

# The REGISTER FORUM

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

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Cambridge Rindge and Latin School

September 2011

## Renovated Thinking

*Interim Principal Damon Smith Shares Vision for School Year*



*Mr. Smith addresses the class of 2015. Expresses wish to reshape how we treat our school. Photo credit: Larry Aaronson*

By  
Jake Colbath-Hess  
*Register Forum Staff*

In a recent interview with the Register Forum staff, Damon Smith --our new interim principal-- expressed his enthusiasm, energy, and ambitious plans for the coming year.

On the principal's agenda for the coming year is a plea for the student body to develop new habits of thinking about the renovated space. "We can't overlook the importance of a fresh start in a new space," he says, "With that comes an opportunity to develop new habits and improve our relationship with the school...We'd be silly not to consider what those habits should be."

Citing the empty ketchup packets and chicken bones that had become

staples of the student's eating areas, he stated the specifics of the problem frankly: "I don't think that before the building was renovated that we were the most responsible and respectful stewards of our community.



*CRLS is lookin' fine*

Mr. Smith was clear that his ultimate goal lies beyond taking temporary advantage of the good will toward the new school: "In ten, or fifteen years CRLS will still be a re-

sponsible community that takes care of its building."

Senior John Tournas echoed his comments: "It shouldn't be a respect that only last a couple years until the school isn't new any more... I think it will require a new state of mind."

But is it too late for the seniors and other upper classmen to change their ways? Byron Cohen, Class of 2012, said that this year he had already felt the need to remain at lunch picking up trash long after his peers had gone to class. "Litter makes me bitter," he explained.

Regardless, Mr Smith remains committed to using the opportunity provided by the renovation in order to prompt discussion amongst students and staff about our relationship with our new school and he looks forward to working towards a better, cleaner, school environment.



## City to Kick Off Year-Long Celebration with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

By  
Owen McCartney  
*Register Forum Staff*

This October the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School's new Rindge building, in conjunction with the new Arts building will be officially opened.

The ribbon cutting event will take place in the War Memorial field house at 10:00 am Saturday October 1st. It will signal the official end of the two-year long renovation, and will open up the new facility to the expected 1,000

to 2,000 guests, including many of Cambridge's most distinguished figures.

Open to the public, this ribbon cutting will signal the official unveiling of the new buildings to the community. All of Cambridge will be welcomed, to see THEIR brand new state-of-the-art 118 million-dollar high school.

The ceremony has been organized by Celebrate CRLS; a group of nine subcommittees operating under an umbrella

*Cont'd on page 4*

## Community Meeting More Than Just A Make-Over

By  
Turney McKee  
*Register Forum Staff*

For a number of years the institution that is Homeroom has been under fire regarding its attendance and its general purpose.

Recently, however, CRLS Interim Principal Damon Smith has taken the concept-formerly-known-as-homeroom under his wing in a noteworthy attempt to invent a new and exciting image for a tired old establishment.

What appears to be just a name change has much deeper implications for our community here at CRLS. Homeroom was intended to act as a unifying force between the various social groups at Rindge. It was the place where students hung around with people with whom they

might not usually associate. Sadly, there was always an intrinsic flaw in the system: there was very little reason to actually go.

When asked why he did not attend homeroom, student Don Kim answered "If there were other things that I had to do, there was no reason not to do them".

There was no real itinerary if you attended homeroom, and no concrete punishment if you did not, and as a result many students found reasons to go elsewhere. Students who did attend, in the words of CRLS senior Taylor Vandick, did so purely because it was the "path of least resistance".

Damon Smith, our interim principle, is taking steps in new directions to ensure that the new Community Meetings are well attended. When interviewed

*Cont'd on page 3*

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

CRLS Reflects on  
the 10th Anniversary of  
9/11  
Page 2

Projections for the 2011  
Sports  
Boy's Varsity  
Soccer Team  
Page 8

Enriched Learning:  
AP Art Students Put on a Show  
Page 5



# AROUND SCHOOL 10 years later...

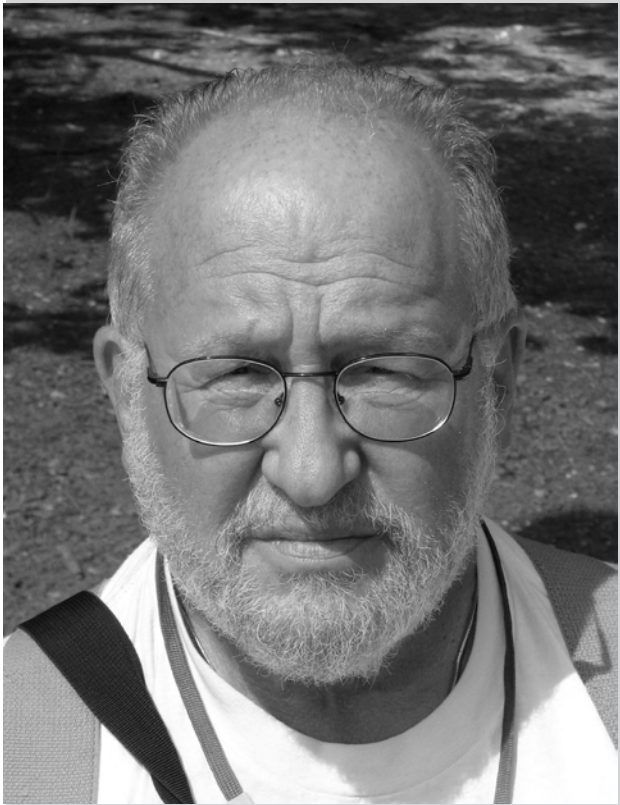
*CRLS Reflects on September 11th Anniversary*

What do you remember about  
September 11th, 2001?



**Ana Liz Rapuso**  
Class of 2012

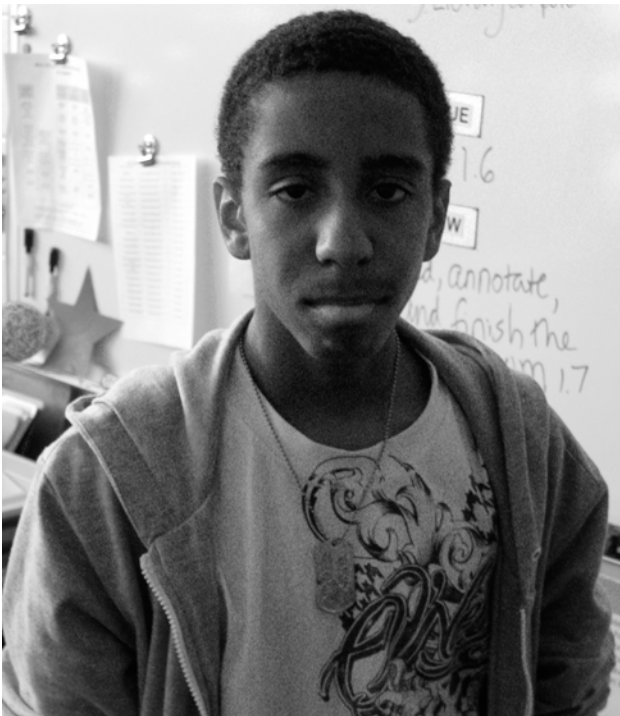
*“I was in Brooklyn, NY, taking a math quiz when 9/11 happened. Every student was being dismissed. I thought ‘was I next?’ To my surprise I was. I knew something big was going on and all I could feel was fear for me and my family.”*



**Larry Aaronson**  
School Photographer

*“[I remember] telling kids, ‘Your world is forever changed. Don’t ever question again ‘why study World History?’”*

How has this event  
affected you personally?



**Romal Marcus McClure**  
Class of 2014

*“It made me feel scared to go on planes.”*



**Brianna Davis**  
Class of 2012

*“It’s opened my eyes to global issues and even issues within my own country.”*

Story and Pictures by  
Gabriel Sánchez  
Register Forum Staff

What changes do you see in our  
society because of this event?



**Stephanie Walsh**  
Class of 2015

*“I think because of September 11th we now have better security in our airports. This day really made our country stronger in many ways. I think that if this day did not happen our country would have never become this strong.”*



**Ashraful Rahman**  
Class of 2013

*“I’m Muslim. I feel that since I’m commonly thought of as a Hispanic, people haven’t said much, but when I mention I’m Muslim, I can feel the aura in the room get a little negative.”*



# Reunited at Last: Underclassmen Return to the Main Campus

By  
Owen McCartney  
Register Forum Staff

Eight hundred and twenty nine new faces walked through Rindge’s doors this September. Well over half of them were stepping on campus for the first time. The rest were transitioning from the confines of freshman campus to the brand new halls of the recently renovated main campus.

But the freshman and the sophomores aren’t the only new kids on the block; teachers and administrators from the freshman campus have been making the transition too, along with faculty who had been relocated to the arts building over the last two years for the renovation.

The transition has not been easy for every one, “It has been hard to leave the seclusion of the freshman campus,” remarks class of 2014 advisor and freshman English teacher Ms. Wegman. She

she continues. And while she laments that loss, having the freshman back in the main building will relieve them from the sometimes-suffocating isolation of the Longfellow building that was seen by many freshman campus graduates as its biggest downfall.

With this newfound freedom, and all these returning faces there is a buzz of enthusiasm spreading throughout the school.

“It’s the excitement and the energy that I look forward to most this year,” says Mr. Gehant, back in his desk at the new school L office. “We have made some changes that will make this class very different from previous freshman.” He begins, going on to explain that while the freshman and sophomores have been re-integrated with the upperclassmen physically, these are not the same manner underclassmen of two years ago, before the renovation.

Only the seniors at Rindge will remember the



Freshmen and sophomores gleefully join upperclassmen in newly renovated building.  
Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

hant. He is talking about the focus on bonding and class unity that was central to the freshman campus, creating connections that were due not just to the physical restrictions but different policies and practices put in place by both teachers and faculty. Ideas like freshmen only spirit days, freshman only assemblies, and a freshman only field day.

After two years of trying out new approaches Gehant feels as though there have been vast improvements over the practices that were in place before the renovation. He says he has high hopes that with the replication of successful practices,



this year’s freshman will be able to experience the same closeness that last years and the year before. And it seems that so far the efforts made by both

its students back under the same roof, and it seems that much has changed in the grades’ time apart. Returning to the building this year are a new breed

of underclassmen, and they bring with them a revitalized staff, and a host of new policies and ideas. Rindge is back together again, and almost everything is new. As one particularly bright eyed, bushy-

tailed freshman observed “Everything is new, I’m new, the sophomores are new, the building is new, and I haven’t been here for long, but it feels like there is just all this... energy, like things are starting fresh.”

adds that she misses the closeness of the freshman campus, knowing every face that walks by in the hall, and the quiet gained by being far removed from the renovation. “It was a place where the freshman could be themselves, they weren’t concerned about upperclassmen or being lost, everyone was on the same level,”

days pre-construction. The class of 2012 will be the last class to graduate having ever inhabited the original campus, and along with the new building there are some very new practices that came along with the underclassmen returning.

“We tried some things out at freshman campus that we want to bring back and keep,” says Ge-

## Community Meeting

Continued from page 1  
portion of the Register Forum Editing Staff, Mr. Smith made it very clear that “all the deans have decided that we are going to double down on catching the community meeting scofflaws”, this extends beyond the token enforcers that one might spy on the bridge; the administrative staff will be out in force and Mr. Smith strongly believes that they have reason to do so. The new administration intended the name change to be a beginning. It served to disassociate the 15 minute

block after period 1 from the dysfunctional homeroom of years past. With this blank slate, our Interim Principal hopes to use Community Meeting time as a place where students and teachers alike can celebrate our diversity.

Mr. Smith pointed out that we are invariably attracted to people with similar interests and ideas. He drew attention to the fact that if you choose to be involved in an extracurricular, you spend a large portion of your day with other people who chose to do that ex-

tracurricular. This principle applies to most other aspects of student life as well. In stark contrast is the randomness of Community Meeting. Mr. Smith wants to make the school aware that “in our Community

Meeting groups everyone has to be there and it’s randomly assigned.” There is no other place in the school where our diversity is represented to its fullest potential. We have been squandering a key opportunity to tap into our intrinsic diversity. The importance of Com-



Mr. Smith in an interview with Jacob Colbath Hess and Turney Mckee. Photo credit:Larry Aaronson

munity Meeting can be summed up with some of Mr. Smith’s final words: “I want to change homeroom; I want stronger connections between our students with different backgrounds

and different experiences”. In the eyes of Damon Smith, Community Meeting is an opportunity to celebrate all that makes CRLS unique, and such an opportunity should not be wasted.



# Safety and Academics First

*New Rules Provoke Diverse Opinions Amongst CRLS Athletes*



Jonathan Kramer-Roach '12 goes up for a header in a State Cup game versus Framingham.  
Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

By  
Turney McKee  
Register Forum Staff

Athletics has long been a significant part of life at CRLS. A large percentage of students partake in some sort of athletic activity. As a result of this wide involvement, changes made to athletic policy affect the lives of a wide range of students.

Last year, new policies were instituted that demanded athletes complete regular progress reports, in addition to liability forms that pertain specifically to the danger of contracting a concussion. Failure to turn these in results in ineligibility for competition and these harsh penalties have resulted in a wide array of opinions regarding the recent additions.

Requiring a concussion form is perhaps the newest and most unfamiliar concept for CRLS athletes. Concussions result from blows to the head, and while the symptoms can be severe, they usually subside in several weeks.

Repeat concussions, however, can result in cumulative brain damage, which has serious implications for one's future. To combat this, the MIAA, or Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, implemented rules 56.1.1 and 56.1.2, which add an annual concussion course requirement for athletes, in addition to forms acknowledging and accepting the risks.

In response to these additions, several-time concussee Jakob Colbath Hess voiced his opinion that "This is an excellent addition, I have had six concussions, and it's starting to get old. People need to be more aware of these things so that they stop happening to me."

Upon hearing this, runner Will Suslovic replied that "Concussions don't really apply to all sports, it would really be tough for me to hit my head; the form seems unnecessary for runners and I'm not for it."

"My grades don't change nearly as often as we get the reports, so they wind up having the same stuff on them, it's kind of silly."

Both opinions are legitimate, and to delve deeper into the question, the staff of the Register Forum distributed a survey to students regarding these new regulations.

When polled, opinions were mixed. Of 52 surveyed athletes, 23% disapproved of the progress reports, while 39% disapproved of the concussion forms. Reason behind this disapproval, however, varied:

*"outstanding athletic ability accompanied by sub-par learning habits are a danger to the future of the individual; progress reports are an excellent idea."*

Just as hot of a topic are the required progress reports. While it is not a new concept for athletes, the 2010-2011 academic year marked the first year where they are expected on a regular basis.

"Academics are certainly important," says concerned individual Richard Fold, "outstanding athletic ability accompanied by sub-par learning habits are a danger to the future of the individual; progress reports are an excellent idea." Athletes themselves, however, are not so convinced.

Nina Becker Jobim, one of the courageous helmsmen aboard the CRLS Sailing Team, does not consider the progress reports completely worthwhile.

for progress reports, common responses as to the nature of their disapproval ranged from the fact that you're grades tend to follow a trend, they are either good or they are not, others felt that academics and athletics are unrelated, a popular answer was a simple and blunt "It's whack."

Opinions regarding concussion forms tended to conform to two extremes. Those questioned either agreed with the forms on the basis that concussions are dangerous and have lasting effects, or disagreed by reasoning that the forms are unnecessary and a concussion probably "won't kill you."

Athletic reform at Rindge is a relevant development that will heavily impact CRLS. Effects remain to be seen, but our future certainly lies in a more academic and less concussed athlete.

*Celebrate CRLS story continued from page 1*

steering committee, all comprised of highly motivated community leaders who share a special connection to CRLS, and a passion for seeing it thrive. The group is first looking first and foremost at alumni.

"We have missed an opportunity to get alumni involved. They have so much to offer" says mayor David Maher, explaining that he hopes that working with Celebrate CRLS to get a long agenda of events throughout the year off the ground will help draw alumni back.

Frank Duehay, Co-Chair of the steering committee, former mayor and city councilor, makes it clear that the focus on getting alumni involved is one of the primary goals of this initiative, "We stand on the backs of those who came before us, and they remain a valuable resource." However he continues to explain that Celebrate CRLS is not only looking to reconnect past students, but faculty and parents too. Anyone who was ever a part of CRLS is encouraged to come back and get involved.

He explains that Celebrate CRLS is working diligently to start organizing scattered alumni groups reaching back well into the first half of the 20th century, and that forming connections between community members of all sorts and the school itself is the main priority. This will take the form of campus tours that will be starting in the next few months, which he hopes to bring in alumni, retired faculty, past and present parents, neighborhood and business associations, truly any and all Cantabrigians.

"High school has changed a lot since most of the alumni from CRLS or its predecessors were in school"



Duehay added, and showing off those changes is one of the biggest focuses of Celebrate CRLS. Bob Steininger, chair of the technology committee, expressed his hopes

that students could act as intermediaries between alumni and the school, organizing reunions and other activities, like the alumni open house on November 21st which will include classes, discussion groups, tours and social events. He also encouraged student involvement in Celebrate CRLS itself, sitting in on committee meetings and possibly helping to facilitate events as community service.

With an estimated 30,000 living CRLS, Rindge Tech or Cambridge High and Latin graduates there are immense opportunities to be taken advantage of that are completely untapped at present.

Duehay explains, "It is no accident that colleges, universities and even some high schools have budgeted positions" solely directed to reaching out to alumni. It is a relationship that could be open new doors for both sides, everyone can benefit from greater community involvement.



Elizabeth Grady, chair of the public affairs committee and beloved CRLS history teacher also voiced her hopes that the Celebrate CRLS group could incorporate more student involvement, and she stressed the impressive history that Rindge has built up over the years. Rindge has among its graduates 17 Olympians, a Nobel prizewinner, renowned poets and authors, A-list actors, screenwriters and producers.

CRLS has certainly accumulated a history worthy of its far-reaching past, and now, with a fresh start on a new year there are masses of passionate, dedicated community members committed to helping our school shine as brightly as it possibly can. The only question left is what can you do?

To contact Celebrate CRLS or learn more go to [celebratecrls.org](http://celebratecrls.org), or even better, plan on attending Oct. 1!!



# Forbearers of Freddy Falcon

## CRLS Gains New Respect for Iconic School Mascot

By  
Katy Clover  
Register Forum Staff



The Falcon, an all Cantabrigian icon. When people think of the falcon they think of words like “bird”, “cool”, “fierce”, “wimpy”, “generic” “wack”, “Freddy”, “silver”, “intimidating” and even “eccentric”. Rindge loves the Falcon, aside from the occasional hater.

Believe it or not the Falcon is a relatively new mascot. It emerged in the late 1980’s a few years after the two schools, Cambridge High and Latin and the Rindge School of Technical Arts, merged in 1977.

Up until the 1980’s, the mascot had always been a warrior. The logo was a bust of a Native American Head. The mascot was then temporarily switched to a yellow jacket before finally becoming the famous, Falcon.

Why the switch? Rindge students took their own stab at this question. Students thought it was changed because “a falcon is better”, “it wasn’t an animal”, “it was creepy”. However most students deemed the Warrior, “Rac-

ist”, “Politically Incorrect”, and “Offensive”.

Ceramics teacher and alumn of CRLS, John Baring-Gould, gives his perspective, “I’m sad that we are no longer the warriors since that is what I grew up with, but I do truly understand that it is culturally insensitive. I am however, unbelievably glad we changed the school colors since the old school colors remind me of things that happen in the bathroom.”

The school colors back in the 1970’s and 80’s were not the well known silver and black of today. In fact, the colors used to be the earthy colors of yellow and brown. When surveyed students were informed of the previous colors all of them were appalled. Senior Mino Thongsavatdy, was one of these students, “Yellow and Brown aren’t exactly a great blend of colors.” Another anonymous student agreed saying, “They are reminiscent of excrement.”

Students are much more appreciative of the silver and black after they learned of the previous muddy colors. Though most students find the dark colors rather boring, there are some that have found the light. “They are a bit monochrome but they are easy to match with.” Says junior Kayla Blackborow.

An optimistic senior, Esther Binstock said, “Color blind people can enjoy them too!”

CRLS seems to be a much bigger fan of the Falcon and the silver and black colors. When polled 31 kids out of 45 said they liked the Falcon and 13 said they didn’t. A senior, Aidan Dunbar, is one of 13 students not on the Falcon bandwagon. “The mascot is wack! Its just the Atlanta Falcons logo.” While it is true that we so called “swagger jacked” the logo from a pro football team, some students just don’t like the general appearance of the mascot. “Its black and yellow with claws and just looks like a black blue jay. It doesn’t look like a falcon.” says former senior Marlees West.

When Rindge students were asked if they would change the mascot, a surprising majority did not stay true to the Falcon. Many students made a movement to change the Falcon to a Silver Back Gorilla. Junior Richard Fold was one of them, “I think the Silver Back Gorilla makes much more sense than a Falcon, it goes much better with the school colors.”

Whether we soar the skies as Falcons or pound our chests like Gorillas, no matter what the mascot CRLS will not fail to find school spirit.



Photo Credit: Larry Aaronson

### Falcons 2011 Football Schedule

9/10 ST MARYS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL-LYNN

9/16 GREATER LAWRENCE TECH HS

9/23 SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECH

9/30 ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HS

10/7 REVERE HIGH SCHOOL

10/14 MALDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

10/22 MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL

11/4 MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

11/11 SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

11/24 EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL

# Reduced, Re-used, and Recycled

## New CRLS More Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly

By  
Joseph Zallum  
Register Forum Staff

“Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle” is a concept that will hopefully save our planet from the accumulation of toxic carbon emissions. This phrase is music to the ears of growing trees and tree huggers alike, but is CRLS jamming to this tune?

The new renovation to CRLS has definitely brought the rhythm to the halls of CRLS. “From what I’m seeing, CRLS is becoming a greener and more energy efficient school, especially as the renovations are being completed,” states Paul Gordon.

The flooring in CRLS is made from recycled materials, solar panels on the roof along with motion activated lighting to reducing electric costs, and a new heating system using a water heating/cooling system. The renovations are

giving CRLS a new design that meets LEEDs certification. LEED is a third party certification and conforms to a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. But with all the new up-grades, is CRLS just humming this eco-friendly song?

“The new school is certainly more energy efficient than our old one, but there are still some problems affecting how eco friendly we can be,” observed CRLS student Ross Zamparelli.

With all the high quality green machinery, the small things left behind are still having a big impact. Styrofoam trays at lunch, paper towels clogging the trash cans, and worst of all... litter, are environmental hazards that remain present on our campus.

“We are not green enough; we have

taken steps towards being eco-friendly, however, we have a ways to go,” opined CRLS biology teacher Ms. Stomberg.

There are also less obvious problems. Some teachers leave their computers and projectors on all day, certain materials such as batteries and ink cartridges aren’t properly recycled, and assignments aren’t always printed double sided, to list a few.

But what can you do to make CRLS eco friendly? Do your part; you are part of a world-wide community called humanity, do what you can by recycling your trash and reducing your carbon footprint.

The concept of “Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle” is useless without you. It can’t be heard unless you say it, it can’t be read unless you write it, and it can’t be done unless you do it.

*“The new school is certainly more energy efficient than our old one...”*



# The Anti-Social Network

## Stories And Lessons From A Life Without Facebook

By  
Mariana Rodrigues  
*Register Forum Correspondent*

During the mere month and a half that I decided to deactivate my facebook account my life has improved. Now, imagine how no facebook at all would impact a whole generation, my generation. For most young adults today the thought of not being able to communicate with friends and family via facebook chat and messaging as well as not being able to post the latest attractive picture of themselves is inconceivable. We have become

reliant on the world of the Social Network and, yet, we've turned out to be more anti-social than ever. Not only does social networking distract kids from school-work and priorities, it also keeps them from utilizing their only free time to be creative, discover themselves, to lay-back and think, to read and to quietly observe the world around them. Although some of these things may seem insignificant to most people, they are essential to leading happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives. These basic aspects of life that were prominent in my parents' and grandparents' lives have been stripped away from mine as a result of excess technology and that is both wrong and unjust. Both my mom and dad lived in the Azores, an archipelago off the coast of Portugal, without cell phones or computers. The only technology they owned were televisions with limited channels, home phones and a radio and the rest of their spare time was used for exploring

with friends, going to the beach, rebelling, making art, being active and living. When I asked my mom what her favorite part about being my age was, she responded that she truly appreciated the freedom that came with being young and being able to lay on her bed and just revel in the silence and think for long periods of time. Her response brought up a few questions in my mind. Do kids my age even do this at all anymore? Although we have freedom and spare time now, are we utilizing it in the right way or just cooking our minds staring at a computer, TV and cell phone screen? It's almost as though

*"The majority of people on sites like facebook both exaggerate and limit their qualities to depict themselves in the ideal way that they want to be perceived by others."*

the advantages of being young like not going to work every day, worrying about money or raising a family are not being appreciated because we use that spare time to throw hours upon hours of our precious life away. Kids today already have too much cluttering their minds and lives and without social networking there would be more time to restore necessary energy, to discover themselves and to develop real face-to-face relationships. Without social networks, people would be forced to communicate with others on a personal level. Today, kids use sites like facebook as the easy way out of physically stopping someone in the hallway to start a conversation as well as to avoid "awkward" encounters. However, the tendency to avoid someone throughout the

majority of the day and then speak to them for hours on facebook chat is precisely what is making my generation anti-social. We are using social networks to replace the struggle that naturally comes with communicating with others. Recently, as a result of my deactivating my facebook account, people began chatting my friends and family to ask how I've been. Is there a good reason why these people couldn't personally contact me? People now are too lazy and standoffish to indulge in an active conversation with another because it involves actual eye contact, listening as well as physical contact. The ability to confront and socialize with others is not easy but is essential to becoming comfortable around other people, which helps one make lasting and meaningful connections. The problem is that no one wants to exert any effort anymore. To newer generations, it makes more sense to discuss serious and emotional matters via chat where one can only assume how the other feels. The most over-used counter-argument against a world without social networking is that people "need" it to communicate with distant family members and friends. Clearly, writing letters, calling and visiting them is not enough. Social networks even provide biographies, photos, videos, wall posts, and surveys that prevent people from feeling like they have to actively visit their loved ones because virtually its like their already with them. You might ask, how is that a bad thing? The reality is that these sites do not represent honest depictions

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

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

of one's life and characteristics. The majority of people on sites like facebook both exaggerate and limit their qualities to depict themselves in the ideal way that they want to be perceived by others. As a result, family members and friends who think that they are communicating honestly with the people they care about are actually not fully informed about that person's life at all. For me, life with-

networking and what I could have done instead of updating my status because I naively thought people cared about what I was doing and thinking all the time. In all sincerity, people could care less that you had dance at 7:30 or that you're bored and you decided to play your PS3. The time I wasted virtually informing others of my life I could have been drawing, playing my flute, writing a script, thinking about my future, talking to my parents, going out for a walk and seizing the day. All of these things that help move us forward are being replaced and forgotten by the obsession with being constantly connected to the Social Network, which is only slowing us down. Without facebook I am happier and more aware of what choices I need to make for myself each day so as to fully enjoy the rest of my life.



out facebook is a reminder that every little moment in life should be preserved and treasured. I cringe at the thought of all of the valuable time I wasted on social

# Could You Be A Hipster?

By  
John Tournas  
*Register Forum Correspondent*

There comes a time in any person's life when they must ask themselves a question: Am I a hipster? Very recently, a friend of mine made the assertion that I was a budding hipster. He thought that because I wear glasses, listen to jazz, and like the sound of music on an LP, I was destined to become one of those people who hate the mainstream and to whom irony is a second language.

Now let's see. Could this assertion possibly hold some ground? Let's start with the anti-mainstream agenda of most hipsters. I do admit that I think the modern pop industry is constantly churning put grade-A bologne. However, there are several modern pop artists that I actually do like. A year ago, I probably wouldn't have said this, but Lady Gaga is decent musician/artist. I can tell by listening to her music that she writes it herself, and although most of her songs do contain the characteristic "catchiness" of pop music, each song that she writes is independently interesting to listen to. And while Jazz is still my favorite genre of music, I have been getting into some 90's rap groups, like Hieroglyphics and the Pharcyde. As for the ironic aspect of my supposed hipsterdom, I can honestly say that I believe an excess of irony to be the worst trait a human being can possess. Once you start to do things and pretend to like things just to be ironic, you even-

tually lose the capacity to like or do anything. I cannot imagine a worse fate than this. But enough about me. This article isn't really about me. It's about you. The reader. Have you noticed any of these symptoms manifest themselves in your family or friends? Have you noticed yourself or someone you love slowly growing distant, complaining about how fake everything is, or browsing pitchfork.com? It is time to take action! Remember, there are pseudo-hipsters like me, and then there is the Real Deal. Do not be fooled. If you suspect someone of being a hipster or maybe even the scarier, more elusive secret-hipster, actions must be taken. Interventions must be staged. Facades must be shattered. Fortunately, just as there is always a way to overcome addiction, there is always a way to reverse the effects of the hipster condition. Don't lose hope my friends. The best way to fight back is through knowledge. And you have won that battle through reading this article. Congratulations.



# Grace Under Pressure

## CRLS Rowers Deserve Recognition and Respect

By  
Chris Roderick  
Register Forum Correspondent

Most people who have never rowed have no idea what the sport is about. In fact, the general population knows very little about even the most basic elements of rowing. Great rowers, second only to great cross-country skiers in their fitness level, receive little to no recognition for their impressive physical prowess. That is almost definitely because their sport is vastly different from the thrown objects and scoreboards of others’ games. Crew is a terrible spectator sport; hours of grueling practice on the water translate into mere seconds in a 7-minute race. Still, these lean, mean, pain-sur-



mounting machines of men and women chug along, balancing academic and/or professional careers with a seemingly foolish obsession.

But rowing is more than just crossing the finish line at regattas. It’s about teamwork, dedication and athleticism. As one of the most physically and mentally demanding sports, it’s no wonder why the competitive men and women who spend endless time training



CRLS rowers go hard during a beautiful day on the water.

Photo credit: Larry Aaronson  
love the challenge and well earned victories.

All year round rowers track miles and clock hours in boats or on ergometers, on-land rowing machines. Preparation and dedication are key, as every minute of race time requires roughly 3000 minutes of training. Such a small window for mistakes pushes rowers to their mental and physical limits, whether it be emptying the tank at the end of a hard set or just fighting the urge to hit the snooze button at 5am on a race weekend.

The intricacies of the stroke are calculated and precise. Starting from the finish, or where the blade of the oar leaves the water, a rower gracefully slides up the boat’s tracks on a wheeled seat up to the catch, the point at which the blade enters the water. What follows is a short burst of pure power lasting milliseconds called the drive. From catch to finish, finish to catch, a rower repeats this deceptively complex and nuanced sequence thousands of times in just one practice.

When asked about the stroke varsity rower and senior John Tournas said, “it takes a lot of focus to effectively pull a good stroke. The funny thing about it is, we have to bring that focus every single time”. Charlie Rice, another

*“the recovery is when we pay our opponents the utmost respect, we are calm, relaxed, and polite, but on the drive, we kill them.”*

varsity athlete added, “the recovery is when we pay our opponents the utmost respect, we are calm, relaxed, and polite, but on the drive, we kill the other team.” From a

different perspective Don Kim, Varsity coxswain said, ‘The stroke is a hard thing to describe. I have to be well versed in the terminology of rowing and I have to be able to coach my rowers during a race so that I can help these boys pull effectively even when they’re exhausted and pushing their pain thresholds to the limit.’

In short, crew is a grueling sport because it never stops, not to mention only people who do it care about it. Crew is scientifically the most painful sport played by human beings. If you think you are tough, try out for crew in the spring. Do it.

# High Hopes for Boys Soccer Team

## Player Changes and Training to Take Falcons Far in 2011 Season

By  
Jordan Smith  
Register Forum Staff

Trying to rebound from a short and disappointing postseason last year, the 2011 boy’s soccer team has started this season off piping hot. Already with a record of 2-1-1, the team is looking very promising.

Here at CRLS, one of the most consistent regular season teams has always been the men’s soccer team. The team from 2010 finished the regular season 12-3-3 but was handed a very disappointing loss early in the playoffs by Framingham.

“The team is looking great this year!” Isaac Yablo exclaimed. “We’re strong and we have great depth at every position. Our goal is to win the state championship, and if we continue to play hard and battle in every game, our goal should be very attainable.”

Yablo continued with “We’ve added some new players that we’re on JV last year. They have shown major improvement since last year, and have been playing great so far.”



As a new member of the v-squad lineup, Youssef Eddafali shows his stuff.  
Photo credit: Larry Aaronson

Star Forward, Powell Schneider, also sang nothing but praises for this new and improved team. “It’s too early in the season to pick out any key players but we are more focused on working as a team” he said. “As far as getting past the first round this year, we plan to rely on the team effort that we really try to instill during our training sessions.”

It is difficult to predict how the soccer team will do at this point in the season, but there is no doubt that they’re headed for greatness.