

The
REGISTER FORUM

Established 1891

VOL. 127, NO. 4

CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2014



HANDS UP WALK OUT

By
Stella Yeung
Register Forum Editor

During the HandsUp WalkOut event organized earlier this month, hundreds of CRLS students walked out of classes to protest against the institution of racism in the US.

Photo Credit: Stella Yeung

December 1st, 2014 marked a day of historical unison for the students of CRLS. Students walked out of their classes at 1 PM in protest of the grand jury's decision to not indict Ferguson officer Darren Wilson for the shooting of the black teen Michael Brown. CRLS Student Body president Sydney Fisher and sophomore Mary Gashaw, who were quoted in the *New York Times*, proceeded to guide the crowd of 350 students through Mass Ave to Harvard Square.

Junior Izzy Gray, who participated in the movement, states, "Although I can't begin to understand how it must feel to navigate living in a society that repeatedly demonstrates its groundless prejudice towards me, I knew that I wanted to be part of the movement and contribute to the conversation as best I could."

There was an abundance of reasons for joining in the march whether it was resentment towards the outcome of the trial, the justice sys-

tem, or racism in general -- students of all grades and ages joined together to fight against injustice.



The students participating in the protest marched from CRLS to Harvard Square.

Photo Credit: Sam Brill-Weil

Fisher, who felt personally antagonized by the decision, spoke out: "I'm passionate about this because the fact these crimes can happen against young black men like Michael Brown makes me fear the same thing could happen to

my very own brothers."

CRLS students were joined by Harvard students and other nearby protesters in the center of Harvard Square causing traffic to ensue while police officers surrounded the scene.

"It's interesting how authority figures like teachers and police in Cambridge actually assisted protesters instead of reprimanding them," pointed out junior Hugo Rajao.

"No justice, no peace, no racist police!" and "Tell me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!" echoed from protesters throughout the Square. Signs containing similar messages such as "Your Peace is Violence" or "End White Supremacy" were also held.

Ms. Milner, Dean of Learning Community R, accredited students: "It didn't seem like students went for the sole purpose to miss class; students genuinely were

Continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS EDITION

ENTREPRENEURS

Many CRLS students have started businesses independently, or with help from the Possible Project.

Around School, p. 2

ADDAMS FAMILY



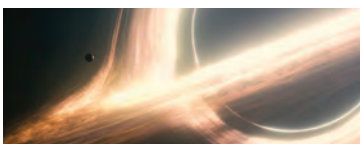
A&E, p. 6 & 7

KEYSTONE XL



Nation, p. 8

INTERSTELLAR



Science, p. 11

BASKETBALL

The CRLS basketball team is gearing up for what they hope will be a successful season.

Sports, p. 12



By
Diego Lasarte
Register Forum Correspondent

RF: Recently a Texas School Board official said, “History is primarily about teaching kids to be patriotic.” How would you respond to that assertion?

RO: I would disagree with that, I think there are many purposes for teaching history. In my case, when I decided I wanted to become a history teacher there was a real moral and ethical angle for it, a social justice bent. I wanted students to be aware of issues in the world and to feel informed and educated enough to make different decisions to challenge the status quo or to go out and make change in a meaningful way; that was a strong motivator for me. I think that some people believe that that is the power of a history curriculum, and for me that becomes clearer with my senior-level class, Modern World History. That is there so that I can present important

In The Spotlight: Ms. Otty

MCAS, the Texas School Board, and Modern World History

information to someone graduating high school and entering a world where things are happening and wars are going on. It’s important to me that my students are not going to just take everything at face value; they’re not going to assume that this is just the way it is, instead they’re going to understand there are complex roots to all the issues they see and that it is worth understanding there is and challenging the dominant narrative.

RF: Do you think you are treated differently because there is no History MCAS?

RO: That was a big fear of mine when I started because there was going to be a history MCAS, but then they took it away after 2008, solely for budget cuts and I don’t think they’ve revisited the idea. For me, the pros/cons about this are that most history teachers are very happy that we don’t have a MCAS because it means we don’t have to teach to a test but on the other hand, specifically in the lower grades if there is no MCAS there is less time devoted to History, and from what I understand from talking to colleagues at the elementary level, there history is given the least number of hours of instruction. If there was a MCAS that might be different but then again what would those hours be devoted to? Would they be worthwhile?

RF: Which do you prefer?

RO: I’m fine without it, but I would also be fine without standardized testing in all the other subjects too.

RF: Do you ever lose personal opinions because you teach so many different ones?

RO: No, I definitely don’t. One thing about survey classes is that teaching them, like world history, can feel really superficial. I’m covering everything from 1800 to 1991 as opposed to when I’m teaching an African history class, or even more specifically when I’m teaching a class on the genocide in Rwanda, there you get to go truly in depth, something I feel is lacking. There are times I love teaching so much, but very frequently I feel the wish to teach a whole semester just about this. I feel that way about a lot of things. We want you to have a grasp of the knowledge of the whole world, but at the same time we have to ask ourselves would it mean more to just focus on four case studies this year in world history. That’s the struggle, you want to go in-depth, but you don’t want people walking out with the idea that they know what colonialism in every colonized country because they studied one. They are constantly butting up against each other.

CRLS Students Explore Opportunities for Creating Their Own Businesses

By
Ursula Murray-Bozeman
Register Forum Correspondent

As diverse as students are at CRLS, their hobbies and extracurriculars are possibly even more varied. While not every pastime is well supported by the school, students who start their own businesses have a multitude of options.

Mr. Rubin, the RSTA entrepreneurship teacher, has inspiring confidence in teenage entrepreneurs. When asked if it was possible for a teenage-run business to be successful, he replied, “It’s not only possible, but it happens every day. Many students take the initiative to become their own boss at an early age.”

While the entrepreneurship class is one way to get started, other students have begun businesses independently. Sophomore Khalil Nur, who owns a T-shirt company called Trippy Life, said he started over the summer on a whim. “I was

bored and in my notebooks, I was writing, and it came to mind.”

Mr. Nur made a \$300 investment on equipment, and now, after selling 15 shirts, has nearly made back the \$300 -- but has not yet made any money for himself or for his partners- a designer and a friend who tie-dyes. “I [only] have money sent back into the company [so far],” he admitted.

Other student entrepreneurs have found support for their investments.

“Many students take the initiative to become their own boss at an early age.”

Allie Ngo and Mystikal Scalzi, the proprietors of Mystik Alley Teas, took part in a program created by the Possible Project, a Cambridge-based organization that funds and teaches young entrepreneurs in the area.

The Possible Project paid for the initial investment, and now that Ms. Ngo and Ms. Scalzi have

sold nearly 200 tins of tea, they put money back into the company and run it independently.

Alyssa Watson and Jérémie Jean-Baptiste, co-owners of an impending mug company, also work with the Possible Project. Ms. Jean-Baptiste admitted that when they started, “We didn’t really know everything that went into it...” “The possible project has guided us a lot,” Ms. Watson added.

There are many benefits of starting a business, and money may be the least of them. According to Mr. Rubin, “The life lessons you learn and professionalism you acquire are applicable in any career that you choose.”

Students also find that owning a business foster a sense of independence and capability. “Making something that you’re passionate about...and sharing that with others so they can experience it is empowering,” said Ms. Jean-Baptiste.

Students Hear UN Leader Speak at Harvard Ceremony



Ban ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the UN, shared insights.
Photo Credit: United Nations

By
Ben Austin
Register Forum Correspondent

On December 2, fifteen Rindge students and a few faculty members went to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban ki-Moon, speak at Harvard University. Meeting at CRLS, students walked over to Memorial Church in the center of Harvard Yard. Given tickets by Harvard, the group was able to gain select entry into a ceremony that was mostly attended by Harvard students and teachers.

As the recipient of the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year, the Secretary-General was honored by former Harvard President Derek Bok and other esteemed professors. President Bok remarked on the outstanding commitment that ki-Moon has made to the international community, specifically regarding climate change initiatives and movements to put an end to human trafficking.

The night ended with ki-Moon being presented the medal and giving some closing remarks to the audience: “We cannot ward off earthquakes and other natural disasters. But man-made ills are entirely within our power to prevent. A sustainable world of freedom and dignity for all is entirely within our power to build.”

Time to Stock Up on Energy Drinks

By
Sung Kang
Register Forum Staff

You look up at the clock and realize that it's 2 o'clock in the morning and you still have math and history homework to complete. As you think back on the day, you wonder how the time passed so quickly; after all, you only watched a couple episodes of *The Walking Dead* on Netflix and took a short break to manage your fantasy basketball team on ESPN. The list goes on and on as you realize the many small ways your attention has been stolen throughout the day.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, procrastination is the action of "[delaying] doing something until a later time because you do not want to do it, because you are lazy, etc." For CRLS students, this issue is very common. According to a recent survey, 96% of CRLS students surveyed own at least 2 different technological devices, including cell phones, televisions, laptops, and more. All of these provide an immediately gratifying distraction, making them an easy way to indulge a procrastination habit.

The survey also indicated that students spend an average of 2.2 hours on homework per night, regardless of class year. However, the same survey showed that 88% of seniors report using their technological devices for at least 4 hours in a day, while only 53% of freshmen reported the same. The difference in device usage by year indicates that the older a student is, the more likely they are to spend time procrastinating.



Even Register Forum editors succumb to procrastination.

Photo Credit: Lucia Brown

Sophomore Dewayne Green claims, "I manage to do all my homework. I try to balance my after school activities so I can have enough time with my academics."

On the other hand, after 3 years of strenuous effort, seniors may begin to procrastinate after their college application process is finished. This phenomenon, also known as senioritis, means that seniors tend to stop working in the second semester.

A senior, Morgan Hites, agrees, commenting, "I think [procrastination] is really bad. I procrastinate to avoid major projects, essays, etc." Larger assignments with significant grades, such as essays, are more likely to induce procrastination in students. However, not all seniors procrastinate. Hites further comments, "As a se-

nior, I procrastinate less because I want to get done with the college apps."

Procrastination can have serious effects on a student's health and well-being. By delaying their work, students are forced to stay up later, receiving fewer hours of sleep, which has been shown to have numerous detrimental effects. A recent psychological study indicates that procrastination affects 70% of the students in the United States.

To prevent procrastination from having a negative effect on your work habits, sit down and schedule time intervals for both work and leisure. For example, pair 40 minutes of homework with 10 minutes of rest. Also, think about your future and how you can make it brighter by doing your work on time.

Rivalries on Road to Recovery

By
Daniel Walsh
Register Forum Editor

Like most cities, Cambridge is divided into residential neighborhoods. Originally called "wards", the areas have adopted more distinct designations over time. Cambridgeport, North Cambridge, West Cambridge and Coast are just a few of the specific areas of Cambridge. But neighborhood boundaries seem to distinguish more than area.

Many students attest to clear rivalries that permeate the Cambridge community. Certain areas clearly hold hostile sentiment towards others. Over the past months, the divisions in our community have become especially apparent. Emiliano Duran, a CRLS sophomore, an eyewitness to this hostility, states, "The majority of what you experience on a daily basis is people talking down on each other, insulting, and generally not associating with another specific group." Junior Em-

ily Olick-Llano added, "I often see people using hand signs that relate to what part of Cambridge they're from."

Many CRLS students had no clear answer as to where these rivalries exist, arguing that the neighborhood contentions are pointless and a clear detriment to the community. However, senior Collin Mullen had an idea, "People aren't willing to branch out and make connections throughout the

"I think the beef will eventually end."

city. They feel that they are naturally better acquainted with those who live in their specific section." To many, this is concerning behavior. Junior Joann Cassama states, "It's crazy how whatever part of Cambridge you live in determines who you can be friends with. People don't realize that this hatred serves no purpose."

CRLS may have a large student body, but the

school is experienced in detecting and stopping fights. In the past month alone, altercations have broken out on multiple occasions, but have been dealt with effectively by administration. The school has even taken precautionary measures to counter student violence by cancelling the homecoming dance in effort to ensure the safety of students.

Despite the long history of fights in the name of local neighborhoods, some students think that Cambridge is on the right track in becoming a safer city. Events like the walk out for Michael Brown undoubtedly unite the CRLS community, and more often than not, students speak out against violence in our city. Student Body President Sydney Fisher was optimistic about the situation: "I think the beef will eventually end. It's not going to come quickly, but if we can show these people...that we all have something in common, then we will be on the right track."

CRLS RESPONDS:

What's your New Year's Resolution?



Marcus Collins
Class of 2015

"I'm trying to find my cinnamon apple."

Maddy Leonardos
Class of 2016

"I'm already perfect."



Ross Baker
Class of 2016

"I'd like to lose weight."



BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Register Forum, October 1997

The Register Forum is one of the oldest student newspapers in the US. Let’s take a trip back into the past by looking at the paper’s October 1997 edition. Thanks to the Cambridge Room at the Cambridge Public Library for access to their archives.

Highlights

- With a 2-2 record, the CRLS Falcons have cemented their program’s renewed respectability, and have high hopes for finishing this season with the team’s first .500 season since 1979.
- The *RF* gives the movie *Aaron’s Magic Village* only two starts out of five!
- Some students dislike the new block schedule since it forces them to have every class almost every day.
- An editorial criticizes the swim requirement, stating that students should not have to spend three months “shiv-ering” in the pool against their will!

Swedish Christmas Traditions: Smörgåsbord, Glögg, and Julkalendern

By
Fredrika Åkerman
Register Forum Correspondent

December is the month when the crusty leaves shed the trees and are covered by a layer of glittering snow. Christmas decorations light up the windows of the shops. Presents and Christmas food are bought in crowded department stores. The month that we all have been waiting for has finally come.

In Sweden, it is extremely dark during this time of year. In the northern part, Lapland, the sun never rises above the horizon. “It’ll soon turn,” is something that most Swedes say in anticipation for the midwinter solstice on December 21.

As of the beginning of December, Swedish windows are lit up by Julljusstakar, or electrical candle lights, originally placed in small Christmas trees. The trees were replaced with iron or wood candlesticks in the 1930s. Until today most of the Christmas lights are kept plain white unlike the multi-colored lights in the US.

Throughout December, the Swedish

public TV company airs Julkalendern: an annual television series with 24 episodes, first introduced in 1960. Every Sunday in December, Swedish families gather to the traditional Advent and eat ginger bread accompanied with glögg: hot, mulled wine with blanched almonds and raisins, based on a recipe from the Middle Ages. On the Lucia Day, December 13, Swedish families also gather and celebrate with ginger bread and

Christmas is celebrated by about 2 billion people worldwide, and each one of them in a completely different way.

glögg in honor of the Italian Saint Lucia.

“To watch Julkalendern and to celebrate Advent are probably my favorite parts, because they are spread out on all of December,” a 10-year-old Swedish girl replied when I asked her about what she liked about celebrating Christmas.

On December 24 Swedish families gather to celebrate the most important day of

the Christmas holiday. When I asked a Swede how he would describe Christmas Eve, he said, “During the morning we prepare the food that is served at lunch, which is called smörgåsbord and includes ham, pork sausage, gubbröra: a mixture of anchovy and eggs, herring salad, pickled herring, liver pâté, vörtbröd: wort-flavored bread, potatoes and lutfisk, which is a special fish dish.” The smörgåsbord is as traditional for a Swede as the turkey is on Thanksgiving for an American.

While anticipating the arrival of the Santa Claus Jultomten, both children and adults gather to watch the movie *Kalle Anka och hans Vänner Önskar God Jul*, which is the Swedish version of the American animated television program *From All of Us to All of You*.

Altogether, Christmas is more than just a break from school and a chance to receive the present you have longed for. Christmas is a holiday that not only brings families together, but also unites families living in different countries. The holiday is celebrated by about 2 billion people worldwide and each person celebrates it in a completely different way.

WALKOUT

Continued from page 1

standing in solidarity with the Ferguson incident.”

Many students participated in a “die in” by laying down in the middle of Harvard Square for 4.5 minutes to represent the 4.5 hours that Mike Brown’s body was left on the street after being killed by officer Darren Wilson. The protest persisted for an hour, until students made their way back to class.

Protest leader sophomore

Mary Gashaw, humbles herself by acknowledging the aid of the school: “I don’t feel like I led it. I feel like CRLS did. CRLS was the one who chanted, CRLS was the one who died in, CRLS was the one who is fighting for racial justice.”

Sophomore Kester Messan, reflecting on the matter, believes, “Racism is still very much prevalent in America, even at Rindge, despite our motto -- but I think if the community continues to fight, we’ll be one step closer to abolishing racism for good.”



During the walkout, Cambridge Police assisted protesters.

Photo Credit: Sam Brill-Weil



Principal Smith organized a brief meeting with students after school on December 4 to discuss some of the issues brought up by the walkout, such as the achievement gap at Rindge. Here, Mr. Smith looks on as a student speaks to the gathered audience in the main cafeteria. Afterwards, organizer Sydney Fisher praised the meeting, but said that “we have to do more than talk -- we must take action.”

Photo Credit: Diego Lasarte

Protests Work, But Not On Their Own

By
The Register Forum
Editorial Board

The recent acts of civil disobedience here at CRLS are completely unprecedented. On December 1st, hundreds of Rindge students marched in solidarity to Harvard Square to protest the non-indictment of Darren Wilson, the alleged killer of Michael Brown.

This protest was the ideal outlet for the strong passion that many students had on the issue; however, there remains a prevalent question on the effectiveness of civil disobedience in general.

For centuries, the power of rallies and protests has been utilized to overthrow tyrants, demand civil rights, and protest governments. Acts of civil disobedience in history have attained varied levels of success.

Power lies in numbers -- the most successful protests tend to be the biggest. History proves this assertion. Events such as the Civil Rights March on DC in 1963, led by MLK, consisted of over 500,000 protesters. In 2011, Egyptian protestors united in Cairo to successfully pro-



The December walkout set a new precedent of protesting at CRLS.
Photo Credit: Sam Brill-Weil

test the 30 year regime of Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak stepped down 16 days later.

What made these protests so successful was a clear, persistent message. The push for civil rights was a movement, not solely a protest. This may be what is limiting the success of modern day protests against racial prejudice. Many of the recent protests pervading America lack clear direction and specific demands. Instead of pushing for a goal -- for example, mounting video cameras on police officers -- the demands of most protests seem to be

vague and inconsistent. Many of the protests seem to simply be protesting racism itself. Of course, racism is not something that will subside overnight. Needless to say, we may not even see the end of racism in our lifetimes. However, it is clear that current protests are successful in pushing people to think differently about racial prejudice. Although these protests are yet to reach real national reform, their success lies in the changing mentality of the society. Along with the non-indictments themselves, protests

REGISTER FORUM

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 349-6640
twitter: @registerforum
bit.ly/crlsrf
crlsregisterforum@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief
Liam Greenwell '16

Managing Editor
Tomek Maciak '16

Club Managing Editor
Hugh Dougherty '15

Around School Editors
Lucia Brown '15
Stella Yeung '16

Arts and Entertainment Editors
Rosa Munson-Blatt '17
Desiree Campbell '15

Opinion-Editorial Editor
Lucas Raagas '16

Sports Editors
Nate Quigley '15
Daniel Walsh '16

Faculty Advisor
Steven Matteo

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

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

Why the Redskins and Many Other Teams Need to Change Their Names

By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

This past summer, controversy erupted when calls for the Washington Redskins to change their name increased and the US Patent and Trademark office cancelled the team's trademark. While this latter move was mostly symbolic (it cannot be implemented until the appeals process is over, and even when it does it will have limited impact), it is certainly indicative of the swaying public opinion on the issue.

However, revoking a trademark isn't enough -- the Redskins name is the most derogatory name in all of sports. Unlike some supporters of the name claim, it does not signify "bravery" or "courage" -- historically, it is in fact the name given to the bloody scalps of Native Americans killed for money during the 19th century, and it still holds this connotation today. The name is explicitly celebrating the attempted genocide of an entire group of people -- completely the opposite of admiring courage.

The name needs to be changed immediately, which, while it will not change the decades of a derogatory name being celebrated as a "tradition," it will at least prevent Washington's football fans from further being on the wrong side of history. It may not correct the issues, but

it will help to prevent their proliferation. Although 64% of the American people still support keeping the name, according to a recent ESPN poll, it is at least a debate the American people are currently having. Though "Redskins" is by far the worst name in professional sports based on Native Americans, the portrayals of Native Americans proliferated especially by the baseball team the Cleveland Indians need to also be part of the discussion.

This team's logo is a caricatured, insulting depiction of a Native American -- bright red skin, toothy grin, bulbous nose -- named Chief

The [Redskins] name is explicitly celebrating the attempted genocide of an entire group of people.

Wahoo (its mascot -- the costumed humanoid who actually walks around on the field, rather than the logo, which is used on hats, jerseys, and marketing -- is a completely unrelated pink monster-dinosaur hybrid with yellow polka dots).

The logo, in short, is completely and utterly racist.

But, while the imagery is the biggest issue in this instance, the objectification and imposed relegation of a group of people to the rank of a "mascot" is always highly problematic. Though

I've only touched on two particularly egregious examples, thousands of sports teams -- including many more in professional leagues, like the Atlanta Braves, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Chicago Blackhawks -- still have Native Americans or Native American symbols as mascots or logos. CRLS certainly isn't blameless, either: up until 1989, the school's mascot was the Warrior.

Most important to this debate, however, is the fact that many Native Americans find these portrayals offensive. It doesn't matter what I think: it matters what the people actually affected do. To that end, while there hasn't been a reliable poll of solely Native Americans about the names, many Native American tribes have issued statements condemning the portrayals and several Native American individuals have spoken out repeatedly. Undoubtedly, some Native Americans are not bothered by the names, but the number of people who are is large enough to justify a real change.

These names look like relics from a time long past, and are further proof (if we needed it) that racism is all too present in the United States in 2014 -- it's time to change them immediately. While it certainly will not "solve" the many challenges Native Americans face, it will help stop negative stereotypes from proliferating as they do now: spreading into millions of American homes whenever it's time for Monday Night Football.



Photo Credit (top right): Grace Gershenfeld
Photo Credit (all others): Rosa Munson-Blatt

CRLS’ Addams Family: An Incredible Success For All

By
Rosa Munson-Blatt
Register Forum Editor

On the weekend of December 5, 6, 7 and the 11, 12 and 13 the CRLS’ production of the Addams Family mounted the stage in the Fitzgerald theater for a night of singing, dancing and death.

The CRLS production of The Addams Family featured a double cast of the shows leads. Both casts were rich with exuberant talent and energy. Elaine Koury, the head of Visual and Performing Arts at Rindge, articulates the benefits of double-casting at a school like Rindge, “CRLS boasts some of the best high school actors, singers, theater technicians, and dancers in the area... double casting many of the main leads in the play gives opportunity to more actors.” Dr. Koury also added that Rindge’s production enlarged the ensemble thus, “giving a very large number of actors performance opportunities.”

The Addams Family originated in comic form and was penned by American cartoonist Charles Addams. The comic has been turned into numerous television shows and movies before becoming a musical comedy.

The show opened on Broadway in April of 2010. It starred some of musical theater’s biggest names: Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth as

the shows leads Gomez and Morticia. The Addams are a parody of ideal American families; having the typical patriarchy with a son and daughter, wealthy and elite.

However, the fantasized and ghoulish looking family has a peculiar delight in all things macabre and creepy, not caring that people are frightened or set aback by the bizarre nature of the family. Additionally, the musical has a recurring theme that “normal is an allusion.” Sophomore Charlotte Rosenblum, who played the daughter Wednesday Addams in the musical, explains that “The show establishes the relativity of normality, in that normal means different things for everyone.” Charlotte also illustrates the various themes of family; “The show has the importance of family and the fear of straying from family traditions and values.”

“I met great people and I made a lot of new friends that I wouldn’t have made outside of theater.”

The rehearsal process to achieve the myriad of themes and honor the celebrated comic was not easy. It began in September, and was often extremely rigorous. However as Brett Cramp, the director of The Addams Family explains, “In the end the transformative power of theatre takes over and it’s amazing to watch”

For the cast, being in the show is also a very valued and rewarding opportunity. For freshman James Kubicek it was a great social opportunity in such an intimidatingly large school, “I met great people and I made a lot of new friends that I wouldn’t have made outside of theatre, especially in such a big school”

The script was by Marshall

“It’s been really rewarding to see everything come together.”

Brickman and Rick Elice, while the lyrics were written by Andrew Lippa. With a number like “Death Is Just Around the Corner,” songs contributed a particularly humorous aspect of the show. The song featured the mother, Morticia, declaring her excitement of death being literally around the corner, symbolized by the dancing grim reaper.

The pit band was comprised of primarily Rindge Students, led by Dr. Ivan Stefanov. For sophomore Elliot Ronna, playing guitar in the band has been both an arduous commitment and incredible opportunity; “It’s been really rewarding to see everything come together. The tango, for example, is one of the only fully instrumental numbers. The process of stumbling through it in the beginning of the year to being able to nail nearly

every single note just feels great. I think the most difficult part has been the hours, and being able to balance everything with all the rehearsals. I’ve had to dedicate nearly all of my time to the show over the past weeks”

Rindge’s production also had an incredible set that perfectly encompassed the creepy and mystical feeling of the Addams Family. This would not have been attained if not for the dedicated tech crew of students. The crew was headed by the experienced Joanne Farwell who has helped to construct Rindge’s expansive sets for 14 years.

Costumes and makeup were also a vital facet in the creation of the Addams family, particularly for the ensemble known as the ancestors. The ancestors were the deceased relatives of the Addams and ranged from Puritans and Native Americans to Marie Antoinette.

For freshman Sydney White the challenge was to create unique costumes for each of the ancestors while also reiterating the theme of family by, “proving to the audience that even though things have changed since the Addams’ first generation, they are still family and they still value and love each other.”

Even if you missed the December shows you’ll have to make sure to catch next years musical. As sophomore Sofia Kaufman puts it, “The CRLS musicals always produce an incredible outcome!”

Swan Lake Interpretation Holds Both Triumphs and Disappointments

By
Shubhan Nagendra
Register Forum Correspondent

In 1877, when the ballet Swan Lake first premiered, the audience unanimously found the performance a farce and considered Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky’s music “too noisy and Wagnerian.” Though the ballet was not that popular, it continued to be performed. Furthermore, Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov started the revival of Swan Lake. Unfortunately, the premature death of Tchaikovsky in 1893 prevented him from witnessing the popular 1895 premiere.

Fortunately, the privilege of attending the Swan Lake at the prominent Boston Opera House in the past month was a rewarding experience. The Boston Opera House was gleaming: the ornate designs and the shining champagne glasses, which people were drinking from, gave a celebratory ambience to the historic opera house.

The breathtaking performance matched the atmosphere that the audience had set. There was much excitement amongst the performers, and it radiated in their dancing, particularly in the Dance of the Little Swans, where it appeared that the ‘swans’ would almost fly away.

Swan Lake has gone through differ-



Dancers perform in Boston Ballet’s “Swan Lake” at the Boston Opera House.

Photo Credit: Boston Magazine

ent renditions by choreographers who feel that their insight to the piece can add a new dimension. October 30th 2014 was the world premiere of Mikko Nissenen’s additional choreographic work on Swan Lake. His work had received favorable reviews, but there were a few disappointments, being the shortened length of Act 4 of Swan Lake and the lack of the the Russian Dance and the Hungarian Dance. These pieces constitute an imperative facet of Swan Lake by

conveying the messages that the ballet sends. Unfortunately, Mr. Nissenen does not believe that they play an important part.

German Philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, once said “without music, life would be a mistake,” and I would say that without Swan Lake, music would be incomplete. And although Swan Lake is also a ballet, Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky’s music is the sole reason that makes it one of the great pieces of all time.

Keystone XL Pipeline Faces Uncertain Future

By
Will MacArthur
RF Special Political Contributor

As the 113th Congress comes to a close after passing fewer bills than any session in history, few failed proposals prompt more debate than the Keystone XL pipeline bill. The measure, which passed the House, but died in the Senate on November 18th after coming 1 vote short of the 60 required to avert a filibuster, would have created a new pathway for oil from Canadian oil sands to refineries in Louisiana.

The vote broke largely along party lines, with every Republican senator and 14 Democrats voting in favor of the pipeline and 39 Democrats and 2 independents voting against it, including both senators from Massachusetts. The issue will likely be raised again when the 114th Congress convenes in January, and the new Republican senate majority gives it a substantial chance of passage. However, its future is far from certain, since several of its Democratic supporters, including Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, who campaigned vigorously for the pipeline and converted several other Democratic senators,

lost reelection in 2014.

National supporters of the project argue that it would create thousands of construction jobs in states along the pipeline's route, as well as jobs in refineries. Detractors state that it would contribute to climate change and increase the risk of oil spills.

CRLS students also expressed a wide range of opinions on the pipeline. Sophomore Mary Gashaw expressed her dissatisfaction with what she sees as Congress' lack of ability and willingness to listen to its constituents, stating, "Time and time again, Congress chooses to be blind and ignorant." She followed up this critique by saying that Congress and oil companies will be responsible for any

"Approving the Keystone Pipeline will create 3900 temporary jobs and only 35 permanent ones."

environmental impacts of the pipeline, and that the economic benefits touted by pipeline supporters will be limited to "more minimum wage jobs".

Environmental Action Club Co-President Aida Muratoglu also



Dozens of pipeline protesters surround the White House.

Photo Credit: Associated Press

attacked claims that the pipeline will boost the economy, stating, "Approving the Keystone Pipeline will create 3900 temporary jobs and only 35 permanent ones" and cited the project's \$5.2 billion dollar price tag. Muratoglu was also concerned about the environmental implications, arguing that approval of the pipeline would only lead to a resurgence in fossil fuel use and that "830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude oil is a scary number".

Junior Cameron Lane-Fleehinger had mixed feelings about the proposal, stating that the use of oil sands and fossil fuels is destructive to the environment, but that "block-

ing a pipeline that could potentially reduce oil prices significantly does not help us address the issue of our reliance on fossil fuels".

Sophomore Jack Kiryk, who believes that the issue of the pipeline has been receiving too much attention, states, "The issue was overblown...either way the oil is going to get refined, especially with falling prices, and the construction of a pipeline just became one more thing for Congress to argue over."

Readers interested in learning more can read the text of the pipeline bill on the official Senate website or contact Senators Elizabeth Warren or Ed Markey.

Ferguson to Staten Island

Racial Injustice Still Present Throughout US

By
Desiree Campbell
Register Forum Editor

Michael Brown and Eric Garner's deaths shine a light on one of the many injustices in America.

On August 9, 2014 history was made. 18 year old Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, a white male police officer. The death sent shockwaves around the nation.

After months of deliberation the jury found that there was not enough evidence to indict Darren Wilson. Millions of people were outraged and many new questions arose about police protocol, racial profiling, and the law. The country demanded answers. Senior Marquis Taylor adds, "I feel like it's a horrible injustice for the U.S; not because a white cop killed a black kid, but because a human being killed another

human being, and nothing happened. The thought of that makes me cringe."

Although Wilson claimed that he reacted in self defense, Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, completely disagrees. She asserts, "I know my son far too well. He would never do anything like that. He would never provoke anyone to do anything to him and he would never do anything to anybody."

Though there are quite a few ambiguities in this case, the shooting shined a light on countless

social inequities. Rachel Ruwe, a black senior, argues, "I think the Ferguson case was the tipping point for people in this country. More people are starting to open their eyes to the racial discrimination rampant in America. They're starting

to say enough is enough, and it's beautiful."

Since the incident, Wilson resigned from his job. Despite this, there are many supporters of Wilson who have raised more than a quarter of a million dollars in support of him and his rights. Pro-Wilson protesters have stated, "We will not hide. We will no longer live in fear."

Michael Brown's case isn't the only one to receive a large amount of public attention in recent months. On July 17, Eric Garner, an African American male,

was killed by a white police officer named Daniel Pantaleo in Staten Island New York. Garner was suspected of illegally selling cigarettes and was eventually put into a police outlawed chokehold which resulted in his death. Even

"They're starting to say enough is enough, and it's beautiful."



Esaw Garner, Eric Garner's wife, is being comforted by leaders of activist movements at the National Action Network headquarters.

Photo Credit: Time Magazine

though the whole incident was recorded on tape, there was still no indictment for the officer. Although there were no legal actions taken, Pantaleo was placed on desk duty and stripped of his service gun and badge.

Racial injustice as well as police brutality is still a problem in America. Garner and Brown's murders helped to highlight the fact that there needs to be a change socially and politically to prevent future incidents like these.

CRLS student Meaza Solomon simply states, "The more I learn about Ferguson the more I start to see how complex the situation is, but at the end of the day, nobody deserves to die like that. It brings up really important issues like racial profiling, failed school, biases justice systems, and unemployment and it's sad that it takes a life to make people get up in arms about this. I only hope that our efforts are not going to be in vain."

GOP Staffer Resigns After Insulting Obama's Daughters

By
Lucia Brown
Register Forum Editor

Elizabeth Lauten, a Republican congressional aide, extensively criticized Obama's daughters' facial expressions, body language, and outfits during the annual Thanksgiving turkey pardoning event. After sparking much controversy over her comments, Lauten resigned on December 1st.

Lauten urged the teenagers, via Facebook posts, to "try showing a little class" and "at least respect the part [they] play." She criticized Barack and Michelle themselves for not "respect[ing] their positions very much, or the nation for that matter" and even condemned the couple for not being good role models for their children.

According to CRLS student Silas Weiner, "Lauten's comments about Sasha and Malia are totally inexcusable, their only aim being to further rip into the Presi-

dent himself." He concedes that "she has every right to disagree with Obama's policies" but stresses that "the daughters are off limits."

Considering the lengths of the girls' skirts unprofessional, Lauten also told the girls to "dress like you deserve respect, not a spot at a bar." She ended her facebook post with this: "and certainly don't make faces during televised, public events."

However, CRLS senior Rachel Ruwe reminds us that "this was a light-hearted event, so President Obama's children were not meant to be serious and stoic."

Right after Lauten's posts went viral, Obama fans reacted all over social media. The overwhelming consensus was that she should be fired for being a bully, "a terrible person," and "an embarrassment." Many condemn Lauten for turning the girls into political targets and just attacking the girls for merely being

teenagers.

CRLS senior Prapti Koirala agrees, urging the public to "understand that while they may be the president's daughters, they are also normal teenagers. They are obviously going to act like every other teenager does, and the way they dress should be the least of our worries."

A few hours after her initial Facebook posts, Lauten seemed to regret her pronouncements. She expressed her apology via Facebook, saying "I quickly judged the two young ladies in a way that I would never have wanted to be judged myself as a teenager. After many hours of prayer, talking to my parents and re-reading my words online, I can see more clearly how hurtful my words were...I'd like to apologize to all of those who I have hurt and offended with my words, and pledge to learn and grow (and I assure you I have) from this experience."

Some deny that this



The First Family has been subject to much recent criticism.

Photo Credit: Associated Press

incident is worthy of such huge national coverage. Republican National Committee communications director, Sean Spicer, explains that "while the comments were inappropriate and offensive, the mainstream media's coverage of this story is appalling. In over 20 years I have never seen one of the countless inappropriate comments by Democrats ever covered to a fraction of this." On December 2nd, a

Democratic congressional aide pleaded guilty to sexual assault; an event receiving far less media coverage than Lauten's comments.

Ruwe sums up many CRLS students' sentiments, "Regardless of how she [Lauten] feels about the President, she had no right to single out his kids like that. They are innocent and are not connected to his politics in any way. She's not their mother."

Obama Announces Bold New Action on Immigration Reform in Address to Nation

By
Nate Quigley
Register Forum Editor

After months of Congressional gridlock, President Obama, in a rare showing of presidential authority, put forth a new proposal that would prevent deportation for the millions of illegal immigrants that reside in the country.

The proposal, delineated in a fifteen minute speech on November 20, includes measures which increase border patrol funding and clearly define the criteria for illegal residents who wish to stay in the country. However, as Obama was quick to point out, the proposal will not provide a "blanket amnesty" for all 6 million illegal immigrants, as many Americans fear. Rather, he stated, "This deal does not apply to anyone who has come to this country recently. It does not apply to anyone who might come to America illegally in the future. It does not grant citizenship or the right to stay here permanently, or offer the same benefits that citizens receive. Only Congress can do that. All we're saying is we're not going to deport you."

CRLS Junior Anna McCarthy supports Obama's proposal, stating, "It seems to me that....it would be a waste of efforts and unethical to uproot people who have built families and established themselves here, while focusing on new immigrants, particularly those who commit crimes, is a valuable concern."

The president's step was prompted by Congressional failure to pass any bill on the topic. In June 2013, the Senate passed a comprehensive and well-supported bipartisan bill

containing many of the same policies that are outlined in Obama's plan.

However, even with Republican support in the Senate, House Republican leadership didn't even let the bill come to a vote, preventing what many political analysts felt would be a surefire passage.

Now that Obama is taking the initiative on the matter, the same Republicans who prevented simple conversation on the topic less than 18 months prior are denouncing the president's actions as those of a tyrant. Republican House Homeland Security Committee chairman Texan Michael McCaul went as far as to label the proposal a "threat to our democracy". Republicans have vowed to fight tooth and nail against the implementation of Obama's proposal, with some even threatening another government shutdown as a last resort.

Several CRLS students were disgusted by Republican response, especially the threats of a new shutdown, and Speaker of the House John Boehner's lawsuit against Obama. CRLS student Aida Muratoglu articulates these opinions, arguing that Republican actions are "so stupid."

Regardless of the fate of Obama's plan, some claim the issue of immigration promises to be the key issue of the next decade. With over eleven million illegal immigrants currently residing in the country and hundreds of thousands more arriving legally each year, the Congressional stalemate will only lead to widespread resentment among the general public. As Obama eloquently put it, "Americans are tired of gridlock. What our country needs right now is a common purpose, a higher purpose."

Jimmy Carter Visits Cambridge

By
Hugh Dougherty
Register Forum Editor

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States and established author, recently published his 28th book, "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power, 2014." On November 19th, at Harvard's Memorial Church, President Carter discussed his book and what he states is the "No. 1 unaddressed issue involving human rights." The book is his call for a worldwide end to discrimination and abuse of women.

After his term as President, he started the Carter Center with his wife and First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, to do as their mission states, "Wage Peace, Fight Disease, Build Hope." President Carter, a Sunday school teacher, decided to walk away from the Southern Baptists because of the church's stance on inequality of women.

Being a former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter has specific freedoms that allow him to reach out to countries and political officials that may have been shunned by the rest of the world and the UN. Because of this, President Carter has reached out to countries, that most may not have ever heard of, to establish democratic elections and to ultimately push forward human rights.

The Carter Center addresses world issues through its many programs. The Center also supports health programs to eradicate diseases that may only require a simple vaccination.

For more information on Jimmy Carter or the work being done by The Carter Center, visit www.cartercenter.org.

Is the World on the Brink of World War? Gorbachev Thinks So

By
Shubhan Nagendra
Register Forum Correspondent

When the red hammer and sickle flag of the Soviet Union descended from the Kremlin on Christmas Day in 1991, the world dared to believe that the Cold War was over. It appeared that the capitalistic doctrines of the West had triumphed over the East's Communist dogma. There was a triumphant air in the west: Germany was reunified, the Iron Curtain had ascended, and hope for fruitful relations between the former Soviet states and the West still existed.

However, the past twenty-three years have only shown an increased level of triumphalism from the West, Boris Yeltsin's inept ability to control the Russian state, the rise of Vladimir Putin, and the failure of coherent relations between Russia and the United States. Is the former premier of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, correct in saying that the world is on the brink of Cold War?

CRLS senior Rose C-W believes that Gorbachev's assessment of the situation is "Mildly exaggerated by annoyingly accurate."

The fall of the Soviet Union was a momentous event because the years of hatred towards Communism were ostensibly at an end. Unfortunately for the West, the celebrations of triumph over Communism ended when Boris Yeltsin handed the baton to Vladimir Putin.

Some say that Mr. Putin has ensured that Russia will stay as the second superpower along with the United States. Mr. Putin's desire for a



Former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev fears that renewed tensions between Russia and the West mirror Cold War hostilities that resulted in the creation of the Berlin Wall as pictured above.
Photo Credit: The Guardian

'New Soviet Union' has seen Russia divide itself from the western models of society, and establish relationships with a few close nations: Iran, China, Syria, and India. Moreover, Putin is intent on reclaiming 'Little Russia' or Ukraine, while Crimea has already returned to Russian hands.

While some argue that Mr. Putin is responsible for the antagonism that prevents co-operation between the West and Russia, others place blame for this situation on the West due to its arrogant superiority since the fall of the Soviet Union. Mr. Putin is only trying to repair the 'humiliation' - which he describes - that Russia had

to face in the 1990s. The air of invincibility that Mr. Putin has shown throughout his presidency has started to settle in many Russians' minds - particularly the youth. Nationalism is rising, and a growing antagonism towards the west is appearing.

Junior Nate Dempsey agrees that hostilities exist but refutes Gorbachev's basic premise stating, "Vladimir Putin's presidency is a return to a totalitarian Russia that is very similar to the Cold War era [USSR], although I don't think that there's the same amount of hostility between the countries."

The Power Of Hydrogen

By
Rafael Goldstein
Register Forum Correspondent

Hydrogen is in water, sugar, stars, and many other things in the universe. It is quite the peaceful element that does more good than harm. The concept of hydrogen powered cars might be a new idea for students at CRLS.

The way a hydrogen car works is quite simple. The hydrogen gas is passed into a fuel cell stack that mixes the pure hydrogen with atmospheric oxygen to generate electric current. The electricity is then used to power one or more electric motors driving the wheels. In 2003, during his presidency, George W. Bush made a huge push for hydrogen powered cars.

However, when Barack Obama assumed the presidency, the movement slowed down. Obama's first Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, wasn't completely convinced on hydrogen powered cars, and their impact on the environ-

ment. The research shifted to battery-powered electric vehicles. Freshman Elizabeth Ball was ecstatic when asked if she would buy a hydrogen car, exclaiming, "I would definitely!"

However, the search for a successful hydrogen powered car is not dead yet. Companies like Honda and Toyota are still putting in a lot of money into research. Hyundai has been leasing what is referred to as the first mass-produced hydrogen powered vehicle ever. Toyota will also put a hydrogen powered car on sale

"[Hydrogen is] quite the peaceful element that does more good than harm."

in the upcoming months.

The cars are rather expensive, and hydrogen gas ports are not easy to find. In California there are currently nine stations, however they aim to have over 50 by the end of next year. When asked about his view on hydrogen cars and their development sophomore Bijan Rosen replied, "I believe that in a country

that has evidently been experiencing some unfortunate events, it is nice to hear that there is some good and productive things going on in our country."

There has been much comparison between electric and hydrogen powered cars. They both have their advantages and shortcomings, but some argue the electric powered cars have more disadvantages. Although the hydrogen powered car is more expensive to operate, it can travel a lot further than the commuter-friendly electric car.

Also, the electric car industry simply does not have the chemistry to create trucks and even minivans powered by electricity, but hydrogen fuel cells already do. Not only that, but hydrogen cars take minutes to fill up as opposed to the hours that an electric car takes to recharge.

Carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere is a huge issue in climate change. Junior Emily Olick-Llano adds, "I would definitely be interested in buying a hydrogen powered



Hydrogen fueled cars could be the future of the automobile industry.
Photo Credit: Energy Ethos

car. Unlike gasoline powered cars, which are entirely dependent on a diminishing supply of fossil fuels, hydrogen fueled cars would be so much more sustainable due to the abundance of hydrogen."

Hydrogen cars store their charge in mini power plants inside the car, which generates a flow of electricity in the chemical reaction of combining hydrogen with oxygen. The oxygen comes from the air, while the hydrogen is stored in tanks, much like gas is now. The exhaust from the tailpipe is water that's clean enough to

drink! This exhaust greatly differs from that of a gasoline powered car, which any pedestrian has most likely experienced first-hand.

Scientists are still disputing which type of car is better for the environment. Many doubt that the United States and other countries will be willing to put in billions of dollars to build a worldwide hydrogen infrastructure. However, all great ideas do have to start somewhere. Students at Rindge might be driving hydrogen cars in as little as a few years.

Scientists Discover the Many Advantages of Meditation

By
Tomek Maciak
Register Forum Editor

A study done by researchers at the elite Leiden University in the Netherlands suggests that certain meditation techniques may lead to an increase in creative thinking, one of a multitude of studies conducted in recent years confirming the benefits of meditation.

The practice of meditation has an extensive history; some Indian writings suggest that meditation was practiced as long as 5,000 years ago. Buddha, one of the modern icons of meditation, promoted the benefits of the practice in about 500 B.C. Buddhist meditation migrated to Western society in the 1960s and 1970s, thousands of years after becoming widespread throughout many regions in East Asia.

While only a few CRLS students meditate, most understand and can relate to the many people who take up meditation. Junior Sam Denney echoes this sentiment saying, "Meditation is an attempt to slow down in this accelerated, agenda filled world we live in."

Sophomore Sara Hauf believes people meditate to relieve stress, "People our age have a whole level of responsibilities that we have supposedly been preparing for our entire lives, but then they sort of hit us when we enter high school,"

The subjects of the Leiden study included both people with experience in meditation as well as those who had never meditated. Researchers asked both groups to meditate for

twenty-five minutes. They then asked the subjects to complete two creativity tests; one in which a subject had to list all the possible uses for an object, and the other in which they were asked to identify the connection between seemingly unrelated objects. In both studies the creativity of many of the subjects improved after meditation.

Junior Chiaki Kirby believes that people are uninformed about meditation, which con-



The eyes of Buddha decorate CRLS' third floor.

Photo Credit: Lucia Brown

tributes to the limited extent of its use. She says, "Meditating is as simple as taking five minutes out of your day to stop what you're doing and to just sit and breathe, and in the process to redirect your negative energy. It's not a complicated process"

Despite the existence of much evidence supporting the advantages of meditation, only a handful of people at CRLS meditate, while only 10% of Americans said they meditated in last 12 months according to a U.S. national government

survey. Denney believes that the fast paced society is to blame, saying, "Our society as is is very much rushed; constantly always with something to do. We have calendars, alarm clocks, and timers for this reason. It is all about being more and more efficient at whatever you are doing and doing everything fast."

An eight-week long Harvard research study in 2010 linked meditation to a significant increase in grey matter in the brain. Grey matter is a crucial part of the nervous system and is located in the brain. One of the primary functions of grey matter is to process information.

Kirby, however, is hesitant about meditation research, and believes that while research should continue to a limited extent, she fears that, "In a way this sort of research overcomplicates the whole foundation of meditation. Meditation is a way to simplify, and understand life, and when you complicate something that is intended to be simple, you take out some of the natural meaning out of it."

Nevertheless, meditation research studies have proliferated in recent years. A test by University of Arizona researchers dealt with stress levels of subjects during taking a difficult multi-tasking test. Their conclusion was that people who had been meditating for years had significantly lower levels of stress during the test than those who did not meditate regularly.

Denney ended by stating his belief that people meditate for different reasons: "Many people meditate with an aim in mind, maybe some people need to slow down. [Meditation] is different for everyone, I would say, because everyone is different."

Science Fiction Creates Science Fact: Black Hole Seen in *Interstellar* Leads to Scientific Discovery

By
Liam Greenwell
Register Forum Editor

During the production of the movie *Interstellar*, Kip Thorne, a theoretical astrophysicist formerly from Caltech, was tasked with leading a team whose goal was to create visual representations of black holes based on quantum equations and Einstein's theories. The resulting models led to new scientific discoveries about how huge, spinning black holes interact with their surroundings -- remarkable considering that all the work had been done for a movie.

Thorne's project devoted one year, 30 team members, and thousands of computers to creating the models. Thorne then sent the data to a visual effects team at Double Negative, who assembled the CGI black hole seen in the final film.

Thorne said that much of what the models presented makes sense, but that "knowing [something] intellectually is very different from seeing it." While the models didn't revolutionize the scientific community's views on the massive objects, it did verify scientists' perceptions and added important nuances to the community's general

understanding -- in part because of the project's unprecedentedly thorough nature.

"I think movies should involve accuracy if they are specifically about science, because having accurate information in movies can help to educate the public and get them interested in science. However, if it's a movie where science isn't the main topic,...then it's fine if the scientific aspect of it isn't 100% accurate," stated sophomore Carmen Enrique.

However, though some of the film is accurate according to our current understanding of the universe, some is also subject to generous artistic license: especially the parts of the movie which deal with concepts humans know almost nothing about, like wormholes and the area beyond a black hole's event horizon.

Films "can certainly be [learning] tools," commented CRLS physics and astronomy teacher Mr. Shavit, "but not standalone tools," reflecting on the danger that people may assume that because one part of a movie is accurate, all of it is.

Interstellar has been a commercial and critical success since release with a \$150 million gross and a 73% score on the movie review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes.



The black hole created by Thorne's models, as seen in the film *Interstellar*.

Photo Credit: Warner Brothers Entertainment

In the film, the black hole, and the way the objects can theoretically bend time in addition to space, is essential to the plot.

Junior Reid Merzbacher agrees with the decision to devote resources to making parts of the film as accurate as possible, saying, "Movies should be as scientifically accurate as possible when presenting information as factual...A movie that is striving to seem realistic shouldn't bend or change the laws of science in order to fit a plot, as this can seem like a cheap way to make a story make more sense."

However, he is also in favor of some artistic license in certain situations: referring to the sections

of *Interstellar* which deal with theories and holes in our understanding of the universe. Merzbacher continued, "The movie didn't need to be 100% accurate, since there is little proof of alternate theories [about things like wormholes and the fifth dimension]...Nolan's choice to use science that has not necessarily been proven yet added greatly to the movie, because it provided realistic hypotheses while still being entertaining and making the audience think."

To learn more, watch Paramount Pictures' featurette on the creation of the movie's black hole or go see *Interstellar* itself, still playing in theaters everywhere.

CRLS Boys Basketball Gears Up



CRLS earned a hard-fought 73-68 victory over new DCL foe Waltham in front of a rowdy home crowd on Friday December 12.

By
Lucas Raagas
Register Forum Editor

The CRLS varsity boys basketball team has recently embarked on a highly anticipated season with much of their core remaining the same from last season’s lineup. Only 4 players graduated after last year’s season, leaving 9 players from the roster ready to compete this year.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin as a whole has recently shifted into the Dual County League (DCL). They hope they’ll find quick success considering only one team from the DCL is in the top 25, Concord Carlisle, and they’re ranked two spots under Cambridge at 16.

“You don’t know what they are able to ac-

complish any given night. So all we [have to] do is step out on the court and leave everything we have on the floor,” said senior guard Isaiah McLeod.

Last season the team posted a 16-6 record and were ranked number 14 in the state by the end of the season. However, they had quite unfortunate luck in the state tournament last year reaching only the North Division Quarterfinals due to losing to the eventual state finalist, Central Catholic.

“I expect to make a deep run into the State Tournament [this year],” said senior forward Marcus Collins. “I believe we should shoot for the state championship.”

Many players on the team believe a state title is well within their grasp even though the school hasn’t

won a state championship since 2001, which was led by point guard George Rodriguez who now coaches at CRLS.

“The entire team has been in the gym for countless amount of hours working hard to get better,” said McLeod. “We have a team that’s filled with players that are all focused on one goal.”

This year’s team fully realizes the importance of hard work and dedication. The captains of the team, Isaiah McLeod, Demetrius Woodson, Diandre Shouder-Williams, and Marcus Collins have left a strong precedent for the team to follow.

This year’s new varsity team plays their next home game on January 9th against Boston Latin at 7 pm. You don’t want to miss it!

Isaiah McLeod Receives Scholarship to SCSU

By
Lucas Raagas
Register Forum Editor

CRLS senior Isaiah McLeod signed his letter of intent on November 20th to Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and has earned a four-year scholarship. McLeod, a captain for the CRLS varsity basketball team last year, received the Most Valuable Player award for the Greater Boston League and was a Boston Herald All-Scholastic selection as a junior last year.

SCSU is currently ranked number 2 in the nation among all Division II schools in the National College Athletics Association (NCAA) with a 6-0 record. McLeod will likely be a valuable addition to the team considering he aver-

aged 19 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists last season.

“It’s a dream come true being able to play basketball at the next level,” said McLeod. “I have been working hard for this moment my whole life.”

McLeod credits much of his success to hard work and the coaching given to him from the school’s basketball program, specifically Lance Dottin and George Rodriguez, and he also praises his Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) basketball coach, Michael Crotty.

Senior, and close friend to McLeod, Marcus Collins said “Isaiah deserves the scholarship due to his hardwork and dedication throughout the years... I love seeing him achieve his goal.”



From left: George Rodriguez, Michael Crotty, Isaiah McLeod, and Lance Dottin.
Photo Credit: Isaiah McLeod

Water Polo Club Celebrates End of Successful Year

By
Colin McNeely
Register Forum Correspondent

Water Polo has once again created a splash in the War Memorial swimming pool, the scene where all the action takes place. In its second year since its creation by CRLS alumni Grant Baker and Arthur Schutzbarg, the club has grown in size and has seen a multitude of new faces come through the

locker room doors. Having taken place once a week since October, and a second weekly date added in November due to popular demand, the club has seen its largest showing of participants yet.

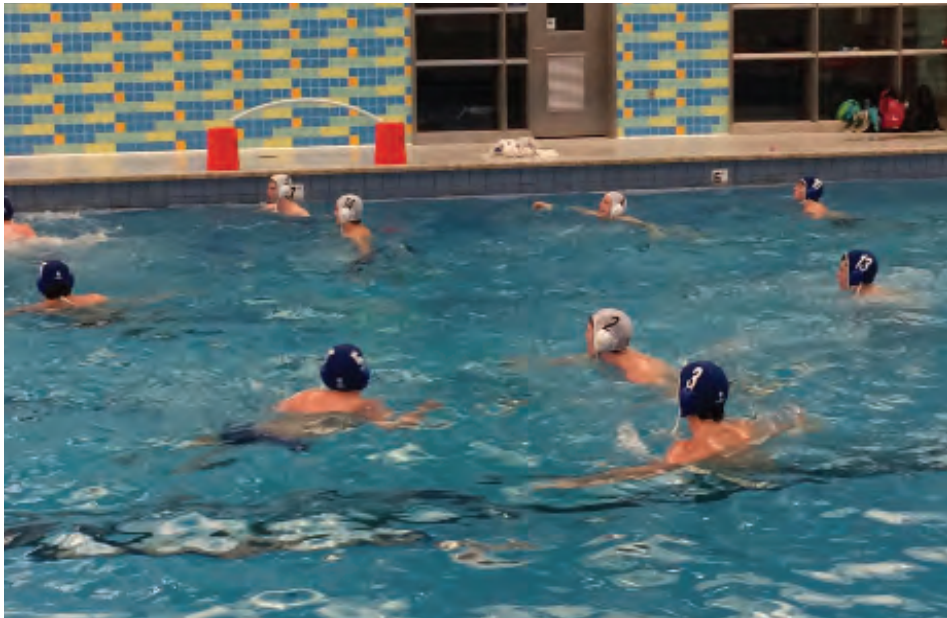
Sophomore Nico Livon-Navarro, a dedicated member this year, summed up his experiences:

“I feel that [water polo] really embodies the ideals of perseverance and teamwork.” Similar sentiment is expressed by all, something which has spurred on this young club’s success.

Senior Cam Lindsay, the driving force and president behind this years action-packed season, is looking to start it up again come

spring: “[The club offers] a unique atmosphere because once in the water, players are opponents but treat each other with respect. But outside the water, the locker room is filled with laughter, music, and sometimes even dancing.”

After a fun and competitive 2014 season, the Water Polo club is looking forward to more fun times in future years as well as a growing core of players eager to enjoy a new experience.



Water Polo met Mondays and Wednesdays in the War Memorial Pool during the season. The club will start again after winter sports end.
Photo Credit: Nate Quigley