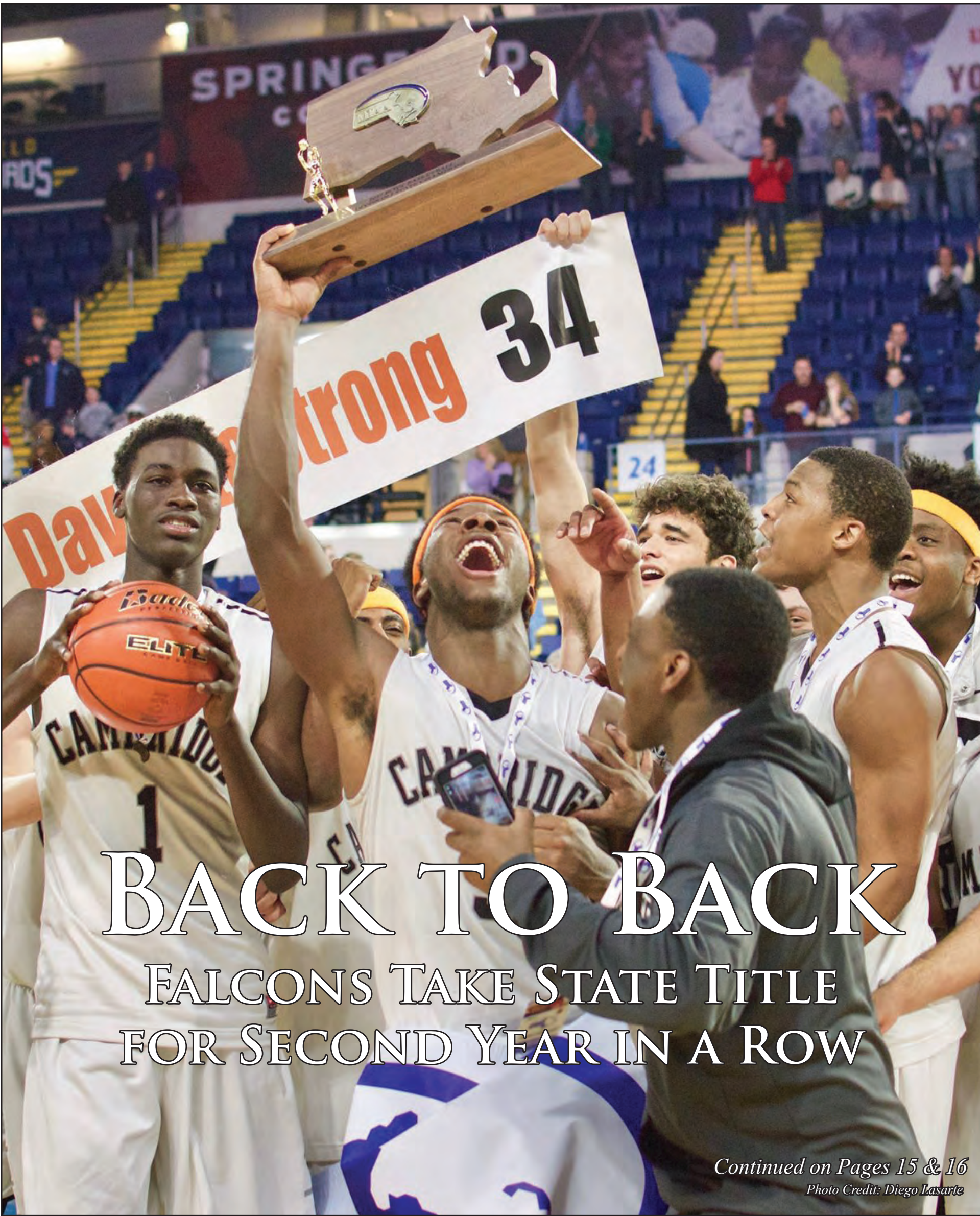


The
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Established 1891

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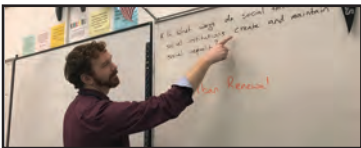


BACK TO BACK
FALCONS TAKE STATE TITLE
FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Continued on Pages 15 & 16
Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

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REGISTER FORUM

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
twitter: @registerforum
instagram: @registerforum
crlsregisterforum@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief
Diego Lasarte '17

Managing Editor
Grace Ramsdell '18

Editors
Adrienne Ashe '17
Cecilia Barron '19
Rafael Goldstein '17
Ursula Murray-Bozeman '17
Sun-Jung Yum '19

Contributors
Isabelle Agee-Jacobson '20
Grace Austin '19
Wini Austin '17
Oscar Berry '19
Harry Greenblatt '19
Sophie Harrington '18
Anyia Harp '19
Christo Hays '17
Maddie Johnson-Harwitz '20
Megan Kelliher '19
Megumi Kirby '19
Nathan Kolodney '19
Elliott Ronna '17
Shuvom Sadhuka '18
Robert Shapiro '18
Simon Simpson '20
Will Telingator '17
Juliana Vandermark '20

Faculty Advisor
Steven Matteo

Established in 1891 as the C.M.T.S Register
"Listening to every voice,
printing what you need to hear"

CRLS Students Have Smarts
Register Forum Wins Schoolwide Trivia Competition

By
Maddie Johnson-Harwitz
Register Forum Contributor

The third annual "Are You as Smart as a CRLS Student?" trivia competition was held on Wednesday, March 22nd, in the CRLS auditorium. The event was kindly sponsored by the CRLS Alumni Association. Brain food snacks were provided for participants and audience members, cleverly labeled with their intellectual benefits.

The event was hosted by CRLS alum and comedian Jimmy Tingle and former CRLS Assistant Principal Henry Lukas. The Max Kaufman Jazz Quartet entertained the audience between questions. Community teams included Cambridge Police, Cambridge Health Alliance, and a team featuring School Committee member Patty Nolan, City Councilman Craig Kelley, and former mayor Henrietta Davis. Teams of CRLS stu-



The Register Forum team poses with Jimmy Tingle.
Photo Credit: CRLS Alumni Association

dents competed for prizes of \$100, \$200, and \$300 for the three highest scoring teams.

Student teams competed over two rounds of fifteen questions on topics ranging from biology to March Madness to architecture. The student teams vied for a chance to win both the prize money and the opportunity to go up on stage and compete against the highest scoring community team. The Register Forum narrowly won the student competition over Team Not Art (Chris Johnson-Harwitz,

Talia Spitz, Albert Lee, and Max Thomsen) by correctly answering two tie-breaker questions. However, the Opera Dads, a community team of three dads and an elementary school student, comfortably won the community competition. The final showdown between both the student team and the community team resulted in a close win by the Register Forum team composed of contributors Charlotte Rosenblum and Jake Friedman, editor Rafael Goldstein, and editor-in-chief Diego Lasarte.

Update on March School Committee Meetings
Oversight or Overmanagement? Committee Discusses its Role in District Decisions

By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Editor

Teacher's Union Demonstrates for Contract Negotiation

At the first meeting this month, over a hundred Cambridge educators silently filed into the room during public comment carrying signs reading "Settle the Contract" and "Cambridge Education Association." In addition to those at the meeting, over 1,000 educators had signed a petition supporting the bargaining team and urging the School Committee to settle. They were acting on their frustration with what they see as the Committee's "lack of movement" and willingness to compromise in the negotiation process for a new contract. The teachers' union has been at the bargaining table for more than a year on issues such as working conditions, prep time, salaries, and benefits. Mr. Kells, one of the representatives from CRLS to the bargaining team, said that "since that demonstration [the negotiating teams are] a few steps closer to arriving to arriving at a contract."

9th Grade Leveling Up

Two movements by Committee member Emily Dexter to request a report on goals for the 9th grade level up initiative (during the first

meeting) and to instate an 18-student class cap on the new 9th grade English classes (at the second meeting) resulted in long discussion by Committee members around how much oversight the initiative requires.

During the second meeting, the Committee became divided into two camps: one which argued to let the school administrators and superintendent do their jobs without interference, and another, consisting of Committee members Emily Dexter and Patty Nolan, which argued that, in

Nolan's words, "If we didn't [ask for goals and expect outcomes] that would be dereliction of our duty as stewards of the district."

The argument was especially heated on the 21st as School Committee members considered a class cap. Principal Smith had told the Committee that he envisioned a class cap of 18 students, but Superintendent Salim warned a hard cap would prevent flexibility in the already difficult scheduling process. Committee member Manikka Bowman added that she found "the frame of [the] conversation frustrating" because it seemed to polarize

the Committee when, she argued, every member shared the same goal: to provide support for the initiative and to maintain a small class size. Committee member Kathleen Kelly echoed the sentiment, saying that issues regarding the 9th grade level up initiative should be discussed "in the spirit of togetherness."

Mayor Simmons took this argument a step further, even claiming that "a negative vote is a vote for the students' achievement gap task force and the students' policy council and the administration." Ultimately the

vote was negative; Ms. Nolan and Committee member Emily Dexter were the only two members who voted for the motion.

Science Teachers & Classrooms
CRLS math and science teachers Mr. Benson and Ms. Newton both testified at the second March meeting that teachers—and space—are running out in the math and science departments. Ms. Newton asked that the Committee add another new science position to the budget, explaining that the science department lost a position this year, so the one position budgeted in so far would only put the department

back where they were last year. She testified that more than 40 students did not get into freshman physics this year because of maxed out classroom capacity, and that as of now, the department is looking at an 108-student "unmet need." Ms. Newton added that classroom space was becoming an issue as well. The science department is the only department to share classrooms and as class size steadily grows, space will only get tighter. Mr. Benson also testified about classroom space, explaining that as two new math teachers will be hired next year, the math department will have to begin sharing classrooms as well.

Mediation Program Director Asks for Increase in Funding, Staff

Mediation Program Director Chandra Banks appeared before the Committee to request funding to expand the mediation program. As of now, Ms. Banks is the only mediator in the district, which, she said, prevents her from working on "school climate" issues. She envisions a restorative justice program that would allow conflict resolution on a larger scale across the district and could decrease tensions in the student body at large. She argued that the change was "feasible" but that more staff would have to be hired.

"If we didn't [ask for goals] that would be dereliction of our duty as stewards of the district."

Monthly CM Discussions to Come

Students Take Initiative in X-Block Organization

By
Megumi Kirby
Register Forum
Contributor

Over the past few months, hateful language and symbols found in boys and girls bathrooms have been a topic of schoolwide conversation. These incidents have concerned both students and faculty as members of a school community with a motto of opportunity, diversity, and respect.

Following the initial five incidents of graffiti starting in December, the school addressed the issue with an in-class discussion plan as well as organized after-school support groups. However, after noticing the low attendance to the after-school meetings, the Jewish Heritage Club agreed that a formal school-wide discussion was necessary, and thus organized an X-Block.

“In previous years, the X-Blocks that we’ve done have been primarily around the Teen Health Survey and climate of the school surveys...they weren’t conversation driven,” explained Dean Espinoza. The goal for the newly instated monthly X-Blocks is to foster discussion on a variety of issues brought up by students.

Zoe Levitt, a senior at CRLS and co-founder of the Jewish Heritage Club, stated, “I hope that students will become more educated on these issues in our school community and begin to recognize them as problems.”

Noah Epstein, also a senior and co-founder of the Jewish Heritage Club, added, “My personal hope is that students take away something about their community. Be it their school, grade, Community Meeting, or an individual, I want X-Blocks to lead to a stronger school community as a whole...the hope is to teach people something they didn’t know before.”

After the first X-Block on DATE, students were instructed to fill out a reflection with suggestions for future discussion topics.

While many students may find tasks such as this mundane and tedious, it is important to recognize that student input is valued. Comments were read by deans and student leaders, and will be taken into consideration when determining the focus of the next X-Block.

The student-run aspect of these discussions is vital to their success. These discussions are meant to en-

gage students and encourage them to talk about issues they notice. Epstein commented, “There are many issues we face as a community, but what I want to see is an issue that a group of students can passionately present in an X-Block....[X-Blocks] work if people see that it’s coming from their peers, and that it’s an issue that really matters in our school.”

Students are encouraged to not only contribute to future X-blocks, but seek supplementary support when necessary. In addition to guidance counselors and deans, each Learning Community has social workers and psychologists readily available. Epstein emphasized the importance of taking advantage of these resources

The next possible date for an X-Block is the Thursday after April break. When asked about the topics of future discussions, Levitt mentioned that while nothing is finalized, some examples could be “Islamophobia and the immigrant ban, racism, and sexism.”

Speaking of her hopes for X-Blocks, she said, “As we do more...[X-blocks], students will feel more comfortable discussing these issues.”

CRLS RESPONDS:

Is a classless society possible?



Micah Wilson
Class of 2017

“The answer is short and sweet: yes.”

Pia Costello
Class of 2018

“Absolutely, I haven’t been to class in weeks.”



Jonathan Cenescar
Class of 2018

“Definitely, most people I know have absolutely no class.”

Cristian Jurado
Class of 2019

“Not with that idiot Trump around.”



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Register Forum, April 1987



By
Anya Harp
Register Forum
Contributor

30 years ago, CRLS celebrated an enormous achievement. Not only did the CRLS cast and crew of *Blood Wedding* advance to the semi-finals of the State Drama Festival, but for the first time ever, they won.

Up until March of 1987, CRLS had never made it past the semi-finals. 1987 *Register Forum* staff member Nichole Basile described the school’s response as overwhelmingly positive.

“The judge couldn’t even finish. A sea of silver satin ‘drama jackets’ rose in the center section of the theatre. There were more hugs

and screams than I thought I would ever see.”

Blood Wedding tells the story of a bride-to-be who is still in love with her past lover, Leonardo. She gets married to her fiance but ends up running away with Leonardo. When the groom finds them together, a struggle ensues and both the bride and Leonardo are killed.

With intricate choreography by former Rindge dance instructor, Barbara Erlich, background music by artists such as Peter Gabriel and Carlos Santana, and a simple yet adaptable stage set, Cambridge Rindge and Latin brought home their first victory.

The leading roles were played by Carin Anderson, Adam Guinello, and Der-

rick Bridgeman. Although lesser-known at the time, another member of the *Blood Wedding* cast was CRLS’ very own Matt Damon.

This year, CRLS put on the show *Angels in America*. Although the Drama Department did not make it as far in the competition this year, we still have a lot to be proud of.

Unlike the type of love stories portrayed in our plays 30 years ago, *Angels in America* is about the lives of gay men and the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

Even though we did not win this year, the cast and crew have made us proud with their beautiful story telling, incredible acting, and captivating stage set.

TRACKING THE HISTORY OF TEACHER TENURE

CAMBRIDGE STAFF REFLECT ON THE PROS AND CONS OF THE SYSTEM

By
Sophie Harrington
Register Forum Contributor

Each year, *Boston Magazine* puts out a list of the best public schools in the greater Boston area. Schools are ranked based on factors such as per pupil spending, graduation rate, percentage of students attending college, and scores on standardized tests like the MCAS and SATs. The top schools on this list usually include Lincoln-Sudbury (LS), Weston, Lexington, and Dover-Sherborn. These school districts all have common characteristics: their student population is majority white (80% or more), comes from affluent communities (median household income of \$140k to \$200k), and the students have college educated parents (70% or higher).

At the bottom of *Boston Magazine*'s list are the school districts of Lawrence and Chelsea, where over 90% of the student body is from minority groups and the median income per household ranges from \$36,000 to \$48,000. These characteristics seem to be a strong factor in academic success. Yet, the common belief is that teachers are responsible for the success of their students no matter what the economic conditions are.

Brendan Kells, the economics teacher at CRLS and representative of the Cambridge Education Association (CEA) bargaining team for the school, is one of two teacher union negotiators at CRLS.

Says Kells, "The perception is that schools are good or bad based on their students' test scores. If your students are excelling on the MCAS, you are deemed a good teacher, like the students at LS, and Acton-Boxborough, and Dover-Sherborn. In my economics class we do a thought exercise surrounding the *Boston Magazine* results. We talk about if we switched the teachers working at Chelsea High or Lawrence High with the teachers working at AB or LS or any of the other top schools in Massachusetts, chances are the students would be getting the same results on the tests as they are now. And we ask ourselves, 'Why do you think

[those students at Chelsea and Lawrence] do so poorly on the MCAS?' Because they don't speak the freaking language! We know that the best predicate of how a school is going to perform is the socio-economic status of those students, not based on the teaching."

Most people believe that good

teaching makes good schools, and bad teaching creates bad schools; yet, because of tenure, little can be done to remove bad teachers from the practice. The definition of tenure, as it pertains to educators, is the guarantee of permanent employment after a probationary period. Tenure, or professional status, protects 2.3 million public school teachers in 46 states. In recent years, the public has begun to criticize the

claim that public schools are failing its students.

Kells comments, "The overarching thesis of the movie is this, and nobody disputes it, 'good schools exist because there are good teachers and bad schools fail because a there are bad teachers,' and this is not true." The difference between teachers and other professionals is that teachers cannot control the elements that contribute

inspired by steelworkers and coal miners who were fighting to raise their wages and protest against unsafe working conditions. Following in the footsteps of other laborers, educators decided to protest against administrators who they felt made unfair and biased decisions for schools. Powerful administrators were regularly firing qualified teachers and replacing them with their friends or family, or terminating teachers for having different political views than the rest of the community. At the turn of the century, some states adopted "teacher tenure," but many politicians were not in favor of the movement and avoided the topic.

According to *Time Magazine*, in 1910, New Jersey became the first state to pass teacher tenure legislation "which granted free-dismissal rights to college professors." Massachusetts, in 1886, was the first state to pass a pre-college tenure law.

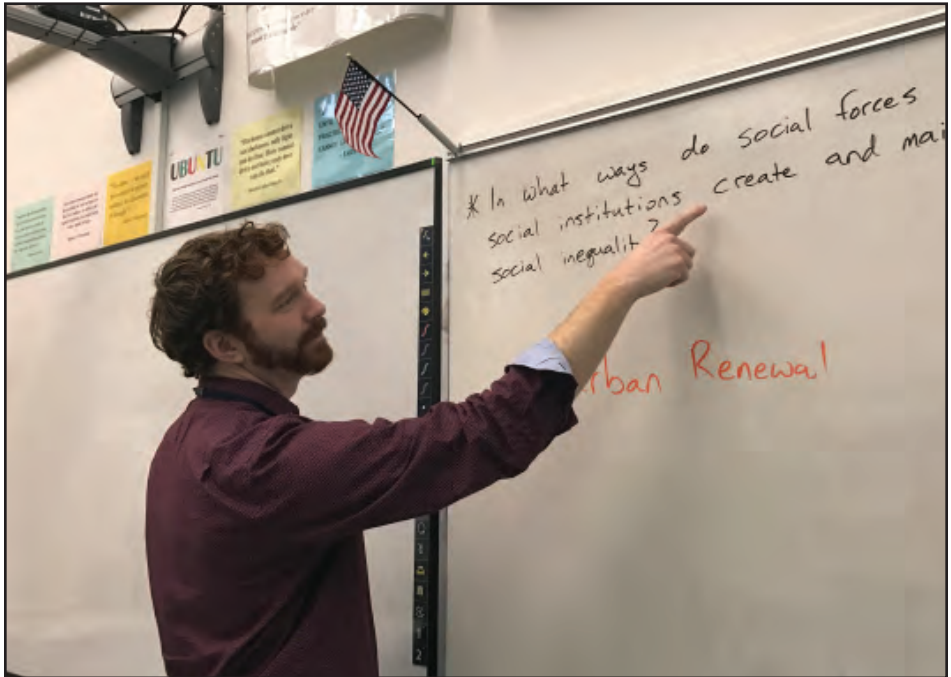
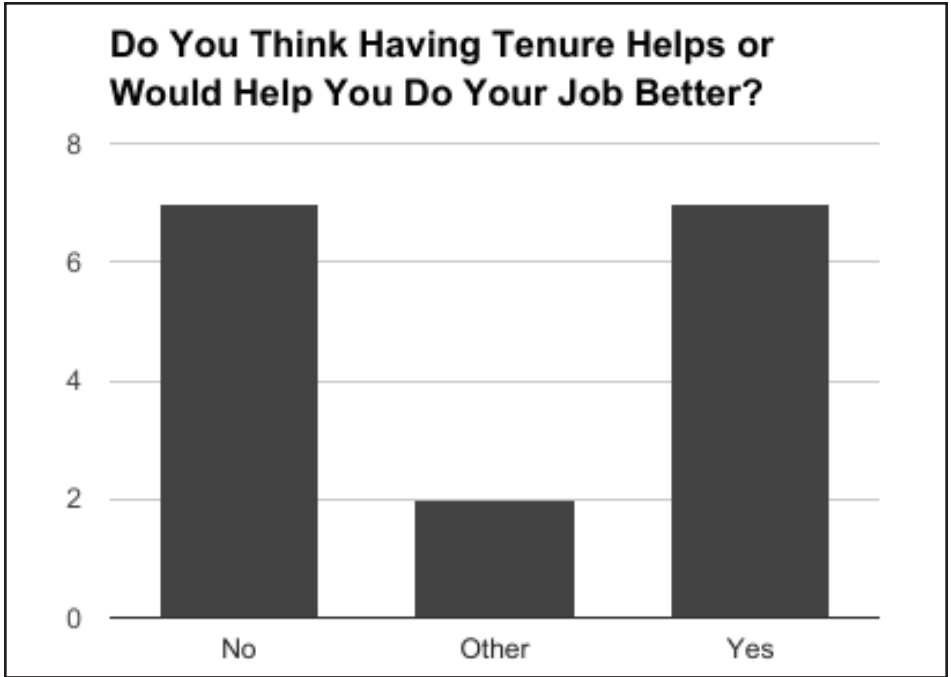
During the Women's Suffrage Movement of the 1920s, tenure began to apply to middle school and high school teachers to protect female teachers from being fired for sexist reasons. Before states began to protect them, female teachers could be fired for getting married, getting pregnant, or even wearing pants.

Following the Great Depression, in the mid 1940s teachers began to organize for job protection. At the end of the 1940s, 70% of kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers had job protection. In the mid '50s it rose to 80%. During the Reagan administration, tenure was dubbed a national issue after a 1983 report of Reagan's National Commission on Excellence in Education, entitled "A Nation at Risk," reported that tenure needed to be reformed. In a 1985 report by the Illinois State Board of Education, an average of only three tenured teachers were fired each year, and the expense and time it took to fire bad teachers was too great for some school districts to bear.

Under the second Bush administration, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) was authorized and stated that all teachers were to be "highly qualified" by the 2005-2006 school year, and each state was to determine what the standard would be.

Although the thinking behind NCLB was headed in the right direction, many school districts, often in high poverty, urban areas, suffered as a result of the act. NCLB never worked in cities because, to begin with, there were so few qualified teachers in these areas. Many teachers left the profession due to

(Continued on next page)



Top to bottom: CRLS teacher opinions on tennure; Mr. Kells teaches HN Economics.
Photo Credit: Sophie Harrington; Diego Lasarte

tenure system and blame it for the constant failure of public schools.

In 2010, Davis Guggenheim produced *Waiting for Superman*, a political cinema documentary which criticized the public school system in the United States and claimed that bad teaching was a result of teacher tenure. The film uses facts such as "one out of every 57

to academic success, for example: home environment, speaking English, valuing education, and parental support.

Tenure was first developed to provide teachers with job security and freedom from political influences in order to make them better at their job. The history of tenure dates back to the late 19th century,

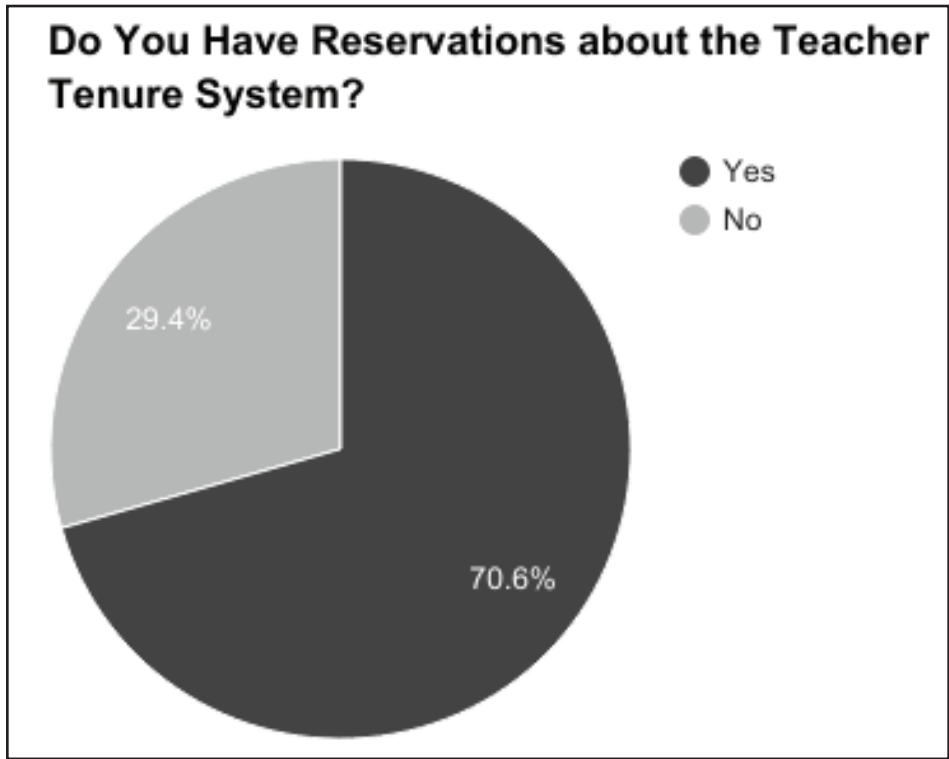
at the heart of the industrial labor struggles.

In 1887,

more than 10,000 teachers from all over the United States flocked to Chicago to hold the first conference of the National Education Association which remains one of the country's most powerful teachers' unions today. The educators were

doctors loses their license to practice medicine, one out of every 97 lawyers loses their license to practice law. [But] in major cities, only one out of one thousand teachers is fired for performance-related reasons" to push forward its central

Most people believe that good teaching makes good schools, and bad teaching creates bad schools; yet, because of tenure, little can be done to remove bad teachers from the practice.



In a survey of 17 CRLS teachers, more than half said that they have reservations about teacher tenure.

low pay, hard working conditions, and lack of support from their administrators. According to Scott Joftus, policy director for the Alliance for Excellent Education, and Brenda Maddox-Dolan, a policy research associate, 29% of classes in high poverty schools are taught by teachers lacking a major in the subject that they teach, and 53% of classes in high poverty middle schools are taught by teachers who haven’t received their major.

Nancy Campbell, who is in her sixth year as principal of the Haggerty Elementary School in Cambridge, says that she has greater reservations about teacher preparation programs than the professional status system. In other professions, like medicine, students seeking to become doctors have an extensive residency “where they have to share their work and practice with a team of other doctors,” explains Campbell.

“If the culture in this country held the value of teachers and education as high as it does other occupations, perhaps teachers would enter the workplace more prepared and well practiced to handle the job,” she adds.

Currently, tenure is awarded after about three years of work in a school district, but in some states teachers can earn tenure or professional status in one and a half to two years. Campbell remarks that a four year undergraduate program and a couple of years of student teaching is not enough time for a teacher to become prepared. This lack of experience can be “scary [for teachers] because they are not going to be an expert in all aspects of the work.”

Campbell continues, “No one could do that, it’s just too hard. Without a school system that has a strong teacher mentor program and embedded professional learning opportunities, new teachers struggle.”

Others do have reservations with the current tenure system. In 2010, the New York Daily News reported that between 2007 and 2010

only 88 of 88,000 teachers lost their jobs because of bad performance—an incredibly low number.

As reported by the *Economist* and the *Washington Post*, many teachers in California are fired at a certain school due to poor performance, but when the next school year rolls around, they are rehired in another school district. This practice of moving bad teachers around has been called “the dance of the lemons.” There are stories each year about educators from all over the nation who perform the “lemon dance.”

It can cost school districts hundreds of thousands of dollars to fire a tenured teacher, and also many months of court dates and meetings. In some cases, teachers are only given small penalties. M. J. Stephey, a writer for *Times Magazine*, found that “[a] Connecticut teacher received a mere 30-day suspension for helping students cheat on a standardized test...[and in] California [a] school board spent \$8,000 to fire an instructor who preferred using R-rated movies instead of books.”

Teacher advocacy groups feel these criticisms of the system do not reflect the entire truth. In 2011, the New York State United Teachers group wrote an article titled “Mythbusters: The Truth About Tenure,” and stated the myths often spewed by politicians and citizens and the actual truth about what tenure means. In their article the group wrote that the purpose of tenure is “not about protecting ‘bad’ teachers; it’s about protecting good teachers. What would happen to teachers without tenure? They could—and would—be fired for virtually any reason.”

At CRLS there are 174 permanent teachers, and in a survey conducted by the *Register Forum*, 17 teachers were polled and asked a series of nine questions regarding tenure and their own personal beliefs on the subject. Out of the 17 asked, 12 responded that they had tenure, while 5 responded that they

did not.

Many of those who said they didn’t have tenure, noted that they had just moved to the district and thus hadn’t qualified for tenure yet. However, when asked if they had reservations about the tenure system, 70.6% responded “yes,” while 29.4% responded “no.”

Explanations as to why they chose “yes” mainly focused on the idea that professional status is great for job security, but the respondents believe some teachers may become “complacent” with their teaching. Sometimes professional status allows teachers to “lose the incentive to get better or grow as a teacher,” and has the ability to “protect bad teachers.”

However when noting the advantages of professional status, teachers remarked that it allowed them to take more risks in the classroom, and “protected them from questionable firing practices.”

Natasha Labaze, an English teacher at CRLS, acknowledges, like many other CRLS faculty, that

there are some faults with the tenure system, saying, “Tenure in a school that does not provide rigorous professional development may cause some teachers to stagnate professionally.”

However, there is not just one side to this story. She also believes that tenure “gives a teacher a sense of professional stability that can empower them to grow as a teacher, [to] take on new pedagogical approaches while trusting that the administration will provide support and guidance.”

The tenure system is very complex, and there is not an ideal system yet. Professional status protects teachers, and allows them to teach freely without the fear of being fired hanging over their shoulder. Yet, de-

“If the culture in this country held the value of teachers as high as it does other occupations, perhaps teachers would enter the workplace more prepared.”

spite the job security, teachers are still leav-

ing their positions because they do not think that the conditions allow them to perform well. And others who do not perform well cannot be fired. Therefore, findings indicate that some aspects of tenure should be reexamined.



Ms. Labaze, an English teacher, acknowledges that the tenure system has flaws.
Photo Credit: Pascal Beckert

EDITORIAL NOTE:

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

EMAIL:
CRLSREGISTERFORUM@GMAIL.COM

Breaking the Marvel Mold Results in Better Movies

By
Christo Hays
Register Forum
Contributor

If you’ve been to one Marvel movie, you’ve been to them all. Marvel fans may argue otherwise, but most people know it. And yet, everyone keeps going back for more.

2008 was the year it all kicked off, when *Iron Man* was released. In a bold move, Marvel Studios attempted to adapt one of its lesser-known heroes to film and was rewarded bountifully: universal critical acclaim, audience adoration, and millions upon millions of box office dollars.

The film wasn’t groundbreaking, but it had one key trait going for it: artistic continuity. The source material lent itself to the cocky banter that Robert Downey Jr. brought to the role of Tony Stark/Iron Man. The character needed an arrogant edge, it was in his nature—millionaire, playboy, egomaniac. Thematically, it made sense for the film to have its moments of snarky comedy; whenever Tony Stark was knocked down a peg it felt that much more real. The film forged a fresh version of the classic superhero film, one that specifically fit the *Iron Man* story.

What happened in the aftermath was that Marvel realized the sharp, semi-edgy comedy that helped make *Iron Man* so great would also fit for other films. The rest is history.

From then on, Marvel released almost two movies a year, all equipped with *Iron Man*’s snarky comedy, polished action scenes, and attractive leads—regardless of the stylistic and thematic demands of the story. Though critics have torn through a fair number of Marvel’s films, the “Marvel Cinematic Universe” has nonetheless amassed nearly \$11 billion in box office sales. Conclusion: audiences love the Marvel formula.

The model has worked...but very few great films have come out of it.

It’s hard to blame moviegoers for being duped by the Marvel wave. Though the films are formulaic, Marvel has gotten very good at hiding it. For one, A-list actors can’t get enough of the franchise. Samuel L. Jackson—one of the most talented and highest-paid actors in film history—is a Marvel mainstay, elevating average scripts with his exceptional acting chops. Robert Redford, Jeff Bridges, Anthony Hopkins, and Idris Elba are just a few of the super-actors who have attached themselves to Mar-

vel films. As more money and talented actors fall into the Marvel fold, the studio has allowed itself to take minor risks that seem bigger than they are. Adapting niche comics like *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Dr. Strange*, and *Ant-Man* all seemed like risky moves, but they weren’t allowed to fail because Marvel ensured that the formula was maintained—even if it was buried for audiences.

Marvel makes assembly-line films. When *Dr. Strange* came out—boasting an ‘out-there’ vibe and Benedict Cumberbatch to boot—I didn’t go. Though the film garnered praise from critics and audiences alike—perhaps worthy of a trip to the multiplex—I knew there would be nothing novel about the experience. I had, in essence, already seen the movie a dozen times over—it was a Marvel superhero film, and I was done with them.

Then *Logan* came out. The trailers were raw and bleak, there were no shiny special effects, and telltale signs of all-powerful supervillains and global conspiracies were absent. Instead, there was an ailing and emotionally wrecked hero past his prime, a motherless girl with unnatural powers,



Logan has received high ratings from critics.
Photo Credit: Empire Online

and a dying old man—all set in a near-future Earth, also past its prime. I caved and went to see it. And *Logan* delivered.

To avoid spoiling one of the best cinema experiences of the year thus far, all I’ll say is this: *Logan* isn’t a superhero film, it’s a film about a man who happens to be a superhero and the demons he has cope with while living in an immoral world—and it’s absolutely gut-wrenching.

Logan is what the superhero movie should be. Like all iconic films, it takes massive artistic risks in pursuit of a deeply compelling experience. The quiet scenes aren’t just filler between the action set pieces, the action set pieces are fuel for the quiet scenes. It is simply a phenomenal film, the standard to which all films should be held—whether it’s a drama or superhero popcorn flick.

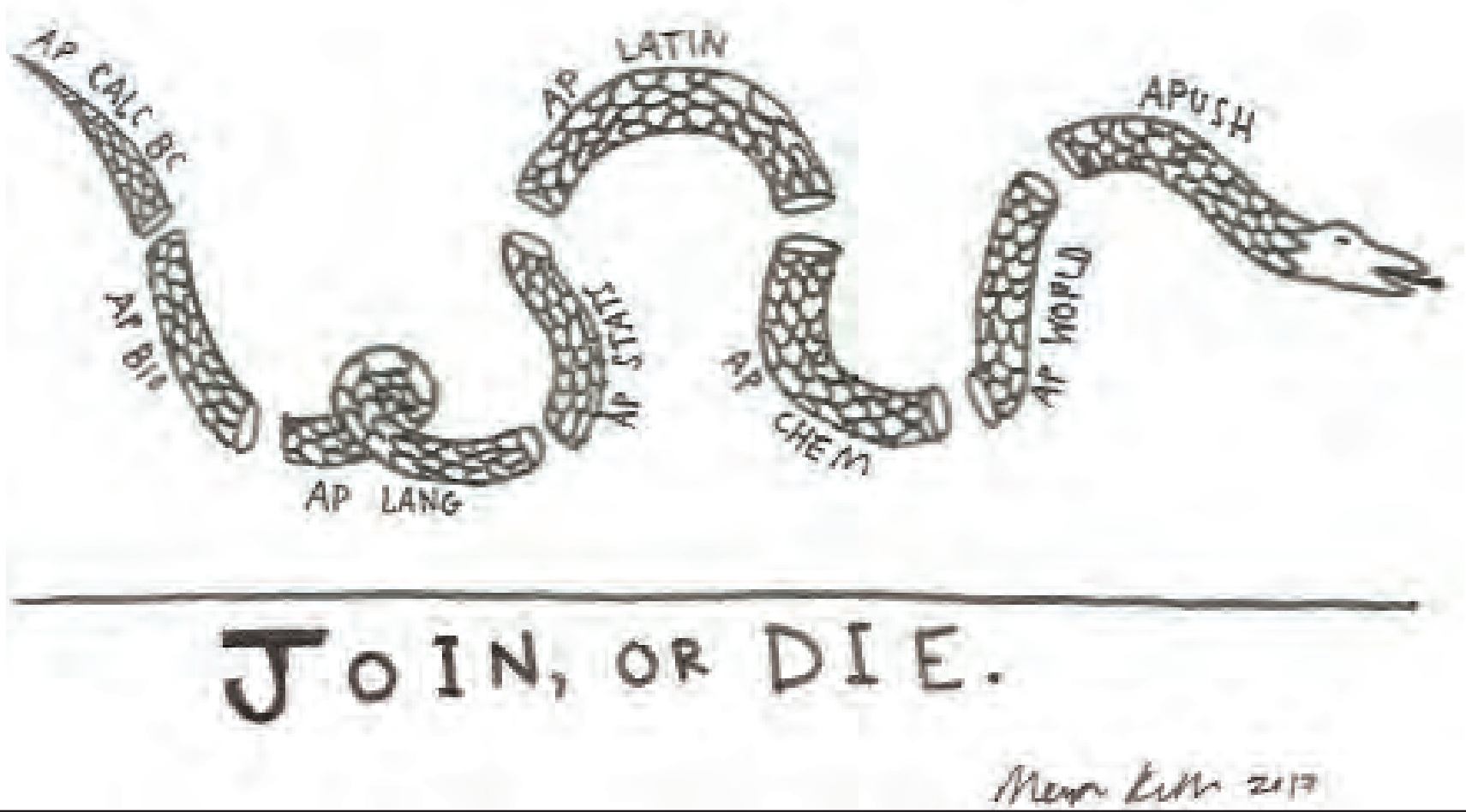
What’s defined Marvel Studios (and its competitors) over the last decade or so has been safe betting. The model has worked: audiences love their films and just enough critics hop on board to validate them.

But very few great films have come out of this model. Plenty of decent ones, a few good ones, but almost none that will be held up as a high point in the filmmaking of our time.

If *Logan* is any indicator, it doesn’t have to be this way.

The superhero blockbuster is absolutely capable of going toe-to-toe with highbrow films. Look at *The Dark Knight*—an acclaimed superhero film and high water mark of modern cinema. All Marvel has to do is take a few more risks. Until then, the comic book film will remain a gimmick unworthy of its legendary roots.

“IN THE COLLEGE BOARD WE DO NOT TRUST”



Cartoon by Megan Kelliher

Schools Should Censor Less

By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Editor

At the top of a Rindge building staircase on the second floor, there is a display with information about banned books. In big letters, a quote reads: “Censorship...should be unthinkable in a country like ours.” It always struck me as ironic, those large-font letters catching students’ eyes as they move to their next class, because censorship is not only thinkable in our community: it is exercised regularly against the student press with devastating effect.

I have written articles for the *Register Forum* for three years now, and I have

disappointing and occasionally humiliating, my argument against censorship is not a personal one. High school is where students learn how to think. We take science classes not because our teachers think that we will be incapable of functioning without knowing how to balance a chemical equation, but because they believe it is valuable to understand the scientific process; we learn history not because our teachers expect us to remember the year the Stamp Act was passed, but because we develop critical thinking and research skills that will serve us for the rest of our lives. In school we learn the processes of

count of the Committee. I remember reading a *Cambridge Day* article about a meeting I attended. The reporter’s description of the Committee’s disappointed reaction to a presentation by the Superintendent took me by surprise—although I had witnessed the Committee’s critique, it had not struck me as especially harsh. When I thought back to the incident, I realized that the *Cambridge Day*’s assessment had been absolutely correct. Believing I wouldn’t be able to report on it, I had mentally blocked out all controversy and dissent in the Committee.

I realized that, although I have always strived to be

Censorship not only limits what a student can write or publish, but how a student thinks.

been censored five times, both by our faculty advisor and by a former editorial board. I will not go into the details of these incidents, except to say that I have always looked for and written stories in good faith; never have I intended to upset or provoke people within the school community or without, nor have I ever sought to create a disturbance.

While I have found censorship of my own work

thought that are fundamental to our society. Where could it be more damaging to have that thought limited?

Censorship not only limits what a student can write or publish, but also how a student thinks. When I first started to cover School Committee meetings this year, I found much to criticize, but I always doubted whether the school would let me publish a critical ac-

inadvertently taken on one agenda: to present the Committee in a way I thought the school administration could find no fault with, regardless of the truth. Worse, I realized that I could not trust myself. I had gone to the meeting; I had witnessed what the *Cambridge Day* reporter witnessed; and yet, through some sick logic, I filtered through what actually happened to produce a self-censored account that,

as im-
partial
as pos-
sible, I had



An anti-censorship bulletin hangs in a second floor stairwell at Rindge.
Photo Credit: Grace Ramsdell

while not untrue, was utterly incomplete.

The rationale behind censorship of the student press is (I believe) well-intentioned. Schools seek to create a comfortable learning environment for everyone: unnecessary controversy creates disturbance; disturbance affects the quality of education and can make people feel unsafe, or so the logic goes.

But schools are not only learning environments, they are communities. And all communities have disagreements and painful subjects that some people would rather not examine. However, these topics are better discussed than left untouched; I believe that silence does more harm than a balanced account or a thoughtful opinion piece.

The press’ role is to inform and to inspire discussion. The press will never be perfect—at times they will go too far for some people’s taste, and at times they will not go far enough.

A student press should be judged less, not more, harshly, because we only learn through making mistakes. And if an article in the *Register Forum* were to create a disturbance, the contributor and the editorial staff would learn something about putting out news, and the student body would learn something about media consumption. And that would probably do more good than harm, in the end. Certainly it would do less harm than the current obstruction of thought and the internalized self-censorship that can only hinder us.

V.O.I.C.E. Is the Product of Trump’s Lies and Lasting Xenophobia

By
Simon Simpson
Register Forum Contributor

In President Trump’s first speech in front of a joint session of Congress, one of the most frightening statements was President Trump establishing a new office in the Department of Homeland Security called The Victims of Immigrant Crime Engagement (V.O.I.C.E). President Trump said this new office would be used for all the victims of crimes committed by immigrants to share their stories, because he feels that stories about crimes committed by immigrants are not being shared.

Some see this new office as a way to spread propaganda and create more falsehoods about immigrants. Studies show that, statistically, immigrants commit less crimes than other groups in the U.S. Immigrants in the United States make up about 7%

immigrants that have committed a crime, but to single out an entire group of people like this can be very dangerous. Getting people to share stories on how they were wronged by immigrants will create a false narrative about immigrants for people who are not as exposed to them personally.

Think if all the information you had about immigrants came from President Trump. Our president has called immigrants rapists and drug lords. He has even said that we need to build a wall to keep immigrants out.

Some people have never met an immigrant before and may only know about them through the media. Singling out any group is dangerous because it causes people to be more afraid and more hateful to-

What more does he hope to accomplish by spreading propaganda against immigrants?

wards that group, especially if they know little about that group.

There are undoubtedly some

To have the stories of criminal



The plans for the V.O.I.C.E. office were announced in a February executive order.
Photo Credit: ABC News

immigrants being literally distributed by the Department of Homeland Security—a trusted source by most people—would make all immigrants seem more dangerous than they really are. Furthermore, President Trump has already proposed more intense laws on immigration, such as an attempt-

ed travel ban to not let people in the country, the construction of a wall on the southern border, increase in immigrant and customs enforcement, and a promise for a more extreme vetting process.

What more does he hope to accomplish by spreading propaganda against immigrants? The biggest question is, what will we really be hearing from Trump’s V.O.I.C.E.?

Technology and Love Don't Mix

Our Phones Are Creating a Society Devoid of Romance

By
Rafael Goldstein
Register Forum Editor

Romeo and Juliet is perhaps the most famous love story in all of history and literature. If you are unfamiliar with it or forget the play, a good place to start is Act 1 Scene 5, in which Romeo first meets Juliet.

To make a long story short, Romeo and Juliet end up kissing, and everything about it is magical. In the play, once Romeo and Juliet leave the party where they met, Romeo goes running after Juliet, jumping over an orchard wall just to confess his love for her. Now, think about this story in modern times.

Today, a more likely occurrence would be that after Romeo kisses Juliet, he would get her number, go home, follow her on Instagram, and like a few of her pictures to express his interest.

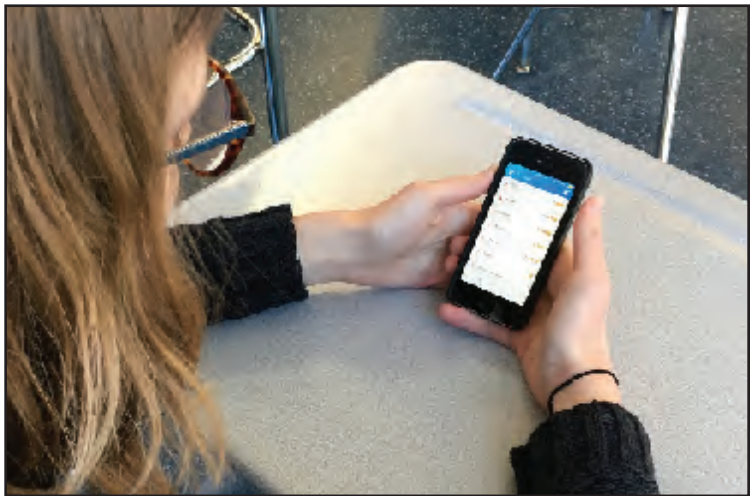
In efforts not to appear too desperate, he'd wait a few days, then add her on Snapchat. From there, the likelihood that their relationship would get to a place in which they would

rather die than be without each other is slim to none, for one major reason: if the majority of your interactions with your significant other are through a computer or a cell phone, rather than in person, it is close to impossible to form an unbreakable bond such as that which Romeo and Juliet had.

Social media does have a host of benefits. The ability to talk to anyone anywhere in the world, at anytime of the day, has connected us closer to each other better than ever before. It has made it infinitely easier to talk to someone, especially to a person you may not have the guts to talk to in person in the first place. The problem with this,

time to think out each and every word. This may seem appealing at first, so appealing, in fact, that many people would rather have important conversations through texting. But this is a dangerous road to go down. Because no matter how smooth your Instagram comment reads, or how elegant your text messages may be, or how cute you may look in your Snapchat filter, they are all missing the one thing that humans need and depend on most to fall in love: contact.

This is not to say two people can't love each other if they Snapchat. The desire to be in contact with your significant other, whether it be in person or through the phone, derives from



Even RF editors contend with the complexities of a Snapchat streak.
Photo Credit: Rafael Goldstein

ways to get in contact with your love interest.

The other damning aspect of communication through technology is that it leaves too much up to interpretation. Without being face to face, it is difficult to pick up on social cues that would otherwise indicate, for example, sarcasm or sadness.

Furthermore, in person, the words we exchange disappear after we say them. But through texting, we sit in front of our phones, analyzing every word, even every

letter. For some reason, we all feel better when our love interest replies with "okay" rather than "k," and "nope" instead of "no."

These words, at face value, mean the same thing. Nonetheless, we expend profuse amounts of our energy analyzing the differ-

ences. When we become entrapped by trivial matters, such as word choice, we lose out on conversations of actual substance. It's difficult to have a meaningful conversation when we're still wondering why the person we like sent a smiley face instead of a heart.

Rather than wasting our time worrying about insignificant letters and over-analyzing texts, we should be focused on actions that are conducive to genuine happiness.

Instead of agonizing about streaks on Snapchat, text message paragraphs, and likes on our Instagrams, we should spend our energy working on how to be happy by ourselves and improving our relationships when we are actually with each other. If we are able to do this, our romantic encounters won't be facades, and our lives will include much less stress and a lot more love.

Rather than wasting our time worrying about insignificant letters and over-analyzing texts, we should be focused on actions that are conducive to genuine happiness.

however, is it has become too easy. We all know our conversations can never be as perfect as they are in the movies. In person, we are forced to think on our feet, and what ends up happening is far from scripted. But that is what makes things real.

Through text messages, we are given more

very real human emotion. It comes from the same feelings that led Romeo to jump over the orchard wall. Before social media, people still had those desires, there just weren't ways to act on them at all times of the day. Now, because of Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and more, there are numerous

Take Ms. Otty's Modern World History Class

By
Will Telingator
Register Forum Contributor

History has always been my favorite subject, but I didn't realize how little I knew about current events and international relations until I took Modern World History, which was one of the best academic experiences that I have ever had.

My favorite thing about studying history is that everything is interconnected. We can see how events that occurred tens or hundreds or even thousands of years ago continue to influence the world today. Modern World History helps students explore these connections and learn more about some of the biggest conflicts our world has faced in recent years. The class focuses on world history from 1990 to the present, and the content spans several diverse regions and continents including Russia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Without a doubt, Modern World History is one of the most important courses that anybody could

take during their time at CRLS. There are so many things going on in the world today that even the most avid followers of the news probably don't know about.

We don't often take the time to think about people all across the world whose day-to-day cir-

lence and turmoil.

Although many of us cannot even begin to relate to the suffering of those people, we must not just push their troubles to the side. Ms. Otty, who has been teaching this course at CRLS for ten years, notes, "One of the goals [of this

the more horrendous things in the world go unnoticed. By remaining engaged with conflicts around the world, we can do more to help the voices of the suffering be heard. Also, through this broader lens, we can find empathy for people across the world who may not be so different from us after all.

I would argue that Modern World History should be a required course for public high schools across the country. But since that seems unlikely to happen anytime soon, there is no doubt in my mind that taking Modern World History is a must for any upperclassmen at CRLS with flexibility in their schedules. The lessons learned from this class transcend the boundaries of the classroom and will stick with students for the rest of their lives. Not only will students be more knowledgeable about current events and international conflicts, but they will also be moved to become more active and engaged citizens of the world, the importance of which—especially in this day and age—cannot be overlooked.



Ms. Otty teaches Honors Modern World History in room 2314.
Photo Credit: Atticus Olivet

cumstances are so different from our own and who are dealing with conflicts that we can't even begin to imagine. We don't consider the people in Syria, Iraq, or South Sudan who are struggling to survive in a region torn by unspeakable vio-

class] is that students are more engaged global citizens and more plugged-in and aware of what is happening in the world." The importance of this sentiment cannot be overlooked. If we are not active global citizens, then we let some of

Students Perform Scenes from Angels in America

By
Grace Ramsdell
Register Forum
Managing Editor

This month, the Drama Department presented scenes from Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches*, their entry in this year’s Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild One-Act Play Competition. Over 100 plays participated in the preliminary round of the competition on Saturday, March 4th. CRLS did not advance to the semi-final round, but they performed for the school in the evening on March 9th and during second period on March 16th.

The first part of *Angels in America* premiered in 1991, and the second part premiered a year later. This is the third time it has been performed by a high school cast. Set in 1985, the plot follows several individuals in New York City during the AIDS epidemic. CRLS’ cut, which was no more than 40 minutes long per competition rules, focused on the characters Prior Walter, Louis Ironson, Joe

and Harper Pitt, and Roy Cohn. Early in the show, Prior (junior Paul Sullivan) tells his boyfriend, Louis (junior Ajani Acloque), that he has AIDS. Louis later leaves Prior and begins an affair with Joe (junior Pascal Beckert), whose wife, Harper (junior Jesse Pellman), is an agoraphobic valium addict.

Joe’s colleague, Roy Cohn (senior Eli Colin), also finds out he has AIDS, but denies his homosexuality. The CRLS cast of the

show also included juniors Kyla Frieden and Cooper Kelley, and several students took part in the production as “spirit stage hands.”

Director Ms. Murray and student dramaturgs Mecha Sapuppo and Lily Grob aimed to cut *Angels in America, Part 1*, which is roughly three and a half hours long, to 37 minutes for the competition. “[We] chose Prior and Joe as having the main stories that we would focus on because they embodied the themes that we most wanted to isolate in our cut, and [we] basically focused on their storylines, which are intertwined with the other imperative characters in the production,” Sapuppo explained, adding that they began cutting the play just a few weeks into the school year.

When asked why *Angels in America* was chosen, Ms. Murray, who has taught the play in her Acting and Play Studies class for over 15 years, reflected on losing a childhood friend to AIDS. She further explained, “When I graduated from high school in ‘81, nobody would ever have

ca, Part 1 before they started working on the show. Eli Conlin spoke of the effect of researching his character, who is based on the real-life McCarthyist lawyer and mentor to Donald Trump. Conlin explained, “Most people think of Roy Cohn as a villain both historically and in the world of the play.” However, Conlin said through researching Cohn he was able to empathize more with his character.

Paul Sullivan, who won multiple awards last June for his National History Day paper on AIDS, described “transitioning from looking at AIDS through a research lens to a theatrical one.” He explained that capturing the “panic of the gay community” was challenging in his research paper, and said, “I had no choice but to confront and embody that panic in my part [in *Angels in America*].” Referencing his research, Sullivan added, “I had an awareness of the epidemic that reminded me during every rehearsal how important the story we’re telling [is].”

U.S. history teacher Dr. Weaver, who worked with Sullivan on his paper last year, commented that she had seen *Angels in America* while living in New York, adding, “I saw it amidst going to memorial services for friends and friends of friends who were dying of AIDS.” Dr. Weaver emphasized that “the time was unbelievably terrifying,” and commended the actors of the CRLS production for giving the audience “a snapshot of that physical and emotional terror with amazing sensitivity.”

Ms. Murray comment-



ed on the reaction of the in-school audience, saying she thought they handled the mature content of the play well, but she could tell that some were uncomfortable. She explained, “I think even in modern films, you don’t watch gay affection, they don’t show that often anyway, so I think the actors were really brave to show it in front of our student body, because our student body can be a tough audience.”

After the performance on March 9th, Tom McNaught, the former Director of Communications for the AIDS Action Committee, and Mike Immel, who was an active member of ACT UP, reacted to the performance and answered questions from the audience in an emotional post-show discussion.

“Of course it was disappointing not to advance to the next round of competition...[but] it was truly amazing to hear what people had to say about [our performance], specifically... people who had lived in this time period telling us we had portrayed it honestly through directing, the technical side of it, and the acting,” Pascal Beckert commented. “Hearing the impact the show had in such a short amount of time on the people who saw it really proved to me how important works like these are,” he added.

Reflecting on working with the students on *Angels in America*, Ms. Murray concluded, “They were hungry to make it good... They still want to grow and be better.”



Clockwise from top: Senior Eli Conlin and junior Pascal Beckert in the first scene of the play; Beckert and junior Jesse Pellman, husband and wife in the show; juniors Ajani Acloque (left) and Paul Sullivan (right) as Louis and Prior; Sullivan with junior Kyla Frieden appearing as an angel.

The Righteous Mind and Understanding Political Views



By
Isabelle Agee-Jacobson
Register Forum Contributor

Donald Trump’s presidency will go down in history books for a host of reasons. Perhaps the biggest one is its polarizing influence on American politics. You may have noticed that liberals and conservatives can’t seem to agree on anything. If you yourself are a liberal, you may not understand why anyone in their right mind would support Trump. Jonathan Haidt’s book, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, is a good resource for understanding how we got into this situation.

Haidt explains that all human beings have six foundations of morality: care/harm, fairness/cheating, loyalty/betrayal, authority/subversion, sanctity/degradation, and liberty/oppression. He argues that liberals rely heavily on the care/harm foundation—the majority of liberal views come from whether people are being harmed or cared for—whereas the conservative moral matrix relies on all six of the foundations. This gives them an advantage in politics, Haidt says, because they appeal to all parts of our moral beings. For example, in the cheating/fairness foundation, Haidt says, “Everyone cares about fairness, but there are two major

kinds. On the left, fairness often implies equality, but on the right it means proportionality—people should be rewarded in proportion to what they contribute, even if that guarantees unequal outcomes.”

Furthermore, we may think that every time we make a decision we consciously consider the pros and cons of each option, but Haidt argues that instead we make most of our moral judgements by intuitions and gut feelings. Haidt uses a metaphor of an elephant and a rider to describe the relationship between intuitions and reasoning. The elephant represents intuitions, and the rider, reasoning. The idea is that the elephant has more control than the rider, and the rider is there to go along with what the elephant does. As Haidt says, “The rider acts as the spokesman for the elephant, even though it doesn’t necessarily know what the elephant is really thinking. The rider is skilled at...

If we want to become less polarized, we must associate with people who don’t share our views.

finding reasons to justify whatever the elephant has just done.” However, the rider can see farther into the future, learn new skills, reach new goals, and sidestep disasters, so it is still a valuable part of the decision-making process.

Haidt recommends that if you want to change someone’s mind, start by tilting their elephant. Listen to the other person, and try to see things from their perspective. That



Jonathan Haidt’s *The Righteous Mind* was published in March of 2012.
Photo Credit: Strategy+Business

way, when you start broaching your ideas, the person’s intuitions go in your favor and they will be more likely to consider your ideas. It sounds like common sense, but it is not a widely practiced method of disagreement, especially today.

It is a widely held belief that politics are naturally full of scandal, corruption, and polarization. Haidt questions this belief and suggests remedies. To combat the increased polarization in politics, he first recommends that politicians in Washington socialize with each other so that their elephants tilt towards one another and they are able to find common ground outside of politics. This would make them more likely to consider others’ ideas in policy debates. He also suggests changing the

ways that primary elections are run, the ways that electoral districts are drawn, and the ways that candidates raise money. Finally, Haidt points out that because of technology and changing residential patterns, we isolate ourselves in bubbles of like-minded individuals, and if we want to become less polarized, we must associate with people who don’t share our views.

Instead of feeling despair over the events of the election, if we try to understand where other people are coming from, we stand more of a chance of making change that appeals to both sides. Next time you are at dinner with a family member who has different political beliefs than you, instead of being incredulous, try to tilt their elephant. You may be surprised by how much you can agree upon.



THE REGISTER FORUM

ARTIST OF THE MONTH
Arlo Sims



Photo Credit: Arlo Sims

By
Harry Greenblatt
Register Forum
Contributor

If you haven’t seen senior Arlo Sims around school recently, it’s probably because he’s been in Los Angeles. Why, you ask? Oh, he was just performing at the Grammys. Yes, you read that right.

Arlo’s talent with the electric guitar has taken him far, culminating in his invitation to perform in the Grammy Jazz Camp. Although he did not perform on the big night, he took part in an amazing string of performances in the days before the awards ceremony.

Arlo was one of only 32 high school students

across the United States to be selected for this honor, and the only student from Massachusetts.

Here at CRLS, Arlo’s talents are on display in the World Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Nojehowicz, the director of the ensemble, says of Arlo, “He is a leader...his work ethic is superb.” This strong motivation and will to improve has led to great strides for Arlo since he first came to Rindge.

Says Nojehowicz, “He has learned a lot; he is a senior now... and I’m proud to say that he’s stepped up every single time that he can step up.” This year, Arlo has served as the technical director for the World Jazz Ensemble, setting up the stage and gathering members together when Mr. N is

not present. He occupies an important role as a leader in the group and fully accepts and thrives in his responsibilities.

Arlo further contributes to CRLS’ musical community through his participation in the a cappella program, where he is a bass for the group Pitches and Does.

Arlo’s all-around musical talent is a huge factor in the group, and he is crucial in keeping the group’s pace along with the other basses.

The best way to see Arlo in action is in performance. The World Jazz Ensemble next performs May 9th at the Ryles Jazz Club, while the next A Cappella Jam is April 28th at the school.

Heartworms *Captures the Best of the Shins*



By
Grace Ramsdell
Register Forum Managing Editor

Some of the first songs I can remember listening to were by the Shins. In 2004, two tracks from their album *Oh, Inverted World* were in Zach Braff's movie, *Garden State*, and my dad played the soundtrack all the time.

It wasn't until my freshman year that I rediscovered the Shins by myself (and also watched *Garden State*), and I instantly felt a connection to the band. That was, in part, because there was a strong element of nostalgia to their music for me, but also because there is inherent familiarity to the Shins' music that extends beyond whatever personal experience you've had with it.

When the band announced the release of their first new album in five years, I didn't really know how to react. Years of no new music had given me plenty of time to dig through the indie-rock group's old albums, from 2012's *Port of Morrow* all the way back to 2001's *Oh, Inverted World*, and even far-

ther back to 1997's *When You Land Here, It's Time to Return*—the lone album from an early iteration of the Shins, Flake Music.

I didn't know what to expect next, and while I was hopeful, I didn't want the new album, *Heartworms*, to be a let down. Thankfully, it is not.

All five Shins albums (including *Heartworms*), while distinct, share an undefinable quality that makes them unmistakably the Shins. Maybe that familiarity is just because Shins music is a coffeeshop soundtrack staple, but I believe there's more to it than that.

The Shins have traversed every mood from subdued (*Oh, Inverted World*) to more high-energy

The Shins have traversed every mood from subdued to more high-energy, and Heartworms strikes a happy medium between those extremes.

(*Port of Morrow*), and *Heartworms* strikes a happy medium between those extremes. It combines many of the best aspects of previous Shins albums, satisfying nostalgia for the band's early days without feeling redundant.

Singer-songwriter James Mercer's somewhat fragmented, thought-provoking lyrics have been a constant for the Shins, delivered with understated yet earnest vocals.



Heartworms is the Shins' first new album in five years.

Photo Credit: Spin

Mercer, the band's founder and only remaining original member, presents that classic style on each of *Heartworms*' eleven tracks, with reflections on youth emphasized this time around.

"Name for You," a song Mercer wrote for his daughters, kicks off the album as a quintessential Shins track. The upbeat intro carries throughout the song, accompanied by lyrics that don't monopolize your attention, but have substance nonetheless. "Fantasy Island," although whimsical, also manages to leave you feeling melancholy with lyrics like: "Well I was just a boy / Out there on my own / Wishing I could fly / Fantasy Island."

"Mildenhall," an uncharacteristically story-driven song, solidifies the theme of youth on the

album. Mercer sings about his adolescence after he moved to the U.K., narrating in a matter-of-fact style: "I started messing with my dad's guitar / He taught me some chords just to start me off / Whittling away on all of those rainy days / And that's how we get to where we are now." The storytelling is a fitting deviation from the Shins' standard, less straight-forward lyrics.

"So Now What," my personal favorite track, comes as a welcome throwback to early 2000s Shins right before the end of *Heartworms*. "The Fear" closes the album, perfectly capturing both anxiety and optimism, as so many Shins tracks seem to do in some form or another.

On "So Now What," as Mercer sings the line "change lies in every direction," I can't help feeling reassured that, no matter what else changes, there's comfort in the familiarity of the Shins.

A Look at *The Velvet Underground and Nico* 50 Years Later



By
Elliott Ronna
Register Forum Contributor

When discussing the poor sales of The Velvet Underground's debut album, Brian Eno once stated that, though the record only sold 30,000 copies, every single person who purchased it started a band. The record forged a new path in rock's timeline, serving as ground zero for the punk movement of the mid 1970s. In honor of its 50th anniversary, I would like to take a closer look at this foundational record, shedding new light on its immeasurable importance.

When looking at the people involved, the cultural shift brought about by The Velvet Underground now seems inevitable. Combining the likes of Lou Reed, a New York native singer and guitarist, John Cale, a

Welsh violist and classical student, and Andy Warhol, the figurehead of the Pop Art Movement, *The Velvet Underground and Nico* was a perfect storm for innovation. Reed, who made a career writing soundalikes of pop hits for Pickwick Records, met Cale in 1964, forming The Velvet Underground within the next year. The duo, later joined by guitarist Sterling Morrison and drummer Maureen "Moe" Tucker, soon caught the attention of Warhol, who quickly took position as the band's manager.

In April of 1966, the band entered the studio alongside German singer and "Warhol Superstar" Nico to begin recording their debut. Warhol, who

served as the album's producer, gave the band complete freedom, creating an atmosphere of unfettered



The Velvet Underground and Nico was released in 1967.
Photo Credit: Pitchfork

creativity.

While the late 1960's brought about many experimental rock records, few covered the same uncharted territory as *The Velvet Underground and Nico*. Near-

ly every other innovative work seemed informed by another medium, like the modernist poetry behind Dylan's *Blonde on Blonde* and the contemporary classical surrounding Zappa's *Absolutely Free*, but nobody sounded like The Velvet Underground. Their innovation lay in the actual sound of their recordings. *TVU&N* is a record of pop songs. One could play the majority of its eleven tracks on an acoustic guitar and lull an audience to sleep. The innovation of The Velvet Underground was to play these songs with a level of aggression, energy and cacophony that would become commonplace in the next decade.

Tracks like "I'm Waiting for My Man" and "European Son" cemented the punk philosophy nine years

before The Ramones, driven by massive guitars and Moe Tucker's relentless drums. The screeching of John Cale's viola on "The Black Angel's Death Song" hints at both the brilliant use of noise on the band's sophomore effort and the entire genre of noise rock that would rise in the '80s.

The group also implemented the use of drones, often played with Cale's viola, on "All Tomorrow's Parties," featuring vocals from Nico, and the record's two masterpieces, "Venus in Furs" and "Heroin." These tracks also highlight Reed's taboo-shattering lyrics, covering drug use, sado-masochism, and sexual manipulation.

Though they stood alone at the time, it would not be long before everybody sounded like The Velvet Underground. Their debut record stands as a dividing line in rock music history, and is arguably the most important album in the genre.

Mass Ranks 1st in Livability

By
Sun-Jung Yum
Register Forum Editor

With the U.S. News & World Report’s first national ranking of all 50 states in February, Massachusetts has been classified as the overall best state to live in. It’s often difficult to recognize the benefits that one receives in their hometown, especially if there’s no other comparison, but it’s nevertheless important to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of our state.

McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm, has conducted worldwide analysis for decades in order to effectively consult with organizations. Only recently, however, have they done an overall evaluation of our nation’s states. This includes qualitative and quantitative data in a number of categories: health care, education, crime & corrections, infrastructure, opportunity, economy, and government.

It’s not surprising that Massachusetts is ranked #1 for education, with its large number of academic opportunities and its exceptional public school system. Massachusetts’ public schools have been ranked #1 as well, according to a number of different reports, including one conducted by *Education Week*. This has been referred to as the “Massachusetts Education Miracle,” which many believe is a result of the high standards set by the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993.

But the issue with our education system, as well as a number of different areas, is the lack of equity.

This is indicated by our comparably low opportunity ranking, which takes into account economic opportunity, equality, and affordability. This, to some degree, has been addressed for quite a while, especially by the CRLS community. But, the issue may be even larger than one may think. In fact, Massachusetts has the third largest achievement gap between different districts.

There’s an incredibly large gap between the net income of the rich and the poor when compared to other states, as well as unequal education and income based on race and a low disability employment rate. The high cost of living in MA is something that has also been considered a growing issue, as demonstrated by the state’s ranking of #47 in housing affordability. “One of the things about Massachusetts that puts people off is that only a small number of people can live comfortably,” commented sophomore Hermella Kebede.

Another obstacle that has not always been acknowledged is low-quality infrastructure and public transportation. Massachusetts has been found to have very low bridge and road quality (underground, too!), which has been a growing concern among businesses. The aging state is in need of reparations in order to ensure efficient delivery of goods and successful commutes for workers.

This was a contentious issue in 2014, when there was talk about the possibility of holding the 2024 Summer Olympics in Boston. The current infrastructure at the time was not fit for holding such events, and many had hoped that the Olym-



*In addition to Massachusetts’ overall ranking, Cambridge received some high rankings.
Photo Credit: Organizing Boston*

pics would serve as an incentive for further improvements. However, this buzz for necessary repairment across the state quickly faded when Boston lost the bid.

Considering the fact that Massachusetts is still ranked #1 even with these shortcomings, it is evident that the state’s strengths are overwhelming. Health care, especially is a thriving benefit across the commonwealth. But, there are still areas that need to be addressed with respect to medical aid across the state. The heroin epidemic, especially, has been deemed worrisome by many.

“The complete failure on the part of the major pharma companies and municipal governments of cities in Western MA has caused hundreds of thousands of people to develop debilitating addictions, and then...little to no accessible health-care has caused our state to be a less safe, less welcoming, and less respectful place to live,” says junior Pia Costello. Nonetheless, Massachusetts still ranks in the top ten states for almost all of the subcategories ranging from health insurance enrollment to infant mortality rates.

Cambridge, by itself, also has

been considered “the best” in many different categories. Even though Massachusetts, as a whole, has been ranked as #45 in transportation, Cambridge, and even Boston, is thriving in biking. Walk Score, a company owned by Redfin, a real-estate agency, assigned cities “Bike Scores,” which evaluate the accessibility of bike lanes, hills, road connectivity, and the percentage of workers who commute by bike. Cambridge’s whopping score of 92.8 out of 100 handed the city bragging rights for being ranked #1 out of a total of 186 cities across the nation. Boston’s score of 70.3 landed itself a still impressive standing of #24.

Inevitably, Cambridge and Massachusetts as a whole have major deficits that need to be addressed. This includes not just the achievement gap, but also weathering infrastructure and low housing affordability. Nonetheless, numbers prove that this state is thriving in some way in almost all categories. Cambridge, especially, has received high praise in the past few years. Ranked as the #1 city for millennials, bikers, and even ice cream lovers, it’s undeniable that Cambridge has the best of the best.

Rezoning in Central Square *More Local Businesses and Housing Proposed*

By
Nathan Kolodney
Register Forum Contributor

New zoning laws put into place after a unanimous decision by the City Council on Monday, March 6th are set to change Central Square dramatically over the next ten years. These zoning laws started as a petition filed with the City Council by the owners of the Middle East nightclub and other business leaders in Central Square.

In a memo from the Community Development Department, it is stated that the zoning reform will offer numerous benefits to the Central Square community. The first claim in the memo

is that the reform will create retail, cultural, and nonprofit diversity. This means supporting local businesses by putting a block on building new chain establishments without special permission from the planning board.

Additionally, to reach this goal of diversity, the Council plans to turn some

buildings that can hold mixed income housing on upper levels while the ground levels will be occupied by retail stores.

The memo also states that some of the aforementioned municipal parking lots could also be turned into housing developments as the lots are usually barren

The zoning reform will offer numerous benefits to the Central Square community.

of the municipal parking lots in Central Square into affordable space for retail businesses and nonprofits.

Another target of this petition is to promote residential affordability and diversity in Central Square. This means building taller

and a major waste of space.

These new regulations also aim to make Central Square a more “green” and eco-friendly place. Because these new zoning requirements do not count roofs and balconies as part of the total square footage of



*The owners of the Middle East filed a petition to alter zoning laws.
Photo Credit: Ursula Murray-Bozeman*

a building, they encourage rooftop gardens and green spaces.

The requirements also push the Green Streets Initiative by making streets more pedestrian—and bicycle—friendly. This promotes cleaner forms of transportation when traveling through Central Square.

One of the goals of these changes in zoning is to give Central Square a new and attractive look. This cannot be done in the

blink of the eye, but in the future the whole layout of the Square will be dramatically affected due to these changes. The advocates for these zoning changes say that rezoning will make Central Square a nicer and more residential community.

As this change is not immediate, we will have to wait and see if promises of a diverse, residential, and eco-friendly Central Square ever come to fruition.

7 Earth-Like Planets Discovered Nearby

By
Wini Austin
Register Forum Contributor

Many of us have gazed up at the sky on warm summer nights and wondered whether the stars above us have habitable exoplanets orbiting around them. Now, we can stop wondering. New research published in February reported the unprecedented discovery of seven Earth-like planets orbiting a star only 40 light years away.

The exoplanets (planets beyond our solar system) were discovered by the Kepler Space Telescope using a process called the transit method of exoplanet detection. Extremely precise measurements are taken of a star’s brightness, and planets are detected by small dips in brightness levels. Around the ultra-cool dwarf planet TRAPPIST-1, seven of these dips were observed, leading to the record-breaking finding. According to author and astronomer Michaël Gillon, “This is the first time that so many planets of this kind are found around the same star.”

The seven planets are all temperate, similar in size to Earth, and made of rocky matter. Three of them are in the habitable zone of the star, meaning they may have water on their surfaces and could potentially support life. This is the first time astronomers have discovered ideal planets on which to search for life. If further re-



Artists have begun depicting the planet TRAPPIST-1f. Photo Credit: NASA

search reveals evidence of gases released from the planets’ surfaces, we may be able to confirm the existence of extraterrestrial life.

So, what would life be like on one of the exoplanets orbiting TRAPPIST-1? One of the defining features of the star’s system is the tight proximity of the seven planets. They are so close to each other that all of them fit within a space five times smaller than the space between the Sun and Mercury. This means a year on each planet would be very short—the innermost planet has a year lasting only 1.51 Earth days. The farthest has a year of just 13 days.

The closeness of the planets also means that standing on one of them at night, you would see the other planets twice as large as our own moon. During the day, since TRAPPIST-1 is a dim star, the light emitted from it would be 200 times less bright than the Sun and would likely be salmon-colored.

It would take us millions of years to reach TRAPPIST-1 and its seven planets. But in the coming decade, researchers will use highly advanced telescopes to search for the presence of surface water and possibly life upon them. “It’s really interesting to see the advancement in technology that enables discoveries like this,” notes CRLS Astronomy and Physics teacher Mr. Sebell-Shavit, “Just being able to observe planets so far from us away is super cool.”

Lessons from a Member of the ANC

By
Oscar Berry
Register Forum Contributor

Democracy is a practice that we in America hold very dearly, and so too do many peoples around the world. Increasingly, however, there is a sense that democracy is failing, becoming partisan, stagnant, and unable to deal with the mounting challenges we face. Last year, the two major political events of the year, Great Britain’s exit from the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States, were no doubt the result of the rise of populist and isolationist sentiment across the world.

Both of these events were and still are incredibly controversial. They have divided countries and peoples into camps that more and more often cannot find compromise or common ground.

“Democracy, whether it be in the United States, Britain, Europe, [or] India, is entering into a period of crisis,” Sathyendranath Maharaj told the *Register Forum*.

Maharaj was a key participant in the struggle for racial equality against the Apartheid government in South Africa, in which democracy was non-existent for the black population, the majority, and the nation was ruled both politically and economically by whites, the minority.

He was a spy, saboteur, and diplomatic envoy working for the African National Congress, the center of resistance during the struggle. He was sent to Robben Island Prison along with Nelson Mandela, and he eventually smuggled Mandela’s famous and inspiring book, *A Long*

Walk to Freedom, out of prison when he left. After the election of Nelson Mandela as president and the end of racial rule by Apartheid, Maharaj was a cabinet member for many years, and later an advisor to South African President Jacob Zuma.

Maharaj has seen the evolution of democracy in South Africa for more than three fourths of a century. His perspective on this issue is no doubt unique, because he has lived and fought in a situation where democracy was still just a dream for his people.

He explains that for him, democracy revolves around the ability of people to think with their minds while maintaining the capacity to reason.

“Today,” he says, “Politicians and demagogues seek to separate those abilities, and make people think only with their hearts. Democracy is increasingly challenged by the marginalization of the population as they cut themselves off from logical thought.

It is a challenge that will only be overcome by the realization of the people that their minds are critical if democracy is to continue to function properly.”

We can see this truth everywhere around us, from fake news, to denial of scientific fact in order to preserve personal beliefs. In the 2016 presidential election, one of the deciding factors was how people felt about the state of America, not about how it actually was.

A battle between facts and emotions was central to the election. Today, not only in America but around the world, it seems like politics from the largest scale to the smallest have become more partisan and divided than ever.

TRUMP TIMELINE

By
Juliana Vandermark
Register Forum Contributor

FEB 28

At the end of last month, Trump gave his first speech addressing Congress, during which he fostered a much more presidential and optimistic tone than that of many of his previous speeches.

MARCH 3

EPA reversed the Obama administration’s call for data on methane emissions.

MARCH 4

DHS reportedly considers separating women and children detained at U.S. borders in order to increase efficiency of deportations.

MARCH 7

Trump issues revised version of a Muslim Travel Ban, gives a week before implementation.

MARCH 15

Two federal judges rule against the constitutionality of the latest travel ban.

MARCH 17

Trump meets with chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, and later the two hold a press conference. Trump doesn’t shake Merkel’s hand.

MARCH 20

FBI Director James Comey announces that there is an investigation into the Trump campaign’s communications with Russia.

MARCH 2

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from the investigation into the Trump campaign’s contact with Russia after reports that Sessions met with the Russian ambassador.

MARCH 3

Pence reportedly used a private AOL account for state business as Indiana Governor.

MARCH 4

Trump accused Obama of spying on Trump Tower. This claim was later disproven by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

MARCH 13

Congressional Budget office reports that changes House Republicans have made to their health-care legislation would save less money as well as leave 24 million uninsured.

MARCH 20

Trump’s Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch, began his nomination hearings with significant ease.

MARCH 21

Trump signs a bill that increases NASA’s budget to \$19.5 billion and adds human exploration of Mars to the agency’s mission.

MARCH 24

House Republicans and the White House pull American Health Care Act at last possible moment after not having the votes to pass it.



SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW



by Shuvom Sadhuka

SOFTBALL

“We want to become one team again,” says junior Jayla Blackmon. “I know some returning players will step up and become leaders.” This spring, the softball team is hoping to finally win a DCL championship behind senior captain Eliza McNulty. That mission will be difficult, especially with the departure of shortstop Yuleska Ramirez, and with rival teams Concord Carlisle and Boston Latin being strong as ever, but this team thinks it can knock off rivals and more.



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

BASEBALL

When asked what the baseball team’s goals were, senior captain Rafael Goldstein kept it concise: “To win the state championship, nothing less,” he said. The team has more returning starters this year than Coach Michael Caron has ever had in his 10 years of coaching. Goldstein is joining senior captain Ryan Telingator in CRLS’ third attempt to knock off some of the high octane teams in the DCL like Lincoln-Sudbury. “The future looks bright,” Goldstein concluded.

BOYS TENNIS

Led by senior captains Eric White and Alexander Chueh, the boys tennis team is looking to change its fortune this spring in the DCL. Two seasons ago, the team won just a handful of matches in their new, more competitive, league; last year, the team fared better but still missed the playoffs by a couple games. However, the tennis squad is more hopeful than ever that they can make a mark this season, despite the loss of last year’s seniors.

VOLLEYBALL

After a disappointing exit early in last year’s playoffs, Boys Volleyball is trying to rebound and make a deep playoff run. Doing so will be hard, according to senior captain Noah Epstein, since many of last year’s starters were seniors. But “about a dozen boys played off-season club, so we have gotten a lot better,” he added. The biggest issue for this year’s squad may well be chemistry, since a sizeable number of players will be making their varsity debuts, but building a rapport hasn’t seemed to plague the team in the past.

GIRLS TENNIS

After entering the much more competitive DCL, the girls tennis team suffered a number of losses last year. Just from the first few days of the season, however, it’s clear that they have a much better shot this year. With the addition of several new players as well as great improvement from the returning ones, the team feels determined that this year will be much different from before. Even after losing a number of players, Girls Tennis seems to be very prepared for the tough competition.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Girls Lacrosse has also faced some challenges in the DCL in recent years, which is understandable given that lacrosse is relatively new to Cambridge. The team’s worries are only compounded by the loss of a stellar group of seniors, most of whom have been replaced by underclassmen. Seniors Makayla Durant and Margaret McDonnell will captain this year’s team and have their sights set on a playoff run.



Photo Credit: CRLS Girls Lacrosse

BOYS LACROSSE

After stumbling to a 4-14 finish last spring, Boys Lacrosse is looking to make headway this season. Junior Abbott Gifford joins seniors Mihir Edulbham, Skyler Heller, and Owen Ryerson as captains. The team is aiming for a winning record and perhaps even qualifying for playoffs, a formidable task in the competitive DCL. Players are eagerly awaiting to face off against rival Boston Latin, a team that has given the Falcons some close games in the past two years.

BOYS CREW

Boys Crew suffered heavy losses with the departure of many seniors who led the team to one of its most successful seasons in recent memory. Nonetheless, this year’s team has its sights set on ambitious goals. “Our main goal is to qualify for youth nationals for the first time,” says senior captain Chris Johnson-Harwitz. “It’s something of a season of transition for us, so we’re hoping to succeed through that.” As usual, the team is expecting tough competition with local rivals BB&N and CRI.

SAILING

Like most teams, sailing is also in rebuilding mode this season after the loss of captains Paloma O’Connor and Benno Kraehe. This spring, junior Michael Colombo and senior Anna Griffin will lead the team, which is in its second season under coaches Amanda O’Donohue and Hugh Dougherty. Colombo said he was “impressed” by the initial turnout and hopes this season will bring success to inspire younger sailors to join in coming years.

GIRLS CREW

Girls Crew will be led by senior rower and captain Anna MacManus, who is preparing for the Mayor’s Cup against BB&N with her teammates. Their boat will be coxswained by senior Phoebe Hyland. In the long-term, the team is also looking to qualify for U.S. Nationals by placing in the top 3 at districts and to develop a team competitive for years to come. The team insists that there are no key rowers, but instead, all rowers are equally valued, as rowing requires synchronized strokes.

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

Track athletes, both boys and girls, are following in the footsteps of some of the greatest years of Cambridge track. Last year, Brianna Duncan ‘16 made headlines across the state, winning the New England Championship for a second time and heading off to UNC’s Division 1 track program. The boys team also competed well, securing 3rd place at the DCL Championship. The track team insists that this year is not just one for rebuilding, but also for establishing Cambridge as an annually competitive program. On the boys side, senior runner Hugo Schutzberg is leading an impressive squad of juniors and underclassmen, many of whom have already broken the 10:00 two mile mark. For girls, senior runner Nina Katz-Christy comments that she is looking to finish her high school track career with a strong season and to help lead her fellow runners to a championship.



Photo Credit: Brianna Duncan

FALCONS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP 70-43

By
Robert Shapiro
Register Forum Contributor

On Saturday, March 18th, the CRLS Falcons won the D1 State Championship for the second year in a row, beating Franklin High School 70-43 and finishing their season undefeated.

Going back to back at anything is a near impossible task that can seemingly only be accomplished by the best of sport teams, and Drake. It requires hard work to get to the top of the mountain once, and even harder work to get to the top again with a target on your back. It turns out the Cambridge boys basketball team is up to the task. After winning last year's Division 1 State Championship, the team was faced with the difficult task of winning it again. Nonetheless, due to the leadership of Coach Lance Dottin and his nephew, senior captain Jakigh Dottin, the team was able to go undefeated in the regular season and charge into the playoffs with a 41-game winning streak that started the season before.

Cambridge's impeccable record bought them a first round bye in the tournament, so they automatically moved into the second round where they faced the Lawrence High School Lancers. On March 3rd, fans braved the below-freezing temperatures to pack the War Memorial Gym. Most came expecting a blowout, and they were disappointed. Cambridge's defense was for the most part solid—their stagnant offense was what made the game a nailbiter.

Lawrence started pressing early and continued through all four quarters. The strategy was successful as the Falcons burned time

bringing the ball up the court. With less time to set up and run the offense, the Falcons struggled to score. This coupled with the team's inability to make free throws made it impossible to develop an offensive rhythm. Fortunately, the team was able to compensate for their poor offensive performance with an excellent defensive effort. Senior center Dimon "DC" Carrigan and senior power forward Daniel Rhymer did what they do best: shut down the paint. Carrigan had seven

was able to put up 15 points despite continued struggles at the line.

Guards Dottin and senior Kareem Octavien attacked the paint relentlessly and were rewarded with a combined 36 points. The team strayed away from the three pointer, to no one's surprise, but their physicality and sense of urgency around the rim more than made up for it. Turnovers and free throw struggles continued to plague the team, but other than that the performance was practically flawless. The final score

season. Cambridge struggled in the initial quarter and was quickly down by 5. They bounced right back in the middle of the second quarter taking a lead they would hang onto for the remainder of the game. The team was able to dominate the rebound game thanks to Rymer, who used his length and physicality to crash the boards with great success.

The Falcons had all the momentum going into the second half with a 28-20 lead. Central Catholic had great fan attendance and were vocal in the second half even though their team wasn't really able to get back into the game. Cambridge's offense was a pleasure to watch as Dottin and Carrigan worked together beautifully to run the transition game flawlessly. Though the game started close, it did not finish that way as Coach Dottin felt comfortable enough to put in the reserves at the end of the fourth quarter on the way to a 60-44 victory. Cambridge's starters were a sight to behold as four of them finished with double digits in the scoring category. Cambridge had great success on defense by putting effort into pressuring shooters instead of trying to force turnovers. Central Catholic never looked comfortable, and so in the end they went home as Cambridge advanced to the state semi-final against the Needham Rockets.

Due to a school-cancelling blizzard, the game was postponed a day and moved to the gym at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Surprisingly, this did not stop a large Cambridge crowd from showing up to support their team. The game started out great for the Falcons and was full of highlights, like when junior Aidan Keefer blocked



Pictured: Dimon "DC" Carrigan gets helped up after a defensive stop.

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

blocks and Rymer's physical play kept the Lancers' bugs from getting any easy buckets. The majority of Lawrence's scoring came from guard Juan Rodriguez who put up 24 points in a valiant effort. The game stayed close till the end, but Cambridge was able to come out on top and move on to the third round.

Cambridge's next game against the Lowell Red Raiders was much better. Those who made it out to North Andover on March 7th were rewarded with an excellent offensive display from the Falcons. The team took the lead early and never gave it back. Dimon Carrigan set up shop in the paint early and

of 70-63 does not reflect the Falcons defensive play. The Red Raiders shot the three ball with extreme precision despite Cambridge's airtight perimeter defense. Lowell was able to sink ten shots from behind the arc led by guard Alex Rivera, who was able to gouge the Falcons with a 37 point performance that included four threes. Despite his stellar performance, the Falcons came away with the win and moved on to face Central Catholic in the North Division Final.

On March 11th, the team returned to the North Andover gym to take on a talented Central Catholic team that went 17-5 in the regular

Continued on next page

CRLS Student Starts Intramural Field Hockey Club

By
Grace Austin
Register Forum Contributor

Not only do flowers blossom in spring, but so do new opportunities at CRLS. Field hockey will be starting this spring as an intramural club.

While field hockey programs have been running in several cities surrounding Cambridge for several years, this club will be the first program at CRLS. Ms. Sarmiento, an English teacher, will be the coach of the team.

Although CRLS has been known to have a wide range of extracurriculars and sports, field hockey

has never been one of them. While there will be no official games, there will be scrimmages during practices, which will consist of training as well as an introduction to the sport. All students are welcome, no matter what experience you may have have!

Worldwide, field hockey is the third most popular sport. According to Team USA, field hockey was the

resenting 100 countries and five continents.

Sophomore Rachel Alexander, along with many other students, is excited about the new program. "Field hockey is a great sport that is under appreciated because most people in Cambridge don't play it. It's pretty much lacrosse on the ground," she explains. "I love field hockey and want other people at our school to learn to love it too." Alexander introduced the idea of the intramural club in the fall of 2016.

Several people joining the club are excited to try something new. Sophomore Lucy Valenti says, "I have always wanted to play but never had a chance to



Rachel Alexander introduced the idea of the field hockey club, which will be coached by Ms. Sarmiento.

Photo Credit: Sun-Jung Yum

until now!"

Many students who signed up for the intramural club share Valenti's excitement and anticipation to learn how to play field hockey.

Practices are scheduled to be from 3:30-4:30

on April 28th, May 5th, 12th, and 19th, and June 2nd at Danehy Park. If players have equipment, they are encouraged to bring it to practice, but equipment is not required. The only requirement is good effort and a positive attitude!

FALCONS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP 70-43

Continued from page 15

a three that led to a layup. Cambridge had a 14-7 lead over the Rockets when the first quarter buzzer sounded.

The Falcons defense was just as stifling in the second quarter as they stopped Needham from scoring in the first three and a half minutes. Unfortunately, Cambridge struggled with shooting threes and Coach Dottin decided the team should move away from it at the half where they were leading 27-13. The second half was an entirely different story as Needham's offense kicked into high-gear and they were able to get within 5 due to Cambridge's unraveling defense.

Cambridge's fans, who had been relaxed for most of the game, became nervous as the 4th quarter started. The Falcons turned the ball over on seemingly every offensive possession due to either charging or bad passing. As the game got into crunch time, Cambridge held a small lead and Needham intentionally fouled in an effort to extend the game. Cambridge failed to put the game away from the line and it ended up coming down to the final seconds, but Cambridge was able to sneak out with a win.

For the past three years, the team has been motivated by the loss of fellow Cantabrigian and basketball player Davonte "Sweets" Neal to cancer in 2014. Neal was a close friend of many on the team's roster, and his death came as a harsh blow. As Carrigan puts it, "Sweets means everything, he's our 16th man." The team continues to pay tribute to their old teammate in the form of bright orange headbands—in that way, they keep his memory alive.

On March 18th, Cantabrigians and Franklin fans made the long journey to Springfield's MassMutual Center to watch the Falcons take on the Franklin Panthers in the

MIAA Division 1 Boys Basketball Final. Franklin was a worthy adversary, boasting a 18-2 regular season record as well the central division title. The stage was set for what many thought would be a championship game for the ages.

Instead, the Falcons walloped Franklin on both sides of the ball on the way to their second championship in two years. There were a few lead changes in the opening minutes of the first quarter, but thanks to Carrigan's five blocks, the Falcons took a 17-12 lead into the second quarter. Cambridge really began to pull away in the second as Franklin played the role of their own worst enemy, turning the ball over repeatedly. The Panthers also struggled

to build any sort of offensive rhythm, putting up a

measly 6 points in the quarter. The only highlight they got was a late 3 pointer, but Octavien immediately responded with one of his own to squash any momentum Franklin had.

The Panthers had a jam packed fan section filled with standing, jersey-wearing students, but their team

never gave them much to cheer about.

Halfway through the game, the score was 31-18 in Cambridge's favor. The Falcons did not take their foot off the pedal in the second half. Cambridge pressed for the remainder of the game and forced Franklin into committing even more turnovers. Offensively everything seemed to go right—Dottin hit a three to beat the shot clock and Octavien put oppo-



Aidan Keefer '18 attempts a three-point shot next to teammate Jonathan Cenescar '18. Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

nents on skates with his impressive handles.

Franklin fouled often and put Cambridge on the line throughout the fourth quarter. Despite the fact that the Falcons had struggled all through the playoffs with their free throw shooting, they managed to put up a very respectable performance. The Falcons were in control and everyone in attendance knew it. With under three minutes left in the game and a 27 point lead, Coach Dottin sent in the reserves to replace seniors Carrigan, Dottin, Octavien, and Rhymer. As the clock hit zero,

senior guard Bijan Rosen heaved the ball in the air and celebrations began. After shaking hands, the team made a beeline for the fan section.

The players were immediately swarmed by joyous students, such as superfan Hugo Schutzberg, who tore his shirt off and attempted to rush the court. The team raised the championship trophy for the second time in a row as Cantabrigians chanted, "Cambridge!" Fans exited

MassMutual Center cheering and taunting Franklin fans until their voices were hoarse. It was an impressive game to end an impressive playoff run full of peaks and valleys.

As Rosen commented, "Everyone knew they had to beat us to advance in the playoffs, so every game we got the other team's best effort, but fortunately we were able to overcome that." The team, which was escorted home by police cars and a fire engine, was met in front of the school by supporters who flooded the street. Everyone proceeded into the War Memorial Gym where players cut down pieces of the net to keep as a souvenir of their achievement. The championship was especially significant to seniors like Rymer, who said, "It's like I'm above the clouds right now." The title means the world to a city that takes enormous pride in its athletics, especially basketball.

Cambridge will be losing eleven seniors this year, but next year's team will be in the very capable hands of junior duo Jonathan Cenescar and Aidan Keefer, who will try to keep the current 45-game winning streak going. Cenescar is a Blake Griffin-esque forward whose hustle energizes those he plays with, and Keefer is a pesky guard who can finish at the rim. Is it too early to start thinking about a three-peat?



Carrigan '17 honors former teammate Davonte Neal. Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte



From left: The famed "sixth man" CRLS student section shows its support; Coach Lance Dottin, in his iconic sweatervest, confers with the team during a time out. Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte