual County League power-house Acton-Boxborough has a whopping nineteen girls on their Varsity team alone. Compared to other high school sports in Cambridge, such as soccer, which can easily field a full Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity team, girl's hockey in Cambridge has three sets of forward lines, two of which play regularly, two sets of defenceman, and one goalie.

With few players, the team had to adopt a more passive playing strategy. "When there are not a lot of people, conserving energy is always a priority. This can sometimes hold us back from being as aggressive as we want to be against a team," says Coach Katelyn Greene.

Jason Targoff, the director of Learn to Play for Girls, a program meant to teach young girls how to skate and handle the puck, noticed that hockey has a reputation for taking up time,



CRLS Junior, Kateline McCallum has a breakout against Waltham on December 2nd.

Photo Credit: Brett Crawford, Wicked Local Staff

money, and eventually a family's life. "Parents don't want to get their child involved in hockey because of the '5 a.m. myth.'" Over the years stories of games or practices at five in the morning every weekend have circulated, making parents wary of signing their child up for hockey. On top of this, equipment and ice time do not come cheap. "It's just not an option for some families," says Targoff.

Cambridge Youth Hockey has attempted to overcome these obstacles by initiating a supply of free hockey equipment that can be taken by interested players and returned after growing out of for the next young player to use. They have also made practice times more accommodating -- usually ranging between five and seven pm. Cambridge Youth Hockey hopes that by expanding the youth program, the high

school program will grow as well.

Rebecca Sadock, a senior and co-captain this past season, started playing in seventh grade. As most start playing no later than nine years old, it was a challenge to stick with hockey. She commented that while it was difficult, "it was worth sticking with because I enjoyed it so much." Coach Greene says that, "Hockey is a very unique sport in that it is extremely difficult to start right before or during high school." Gaining proficiency in basic skills such as skating is required before a player can focus on developing puck handling skills and knowledge of the game, making more practice necessary before a player can compete. Attracting young girls to play hockey, so they can develop hockey skills early, is essential to the growth of the high school program.

CRLS Boys Basketball Cement Their Spot in History

Division 1 North Champs Fall Short of Achieving MA State Title

By
Simon Silvan-Recht
Register Forum Correspondent

Patrick Ewing, an NBA Hall of Famer and 11 time all star, is just one of the many spectacular ball players to emerge from the CRLS boy’s basketball program, which is laced in a tradition of success.

The Falcons, whose season culminated in a hard fought 67-64 loss to Catholic Memorial in the MIAA D1 Eastern Final, built on this spectacular tradition, boasting a 18-2 regular season record en route to both the DCL and the MIAA D1 North Titles. The team, lead by senior captain and DCL MVP Isaiah Mcleod, performed at an extremely high level throughout the season, and ended their season at the TD Garden in front of thousands of fans, a spectacle that is unimaginable for most high school basketball teams. Looking back on their season, the team points to a strong sense of unity in the locker room, and the



Boys Basketball beat St. John’s Prep to win the Division 1 North Title.

Photo Credit: Cameron Lane-Flehinger

winning philosophy of the coaching staff, as their keys to success.

“The most important contributor to our team’s success is buying into what the coaching staff is asking for” said sophomore guard Nathan Habtom. “We have really bought into the

program by paying attention to every specific detail that’s been taught to us by the coaches.” Senior Eric Smith-Sokol echoed this sentiment, and added “We’ve been really focused on having everyone do their part. Playing as a team, where everyone is on the same page, has really

shown its benefits.” 6 every game because he [Neal] was a member of our Cambridge basketball family for years...His last words were of his goals to finish high school, and he couldn’t do that, so we play with him in our hearts.”

team was met with a resounding and all-encompassing voice of support from the CRLS community. “This team’s got a wonderful tenacity to it, and its this sort of attitude and winning -mentality that makes me

“We have really bought into the program by paying attention to every specific detail that’s been taught to us by the coaches”

proud to be a Falcon...” Said Philip Gaines, a two sport varsity captain and



Cambridge played Catholic Memorial at TD Garden on March 9th.
Photo Credit: Cameron Lane-Flehinger

For many on the team, this season has been particularly meaningful because of the loss of a member of the community earlier this year, Davonte Neal. “For most of the team, our motivation is the lives of loved ones who have passed away” said Habtom. “We specifically say ‘Sweets’ on

This season the Falcons concocted a mixture of athleticism, talent, dedication, motivation, and coaching ability that led them to an 18-0 record in Massachusetts (their tow losses came against teams from New York State) and a ranking as high as 2nd in the state, according to ESPN Boston.

The success of the

avid fan. Gaines continued by saying, “I’ve seen a lot of great teams come through this school, and this one rivals them all.”

Throughout the season the team demonstrated characteristics CRLS can be proud of.

CRLS Baseball Gears Up for New Challenge

By
Rafael Goldstein
Register Forum Correspondent

Spring time. We all know the saying: April showers bring May flowers. But what many students at Rindge are excited for this spring is baseball. Players are ecstatic about the season. Senior star shortstop Erick Ramirez made it clear when he added, “I love the game [of baseball] because it takes a lot of bad things off my mind. When there is a lot of stuff in my head and I can’t think, playing or practicing baseball makes me forget about it.”

Ramirez, along with his teammates, are grateful to be playing baseball and, “thank God for the talent and the love that [he] has for this game of baseball!” Baseball seems to bring out the best in people. The CRLS baseball program preaches hard work and dedication, and they often get out the results they expect.

Last year the team did fairly well. They Finished 15-5 but unfortunately lost in the second round of the state tournament. Lanky, but self-proclaimed “burly” Junior pitcher Ben Austin described the motivation going into this year, “Our playoff performance last year

was a disappointment for sure, but that loss has just given us more drive.” Austin also commented that the team worked hard during the offseason “to get stronger and better, and we look forward to proving it.” Unfortunately, Austin has yet to be seen surpassing 5 pushups in a single workout.

Like all other sports teams at CRLS, this year the baseball team is facing new competition in the DCL (Dual County League). The baseball team will face a tough challenge. Many of the state’s best teams reside in the DCL, a huge step up from the old GBL (Greater Boston League). One of their first

games is against Lincoln-Sudbury, which is one of the best in the state.

However, Senior captain Philip Gaines argued, “There’s no doubt in my mind that we can compete in the DCL. We’ve been able to go toe to toe with teams from the DCL in the past, and I see no reason why we won’t do the same this season.”

The team does have the facts to back it up, reaching the state tournament last year and beating several DCL teams in the past as well.

Show up and support the falcons at St. Peters Field in Danewhy park!