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Seniors share experience of applying to college early

68 percent of class of 2019 take advantage of early process

By Jenna Cirella
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In the senior class, 64 out of 104 students have submitted at least one early application to colleges this year, director of guidance and college counseling, Beverly Low said.

“That is 89 percent of the senior class. If you were to compare us with other high schools, I don’t know if their percentage would be as high as that, but because we are small, our percentage may be higher,” Low said.

Out of those students who applied early, 68 percent of them have applied to a college early action or early decision, she said.

“This year’s class was more deliberate and thoughtful about the process, and they did not just apply everywhere early and see what happens,” she said.

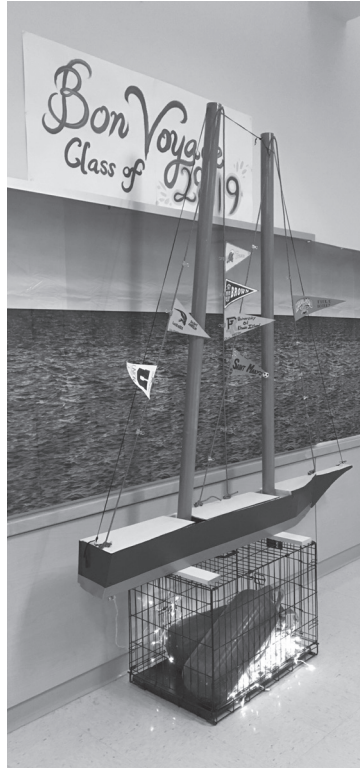
Low said that applying early decision is beneficial for students who know exactly where they want to go for college, and it’s the best match for them.

“People will step on a college campus and know immediately, that is where they want to go to college, so the benefit is that they have committed, and it was a win-win situation. The university wants the student, and the student wants the university,” she said.

Senior Haley Wolfe was accepted into Skidmore College’s early decision program. Her interests are business, art, and psychology.

“Initially, I went there for a visit with my family, and we went for a tour and went into the art building. Turns out, the art director was there, and we got a private tour of the facility for an hour, which really changed my experience of it. It has a really nice studio and a well-rounded student body.”

Senior Sirine Benali was accepted into the early decision program at Brown University. She is sailing on the club varsity team



SIRINE BENALI PHOTO

Senior Jack Furber, who will be attending Tulane University in the fall, hangs up his pennant on the college boat installment, which was constructed by senior Haley Wolfe for the class of 2019.



JENNA CIRELLA PHOTO

and will be concentrating in biology and global health.

“I’m really excited. I’ve already started meeting the kids

who also applied ED from Boston, and they are awesome,” she said.

Senior Andrea Rennie applied

early decision to Babson College and did not apply early action to

EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES, page 3

Students win Scholastic Awards in art, writing

By Paige Swanson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

This year, students won 25 Scholastic Awards in art and writing, five of which were Gold Medals in the art category.

Senior Haley Wolfe, one of the Gold Medal winners, earned her award with her painting entitled “DEATH TOLL.”

According to art teacher Tamera Burns, Wolfe has been so successful with her art because of her diligence and attention to detail.

Wolfe said this piece is especially meaningful to her because it’s part of a larger project she’s been working on.

“This piece is part three of a five-part anti-smoking advertisement series I started in November. It speaks to addiction and dependence on cigarettes and the effects smoking carries,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe said she is planning on combining her artistic talent with



COURTESY OF TAMERA BURNS

Senior Haley Wolfe’s painting, “DEATH TOLL,” won a Gold Medal in art and is part of her anti-smoking advertisement series.

her SCORE project, as she will be working with the Manship Artist’s Residency and Studios in the Cape Ann area to create an annual report for the association.

Wolfe is also using her talents to create a public service announcement that will be nation-

ally broadcasted, she said.

Junior Thymen de Widt is also the recipient of a Gold Medal award for his photograph called “Pool Boy.”

Photography and Design
SCHOLASTIC AWARDS, page 3

Finalists chosen for new athletic director, academic behavioral dean positions

By Sirine Benali
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Two finalists have been chosen for the positions of academic behavioral dean and athletic director; both finalists’ employment is currently being finalized.

The field of applicants was narrowed down from around 50 people, for the position of athletic director, and 35 people, for the position of academic behavioral dean, to around six or seven candidates for each position, according to Principal Patricia Puglisi.

“We developed two different interview teams... They ran exactly the same, [and] each team reviewed resumes of candidates... Following the selection, we interviewed each candidate with that team. The committees then moved forward two candi-

dates for the [academic behavioral] dean and three candidates for the athletic director,” Puglisi said.

From those candidates, second interviews were held, and one candidate for each position was moved forward to meet with Superintendent Pam Beaudoin, according to Puglisi. Currently, negotiations are being made to finalize a contract with each finalist.

Both finalists have backgrounds that will contribute to both departments, Puglisi said.

“For the [academic behavioral] dean, the candidate that we have moved forward has

an educational, school-administrative, and therapeutic background... The athletic director has experience in high school and

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS, page 3

‘The change in the positions is going to lead to great opportunities for our students [and] school culture.’

- PATRICIA PUGLISI

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News Brief

Sport Commitments

Senior Jake Athanas committed to Saint Anselm's College for lacrosse at the signing ceremony on Nov. 16 along with five other seniors.

"It's a very high ranked D2 school, and I have three kids from my select team going, so it's going to be nice knowing some of the kids on the team already. I just feel like the coach is wicked nice, the equipment we get is really nice, the field, everything is great about that college and I love it," Athanas said.

Week of Gratitude

During the Week of Gratitude, roughly 300 thank you notes were written and delivered to students and staff.

The peer mentors coordinated the Week of Gratitude on the week of Feb. 11 through 15.

Junior peer mentor Christina Bullock said that they promoted the Week of Gratitude throughout the week with posters around the school as well as discussing it with other students.

"We also thought that when we wrote cards to people, that other students would follow what we were doing," she said.

Bullock and guidance director Beverly Low said students and staff participated by writing cards with the supplies provided in the guidance conference room. They said participation increased as the week went on, with most of the cards being written on Friday.

Low said she saw faculty writing thank you cards to one another and students writing to one another; she said she heard appreciation for the week from several students and faculty members.

"So many teachers said how lovely it was just to get a note from a student, and a lot of the time, it was students that they didn't even realize they had made a difference for," she said.

Low said mostly juniors and seniors wrote cards for their teachers but said she saw a few freshmen and sophomores participate, as well.

Junior Anthony Curcuru took part in the week by writing cards for a few of his teachers.

Low said she hopes even more students will participate next year, especially more underclassmen.

"It created a good vibe in the school...it was a positive send-off for vacation," she said.

Alumni give students insight into life at college

Recent high school graduates provided advice regarding the application process during a panel on January 3. The guidance department sponsors this annual event.



Marco Kaper
Sophomore
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

"For juniors, I would say you should start making a list as soon as you can. Visit schools if you can, and try to narrow down your search as much as possible."



Spencer Feuerbach
Sophomore
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

"Pre-orientation programs are a great chance to be in a confined environment with a small number of kids, so you can really start to get to know them."



Belle Allmendinger
Freshman
DUKE UNIVERSITY

"I'm part of the work study program, so I work at the costume shop on campus. We make costumes for the theater department and the theater studies kids."



Abby Fitzgibbon
Freshman
UCLA

"I do Army ROTC at college. If you are looking to gain military experience or go to college for free, it is a really interesting opportunity."



Caroline Francoeur
Freshman
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

"Don't have tunnel vision on one school. I was set on a different school, and I didn't focus on finding others that I would be happy at."

Administration plans to fix broken equipment in aerobics room

Faculty, athletes left without space to exercise while machines await repair

By Austin Woodman-Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After going 10 years without maintenance or service, the machines in the aerobics room have continued to break, but the administration said they are planning to fix them.

Athletic trainer Jill Levine said there are only two ellipticals operable in the space currently.

"All seven of the treadmills were broken; most of the ellipticals were broken

too; and almost all of the bikes were taken apart. There were also ripped yoga mats thrown against the wall in the room," she said.

Senior Abby Lantz said the lack of functioning machines in the aerobics room has an impact on

her spring sports.

"It's frustrating when I get injured and have to use the aerobics room to recover and none of the machines work," she said.

History teacher and basketball coach Lauren DuBois, who helped Levine clear the space initially, said the condition of the machines was not ideal for basketball season.

"In the past, the basketball team has used the aerobics room to warm, stretch, and run. The space helped ath-

letes because when it was time for us to go on the court, we could get right to practice. It's difficult when you only have the court for a certain amount of time because we want to use the court wisely," she said.

'It's frustrating when I get injured and have to use the aerobics room to recover and none of the machines work.'

-ABBY LANTZ



AUSTIN WOODMAN-PARÉ PHOTO

Several bikes in the aerobics room are missing pieces such as their seats or handle bars, or they are completely broken.

Levine said the condition of the machines has been unfortunate for her students who are recovering from injuries.

"Not only are the machines in the aerobics room being used for rehabilitation, but I see faculty and staff using the room to exercise every day after school. If more machines were functioning, I think more students and faculty would use them more," she said.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said the administration is aware that the aerobics room is not in an ideal condition.

"In general, the space is not in optimal condition for sports teams, rehabilitation students,

and faculty and staff. Our current vision for that space is we are going to repair some of the equipment that is already in the room, while removing other equipment that might be taking up extra space," she said.

Puglisi said the estimated the cost of repairs, new matted floors, and new machines would cost the school \$1,600.

"Renovating such a small space to make it functional for such a small amount of money in terms of our budget is something that we need to pursue. Hopefully the facilities department will be able to get them fixed pretty quick," she said.

DECA members participate in District, State Competitions, receive awards

Students create store, modeling real-life business initiative

By Isabella DiPasquale
INDEPENDENT STAFF

At the DECA district competition, 97 percent of the students were top 10 in their category, along with 11 students qualifying at the state competition for internationals and one student getting elected as a state officer.

Approximately 3,400 students from eight districts competed at States to earn spots on the MASS DECA International Competition Team. The competition took place on March 7 to 9 at the Marriot Copley Place and the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

DECA teacher Dean Martino said that 11 of the 39 students that went to States qualified for the international competition in Orlando, Fla. This included three students in second place, four in third place, two in fourth place, and two in fifth place.

The team had 16 top 10 finishers, was

awarded 12 medals in written exams and role plays, and received 32 certificates of excellence in competitive event awards.

"I am very proud of all the competitors. The results were hard-fought and well-deserved. I am proud of all of them, whether they qualified [for the international competition] or not," Martino said.

Junior Anton Kozyrev was elected as a DECA state officer for Team 61. He began his campaign last spring, when he first announced his intention to run.

Kozyrev, along with the other six state officers, will represent Massachusetts DECA at the international competition.

In addition to participating in competitions, DECA students have been working on creating a store. DECA Chapter Official Hannah Oettinger has been involved with the creation of the store, called "The Hornet's Nest," along with DECA Chapter Of-

ficial Jake D'Ambrosio and DECA President Olivia Mitrano.

The store is scheduled to open in spring of this school year and will be fully functioning by start of the next school year, Martino said.

Students participated in multiple fundraising events, including a restaurant night at Chipotle in November, which raised enough money to order initial merchandise for the store. Oettinger said that officers are also planning to start a Monday morning coffee service to raise money.

The DECA officers have been working to create a unique line of MERHS merchandise, including MERHS DECA T-shirts, as well

as items for other teams and clubs in the high school.

Martino said they have added shelving, various hanging display options, a register cart, and a rolling display unit.

Oettinger said the goal of "The Hornet's

'I am very proud of all the competitors. The results were hard-fought and well-deserved. I am proud of them all, whether they qualified [for the international competition] or not.'

- DEAN MARTINO



COURTESY OF DEAN MARTINO

Junior Anton Kozyrev is introduced as a part of the incoming 61st DECA state officer team and will represent MASS DECA for the 2019 to 2020 school year.

Nest" is to teach students the risk and reward of making business decisions, where they will apply their business knowledge to a real-life company.

"This is something that not a lot of DECA students get to experience, so hopefully this will help the MERHS DECA team to excel even further!" Oettinger said.

Administration incorporates new classes to broaden horizons

Latest programs offer diverse opportunities, measure students' academic improvements

By Anton Kozyrev
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In order to broaden students' perspectives and horizons, the high school administration will incorporate several new classes and opportunities into the curriculum for the upcoming school year.

Classes added include AP Physics I, 9/11 and the War on Terror, and an English elective on Shakespeare for seniors, Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

Science department head Kristin Umile explained that the AP Physics I class differs from the current AP Physics class by

providing an easier-to-understand curriculum that is intended to ease students into the mechanical AP Physics C, class currently offered at the school.

"It's an algebra-based physics course, as opposed to calculus-based, which is what AP Physics C is. It's going to expand the AP science offerings ... for different science pathways," she said.

The range of social studies-related courses is also expanding, with a renewed emphasis on the "War on Terror" in the 9/11 and the War on Terror class.

"It will start with some of the events leading up to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 ... but it will go back further to the redrawing of the Middle East after World War I...this generation has

grown up under the War on Terror, so it's important to talk about that," social studies teacher John Mullady said.

The class will also place emphasis on the history of the Middle East in addition to the current climate, with students being asked to "define the Middle East," he said.

The English department will be incorporating a specialized senior elective that centers on a study of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," English teacher Daniel Koughan said.

"We are dropping the ... Satire class, and we are doing a class on 'Hamlet.' It's one of the world's most-performed plays,

and we'll be focusing on our own interpretations and interpretation in popular culture," he said.

New classes aren't the only addition to the curriculum in the upcoming year.

The foreign language department will be incorporating a Seal of Biliteracy into its classes, Puglisi said.

"Students can achieve it either through attaining a certain level on the AP exam or by taking a proficiency exam," she said.

The Seal of Biliteracy is a nationwide movement available to students who know a second language, foreign language department head Michelle Magana said.

"We will start slow, by gauging the proficiency levels of sophomores and seniors next year, so we can see sophomores' improvement by the time they get to their senior year. It's great recognition for students of all skills for both colleges and jobs," she said.

CONTINUATIONS

EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

any other colleges.

"I knew exactly where I wanted to go and what I wanted to study at the beginning of my junior year. This allowed me to really invest myself in the community of Babson, which not only made me love it more, but I believe it gave me a huge advantage in the admissions process," Renne said.

Jack Furber was accepted into Tulane University and will be participating in their double major program. He will be studying digital media production as an undeclared business major.

"Applying early decision helped my experience because it took a lot of stress off of me because I heard back so early, and I didn't have to apply to other schools later. It also helped with the decision too; that way, I did not have to make the choice if I got into multiple schools," Furber said.

SCHOLASTIC AWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teacher Caroline Hunt Epp said de Widt has been so successful in his photography endeavors because of his artistic instinct.

"He has a really good eye for design. A lot of times, he plays with the idea of things being symmetrical or asymmetrical and stuff like that. He has a very clean look to his photographs. It's very minimalist and very beautiful," she said.

De Widt said he hopes he can continue to incorporate photography into his life after he graduates.

"Photography is one of my favorite hobbies. I love taking pictures... If I ever get the chance, I would love to travel and learn from a professional photographer," he said.

In addition to the students who won awards in the art category, seniors Sophie Larson and Natalie Koopman won writing awards.

Larson received an Honorable Mention in the flash fiction category for a journal she wrote called "Owl."

Koopman won a Silver Medal for her

journal piece entitled "How to Encourage Departure from the Dolphin Yacht Club: Wisdom from an Experienced Employee."

English teacher Mary Buckley-Harmon said it is notable that both winning entries were originally written as a part of the English department's weekly journaling program.

"I was especially excited they were both journal entries that were recognized because I think that highlights the strength of our journaling program," she said.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

college athletics and has been serving for a number of years as an assistant athletic director for a very well-established program," she said.

Once the contracts are settled, the finalists will be announced together in the upcoming weeks. After, the finalists will begin working for a number of days over the summer.

"On the [academic behavioral] dean

side, I am hoping for the person to take on work with some of our students who are finding school to be challenging, either because of social-emotional obstacles or engagement issues," Puglisi said.

Puglisi also hopes that the new athletic director will contribute to bettering leadership skills and experience for students.

"On the athletics side, we are hoping to provide a strong educational athletics program for our student-athletes to really develop the role of captains and to oversee coaches to assure students have the best opportunities within their programs," she said.

The combination of the new academic behavioral dean and athletic director should bring advancements for the school, Puglisi said.

"I think that the change in the positions is going to lead to great opportunities for our students, school culture, and continually improving our school," she said.

Junior uses 3D printer to construct wind turbine

Student creates model through Green Team project

By Mia Cromwell
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With the help of STEM teacher Steve Cogger and the school's 3D printers, sustainability class member junior Kara Glynos constructed a wind turbine to provide a potentially viable source of energy for the school, Glynos said.

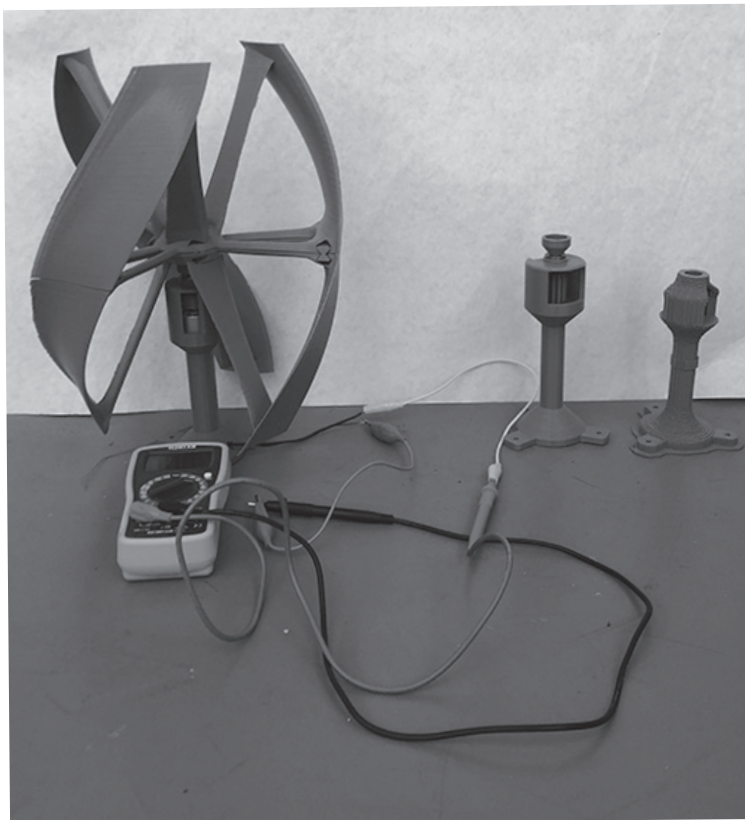
Green Team teacher Keith Gray said Glynos's interest in wind turbines spurred their discussion about feasible turbines for the school. This led them to the rotary design which picks up wind from every direction.

"Kara wanted to somehow incorporate how air moves because she likes to fly, and she wanted to figure out a way that we could create electricity here at the school using the wind," Gray said.

Glynos said she wanted to do something useful for the school and noticed that this specific turbine design could be helpful.

"I saw that the vertical turbine actually was legal, and we could actually use one in the school, so if I were to make that, it could be approved, and Mr. Gray said it would put some use to saving energy even more," Glynos said.

Gray said she did a significant amount of research to determine



MIA CROMWELL PHOTO

Junior Kara Glynos created a wind turbine prototype with the intention to have it serve as a source of energy for the school.

the proper type of turbine. Then, she talked to Cogger about the construction process.

Cogger said he helped Glynos understand, download, and print the files that comprised each part of the turbine. Once he printed all the parts, he gave them to Glynos who assembled the device.

Cogger modified the original design to fit the school's 3D printer size while also adding a motor to generate electricity, Gray said.

This prototype will go outside of Cogger's classroom where he and Glynos will determine any changes necessary for the model to improve its functionality, Gray said.

Glynos said if the turbine can produce a sufficient amount of energy, the school could mount these devices on the roof to power small items such as laptops and cellphones that don't require vast amounts of electricity.

She also said the school should consider investing in real wind turbines after viewing her functioning model.

After helping Glynos with her project, Cogger said he wants

students in all classes to think of items to print with the 3D printers.

Gray said he enjoys the co-curricular aspect that working with Cogger has brought to the Green Team.

Glynos said she wanted to do something useful for the school and noticed that this specific turbine design could be helpful.

Literary magazine displays creative writing class's work, publishes second issue

Student-created periodical includes poems, short stories, horoscopes, celebrity news

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In early February, the creative writing class released its second issue of the school's literary magazine, "The Inkling."

The creative writing class is taught by English teacher Alison Krause. She said she first incorporated the literary magazine, published once per semester, into the curriculum of the course last year as a final project for students.

Krause said the class published the magazine electronically in the form of a Google Slides presentation, and a linked

QR code is also posted on flyers around the school for student access.

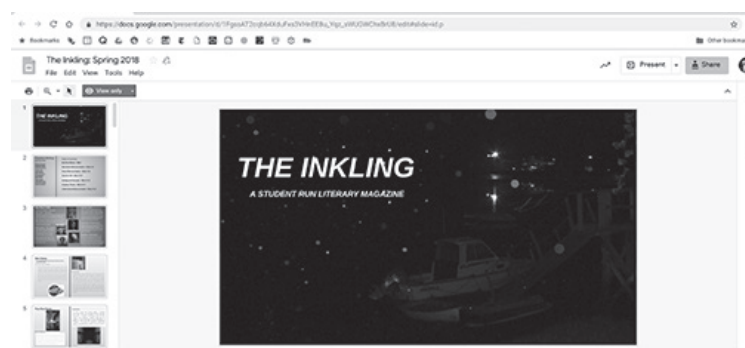
Krause said although the literary magazine solicits submissions from the entire student body, students outside the class lack interest in submitting work.

Freshman Ava Pick said students rarely submit work because it is not an obligation.

"There's not a lot of interest to put in pieces from other classes because people think, 'That's something I don't have to do... and don't contribute,'" she said.

The pieces submitted, Krause said, are compiled by creative writing students in their desired

Regarding rules and restrictions, [Krause] said she makes an effort to maintain students' creative freedom in submission to the magazine.



OLIVIA TURNER PHOTO

Each issue of the creative writing class's literary magazine, "The Inkling," is posted on a google slide, and can be accessed by scanning a QR code posted on flyers around the school and above.

format.

Pick said she likes that students are able to choose the format of the literary magazine.

"I think it's good to be able to organize your ideas the way you think is best," she said.

Along with their writing, creative writing students are also required to submit a six-word memoir to the magazine. Krause said.

Each of the 17 creative writing must submit two pieces of writing, she said, which amounts to

around 40 total pieces of varying length in the current issue.

Types of pieces in the literary magazine, she said, range from poems and short stories to horoscopes and celebrity news, though she emphasizes the importance of more literary work.

"I'm encouraging them to incorporate things like poems, short stories, and creative nonfiction that are really reflective of the curriculum of the class," Krause said.

Regarding rules and restric-

tions, she said she makes an effort to maintain students' creative freedom in submissions to the magazine.

Freshman AJ Pallazola, a creative writing student for the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year, said he appreciates the privilege to write pieces he enjoys.

"You can write about whatever you want," he said, "so [the literary magazine is] good to display your work and show what you've done in the class."

GUESS WHO?

TEACHER/STAFF EDITION

How long have you been a teacher here?

21 years

What was your first car?

Chevy Pickup

What is your favorite place to vacation?

Italy

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Not trying hard enough

What is your favorite cuisine?

Italian food

What is your favorite holiday?

Valentine's Day

What is your favorite sport to watch?

Football

What book would you want to live in?

"The Wizard of Oz"

Who is your dream celebrity friend?

Robert Redford

What superpower would you want to have?

To be able to manipulate time

What was your favorite subject in school?

Science

Favorite band?

The Beatles

First job?

In business, as an administrator

Favorite movie genre?

Movies from the '70s

Answer can be found at the bottom of Page 12

Sophomore recognized for accomplishments

Eliza Woodward wins track and field athlete of the year, holds two Special Olympic gold medals

By Domino Morris
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Sophomore Eliza Woodward has a busy schedule filled with karate, basketball, track, cross-country, swim, bowling, and academics. Track and field coach Mark Dawson said Woodward received the female JV athlete of the year award for this season.

Woodward said she started each sport because she likes to be competitive and wants to have fun.

Sophomore Elizabeth Loring said Woodward “was so great to have on the [track and field] team because she lightened the mood every day and made it better for the people around her.”

Woodward earned two gold medals last year in the Special Olympics for basketball and track, and she takes part in other Special Olympic activities, such as bowling every weekend, she said.

She said she has been practicing karate since she was young and recently received her black belt.

Basketball is Woodward’s favorite sport, she said, because it is the most entertaining, and



COURTESY OF LORIE WOODWARD

Sophomore Eliza Woodward participates in six sports both independently and with the school, including track and karate.

‘[Woodward] was so great to have on the team because she lightened the mood every day and made it better for the people around her.’

- ELIZABETH LORING

the team sport allows her to spend more time with her friends.

In school, Woodward said she looks forward to seeing her friends and teachers at school every

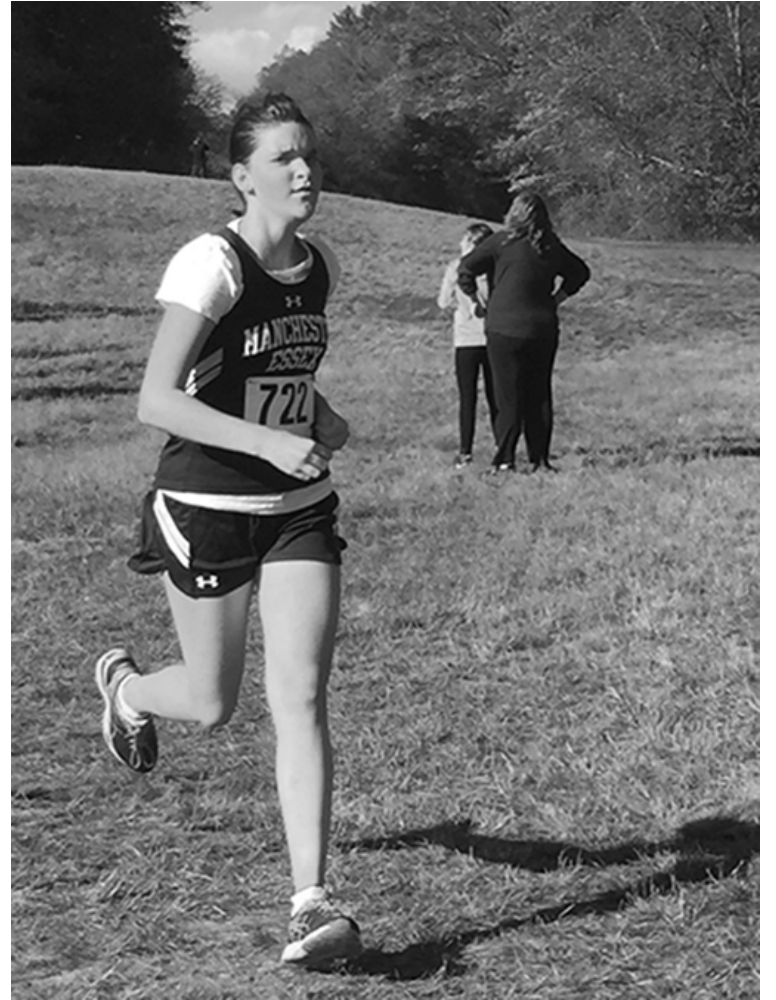
day and going to her favorite class, health.

She said she is also active in

Green Team. Sophomore Lydia Shaw said she loves to work with Woodward in Green Team because “she’s super enthusiastic, sweet and a hard worker.”

Special education teacher Erin Kenaga said Woodward has been a part of the SWING Program since she was in elementary school.

SWING stands for “students with integrated goals,” head of the special education department Louise Vose said. She said teachers work with students to



COURTESY OF PATRICIA PUGLISI

help them with their communication skills, academics, and social pragmatics.

The SWING Program is lucky to have “friendly, happy and enthusiastic” students such as Woodward, Vose said.

She said Woodward’s interest in extracurriculars is great

for her because “it helps her to practice the skills she learns in class,” noting that Woodward has gained a lot of poise from her experiences on different teams.

Kenaga said Woodward “has made a lot of progress and has worked really hard... everyone should be proud of her.”

Massachusetts law raises legal sales age of addicting substances

Alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products have same minimum purchasing age

By Madeline Lai
INDEPENDENT STAFF

As of January 1, 2019, Massachusetts has enforced new statewide legislation that raises the legal age to buy tobacco and vape products from 18 to 21.

The new law does not apply to anyone who is already 18 years of age by December 30, 2018.

Over 170 towns and cities in Massachusetts have already raised the permitted sales age of tobacco and e-cigarette products up to 21, but this law brings the entire state in accordance.

Alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco products now all have the same minimum purchasing age at 21 in Massachusetts.

“This bill seeks to reduce tobacco use and nicotine addiction among youth by restricting access to tobacco and vapor products for anyone under 21,” said representative Kate Hogan in an article in the Boston Globe.

In schools, raising the legal sales age narrows the number of students who are able to illegally obtain those products from individuals under 21 but over the



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A new Mass. law, which will restrict people under 21 from purchasing addicting products, intends to reduce underage usage of these substances across the state by making them harder to obtain.

age of 18.

Sophomore Sylvie Oldeman said underage high school students will be affected by this law as well.

If a minor has friends who are 18 years old, he or she has access to those illegal substances, so when the minimum age to buy those substances is 21 instead of 18, it lessens students’ access to them, Oldeman said.

Health teacher James Weed said increasing the age to buy

these products will prevent early addiction by making it more difficult for minors to obtain them.

“I think the older the laws are for high school or college kids, it’s going to allow them to make a clearer choice because their brains are still developing,” he said.

Increasing the legal sales age won’t stop all underage usage of these substances, because kids are inevitably going to find a way to access these substances, but

the goal is to manage the number of students who can obtain them, Weed said.

The Coalition for Responsible Retailing, a state industry group, claims that there is a “loophole” in the state law because although it is prohibited for stores to sell e-cigarette and tobacco products to underage buyers, minors who obtain them from an adult or from another state are not incriminated under the new legislation.

School holds blood drive

By Julia Kaper
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

For the seventh year, teacher Abigail Donnelly organized and ran the annual blood drive, which took place on Friday, March 15 in the gymnasium.

The school has run the drive with the American Red Cross for over 10 years, Donnelly said.

At the drive, 16 people donated blood, and in total, 17 units of blood were donated since one person donated using a process which produces two units rather than one, Donnelly said.

The American Red Cross always checks the blood to make sure it’s safe, Donnelly said. After that, they distribute the blood to hospitals or blood banks.

Donnelly said having the blood drive annually at the school is important because high school drives are some of the most important sources of blood. Hospitals must always have ample blood supply, and since blood can’t be manufactured, having blood drives is critical, she said.

“It’s such a great way to get students on the path of helping their communities, and it’s really satisfying work,” Donnelly said.

Junior Spencer Meek said he chose to donate blood at the drive because doing so would be beneficial to the community.

“I just think it’s an extremely useful way to give back, especially since the blood you give could potentially help save someone else’s life,” he said.

Green Team projects establish ecological solutions, ways to help environment

Students raise awareness about sustainability

By Mia Cromwell
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Through their school projects, Green Team members address environmental issues within the community.

Sophomore scholars Will Kenney and Josef Vytopil plan to remove invasive species called Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed, which destroy all the natural vegetation, Kenney said.

Vytopil said they are focusing on withdrawing these species from Lobster Cove in Manchester and will be organizing removal events in the spring.

In addition to manually removing the plants, they will use a natural pesticide called Nature's Avenger, Kenney said.

Vytopil said he wants to raise awareness about invasive species through this project.

Another member of the Green Team, sophomore Avari Litka, is working to make the cafeteria greener by introducing compostable utensils.

Green Team teacher Keith Gray said Litka found a company that provides compostable utensils with no additional cost to the budget.

Litka plans to incorporate these new utensils within the next month.

She said she was inspired to



MIA CROMWELL PHOTO

Sophomore Eliza Woodward and junior Catherine Staid are selling cacti and other plants to raise money for the group.

take on this project from having witnessed the adverse effects of plastic and waste on the environment.

"Seeing a lot of animals suffering from plastic and dying from it made me want to help them and make the planet greener," Litka said.

Green Team member junior Thad Sobotowski additionally strove to reduce plastic waste through his project. He built a machine that recycles waste from the school's 3D printers.

"The idea is if all this stuff can be melted down and re-extruded into usable plastic, then the school's [3D printing] waste will go way down," he said.

The machine works by compressing, heating, and pushing ground up plastic through a tube

and nozzle where the plastic is melted and extruded into a reusable filament.

He plans to bring the device into the school once he can control its temperature with a relay.

Green Team students junior Catherine Staid and sophomore Eliza Woodward are also contributing to Green Team by selling cacti, spider plants, and different vegetables to raise money for the group, Gray said.

He said the money Woodward and Staid are bringing in through their project is supporting the group.

"They're just plugging away, and because it's a fundraiser for the Green Team, it's just bringing awareness to the Green Team... and contributing to what we do," Gray said.

International Week teaches students about new cultures

By Sophia Larson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Teachers, students, and other members of the community presented during International Week, foreign language department head Michelle Magaña said.

International Week this year went from March 13 to March 15, she said.

Presenters include senior Sirine Benali who presented on Rwanda, Spanish teacher Robert Bilsbury who presented with students on the school trip to Peru, engineering and computer science teacher Steve Cogger presenting on Finland, middle school teacher Olivia MacLeod presenting on Australia, and Beverly resident Julie Long and her daughter Fiona Long presenting on their service trip to Ghana, Magaña said.

Magaña described why she thinks it's important to learn about different countries during International Week.

"I think it just opens up students to learn, 'Wow, I don't need to be in the United States for the rest of my life. I could go here for a little while, or I could go there for a little while' and just learn



COURTESY OF ROBERT BILSBURY

Foreign language teacher Robert Bilsbury gave several presentations about the school trip to Peru last spring.

different cultures, learn about different people. I think that's an important value for kids to have," she said.

Cogger described his specific reasons for traveling abroad to Finland.

"I went to Finland because my great-grandfather was born there, and I found out where he was born, and I actually went to where he was born," he said.

By sharing why he decided to travel, Cogger said he hopes to inspire kids to do the same and dig deeper into their family history.

"I wanted to share that with students so they might think about learning about their family and where they came from. When I was in high school all my grandparents were alive, but I never talked to them about our history or where we came from, and now all of a sudden I'm an adult, and I'm like, 'Wow I really missed

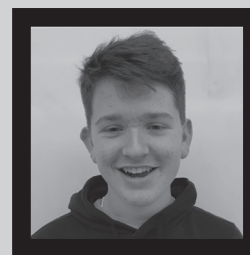
that opportunity,' so I wanted to show people the power of the internet and how much you can find about your family," he said.

Senior Clara Davis, who helped to present on the Peru trip, also shared why she thinks it's good for members of the community to present on their experiences abroad.

"I think it's important for us to present this so other people can see the other cultures. For us, because we went, it was really interesting to see how other people around the world live and how other countries differ from the United States," she said.

After watching the presentation on Peru, senior Lizzy Klebart reflected on what she thought about the experience.

"I really enjoyed learning about Peru. The presentation gave me a more in-depth view into the experience and really let me learn more about the culture," she said.



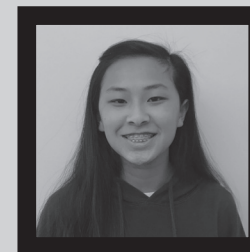
Freshman Vaughn O'Leary:
"Playing video games."



Freshman Callie Parkins:
"Sitting in my bed doing nothing."



Sophomore Jack Shaw:
"Sleeping."

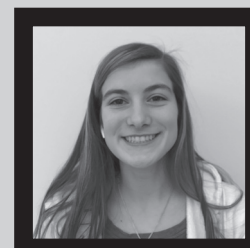


Sophomore Emily Schuh:
"Watching a movie."

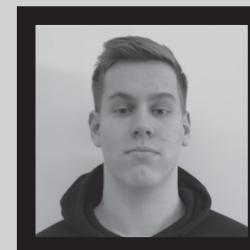


What is your favorite snow day activity?

Junior Cagney Pallazola:
"Making snow angels."



Junior Tucker Hoff:
"Skiing."



Senior Paul Albani:
"Playing my guitar."



Senior Meredith Wolf:
"Drinking hot chocolate."



Snow Days

Should the school implement e-learning days?

Pro
Julia Kaper

Implementing e-learning snow days would be beneficial for both students and teachers. In recent years, the school has called multiple snow days per year due to weather, which has pushed back the last day of school by over a week in most cases. If the school were to implement online snow days, the days would not have to be made up and take time out of summer break.

On these new snow days, teachers would post assignments to Google Classroom for students to complete. Because almost every single class uses Google Classroom already for homework and classwork, this would not be a huge burden for students or teachers.

Additionally, now that technology plays such an important role in everyone's lives, every student has access to the internet somehow, whether that be a laptop, phone, school Chromebook, etc.

Although usage of technology might differ in other school districts, the reality at this school is that there would be no way to do homework without access to Google Classroom at home.

Power outages can also pose a significant problem to online learning; however, there are ways to combat this.

The Anderson School District in South Carolina, which has implemented an online learning pilot program for snow days, reported that their program allows students to download the assignments ahead of time via Google Classroom, according to WNEP-TV.

As long as students and teachers had some idea if there would be a snow day the next day, a program such as this one would eliminate the issue of internet connectivity, and if any technology issue arose despite this, students could get a grace period to turn in the work.

With the current system, many teachers assign extra homework on snow days because they don't want to get off track with the curriculum, even though the students will be making up the day later in the year.

Students should not be forced to do extra work both on the snow day and later in the year, which is why the online snow days are the perfect solution. The students would not miss the information they would have learned in school that day, and they would avoid making up the day in addition to doing extra assignments.

By implementing online snow days, the school would eliminate the need to have makeup days that are costly and usually unproductive, not to mention that everyone would gain more days of summer vacation.

Con
Hannah Freeman

Although they may have many theoretical benefits, e-learning days are not feasible at the school.

The school has numerous snow days throughout the year, so replacing them with e-learning days, a day in which students complete assignments from home, may seem like a good solution because they would not need to be made up at the end of the year as they usually do. However, these assignments would be difficult for many students to complete, which would be detrimental to the learning environment at the school.

Students living in the town of Essex often lose power and do not have access to the internet on days that school is canceled, making them unable to complete online assignments.

"We almost always lose power when school is canceled, which is true for most of Essex. Having to make up assignments I missed because the power was out would be hard. It would definitely create a lot of stress for students," junior Maxine Hickey said.

To address this problem, some schools planning on instituting e-learning days will offer assignments on paper in anticipation of a school cancellation, Stan Jastrzbski said during a segment of his radio show "All Things Considered" on NPR.

Under this system, teachers would provide students with both a paper assignment and an online assignment. If students lost power or did not have internet access, they would complete the paper assignment and turn it in when they returned to school.

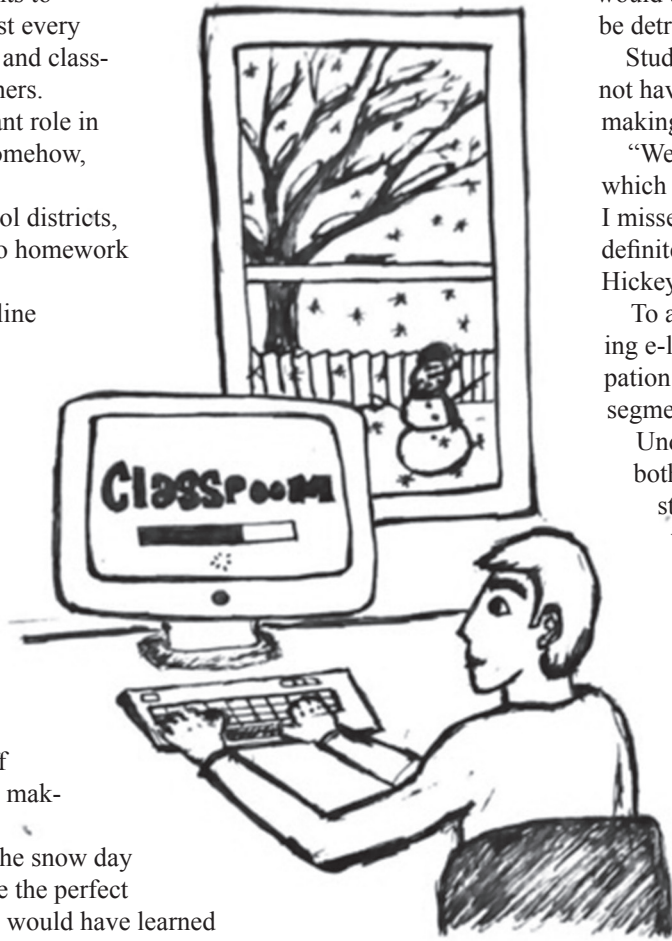
However, paper assignments would be challenging for the school to distribute before each potential school cancellation, as many are unexpected.

Without the knowledge of when snow days and school cancellations will occur, it would be virtually impossible for teachers to plan assignments that all students would have an equal opportunity to complete.

Another problem with the e-learning day system is the difficulty students would have learning material by themselves out of the classroom.

For many students, particularly in high-level classes, learning the information alone is not a good substitute for class time with a teacher

explaining the information. Attempting to do so would instead lead to confusion both while completing the assignment and upon returning to school, rendering these days frustrating and useless.



SOPHIA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

Journals, comments help students gain important skills for college, jobs

By Izzy DiPasquale
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Weekly journal entries and comments benefit students by enhancing reflection, expediting critical thought, and improving writing skills.

Journaling on a regular basis enables students to gain more confidence in their writing abilities by allowing them to explore topics that interest them. They also give them the opportunity to develop their own voices and writing style through experimentation and repetition.

The idea for the journaling program was first introduced to the school about 15 years ago by English teacher Daniel Koughan. The program has since evolved from weekly writing assignments for just Koughan's students to something that involves the entire English department.

Koughan said he decided to do it as a way of keeping students writing consistently, and he has seen more improvement in

student writing as a result of how frequently and how much they write.

Journals also allow students to expand their writing from the typical types of assignments, which are usually essays or projects with lots of strict guidelines and instead write more creatively.

"I wanted to keep them writing, but I also wanted them to have a creative output or just a place to do thinking and express their opinions," Koughan said. Journaling also allows students to write about topics they are passionate about. Students are provided with a platform to

write about subjects that not only interest them but that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to share.

Alternating between a journal entry and a comment each week allows students to gain experience with both writing their own stories and analyzing the work of others. Comments allow students to practice reviewing

each other's writing, while getting feedback on their own entries.

"When kids started writing for each other, and writing about things that other kids cared about and responded

to, it gave everybody a reason to write," Koughan said.

Koughan said that he is often approached by former students asking to read their old entries.

'I wanted to keep them writing, but I also wanted them to have a creative output or just a place to do thinking and express their opinions.'

- DANIEL KOUGHAN



IZZY DIPASQUALE PHOTO

Sophomore Sylvie Oldman writes her journal during U block.

Students are not only able to look back on their journals to see how they have improved as writers, but they also get a glimpse into that time of their lives.

In both college and the work-

place, students will be expected to write on a regular basis. Due to the frequent practice they are receiving in high school, they will be able to complete these tasks with ease.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Partisanship in US government a major threat, must be fixed

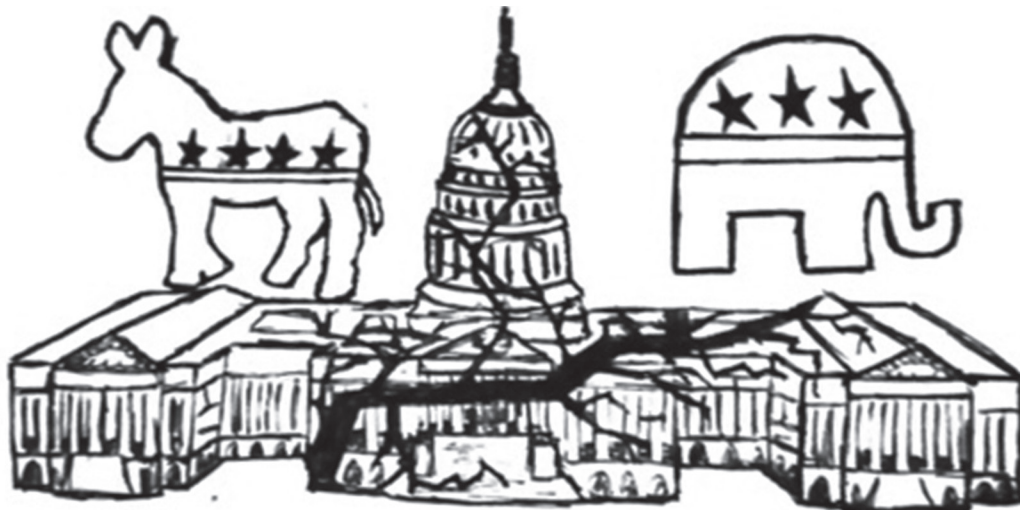
Political parties should focus more on moderate views

Partisanship is not a new occurrence in U.S. politics; however, it has grown stronger within the past decade, starting with the Tea Party movement in 2009 and recently culminating in the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

This was a shutdown that should have ended through the cessation of partisan posturing.

According to the New York Times, President Donald Trump stated that he was willing to “keep the federal government closed for months or even years” if he could not fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

However, while it may seem viable to members of Congress and the White House to allow events like the shutdown to play out in a political struggle, the consequences of this shutdown, and by extension, partisanship in general, adversely affect the very



SOPHIA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

constituents that these politicians are sworn to serve.

Government employees and American citizens were both affected by the shutdown -- employees unable to pay bills and citizens being put at risk.

After all, when government agencies were unable to operate at peak ability, there was a risk of an unforeseen event occurring that will affect all Americans.

According to CNBC, Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) agents are among the 420,000 government workers deemed “essential” and required to work without receiving a paycheck during a shutdown. During the shutdown, 7.6 percent of TSA employees called in sick, double that of the usual rate.

With fewer TSA employees, airport security was stretched

thin. This means that airspace safety was being compromised, putting all Americans at risk.

Trump eventually acquiesced to Democrats’ refusal to fund a border wall and signed a budget that did not include his own demands – but later declared victory by establishing a national emergency and transferring disaster-relief funds toward construction of a border wall.

Declaring a national emergency over a partisan issue only extends the impact of brinkmanship in American politics.

Republicans like Trump are not the only ones guilty for the partisan divide, for Democrats are just as guilty of partisanship.

According to Politico, Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has warned moderate Democrats not to vote with the GOP, threatening them with primary challenges.

While Ocasio-Cortez may be merely attempting to unify the Democratic Party, her suggestion only serves to further divide the government as a whole.

Partisanship from both sides has led a worrying lack of ability to act by the government.

After all, when the government cannot act, the people of the U.S. have no adequate representation.

Both Democratic and Republican leaders must stop appealing to the farthest reaches of their party and focus on their centrist officials – for they are the key to bridging the partisan divide.

Rwanda displays perseverance through conflict, moving toward brighter future

By Sirine Benali
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Lush green hills roll through the countryside outside my window. I see beautiful green fields adorned with flowers, crops upon hillsides, and streams weaving in and out of towns.

On this dirt road, we are driving to Butaro District Hospital, a state-of-the-art medical facility completed in 2011 that serves and saves thousands of patients’ lives. The beautiful land and landscape of Rwanda has seen so much, from the atrocities of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994 to the immense success of Rwanda seen today.

Only 25 years ago, Rwanda experienced one of the worst genocides of the century. In only 100 days, approximately 1 million lives were lost. The genocide was part of the civil war against the Tutsis.

During the colonialism era, the colonists favored the Tutsi population over the Hutu popu-

lation. After independence from the Belgians, Rwanda’s tensions between groups rose until the civil war happened and, eventually, the Hutu Power movement rose, sparking a planned mass-genocide of the Tutsis.

After the genocide, Rwanda was in ruins since 20 percent of the population at that time was dead. Additionally, rape from known HIV+ males was used as a weapon of war. The rising HIV epidemic, the flight of educated members of society, and destruction of infrastructure left a dim future for Rwanda.

In years after the genocide, the Rwandan government and people agreed to rebuild the nation. And the progress has been outstanding. In terms of healthcare, education, and public infrastructure, Rwanda has shown truly remarkable progress.

We first visited the Butaro District Hospital, which was built in an initiative to decentralize access to healthcare and cancer treatment in rural Rwan-



SIRINE BENALI PHOTO

Medical support is crucial in communities like in rural Rwanda and Africa, as it improves the standard of living for everyone.

da. We arrived at a beautiful hospital, with modern laboratory equipment, and staffed with Rwandan doctors working alongside doctors from institutes like the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Then, we drove 10 minutes to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the University of Global Health Equity’s (UGHE) Butaro campus opening. UGHE has reimagined medical training. UGHE is a platform for the next generation of healthcare leaders in Rwanda, Africa, and worldwide, offering its students free tuition, teachers who are leaders in their fields

from around the world, the Butaro hospital nearby, a brand-new campus, and access to communities who are most in need.

Next, we visited Rwinkwavu District Hospital, built in 2005, which now sees 250 patients a day, according to Bella English of boston.com. Similar to the partnerships and collaborations in Butaro District Hospital, the interactions between doctors, patients, leaders, and community in Rwinkwavu District Hospital was inspiring. We were able to also visit the homes of patients whose lives, or the lives of their

loved ones, were saved by PIH’s efforts, which was a humbling and moving experience.

Today, Rwanda continues to grow, as its success is undeniably impressive. The country has 97% child vaccination coverage (according to The Lancet); has improved life expectancy from 28 years in 1993 to 67 years in 2016 (according to The World Bank); and had the steepest drop in child mortality ever (according to The Washington Post).

The paradigm and goal of PIH’s efforts in Rwanda and abroad is focused on global health equity. Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of PIH, has said that “the idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.” By striving to fill the global health equity gap, PIH aims to provide a preferential option for healthcare for the poor.

In a beautiful country, banana trees, eucalyptus, tea plantations abound on its rolling hills, Rwanda is a land in the heart of Africa that tells an inspiring story of hope, perseverance, and prosperity.

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The Independent reserves the right not to print letters and to edit the content for clarity and length. While letters can be critical of an individual’s actions, they cannot slander or libel.

The staff editorial may be considered the opinion of the staff of The Independent.

By-line opinions are written by individual staff members and should not be considered representative of the entire staff.

The Independent staff hopes that all Manchester and Essex citizens will take advantage of this forum. The paper is meant to serve the school community, and we are open to suggestions to help it better serve its purposes.

Track team breaks school records

By Charlotte Pick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Both the boys' and girls' track teams were able to achieve their goals of performing well in both the regular season and divisional and state meets this year.

The boys' track team had a regular season record of 1-5-0, and the girls' track team had a regular season record of 0-6-0; as a result, four events qualified for the State Championship.

Coach Mark Dawson said that both the girls' and boys' teams are much smaller in size compared to the other teams in the league.

"We are in a tough league with some really deep teams, but the quality of the small numbers we had really showed through," he said.

Dawson also said that there were several runners who broke school records this year.

"The boys'

4x400 meter [sophomores Emerson Kahle, James Wendell, and Dylan Gregory, and senior Dean

'The quality of the small numbers we had really showed through.'

- MARK DAWSON



COURTESY OF PHIL CARTER

The boys' 4x800 meter relay team finished 19th in the state, bettering their own school record for a time of 8:27.73 at All-States on Feb. 29.

Campbell]; 4x800 meter [sophomores Will Kenney, Sam Kenney, and Eli Heanue, and senior Matt Carter]; 55 meter [Campbell]; and 300 meter [Campbell and Kahle] races broke school records, and the girls' 55 meter [sophomore Dasa Hase and

senior Jillian Bowen], 300 meter [Hase, Bowen, and junior Maya Baker]; and 1,000 meter [junior Mia Cromwell] races broke school records as well," he said.

Dawson said the team was able to improve its performances over the course of the season.

This year, 20 people made it to the state meet; Cromwell, Campbell, and W. Kenney advanced for their individual performances, and Carter, Heanue, W. Kenney, and S. Kenney advanced as a relay team to All-States.



COURTESY OF VICKI DONNELLAN

Senior captain Bella Pomeroy shoots a basket at a home game against Lynnfield High School. The team lost the game 35-49.

Girls' basketball places 2nd in CAL

By Hannah Freeman
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After finishing the season with a record of 11-10, the girls' basketball team was second in the Cape Ann League and qualified for the state tournament, where they lost to Bedford High School in the first round.

"We had a great season overall. We were able to accomplish a lot of the goals we set for ourselves, like qualifying for the state tournament and performing well in the Cape Ann League," head coach Lauren DuBois said.

The team was eliminated in a 53-47 game on Feb. 26, senior captain Bella Pomeroy said.

"It was a tough game. We fought really hard and worked together well to finish our season strong," she said.

The team's main rivals in the Cape Ann League were Hamilton Wenham and Ipswich, both of

which they beat twice during the regular season.

"It was great to have victories over the teams that were rivals; that was a highlight for us," senior captain Grace Brennan said.

Although they were not able to beat rival Amesbury, the team made improvements

throughout the season to play one of their strongest games against them.

"The first time we played Amesbury, we lost by 28, but then when we played them again later in the season, we only lost by 3; so we improved a lot throughout the between those two games," Pomeroy said.

Brennan identified the team's mindset and communication as

one of their strongest assets.

"We had a losing streak for a while, so keeping our composure and mindset was huge in winning games and being successful in the season following that. We all communicated well, especially after we made mistakes as a team or individually," she said.

The team also focused on collaboration and developing the entire team, Pomeroy said.

"We wanted the team to be well rounded. Going into the season some players were hesitant

to shoot, so it was great to see everyone gain confidence as the season went on. Overall, it was a great season," she said.

'Keeping our composure and mindset was huge in winning games.'

- GRACE BRENNAN

Boys' basketball team wins CAL

By Eli Heanue
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Completing their season with a record of 14-6, and winning the CAL Championship, the boys' basketball team achieved their goal of reaching the state tournament.

Coach Tim St. Laurent said the team hoped to defeat their rivals in the Cape Ann League.

"I've been coaching here for three years, and it has been a building process over these last three years. I think this year we had a great balance of players, and it really helped us win the CAL," St. Laurent said.

Junior captain Dane Moruzzi said he was especially proud of the team's performance this year.

"The team hadn't made the playoffs in quite some time, so making it my junior year was a big deal to me, and I'm proud of the team," Moruzzi said.

Moruzzi said one of the players that was instrumental to the team's success this year was

sophomore Frank Wood.

"Frank was definitely, in my opinion, one of the most improved players this year. He went from being on junior-varsity last year to having a starting position this year," Moruzzi said.

"We couldn't have gotten where we did this year without him," he said.

Junior captain Kellen Furse said the team this year had great chemistry and enthusiasm.

"We were all just good friends. It helped that everyone looked forward to the practices," Furse said.

"We could have fun but also work hard and get better," Furse said.

Furse said the team's many strengths contributed to their

success.

"One of the most noticeable strengths of the team this year was defense," Furse said.

"The team was strong on defense, and we had a lot of defensively strong players like Frank Wood and [senior] Dylan Wilson," Furse said.

St. Laurent said he has high expectations for the team's future despite the team losing their senior players.

"This year, we had some unbelievable seniors, and they will be

hard to replace next year, but we had a lot of strong youth in the program this year," St. Laurent said.

"Our freshmen team went 15-1 and our JV team went 18-2," he said.

'I think this year we had a great balance of players, and it really helped us win the CAL.'

- TIM ST. LAURENT

Gymnasts end season as CAL champions

By Katherine Fitzgibbon
INDEPENDENT STAFF

This year's cooperative Hamilton-Wenham/Manchester Essex gymnastics team finished with a record of 4-0-0, achieving their goal of winning the Cape Ann League title.

The team, led by head coach Chris Way and assistant coach Lizzie Ranger, had a total of 10 gymnasts, all of whom are female.

This was the team's second year in a row winning the Cape Ann League title, but with the addition of new players, the team received higher overall scores.

The team was led by senior captains Annika Dahlin of Manchester Essex and Rose Wosepka of Hamilton-Wenham.

The gymnasts ended the season with a win against Malden, earning a record-breaking team score of 127.8.

Although the players suffered

a few injuries at the beginning of the season, this encouraged the girls to develop more skills to account for these injuries, Dahlin said.

"We worked to build off our success from last year," Dahlin said.

Ranger said she hopes the gymnasts will continue achieving their goals.

Sophomore Tess Richard of Manchester Essex said she was proud of the team's performance this season.

"With teamwork, we can all achieve our goals," Richard said.

She said she hopes the team will receive an even higher score next season.

Sophomore Avari Litka of Manchester Essex said the leadership from the captains of the team this year was amazing.

"They did a really good job supporting everyone and making them excited to compete," she said.

Girls' hockey team gains confidence throughout season

By Jenna Cirella
INDEPENDENT STAFF

With a finishing record of 5-15, the girls' hockey team did not accomplish their goal of making the tournament, but they did meet their goals of rebuilding the team and encouraging the younger players to gain confidence, senior captain Caroline Kinne from Swampscott said. "As the season progressed, I could see many of the girls become more confident and play better in the fast games," she said.

One of the highlights of the season was a victory against Winthrop on Senior Night, she said.

"I have been on the hockey

team since I was in eighth grade, and our Senior Night was the first time that we had ever beaten Winthrop together. It was a great feeling, and it really gave our team the boost we needed to finish the season stronger than we started," Kinne said.

Head coach Marisa Maccario is looking forward to working with the girls next year and is proud of their season, she said.

"Annika Smith is an awesome girl who is always looking to get better no matter what. Her attitude is always amazing. Coming to the games and practices with a smile is very key," she said.

Manchester-Essex player Annika Smith said she knew this year was going to be a year of building and very different

from the previous years she had played.

"I would say my favorite part of playing this year was that even though we lost so many games, we still had something to laugh about in the end. With the coach being on the younger side, it made it easier for us to all become closer to her," Smith said.

Smith said she had a great experience.

"We all come from different backgrounds, and every day we go to the Salem State hockey rink and enjoy the time we have together because we don't see each other anywhere else," she said.

Kinne said she is sad to leave the team but wants to come back and cheer them on next year.



COURTESY OF ANNIKA SMITH

Junior Annika Smith and eighth-grader Amy Vytopilova are the two Manchester Essex players on the co-op hockey team.

"As a senior, it will be hard for me to leave all of the young girls that I had so much fun

getting to know this year after only getting one season together," she said.

Ski team captains, players help strengthen skills

By Sirine Benali
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Finishing with strong individual results and an overall improvement of the team's skills, the boys' and girls' ski teams have concluded successful seasons, head coach Tim Wonson said.

The boys' team finished with a record of 4-8, and the girls' team had a record of 3-11. The two team captains, seniors Claire O'Brien and Max Hahn, qualified for States and had high individual standings. O'Brien ranked No. 2 in the girls' league and Hahn ranked No. 9 in the boys' league. "I'm glad that we showed such

great progress this year. I hope that continues," Wonson said.

Wonson said O'Brien and Hahn were strong captains for the team.

"They exceeded my expectations unbelievably... [they] really reached out to the younger kids on the team. I was really impressed with both of them. I've been a coach for eight or nine years now and have had 18 or 20 captains, and those two are really exceptional," he said.

O'Brien said the season was more of a growth year, since there are many younger skiers,



COURTESY OF CLAIRE O'BRIEN

Senior captains Max Hahn and Claire O'Brien qualified for States on Wed., Feb. 27. They both achieved individual standings.

which can improve the team's performance in future years.

"I'm happy that everyone got more comfortable with the sport... It was fun to teach the kids how to race since there are

a lot of aspects that you have to know and learn about... I think [next year], the high schoolers have a good chance at qualifying for States," she said.

Hahn identified certain high-

schoolers on the team this year, like sophomore Alex Rosen, to potentially be instrumental for the team in coming years.

"Alex will be a good leader for the next coming years because he has really grown as a skier, and so have a bunch of the other kids. [Next year], he can lead them to be even better," he said.

Wonson also identified Rosen—in addition to freshmen Emma Wonson and Ryan Clark and sophomores Lilly Coote and Charlie Gendron—as important members of the team for coming years. He said he has high expectations for future years and thinks the young members of the team will be leaders next year.

"[The team] did really well, and everyone lived up to my expectations," Wonson said.

Swim team places second in CAL

By Thymen de Widt
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Placing second in the Cape Ann League tournament, the girls' and the boys' swim teams had successful seasons, both with a league record of 4-1-0 and an overall record of 6-1-0.

Losing only to Lynnfield in the regular season, the boys'

team was able to send five athletes to the state tournament: senior captains Jake Athanas and Per Hostage, junior Josh Dobson, sophomores Sam Rice, and Alex Furse.

Similarly, the girls' team was able to send six athletes: juniors captain Elizabeth Athanas, Maddie Carvalho, sophomore Maddie Lawler, and freshmen Carson Komishane, Shea Furse, and Emma Ketchum to the state tournament after losing only to Triton in the regular season.

"Although we did not do as well as we had wanted at States, we did do very well on our relays. We broke the school record for the 400 free [style], which was a great accomplishment for the team," Jake Athanas said.

Both teams had multiple new players this year, due to the amount of seniors that graduated. They also had a new coach for the third year in a row.

Dobson said it was tough to reorganize the team at first but added that coach Caitlin Donoghue was very good in structuring the team's line-up and preparing the athletes for the season.

"We lost a bunch of senior swimmers from last year, but coach's practices and attitude helped us perform the way we did throughout the season," he said.

Coach Donoghue was unavailable for comment.

Dobson said the team performs practice relays and focuses on speed racing during their practices before meets.

"The practices have been very race-oriented, working on our techniques and on our speed, as well as working on our relays," he said.

'The practices have been very race-oriented, working on our techniques and on our speed, as well as working on our relays.'

- JOSH DOBSON



COURTESY OF DONNA FURSE

Senior Jake Athanas, sophomore Alex Furse, junior Josh Dobson and sophomore Sam Rice received medals at the CAL tournament.

Furse also said the team's goal for next season is to win the CAL tournament.

"We came very close to winning the CAL this year, and we are hoping that we can achieve first place next year," he said.

Elizabeth Athanas said the girls' team's third-place win at States in the 200 medley relay was a "milestone" for the team.

"I'm excited for next year, especially for showing what the team has to offer because we have a young team," she said.

Boys' hockey shares chemistry, beats rival Northeast Metro Tech

By Domino Morris
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Although the varsity boys' hockey team did not achieve all of their goals for this season, junior captain Anthony Curcuru said the team still had fun.

He said the team won more games than the previous year, but they still failed to qualify for the tournament.

Varsity head coach Patrick McIntosh said the team ended the season with a record of 4-11-4.

According to masshockey.com, the team is ranked No. 57 in Division III.

"The highlight of the season was beating Northeast Metro Tech because we haven't beaten them since I've been a part of the program, everyone was really hyped up at the end," Curcuru said.

McIntosh also said one of the best moments of the season was leading the team to victory against Northeast Metro Tech in the beginning of the season.

He said there were a lot of

highs and lows of this season. "It was a rollercoaster, but I like rollercoasters," he said.

Although McIntosh said he wasn't very impressed with the team's skill level in comparison to other players in their league, he said the team "had very good chemistry, [and] a great locker room."

Curcuru said the team played better this year because of their newfound chemistry. "We all just [fed] off of each other's energy," he said.

Out of the players from Manchester-Essex, McIntosh said junior Kyle Khani is the most talented.

McIntosh said he is excited to watch more players step up next season as their confidence has built up more this year.

Curcuru said he looks towards new "underclassmen who can play at a high-level intensity and help the team out" for next season.

He said he wants to make every moment count next year because it will be his last time playing with the team.

'It was a rollercoaster, but I like rollercoasters.'

- PATRICK MCINTOSH

Drama Club performs in high school festival at St. John's Prep

Students participate in local competition's preliminary round

By Eli Heanue
INDEPENDENT STAFF

This year's Drama Club performed "Big Love" by Charles Mee at the preliminary round of Drama Fest, which was held at St. John's Prep. Although the Drama Club did not move on to the next round, the club said they were proud of their performance.

The director, senior Anna Mewkill, said the play features three refugees, played by senior Jia Mulvey, junior Izzy Eliassen, and junior Mya Harmon. The girls run away from home after they are forced to marry their cousins, played by freshman Julian Friends, freshman Chris Siems, and junior Breno Santos.

"I really love this show, and I think it's insane and interesting. I'm also insanely proud with our performance and how we did this play," she said.

Mewkill said it was very difficult to manage her time this year because of the production.

"As a director, I had to organize four rehearsals a week as well as a meeting with people who worked backstage to figure out what needed to be done. On top of homework, it was very stressful," she said.

To prepare for their performance at Drama Fest, the Drama Club performed for the school on March 1.

Sophomore Charlotte Ward said the play was a high quality student performance.

"The performance was amazing. The play was very realistic, and they didn't hold anything back, which was really impressive," Ward said.

Eliassen said she enjoyed her experience at this year's Drama Fest.

"It was definitely one of our best run-throughs of the show, and the audience was very responsive and respectful. I got to meet new people and watch other performances, and it was really fun,"



ELI HEANUE PHOTO

Seniors Jake D'ambrosio and Jia Mulvey and juniors Izzy Eliassen and Mya Harmon perform a scene from "Big Love," which was performed for students and staff before the Drama Festival.

she said.

Eliassen said she recommends Drama Club to anyone interested in acting or helping out backstage.

"I absolutely love Drama Club. It's a great way to meet new people, and I get so pumped every time I go to a rehearsal, just

waiting for everyone to perform together. I would really like more people to join because we didn't have many people this year, and we always need more members," she said.

Senior Jake Dambrosio said he was very proud with the group's

performance in Drama Fest and said he has high hopes for the group's future.

"I think we performed really well at Drama Fest this year, and I hope that the Drama Club can make it past the preliminary round in future years," he said.

Senior grows as an artist, learns from AP art classes

Student plans to major in architecture

By Austin Woodman-Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After taking multiple AP art classes in order to improve her skills, senior Brianna Pappas said she hopes to enter the field of architecture in college and pursue a career in architecture in the future.

Pappas said she has always been passionate about designing houses.

"I specifically remember being outside and picking up any tangible item so that I could use them

to create fairy houses. I was so involved in the idea of creating houses for people that I started to incorporate building design into my artwork," she said.

Pappas said she is going to work with a local architect in Essex for her SCORE project in the spring in order to solidify her skills and help her to understand the rigor of the job.

"I am working with Michael Gray, who is the senior architect and managing director of Carpenter & MacNeille. I hope that my internship with him in April and May will teach me the importance of working on a team and will help me grow as an artist," she said.

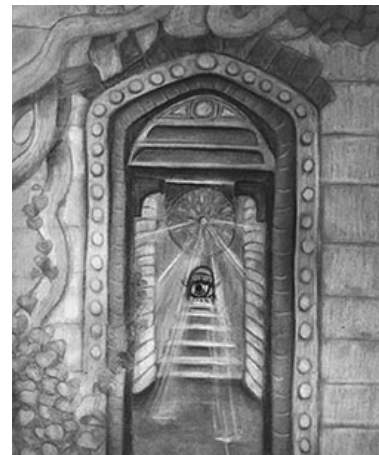
Pappas said her favorite col-



Senior Brianna Pappas' first concentration piece for the AP studio art 2D concentration class represents her overall theme and concentration of nature taking back man-made structures.

lege so far is McGill University in Canada.

She said that because of its location, it is accessible to the French language, and it also has an updated architectural program.



AUSTIN WOODMAN-PARÉ PHOTOS

"At McGill I would be able to have a double major in both architecture and French. I think it's important to be bilingual or polylingual because I want to expand my ideas and share them

with other countries," she said.

Art teacher Tamera Burns said Pappas is the student that every art teacher hopes to have.

"I have no doubt that Brianna will be successful in this field. She is such a hard worker, and she's passionate about everything she does. I can always expect her to do the work outside of class and come prepared the next day for class discussion," Burns said.

Senior Natascha Braase said she is proud of Pappas for taking on such a rigorous career.

"She has a passion and a drive for art, and she will definitely put in the time and effort to creating intricate designs. I definitely think it was very helpful for her to discover her talent because her intense classes have allowed her to crank out some really talented pieces of artwork," she said.

Seven pieces of student art shown in Youth Art Month exhibit in Boston

By Sofia Gillespie
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Seven pieces of student artwork will be hung at the State Transportation Building in Boston for the statewide Youth Art Month Exhibit.

Art teacher Tamera Burns is the secondary director for the Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA).

For Youth Art Month, celebrated in the month of March, Burns said the MAEA has put together a huge exhibit in their space in Boston.



Sophomore Grayson Lockwood's piece titled "Rain Dance" depicts two interacting figures, and sophomore Izzy DiPasquale's piece "Life of a Tap Shoe" represents her love for dance.

Burns said all members of the MAEA were allowed to enter pieces of artwork by their students; she submitted seven pieces by her students.

"It's a really good oppor-



SOPIA GILLESPIE PHOTOS

tunity for students with work that might not have been able to receive a national award like the Scholastic but can receive one on the state level," she said.

Juniors Naomi Franklin

and Penelope Rodier as well as sophomores Olivia Renzi, Izzy DiPasquale, Grayson Lockwood, Madeline Lai, and Abigail Thomas all had pieces selected for the MAEA exhibit.

DiPasquale's graphite piece titled "Life of a Tap Shoe," was chosen to be juried into the Recognition Show of Amazing Emerging Artists.

As a dancer, she said she chose the object of her magnified tap shoe because of its significance to her.

"This is the first recognition I have gotten for my artwork, which is really cool. In high school I have been trying to get more involved in art, so it was so nice to get that recognition for my work," she said.

Sophomore Grayson Lockwood's printmaking piece titled "Rain Dance" was awarded the President's Award. To make this piece, Lockwood used a monoprint

followed by acetate stencils to create different layers of two interacting figures.

"It was supposed to be a quick piece, but I ended up having to come during a bunch of classes and work a ton at home. I focused a lot on color and shape in the piece by using the shapes of the stencils to create different shadows," she said.

A reception for the pieces in the exhibit was held on March 3 at the State Transportation Building for students and their families to attend and celebrate. DiPasquale, Lockwood and Thomas all attended with their families.

DiPasquale said she and the other students were able to walk around and view the artwork of students from other schools.

"It was fun to walk around and look at the pieces of other students," she said.

‘Green Book’ tells story of improbable friendship

Film follows African-American musician, body-guard in 1960s deep South

By Olivia Turner
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Following its release in Sept. 2018, the award-winning film “Green Book” has captivated audiences. The film, co-written by Nick Vallelonga, Brian Hayes Currie, and Peter Farrelly and directed by Farrelly, was awarded Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Original Screenplay at this year’s Academy Awards ceremony.

Based on a true story, the film is a cinematic exploration of the southern concert tour of pianist Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali).

The film tells the story of the relationship between Shirley and his bodyguard, Tony Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) while simultaneously depicting the dangers of the Deep South for



GREENBOOKFILM.COM/GALLERY

The Academy Award winning-film “Green Book” takes on themes of racial injustice within the context of an interracial friendship, contrasting the treatment of whites versus blacks in America.

an African-American man in the 1960s.

When Vallelonga is forced to search for a temporary job to support his family, his dignity is compromised after taking a job offer from Shirley, an African-American with a musical doctorate and therefore more education

than Vallelonga.

The relationship between Shirley and Vallelonga was a codependence of two men from very different backgrounds.

Shirley’s dependence on Vallelonga becomes obvious as the pair enter the Deep South. They witness the treatment of

African-Americans in fields along highways and experience brutality firsthand on several occasions. Store clerks refuse Shirley service, and he is not permitted to dine in white company at his own venues.

Throughout the film, requiring help from a white man who

is so different from himself is a source of shame for Shirley. The film expertly juxtaposes the two men; Shirley sits upright in the backseat, smartly dressed and dignified, as Vallelonga scarf down sandwiches at the wheel.

The development of Shirley and Vallelonga’s friendship is masterfully illustrated. In the beginning, Shirley and Vallelonga stay in separate hotels, and the two rely on the “Green Book” to direct them to “colored” dining and lodging.

As the tour progresses and violent incidents continue, Vallelonga stops leaving Shirley’s side, and the tour concludes with the duo sharing Shirley’s permitted accommodations.

The pair is inseparable by necessity, but their relationship progresses from mere toleration of one another to friendship as long hours in their signature blue Cadillac turn to months.

“Green Book” makes a statement about race and the intrinsic human need for love and friendship that everyone needs to hear.

‘Killing Eve’ makes use of dynamic characters to create engaging story

By Sophia Larson
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Based on the novel “Code-name Villanelle” by Luke Jennings, the BBC America series “Killing Eve” is a dynamic take on the classic hero versus villain archetype.

As of now, the series only has one season; the next season is scheduled to begin on April 7.

Starring Sandra Oh as Eve Polastri and Jodie Comer as Villanelle, the series follows Polastri, an eager head of an MI6 task force, as she attempts to capture the enigmatic assassin Villanelle.

Though the premise of the series is interesting and engaging, the real genius of “Killing

Eve” lies in its characters and how they are portrayed.

As is evident by her Golden Globe for best dramatic actress in a television series, her Screen Actors Guild Award for outstanding performance, and her Critics Choice Award for best actress in a drama series, Sandra Oh delivers an exceptional performance, creating a character that is complicated and distinctly human.

Oh plays her character with a combination of humor and darkness, as does her counterpart Comer in the role of Villanelle.

For example, when Polastri is surprised by Villanelle in her home, she attempts to hide a knife in the waistline of her



BBCAMERICA.COM

The BBC America series “Killing Eve” has been nominated for awards, including best TV series-drama at the Golden Globes.

pants. Villanelle pokes fun at Polastri as she attempts to sit down, eventually having to take the knife out so she doesn’t stab herself.

Even in dark situations, the show finds a way to add playfulness in the interactions between its complex characters.

The characters exude a reality which makes their situations and

actions all the more suspenseful and shocking to the viewer.

A duality in human nature is exposed masterfully through the competing characters of Eve Polastri and Villanelle. The audience is shown how both the characters are different and the same.

Within Polastri, the audience sees a well meaning person with

a touch of that which drives an assassin to kill, a fascination with death.

Conversely, Villanelle is played in such a way that she is likeable at times, so much so that the audience expects her to have a bond with people enough care whether they live or die, before she inevitably proves the audience wrong.

The relationship between the two develops into something almost akin to admiration and even fascination at times.

At one point in the series, Villanelle breaks into Polastri’s home and forces her to eat dinner with her.

This scene is a queer demonstration of an almost familial or romantic bond coupled with a tense sense of mutual suspicion. This violation of such a common demonstration of trust as sharing a meal exposes the odd nature of this cat and mouse relationship, begging the question who is in what role.

‘Narcos Mexico’ follows elaborate, fast-paced story surrounding creation of Guadalajara Cartel

By Sofia Gillespie
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Netflix’s release of the ten episode series “Narcos: Mexico,” written and produced by Doug Miro, Chris Brancato, and Carlo Bernard, features riveting acting along with an intricate and addictive plot.

The show, released on Nov. 16, 2018, was originally intended to be the fourth season of the original Netflix series “Narcos,” but it was later decided to function as its own series in order to fully develop its detailed plot.

The episodes follow the

historical events and characters involved in the creation of the Guadalajara Cartel in Mexico in the early 1980s. Although dramatized, its depiction of the history accurately follows the recorded events.

Specifically, the show follows the lives of Miguel Félix Gallardo, played by Diego Luna, and Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, played by Michael Peña.

American DEA agent Camarena works to track down Gallardo, the creator and former leader of the modern Mexican drug trade, throughout the series. As their

independent stories develop and intertwine, the series becomes increasingly consuming.

Both Luna and Peña give compelling performances, and Luna even received a nomination for best actor in a drama series from the Critics’ Choice Awards for his portrayal of Gallardo.

The episodes pay close attention to detail but remain fast-paced, making the series very addictive for its viewers and praised by its critics.

Although separate from the original show “Narcos,” “Narcos: Mexico” ties in characters and

events from the older show, and in doing so, it makes the series more captivating for the viewers and fans of the original show.

Most interestingly, the show introduces the famous drug lord “El Chapo” in its first episodes but doesn’t highlight his role within the creation of the cartel. Hopefully, the show will focus on developing his storyline in its future seasons, as the show has already been renewed for a second season.

The series provides insight into some of the corruption within Mexican leadership, both historically and modernly; this critical understanding is crucial to developing a solution to the ongoing problem.



NETFLIX.COM

Netflix original series “Narcos Mexico” is a spin-off series of the series “Narcos,” which was also created by Netflix.

Guess Who: Deb Nolan