

# The REGISTER FORUM

*"The Oldest Student Newspaper in the U.S."*

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Cambridge Rindge and Latin School

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## Senior Prom: A Night to Remember

By  
Kevin Xiong  
*Register Forum Editor*

Saturday, May 19th, CRLS seniors attended senior prom, an event many consider to be the most memorable night of high school. This year, senior prom took place at the Long Wharf Marriott. Doors opened at 7 pm, and the night's festivities continued until midnight.

"My favorite part of senior prom was bonding with my classmates," explained Student Body President Bersabell Yeshitla.



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

"Ahh, I loved it!" exclaimed Elijah Harris. "Our entire class finally came together as a community. It was a great way to end the year!"

CRLS seniors will be graduating in a matter of days. The graduation ceremony will take place on June 7th, at 7 pm. The Register Forum would like to congratulate them for their four years of hard work and scholarship.



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson



This year's senior prom took place at the Long Wharf Marriott. The night's festivities included dancing, an ice cream bar, and numerous pastas. Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

## CRLS' Habitat for Humanity Raises Funds and Builds Walls for Charity

By  
Kevin Xiong  
*Register Forum Editor*

On April 17th, eleven students from CRLS' Habitat for Humanity Club traveled to 51 Navarre Street, Roslindale, to build a house through Habitat for Humanity International's volunteer program. The Navarre Street site is one of four projects that Habitat Greater Boston is working on and features six new units of housing in three buildings. Each building will be three stories high, with each unit measuring approximately 1400 feet.

A non-profit organization, Habitat is dedicated to eliminating poverty by providing low-income families with "simple and low-cost homes, regardless of race, religion, and ethnicity."

Since 1976, Habitat has helped build "over 500,000 houses and served over 2



Photo Credit: Kevin Xiong

million people around the world."

Prior to attending the April vacation build, the club raised over \$750 for building materials through planning various fundraisers, selling

baked goods, Chinese food, and more recently, popsicles.

Since 1976, Habitat has helped build "over 500,000 houses and served over 2 million people around the world."

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## Bilingual Education Examined *A Closer Look at Students and Experiences*

By  
Maria Alejandra Trumble  
*Register Forum Staff*

From the boom of bilingual education in 1987, the number of bilingual schools has reason from a of 30 to 292 Spanish and English bilingual schools alone according to Zehr's magazine article. A third of those schools are in California and a vast majority are elementary schools. With more than 50% of CRLS students speaking languages other than English (Mandarin, Spanish, Swahili, Portuguese and more) and, according to the Education Department, 11.2% of all high school populations being immigrants, the increase in number of bilingual programs makes sense. Cambridge has bilingual programs in the Martin Jr. King School, the King Open School, and has a dual language school, The Amigos School. However, it seems that many CRLS students still have questions unanswered about bilingual and dual language education.

The Merriam Webster definition of bilingual education is, "education in an English-language school system in which students are taught both in their native language and English." However, according to a recently conducted Register Forum survey, some CRLS

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Photo Credit: seattleschools.org

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students are confusing bilingual education with dual language education. Dual language immersion is the form of educating in which subject matter is equally taught in both English and another language with the goal of creating completely bilingual students. However, this confusion is proven not to be wide spread since even graduates of the Amigos School, the only dual language immersion school in Cambridge, confused the definitions of dual language immersion and bilingual education.

With either dual language immersion or bilingual education, there is much debate on the effectiveness of both forms of education. According to the website

English First, teaching children in languages other than

*“I’d be a completely different person without Amigos.”*

English is a threat to English as the United States’ official language. There are also those who believe that in such schools, because of the concentration on one specific foreign language, there is less diversity.

For example, a school teaching in both English and Spanish will attract mostly Latino families, some Caucasian families and very few other ethnic groups for example Chinese families who would prefer that their children study Mandarin than Spanish. This prevents immigrant populations drawn to these forms of education, in which their children may continue to learn their native language, from assimilating to American culture.

“In a country as diverse as the United States,

fluency in the common tongue is an essential bond among citizens, and the experience of learning it alongside classmates of different ethnic origins reinforces the message that Americans share a common culture” writes Heather Mac Donald in her essay “Bilingual Education is a Barrier to Hispanic Assimilation”.

However, in the case of dual language immersion schools, it is not necessary for the foreign language taught in the school to be the native language of a student. Therefore, the school population is not limited to only one ethnic group. “I’ve seen children who are English-dominant just zoom with it,” said Virginia Hansen, a bilingual teacher in Florida, as quoted by Mary Ann Zehr in her magazine article

“Two-Way Language Immersion Grows in Popularity But Some Experts Say the Approach Needs More Solid Research” published Education Week.

Georgia McKee, a junior at CRLS, a graduate of the Amigos School, and the daughter of non-Spanish-speaking parents, is proud to be bilingual. “I don’t remember learning Spanish,” she says, “It never occurred to me I was learning a different language. It just came naturally.” Georgia expects her bilingualism to pay off as a bit of an extra edge in college and job applications of the future. She also admits that having graduated from Amigos allows her to connect with different groups of students that otherwise, she would not have much in common with. “I’d be a completely different person without Amigos,” she concludes.

# Endangered Species: *What’s the Deal?*

By  
Adam Gourabou  
*Register Forum Staff*

Coral Reefs shelter between 1 million and 9 million marine species and today one third of all coral is at risk of extinction. Over 800 species of plants and animals have gone extinct since the year 1500. However, the issue of endangered species is now both being regarded by people as a worldwide crisis and an insignificant exaggeration.

A species becomes endangered after an assessment identifies the threats it faces and the impact these threats have on its survival.

In America alone there are over 1000 endangered animal and plant species, that is almost the highest amount, second only to Ecuador with over 2000. These animals and plants are facing threats of extinction from factors such as the destruction of habitats, global warming, and poaching.

At Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, students seem to be environmentally conscious. Almost half of students surveyed, answered that they viewed

the issue of endangered species as “very important”.

Junior Maya Noviski has a specific at-risk specie in mind already, stating, “I am worried about the Tuna. I have been worried about Tuna Fish for a while now.”

On the question of what is causing the endangerment of species, senior Shoyo Sato preaches, “Everything humans do. We are too good at overcoming natural processes that keep population in check and that is what is wrecking the natural environment.”

In the US, forest ecosystems with declines of over 70% are present

to survival and then acting to protect them from these harms.

One of the world’s most infamous cases of endangerment is the Polar Bear. However some stand behind the view that in the 1960s there were 5000 polar bears around the world, and today there are 25,000 polar bears. While melting ice is causing their decline, the state of polar bears is being looked at from both perspectives.

AP Environmental Science teacher Ms. Colby points out that, “over many generations our idea of species abundance gets smaller because we keep compar-

ing to years before, but we need to open our minds up to times

before just recent years and realize that numbers are dwindling.”

Over 90% of CRLS students surveyed, answered that they think they do personally contribute to the endangering of species. Ms. Colby confirms this and reminds CRLS to “limit your wastes, shop less, bring water bottles with you, make your own choices and influence others!”

*“Limit your wastes, shop less, bring water bottles with you, make your own choices, and influence others!”*

within 45 of the 50 states. Grasslands, savannas, and barrens in the US have been almost completely wiped out; all 22 ecosystems have declined over 98%.

These facts hit hard and surely present that there is an evident problem. However, some argue that there are over 1000 plant and animal species in the US with recovery plans. Plans for recovery begin by evaluating a species’ biggest threats

## First Steps Day Care Shows Its Appreciation



Mr. Aldrich’s RSTA carpentry class designed and built the First Steps Day Care a picnic table, which is now in the day care’s playground. The kids wanted to share this photo with CRLS to show their appreciation.  
Photo Credit: Zeyla Anderson

Just Blame it on the A-A-A-Alcohol  
*The Debate Over the Drinking Age: 18 vs. 21*

By  
Niko Emack-Bazelais  
*Register Forum Staff*

18. The age of adulthood. One can vote, smoke, serve on a jury, get married, sign contracts, be prosecuted as an adult, and even die for their country. So, isn't it only fair that when one reaches the age of 18, they should be allowed to drink?

Lowering the drinking age would arguably be medically irresponsible. The brain's frontal lobes, essential for functions such as emotional regulation, planning, and organization, continue to develop through adolescence. The effects of alcohol could be detrimental to one's own growth and development. With two such equally strong viewpoints on the line, the question was taken to the CRLS student body: is the current drinking age protecting our nation's youth, or is it restricting what should be their right to adulthood?

After surveying 200+ students at CRLS, the data split fairly evenly, with

57% of students agreeing that 18 was the ideal drinking age, and the remaining 43% in favor of keeping it at 21. Interestingly enough, when asked if their viewpoint carried a bias due to alcohol being a big part of teenage society, 80 percent circled yes.

Sophomore, Jane Yang, agreed that if the drinking age was lowered to 18, kids would tend to act more reckless. She expressed, "without the proper restrictions, kids would end up being careless in their decision making – they could even end up in the hospital!"

On the contrary, Junior Ben Rucker expressed that the drinking age should be lowered from 21 to 18, "You're allowed to get a credit card, lottery tickets, cigarettes, strippers, and go to Vegas. Why not be able to simply have a beer?" Rucker goes on to explain the fact that, "kids drink anyways so making alcohol legal



Image Credit: Lennse Garcia

wouldn't really change much". Many students among the CRLS student body seemed to agree with Rucker's statement.

When asked if there was a present solution to such a debate, many turned

people in a majority of Europe report binge drinking at higher rates in comparison to the US, as well as have a higher rate of intoxication among youth 13 and under.

Most European youth have higher rates of alcohol-related problems because of their heavy drinking. However Norwegian immigrant, and senior at CRLS Emma Doyle, challenged this statistic with her personal experience. Emma states, "In European countries, such as Norway, the legal drinking

age is 18. I think this makes teens have a more relaxed relationship with alcohol than in the States.

While drinking in the U.S. is more of an activity, enjoying a glass of wine with your parents at a restaurant is something that an eighteen-year should be able to handle. Americans that can drive cars at 16, are capable of adapting to drinking before the age of 21.

The question still remains, is the current drinking age protecting our nation's youth, or is it restricting what should be the right to adulthood?

Live Above the Peer Pressure  
*Everyone Does it, Why Shouldn't I?*

By  
Tania Milton-Walrond  
*Register Forum Staff*

Not everyone knows how to say no, or how to make a decision without the help of a peer. Whether it is good or bad, some teenagers are influenced by their peers to act a certain way in order to fit in with other social groups. According to the Webster Dictionary, peer pressure is said to be "a social pressure by members of one's peer group to take a certain action, adopt certain values, or otherwise conform in order to be accepted."

In a recently conducted Register Forum survey, students were asked, "What does peer pressure mean to you?" and surprising-

ly a majority of the students seemed to agree on what it meant.

A CRLS senior, Ophelia Smith explained, "When someone pushes you to do something you wouldn't voluntarily do." Another CRLS senior, Nicelyne answered, "Peer pressure is forcing someone to do what he or she doesn't want to do."

CRLS students deal with peer pressure on a daily basis. Just like in any other high school it all happens under the radar.

When asked, "Have you ever been forced to do something you didn't want to do," 25% of students answered "sort of" while 19% answered bluntly admitted yes. In a New York Times article on "Students who feel peer pressure to

Is Peer Pressure a big deal?



donate," students were pressured to donate money to a charity although not all students wanted to. In the article, a donor to the fundraiser explained, "When asking becomes demanding then giving approaches taking." The students in the article who had donated felt as if they shouldn't have been "harassed" to do so.

Donating by definition is an option and not an obligation. Similar to peer pressure, no one should

be forced to do anything they do not want to do.

Everyone does it, why shouldn't you? Never follow the crowd to be accepted. Don't be forced to do things you don't want to do to fit in with others because it is not worth it. Unless peer pressure is being used in a positive way to better someone, one should follow their instincts and act accordingly to each situation.

# Nest Fest

# Friday June 1st

**Student Government will be holding the first annual School Carnival**

**Join the rest of the school in celebrating the end of the year**

**Get Excited for Food, Fun, and Games**



Cont'd from page 1

“We had been looking forward to the build for many months,” expressed Arthur Schutzberg, a club member who attended the service trip. “I think it’s great that we were able to extend the school motto [opportunity, diversity, respect] to communities outside of our school.”

“As I worked I realized the beauty of Habitat’s mission,” said Matilda Ostow. “We can use our hands to create tangible change that we are able to see and know that others will benefit from.”

Some students were surprised by the degree to which the program allowed volunteers to actively participate in the process of constructing a home.

“We assumed we would be doing small tasks such as painting or carrying wood,” stated Nellie Ostow, who also partook in the build. “Instead we were trusted with tasks like insulating the attic of the house and drilling siding on the exterior walls.”

The club, a soon-to-

be official campus chapter, is advised by history teacher Cindy Weisbart and has grown to include over 47 student members.

“The students at the Build Day event in Roslindale impressed me with their dedication and humility,” said Ms. Weisbart. “They were focused, responsible, mature, kind to each other and productive. However, the most important thing to me was that the students seemed cognizant that, in this moment in history, we were contributing to a house that any of us might apply to live in.”

“It’s been a successful first year for our club; we never anticipated that we’d grow to almost 50 members,” Alex Kirby revealed. “We have many more fundraisers and builds planned, and hopefully this club will continue to grow, even after we graduate.”

“Too often do people assume that their efforts as an individual are useless,” asserted Nellie Ostow. “They underestimate the power that a group of individuals has. Habitat is a beautiful organization with



Clockwise from top left: Club members volunteering with the build directors; Juniors Hoon Hong and Bernardo Ponte maneuver power tools to apply siding; The Habitat logo; Junior Nadine Doiron and Sophomore Grace McCabe caulking insulation.

an amazing mission, and it was an honor to participate in its efforts.”

Club founders Alex

Kirby and Kevin Xiong anticipate many more successful fundraisers and builds in the future. If you would

like to make a contribution to the Habitat for Humanity Club, please send an email to [13akirby@cpsd.us](mailto:13akirby@cpsd.us) and



*Mr. Poirier has been a guidance counselor at CRLS for 19 years, and was formerly a special education teacher for 15 years. In a few weeks, he will be retiring. On behalf of the entire community, the Register Forum would like to thank him for his many years of hard work and dedication to student achievement.*

By  
Kevin Xiong  
Register Forum Editor

**RF: Please introduce yourself.**

LP: I’ve been a guidance counselor here for quite a few years. I reside in Arlington with my wonderful wife Gail and my daughter Lauren who just completed her first year at UConn.

**RF: What is a typical day like for you?**

LP: There is no typical day. You start off the day with a list of tasks you want to complete, but then you never know what may walk through the door – a student crisis, a teacher dropping by to check in about a student, a Register Forum interview...

**RF: What are the responsibilities of a guidance counselor?**

LP: We have to ensure that students have the best

# In the Spotlight: Mr. Poirier

## Retiring CRLS Teacher Reflects on an Illustrious 34-Year Career

four-year experience possible and to reach their full potential, to provide resources, and to guide students through the social part of high school. Another important part of my job is helping kids through the college process – interviews, recommendations, creating a college list.

**RF: What were you like in high school?**

LP: I wasn’t as good a student as I could have been. I participated in football, soccer, hockey, and track, and so sports became my priority. I also never had the support of a guidance counselor.

**RF: How did you find CRLS?**

LP: Back in the day, after graduating from college, I mailed out index cards with my school information and my degree to a bunch of places, and I eventually got my foot in Cambridge as a part-time learning disabilities tutor.

**RF: What is the key to being a successful guidance counselor?**

LP: When making decisions, always keep your students’ best interests in mind. We’re asked to do a lot, but our primary job is always to look out for the kids.

**RF: How do you feel about the other guidance counselors?**

LP: They are the strongest group of guidance counselors I’ve been associated with. They’re motivated, they have great ideas, and they really love the kids. And they’re funny.

**RF: What is a moment from your career that you will always remember?**

LP: When I taught at an alternative placement program prior to becoming a guidance

counselor, I had to help kids fulfill a PE requirement. I was on a canoe trip with six kids, when all of a sudden two fell overboard. One of the students for whatever reason took his life jacket off, and almost drowned. Fortunately, a woman driving a party boat up the river saw that I needed help and saved his life.

**RF: How many students do you know?**

LP: Too many to remember. I have kids of students who were my students. I still remember when Lance Dottin, Scott Cody, Jamahl Prince, and Maria Diclemente were students at Rindge.

**RF: What are your plans after you retire?**

LP: Hopefully I’ll be working part time in a small parochial or private high school. I don’t want to stop working with students just yet. Plus I have a college tuition to pay!

**RF: What would you like to get out there to CRLS students?**

LP: Make the most out of your high school career. Take full advantage of everything Rindge has to offer. Make the realization that this is your education, not the education of anyone else.



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson



# 121 Years and Running

## Keeping the Legacy of the Longest Student-Run Paper

By  
Bersabell Yeshitla  
Register Forum Editor

The Register Forum, if you don’t know by now, is the CRLS student-run newspaper. Established in 1891 as the C.M.T.S. Register, the school newspaper is the oldest continuously printed student newspaper in the United States.

For the past five years, Journalism, AP Language, and World Religion teacher Mr. Matteo has advised the Register Forum. Mr. Matteo and student editors, along with the help of Harvard Crimson’s printing press, have been able to provide CRLS students with a monthly printed-paper. Currently, there are two electives, Journalism I and Journalism II, which produce the Register Forum.

When asked what is the hardest thing about being in charge of the school paper Mr. Matteo responded, “Of course getting students to meet their deadlines. Also, encouraging students to become responsible reporters, to remain fact based, unbiased, and helpful.”

Students interested in getting involved with the Register Forum can take Journalism I, Journalism II, join the club, or simply submit articles and photography.

Specifically, the honors level Journal-

ism II class; new this year is in charge of editing, graphic design, layout, and distribution of the paper. The class not only gives students the opportunity to get more involved in the creation of the paper, but also gives them the chance to write articles and learn how to use different computer programs such as In Design and Photoshop.

Register Forum editor Isaac Bierer learned how to informatively write and edit articles without being bias. He explains, “ I like when someone submits an article with a fresh take on what’s currently happening around the world. Establishing opinions from the community, well-written articles, and well printed papers are all extremely satisfying.”

The paper prints articles of all kinds updating students on current events communally, nationally, and even globally. Articles in the paper are mostly written by students taking journalism as a class and revised by the editors but all others are deeply encouraged to send in articles.

Sophomore Leah Cohen, a common contributor to the Register Forum states “I’ve always loved writing and hope to be a journalist one day. I made the initiative to join the journalism club and wrote articles in my spare time that were placed in the school paper.”

The Register Forum conveys the message

*“The Register Forum has an incredible range of student voice and concerns that capture what is the heart and soul of Rindge.”*

### REGISTER FORUM

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School  
459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 349-6648  
crlsregisterforum@yahoo.com

**Editors-in-Chief**  
Kevin Xiong ‘13  
Isaac Bierer ‘12  
Leo Weissburg ‘12  
Samantha Gaudet ‘12  
Elijah Harris ‘12  
Bersabell Yeshitla ‘12

**Faculty Advisor**  
Steven Matteo

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

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

of social and civic responsibility to each reporter, writer, and reader at CRLS. The school paper’s motto, “Listening to every voice, printing what you need to hear,” explains its core principles and demonstrates the responsiveness and responsibility to it readers.

STARs teacher and a reader of the Register Forum, Ms. Lozada explains that her class uses the paper to spot the pulse of student interests and issues. She goes on to express “The Register Forum has an incredible range of student voice and concerns that capture what is the heart and soul of Rindge.”

To get more involved with the school newspaper or if you have any questions, feel free to email crlsregisterforum@yahoo.com. The Register Forum club meets every Thursday after school in Mr. Matteo’s room 2309.

## Congratulations



### Opportunity - Diversity - Respect CRLS UNSUNG HEROES 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2011-2012



**Learning Community C**  
**Louis Brantley** - Character  
**Jenny Curran** - Character, Contribution to a positive school climate  
**Malik Jiddwi-Nunley** - Character/Citizenship  
**Hasty Valentin** - Respect/Leadership



**Learning Community R**  
**Alexander Browne** - Citizenship, Character, Leadership, Athletics and contribution to a positive school climate  
**Zewdu Tasew** - Contribution to a positive school climate, Leadership and Citizenship  
**Sierra Naughton** - Contribution to a positive school climate and Character  
**LizMary Mazzarella** - Leadership/Citizenship, Athletics and Contribution to a positive school climate



**Learning Community L**  
**Imogen Nelson** - Citizenship, Academic Performance/Studentship  
**Jeremy Chimene-Weiss** - Character, Community Service and Academic Performance/Studentship  
**Ayele Messan Hilla** - Leadership, Character, Community Service, Contribution to a positive school climate  
**Gylan Flemming** - Stewardship/Contribution to a positive school climate, Character and Citizenship



**Learning Community S**  
**Sasha Landar** - Academics and Character  
**Meron Woldermariam** - Contribution to a positive school climate, Athletics and Academics  
**Tyler Donnelly** - Academics and Character  
**Robert Buderl** - Academics Character and Athletics



Sponsored by: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS)

## Searching for Our School Spirit

By  
Bersabell Yeshitla  
Register Forum Editor

Come June 1st the seniors will be flying out of the doors of CRLS taking with them the sense of community they obtained through their experiences and memories of high school. As a senior that has seen the ups and downs of school spirit, I will reflect on the divide that I sense has been present in our school for decades.

The classic separation of CRLS is not categorized between jocks and nerds, but there is surely a social divide, if not multiple, that simply can’t be defined. Don’t get me wrong, distinct social groups can be very healthy, and while it is normal for individuals to naturally gravitate towards others who share their common interests, this doesn’t mean that we all as a school can’t be more supportive of one another.

Students infrequently attend functions put on by the school. Plays, games, dances, and other events organized by CRLS students and faculty tend to receive less attention than they deserve. The same kids attend every school dance, while another group of kids attend

every home game, and a whole other group of kids attend every theatrical and musical production.

The social divide at our school goes beyond social events. It extends over to general school spirit where very few people consistently participate in the themed dress up days. Even with student government elections, voter turnout is usually low despite the efforts of the candidates that truly try to encourage their peers.

No particular person is at fault yet it’s time that instead of just observing the communal divide, that we do something about it. It doesn’t take a lot of effort or time to show up or dress up to and for a school spirit related event, but it means a lot to the people that organized, planned, and are apart of these events.

CRLS truly holds the idea of opportunity diversity and respect, and as students we must work together to close the social divide for an ideal community.

Through participation in school events we can shape the kind of high school experience that we all leave with. By not getting involved we are only shortchanging ourselves out of what could be a great high school experience.



# An Everyday Kid With A Dream

By  
Adam Gourabou  
Register Forum Staff

It is the Summer of 2007; Connor Donovan is playing basketball at Dana park with friends and takes a break to make some funny, meaningless rhymes. Fast-forward to 2012, Donovan is on stage at the famous Middle East venue in Cambridge’s Central Square performing an opening show for Asher Roth.

CRLS Junior Connor James Donovan, known as “CeeDee” on the microphone, is making moves from an everyday kid with a dream. Since December 25 when he released his first music project; his mixtape “Piff & Chocolate Milk”, he has been going full-steam-ahead with his rap, performing multiple hit concerts.

Donovan is part of a Cambridge hip-hop group called “Fast-Life”. Members include CRLS juniors Spencer Santos, Jahmel McClamy and Marcus Mendonca.

Donovan elaborated on how he began making music. “I started rapping because I’ve always loved rap and rapping and so when Jahmel and Marcus recorded their first song freshman year I wanted to do it too. Once my friends started telling me I was nice and I realized I was pretty good, I kept writing.”

Since then CeeDee has been hard at work making immense progress. He has performed three concerts at the Middle East. CRLS senior Josiah Mardell admits “I listen to CeeDee before every soccer game and I always can’t wait for his new stuff.”

However, Donovan remains humble. He explains, “There is a lot of musical talent in Cambridge. There are a bunch of rappers and producers that are crazy good but they go more unnoticed. These guys have serious talent. Guys like Diamond Life, Zoo Gang, and producer Emmett Bragdon-Hess. If anyone hasn’t heard of them



Connor Donovan (CeeDee) and Jahmel McClamy (Melz) performing at The Middle East, Cambridge.

they need to check them out now.”

What’s next then? Connor Donovan’s manager CRLS junior Grant Baker explains, “Just to keep working. CeeDee has Cambridge on his back and is always gaining more supporters. But nothing happens overnight and with continued progress good things will come.”

Donovan feels the same way, adding in, “I’m going to keep doing what I’m doing and whatever happens, happens. Obviously I’m going to promote myself but in the end you can’t choose your destiny so I feel no pressure.”

Sophomore Sammy Gourabou shows his appreciation,”There are times in which a society lacks ambition. Artists such as CeeDee prove that Cambridge is not one of those societies.”

Upcoming projects from CeeDee are, “Coast Guards” a collaborative mixtape with Sammy Gourabou, and studio mixtape “Columbian Raw” with producer and CRLS alumnus Bragdon-Hess. These are expected within the next couple of months.

## Cambridge Ink: Attitudes about Tattoo Culture Examined

By  
Maia Holloway  
Register Forum Staff

Although tattoos have been around since the beginning of time, they have not been popular until the 21st century. There was a time in US history when only sailors and criminals got tattoos but now mothers, doctors, and even lawyers decorate their “temples” with ink.

According to Needles and Sins tattoo blog, one in five US adults have at least one tattoo, those who live in the West Coast have more tattoos than those who live in the East Coast (26% versus 21%), and women are more likely to have tattoos than men (21% versus 19%).

While tattoos are starting to become acceptable and common, there are still those who see them as meaningless and a link to the lower class. But now there are television shows like L.A. Ink and N.Y. Ink that glorify the art of tattooing. This is a good thing but their message may be misconstrued.

Joseph Boo, a tattoo artist at Chameleon Tattoo here in Cambridge, MA, warns that “the idea that ‘all good tattoos have to have meaning’ came from these T.V. shows and that the “meaningful tattoo” will be a very funny trend that we will all make fun of in the next five years, much like we laugh at tribal arm bands now.”

Although many may agree with this comment, there are those who cling to the idea of getting a tattoo only if it has a specific meaning to the person. Ranea Riley Walker, a junior at CRLS, has four tattoos so far. She got her first one when she was only thirteen of a heart on fire which she only got “just to have a tattoo”. She

stated, “In a way it does have some meaning because it was my first tattoo”. While her first one does not hold much meaning, the other ones are dear to her heart.

Ranea also has her mother’s name, a poem from her favorite poet Maya Angelo in beautiful script on the left side of her back, and her own personal logo. When asked whether or not her next tattoo has to have meaning, she stated “the tattoo does have to have some kind of meaning for me to keep it on my body forever”.

This sentiment is very agreeable since no one wants to be forty and regret getting that tattoo of a pink butterfly that they thought was so cute when they were eighteen. Though Molly Katz-Christy, a freshman, stated that the meaning is not so important, it’s how they look and that “some tattoos can be pretty and others can be ugly”.

There are still people who don’t care what the tattoo is; it’s still going to be meaningless no matter what. Chaimaa Medhat, another freshman, stated that tattoos “damage and distort your body”. Anderson Cenescar, freshmen, who although doesn’t have the same conviction against tattoos stated that he is “afraid of needles and could never get something permanent on my body but I would be willing to get a six month tattoo depending on what it is”.

Whether you end up hating the tattoo later in life or love it until you’re eighty, once that needle inserts that ink into your skin, that tattoo comes to life. It forms a meaning of its own. Like Boo stated: “Even if it’s a monkey wearing a cowboy hat, if you love it enough to get it tattooed on your body forever, then that’s all the meaning it needs, you empower the image by getting it tattooed on you”



The art on this page is the work of Norman “Sailor Jerry” Collins, who was a pioneer in the art of tattooing. He died in 1973 at the age of 62, and is responsible for many of the standard conventions present in tattooing today.







Photo credit: Kevin Xiong

# Keep Calm, Junior Prom

By  
Kevin Xiong  
*Register Forum Editor*

On Saturday, May 5th, CRLS juniors celebrated during one of high school’s most memorable nights: junior prom. This year, the event was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Kendall Square Marriott. The night’s festivities included Italian pasta, two DJs, photo sessions, lots of dancing, and an ice-cream bar.

Planning prom certainly was no easy task. The Class of 2013 student government and adviser Ms. Hughes put many hours into planning and organizing the event.

“There was a lot of responsibility that had to be divided up,” explained Hoon Hong, a student prom coordinator. “We had a lot to do in little time. Overall, it got done, and it was fun. I thought it went pretty well.”

Students and adult chaperones seemed to enjoy the night.

“It was a lot of fun,” expressed Callum Nelson. “I had a great time.”

“I like how we get to come together as a class and see each other all dressed up. It’s something to look forward to,” said Matilda Ostow.

“Before prom, I took a party trolley with about 40 of my friends,” said Bernardo Ponte. “We danced, talked, drove around, and had a lot of fun.”

“The students were really well behaved,” revealed math teacher and prom chaperone Mr. Benson, whose ensemble attracted attention and praise. “I wore one of my math art projects that was done in calculus last year.”

However, prom is just as expensive as it is fun. According to a national

survey conducted by Visa, the average American family will spend between \$696 and \$1944 on what many consider to be high school’s biggest night. Between finding the perfect attire, purchasing tickets, planning out transportation, and buying corsages and boutonnieres, prom expenditure has unsurprisingly increased from year to year.

“I spent upwards of \$300,” revealed Ponte. “But my parents paid for most of it.”

“I’m going to senior prom, so I decided not to go to junior prom,” said Jonah Simon. “It’s too expensive to go to two proms.”

“It’s expensive, but for the most part, girls in our school don’t spend as much as girls in other schools,” said Ostow.

Despite the price tag, underclassmen still have high expectations for their proms.

“Next year, I suggest that it happens on a yacht in Palm Beach or Boston Harbor,” insisted sophomore Will Bruce. “I think if enough money is raised, it is certainly feasible.”

Expectations are also high for senior prom, as seniors finish making college decisions and enjoy their last few weeks of high school.

“At my junior prom, the highlight of the night was the delicious ham. Hopefully at my senior prom the ham will be half as good,” expressed John Tournas.

Putting yachts and ham aside, CRLS juniors would like to give a big thank you to Class of 2013 student government, Ms. Hughes, the chaperones, and everyone else who helped organize the event. Your efforts made the memorable night possible.

# Caustic Celebrity Culture

By  
Michael Latorella  
*Register Forum Staff*

Millions of people around the world are desperately yearning for a life in the spotlight. The endless fans, the magazine covers, the traditional celebrity love life. But what does it really mean to be famous? Although countless Americans are fascinated by the glitz and glamour of Hollywood allure, many people are not informed of the sad desolate path on which this road may take them.

Ever hear of a little star named Lindsay Lohan? At the mere age of 11, Lohan was thrust into the public eye due to a breakout role in *The Parent Trap*. From there she went on to star in countless box of-

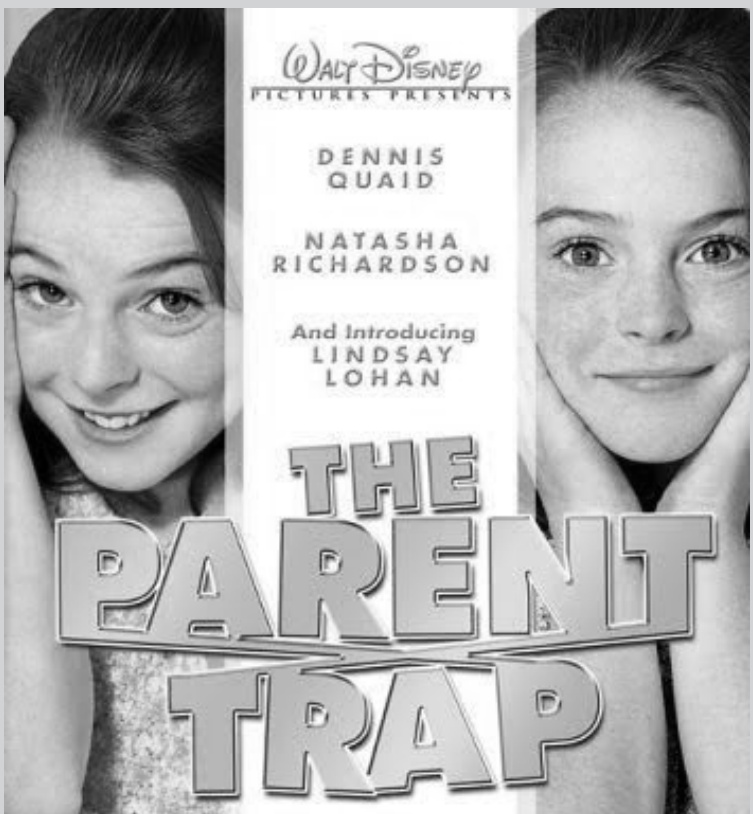
fice hits like *Freaky Friday*, *Mean Girls*, and *Herbie Fully Loaded*. The actress’s success in film would soon be overshadowed by the countless struggles in her personal life. By 18 she was a lucrative member of several L.A. hot spots, and sooner or later, Lohan would be arrested for two DUI’S, theft, and assault. When asked about the road she led the actress revealed, “I was never told no.”

When asked on her personal opinion on the actress, senior Thalia Henao said “I loved her in *Mean Girls*, I just don’t know what went on from there. She’s a drug addict now.” But when asked if she thought Lindsay could get back on track, Thalia revealed, “Definitely, she just needs to stop with the clubs, and she’ll be great

again.” Could this essence of “Never being told no” falter a bright star’s future career? What leads them down these lonely roads, of drug and alcohol addictions?

Senior Jennifer Germain says “I think its just because they are allowed to do anything. It doesn’t matter, people don’t tell them what’s right or wrong.”

This sense of movie and music executives doing anything they can to please their clients seem to be the very reason so many celebrities falter in the spotlight. The pressures of media and the industry itself can take its toll on its very own inhabitants. It’s sort of as though Hollywood builds these people up to break them down, when celebri-



Lohan shot to fame in the 1998 film *The Parent Trap*.

Photo credit: wikipedia.org

ties like Lindsay Lohan are continuously hounded by paparazzi and journalists.

In the end, behind all of the fortune and fame, Hollywood can prove to be a degrading place that can

transform a person in more ways than one. Fame can come at a cost, which sometimes may be a negative one. You know what they say, “Be careful what you wish for.”



# Masters and Commmanders: *Sailing Team First Place in Mercury Fleet*



Despite a relatively young roster, CRLS’ season has been impressive. The team is ranked #1 in the Mass Bay Mercury fleet and #9 in the 420 fleet.  
Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

By  
Isaac Bierer  
*Register Forum Editor*

## CAMBRIDGE SAILING

The CRLS sailing team began its competitive racing season in the first days of April. Led by captains Kevin Xiong and Helen Keen, the team has enjoyed a successful run in the Massachusetts Bay League, one of the largest high school sailing leagues in the country. Despite a relatively young roster, one consisting mostly of juniors and freshmen, Rindge’s season so far has been better than in years past. The team is ranked #1 in the Mass Bay Mercury fleet and #9 in the 420 fleet. According to captain Xiong, this spring’s success has come from “our numerous and dedicated skippers. Their hard work over the last few seasons is really paying off now.” Head coach Tom Soisson made it clear that the roots of the teams success reach back

to the beginning of the school year, saying “Our sailing program is heavily dependent on the fall Learn-to-sail program. This is where the kids learn to sail and race, and improve racing skills.” The sailing season at CRLS begins much later than those of the other teams, as Community Boating does not open until April 1st, when Rindge sailors have their first opportunity to get on the water. The team starts racing almost immediately after the season begins. Without much time to prepare as individuals and as a team, early-season regattas can sometimes be a little rocky. This season however, the team started off strong. One of the two seniors on the team, Leo Weissburg, agreed. “Our first regatta was good. We picked up right where we left off in the fall.” What puzzles many team members is the lack of interest in sailing on the part of other Rindge students. Despite having a season that, according to Xiong, “has been far better than in years past, people don’t seem to be that interested in our results.” Some students not on the sailing team are also perplexed about the lack of love given the skippers. “Sailing is really an awe-

some sport,” said senior Mesale Gessesse, “I don’t get why people at this school aren’t more interested in the team.” The sailors continue to toil in the final stretch of the racing season. With at least two races a week coupled with at least two practices, the

team has their work cut out for them. They will finish off this year with the Mass Bay Championships, the largest high school regatta in America. In this competitive field, Rindge hopes to hold on to its #1 and #9 spots for a few more glorious weeks.



Clockwise from top: the team on the CBI docks; head coach Tom Soisson; CRLS sailors practicing a roll tack.  
Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

