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New wireless access points provide faster Internet Wi-Fi improvements build foundation for technology integration in classrooms

By Maura McCormick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Last year's wireless setup struggled to handle the increase in wireless-connected devices students brought to school.

According to network administrator Stephan Kwiatek, 64 new access points were installed this year for the wireless: one for each classroom. These access points allow more devices to connect at the same time within the same area.

Director of curriculum and instructional technology Scott Morrison compared access points to ramps onto a highway.

"If the highway's the Internet, prior to this we had 70 kids trying to get onto one on-ramp. A little trafficky. Now we've got three on-ramps per person. It's a much improved system," he said.

Morrison and Kwiatek researched the possible implementation of these access points last year and proposed the idea to Superintendent Pamela Beau-



MAURA MCCORMICK PHOTO

With improvements to the school's Wi-Fi, many teachers have implemented Bring Your Own Device initiatives, utilizing online educational programs like Google Classroom, Edmodo, and Turn It In.

doin, director of finance Avi Urbas, and the School Committee.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said she also advocated for the

improvement of the wireless.

The school got a grant and supplemental funding from the School Committee for the project.

Kwiatek and Morrison met with different vendors to choose the right product, ultimately choosing Xirrus access points.

Kwiatek liked that Xirrus access points could accommodate the newest 5-gigahertz technology in the iPhone 6.

"We are future-proofing ourselves for more 5 gigahertz devices in the building," he said.

Morrison liked the customer service of the Xirrus Company.

"We know that to be where the great support would be. If something breaks, you want to be able to get on the phone and have it replaced within a day," he said.

The new access points were installed in a day, with Kwiatek overseeing the installations and ensuring that each device was placed properly in each room. All devices were installed before the first day of school.

Both Puglisi and Morrison said it was vital to install a reliable wireless system before trying to implement Bring Your Own Device or Google Classroom initiatives this year.

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New tech, motto shape district year

By Courtney Fraser
Independent Editor

With the beginning of a new school year, administration and faculty members have been working on setting and accomplishing school improvement goals.

The goals for the district this year have been organized into three areas of broad focal points.

One of the school improvement objectives aims at the three-year review of the curriculum for the student body.

According to the school Principal, Patricia Puglisi, the administration is making sure that the school curriculum is matching 21st century student needs.

"Some of the places we have already seen changes in the school curriculum is the thematic approach in social studies, the

realignment of the courses in the science department, and the anticipated change in the senior year English courses turning into an elective program," Puglisi said.

Collaboratively, the departments have been working together in terms of reshaping how the school program currently looks and how they want it to look in the future.

According to foreign language teacher Erin Fortunato, the entire faculty meets regularly once a month, and together, they have

are working towards set goals in each department.

"As a school with a faculty, administration, and

student body that cares, we want to make it the best place we can. As long as we are positive about it, we can make this a successful endeavor," Fortunato said.

The second area of focus for the school community in terms of improvement is using technology as a tool to support learning.

According to Puglisi, tech-

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Bell schedule committee aims to maximize student learning opportunities, make school day less hectic

By Amber Paré
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Members of each academic department have formed a bell schedule committee in order to create a new schedule for the school next year.

According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, the current bell schedule was created to be a temporary transition into a different schedule that will be instituted next year.

The purpose of the current schedule is to separate the middle school from the high school and allow the hiring of part-time staff members.

Some members of the student body are still in the process of adjusting to the new schedule, according to freshman Kaya Crandall.

"I think the new schedule is confusing, but I do like certain parts of it. I like having classes that rotate during the day and being able to drop a class, so I hope those things can be a part of the new schedule," Crandall said.

Puglisi said that the committee



AMBER PARÉ PHOTO

The most recent version of the school's schedule, which some students find confusing, will be revised by the bell committee.

meets once a month to investigate alternative types of schedules; members of the committee are in the preliminary stages of investigating types of schedules used at schools around the country.

"We brainstormed the types

of things we wanted to see and to avoid in a schedule. Our main goal is to create a schedule that makes the day less hectic and maximizes learning opportu-

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News Briefs

Martino takes over as new NHS adviser

Taking on the role of adviser for the National Honor Society, Dean Martino hopes to improve the functionality of the organization.

“At the moment, I am fostering the relationship with the current NHS leadership team in the form of its officers,” he said.

According to Martino, he is working with the officers to identify areas in need of improvement based on the performance of the society last year.

Martino hopes to “integrate NHS into the fabric of our learning community” and wants it to be an example for possible future members.

Debate Club offered in addition to class

Following scheduling issues with many members of the debate team, the formation of a debate club has allowed students to continue to participate in the program.

According to president of debate, senior Charlie Davis, the creation of the club has helped keep the team strong.

“The club is vital to the success of the team because many of our experienced debaters could not fit the class into their schedule,” he said.

Current director of debate, Yvonne Robbins, will act as the adviser to the program.

The club will allow members to participate in tournaments and learn about how to debate.

According to Davis, the club meets every week on Tuesdays after school. At the meeting members of the club discuss possible arguments.

New band director joins staff, replaces veteran Janack quick to acclimate to new school, incorporate new musical numbers

By Will Heslop
INDEPENDENT STAFF

After the departure of 31-year veteran Joe Sokol, newly hired Joe Janack has assumed the role of band director.

Growing up near Saratoga Springs, New York, Janack went to a small high school with a graduating class of 85 students. He said that he was drawn to the Manchester Essex district because it is “very similar to what [he] was used to growing up.”

Following high school, Janack went to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to receive his bachelor’s degree in Musical Education. He says that he is currently going for his master’s at UMASS Lowell.

This is Janack’s third teaching job, and he looks forward to



WILL HESLOP PHOTO
Joe Janack is the band director for the middle and high school.

the challenge of the new district. He said he loves “the aspect that it is 6-12 in one building.”

While Dan Carpenter will continue the program at the elementary school level, Janack will be in control of the middle school and high school programs.

The fact that Janack will be

FUN FACTS

- **His favorite sport is baseball.**
- **His favorite color is purple.**
- **He lives in Medford.**
- **His favorite sports team is the Steelers.**

school was also noted by O’Neil, who was very impressed with his ability to become easily acclimated with the new district and its staff members.

In addition to his impact on the teaching staff, Janack’s presence at the school has resonated with the students.

Mackenzie Woodman, a senior member of the band program, said, “Mr. Janack has some big shoes to fill after Mr. Sokol, but I think he is very much up for the task.”

Students are excited about Janack’s ability as a director. Junior Meehan Irose said he is looking forward to the new material that Janack has integrated so far. Janack has introduced a new lineup of music, and students are looking forward to playing the new material for the winter concert and for future performances.

New biology teacher adjusts to position in science department

Umile gets to know school, students, faculty members in first few weeks in science department

By Jillian Furber
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Coming from Hamilton-Wenham High School after 10 years, Kristin Umile has joined the science department to teach AP, Honors and CP Biology for freshmen and sophomores.

After growing up in Salem, Umile began her career with her Bachelors in Science and Masters in Education from Salem State and Certification in Special Ed. from Simmons College.

Although she did not originally plan to pursue a teaching

career, Umile was drawn to the field when her high school chemistry teacher asked her to fill in.

“I told him he was crazy. And then 18 years later, here I am. It wasn’t what I set out to be, and now I couldn’t imagine doing anything other than that,” she said.

Umile’s view of the school has been that it is a close-knit community.

“It just seems like a nice family here. Everybody helps each other out,” she said.

However, Umile recognizes that it will take time to adjust to new surroundings since she does not have her own classroom.

One of her top goals includes developing a system to navigate going between two classrooms, she said.

Umile hopes to establish a reputation with stu-

‘It just seems like a nice family here. Everyone helps each other out.’

-KRISTIN UMILE

FUN FACTS

- **She runs ultra marathons.**
- **Husband was recently hired here.**
- **She loves biking.**
- **She worked in an icecream shop.**
- **She loves to ski at Sugarbush.**



JILLIAN FURBER PHOTO
Kristin Umile teaches biology classes in the high school.

dents and parents that will let them know she is here to help.

Freshman Eve Feuerbach praises Umile’s approach towards teaching.

“She is very organized. Her explanations really help us students learn the concepts better,” she said.

According to department chair Erica Everett, the search for a new science teacher began when the administration decided to move biology to grade nine, as this year’s freshmen and sophomores

will both be taking the course.

Everett said one of the deciding factors in hiring Umile was the fact that she is able to teach chemistry next year, along with her skills as a teacher.

Umile said ultimately, she loves teaching and getting to know the students that she is around each day.

“It’s the best job. It’s just fun to make connections with kids... my goal is always to inspire kids to pursue science,” Umile said.

Special education welcomes former Hamilton-Wenham teacher

By Karlie Angelis
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Former Hamilton-Wenham teacher Jim Umile has been hired to the department of special education.

Umile teaches special education to all of the high school and co-teaches English with department chair, Debra Isensee.

According to Umile, he went to St. Michael’s College in Vermont and obtained a degree in political science and then got a degree in special education from Salem State University.

“For special education, you need to be familiar with all subjects,” he said.

Umile said he chose to become a special education teacher because he wanted to make a difference, and he loves kids. “I like school,

I like education, I believe in the system, and I believe kids need a positive influence,” Umile said.

In addition to being a teacher, Umile said he has been a hockey coach for Hamilton-Wenham and landscapes during the summer, but his main passion is for teaching.

Umile said his goal for this year is to use his past teaching experience to help kids and to adjust to new teaching styles.

According to Isensee, Umile is doing a great job adjusting and co-teaching as well as connecting with their students and offering new ideas about assignments for the class.

Isensee said Umile is friendly and easy to work with. “I’ve never had a co-teacher before, but I am excited to have him in class,” she said.

According to Katie Duffy,



KARLIE ANGELIS PHOTO
Jim Umile has joined the special education faculty.

a junior and a former student of Umile’s at Hamilton-Wenham, the school is lucky to have Umile as a part of the special education faculty.

“Having Mr. Umile as a teacher is one of the best things

FUN FACTS

- **He has a dog named Oso.**
- **He has a second home in Vermont for skiing.**
- **He loves surfing.**
- **His wife was also hired here.**
- **He wants to cycle in Europe.**

that could happen to any student. Mr. Umile was more than a teacher to most students because every day he went above and beyond to get to know everyone, relate to them, and become a friend to them,” Duffy said.

New teacher hired for part-time language position

Sybille Pearson tries to make students more comfortable with speaking, reading, writing French with focus on culture

By Abigail Fitzgibbon
INDEPENDENT STAFF

New foreign language teacher and German native Sybille Pearson was hired to teach three French classes part time. Pearson is currently teaching French II College Prep, French III Honors, and a combined French III and IV College Prep, according to the foreign language department chair, Michelle Magaña.

Thus far, Pearson has found Manchester-Essex to be a hospitable community. “I have a very good feeling about my colleagues and the principal because they were very welcoming,” she said. Pearson noted that Manchester-Essex is a progressive school

because of the school’s emphasis on environmental awareness. She said her goals include making students feel more comfortable with speaking, reading, grammar, and especially French culture. “She certainly has experience through the French-speaking world,” fellow French teacher Erin Fortunato said. Pearson said she worked on documentaries in Asia and Africa

‘She seems to be very willing to jump into using technology... which is helpful because we have a new textbook online.’

-MICHELLE MAGAÑA



ABIGAIL FITZGIBBON PHOTO
New French teacher Sybille Pearson is working part-time teaching three French classes in the foreign language department of the high school. She focusses on French culture in her courses.

where she majored in history. “She seems to be a person who is very willing to teach a lot of culture to the students,” Magaña said, referring to Pearson’s German heritage. One of her biggest assets is her ability to help students personally succeed in learning French, Magaña said. Sophomore Rebecca Braimon finds it is easy to participate in the class because

Pearson does not criticize students over small mistakes. Pearson’s experience in the French-speaking world helps students learn, according to Braimon. “Her accent is probably one of the best accents I ever heard in person,” she said. Magaña said there is much to adapt to in this new position; the French program is using a new textbook this year and is

trying to integrate technology. “She seems to be very willing to jump into using technology in the classroom, which is helpful because we have a new textbook online,” Magaña said. Outside of the classroom, Pearson enjoys reading books mostly about European and American history and traveling to Europe, which she does every year to visit her children..

FUN FACTS

- Favorite movie is “Au Revoir, Les Enfants.”
- She has visited Niger, Africa.
- Favorite dessert is very dark chocolate gelato.
- Favorite type of food is Vietnamese.
- Loves reading The New York Times, watching BBC and PBS.

Recently hired digital specialist explores online opportunites

By James Riordan
INDEPENDENT STAFF

In an effort to advance technology in the classroom, the school hired a new digital learning specialist, Dalcione Vollink. According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, Vollink will help to advance learning opportunities for both teachers and students. “We’ve seen tremendous success with these positions in the elementary schools in terms of assisting teachers with the use of technology,” she said. Vollink went to both the University of Massachusetts Boston and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She earned degrees

in mathematics and nuclear medicine respectively, and she said she originally saw herself having a career in science. She was first attracted to teaching when she began tutoring children. Vollink said, “the kids really seemed to enjoy it,” so that got her rethinking her future. She first taught in Everett, Mass. and then taught in Michigan for a number of years. Vollink said that the qualities of the school that particularly stood out were the new building and the friendly people. Puglisi said Vollink adds to the friendly atmosphere. “She is just full of energy. She is very patient, and she takes initiative to help teachers,” she said.



JAMES RIORDAN PHOTO
Tech specialist DalcionVolnik.

History teacher Jennifer Coleman reiterated Puglisi’s views. The entire history department is

FUN FACTS

- She likes giant squid.
- She speaks Portuguese.
- Her husband is building a tiny house.
- She watches “Doctor Who.”
- She is a “Star Wars” fanatic

trying to go completely paperless this year, and Coleman thinks that Vollink will be quite helpful.

“For somebody who is trying to get used to Google Classroom, she is a great resource,” she said. Vollink said there is still plenty of work to do for this coming school year. Her goals for this year include moving more towards paperless classes and using Google tools more often. She jokingly added that she would like to become more familiar with Manchester in general because at this point she still does not know where anything is located. Outside of school, she enjoys cooking with her husband and making her life at home simpler. She said that she likes to keep her personal and work life organized.

Athletic trainer takes position as physical education teacher

By Juliette Kelley
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Jill Levine, who is going into her fifth year as athletic trainer at the school, has been appointed to the position of gym teacher for ninth- and 10th-graders during the 2015-2016 school year. Although she will be teaching gym, she will be continuing on with her position as athletic trainer as well. Levine said that her jobs “kind of go hand in hand,” which is one reason why she was happy to take on the position of physical education teacher. Her main goal for the



JULIETTE KELLY PHOTO
High school trainer Jill Levine.

year is “keeping everyone healthy,” Levine said. She is accomplishing this by

FUN FACTS

- She has saved a life.
- Figure skated in high school.
- She is a leftie.
- She has run five half marathons .
- She is afraid of the ocean.

having her class play games like dodge ball and kickball, according to sophomore Micaela Coonley.

Coonley also said that Levine is “relaxed and laid back” but makes gym fun and good exercise. Levine herself said she loves to run, which is one way she gets her own exercise in. She also said that she has run five half marathons in the past, and she is even planning on running the Boston Marathon this year. Levine has been involved in fitness all her life. Growing up in Peabody, she figure skated. Levine then got her degree in athletics from Endicott College and worked at Georgetown High School as athletic trainer. After working at Georgetown, she came to Manchester,

where she has been the athletic trainer for almost five years. Levine said that she “love[s] the community” in Manchester. According to athletics director Paul Murphy, Manchester loves having Levine here too. Levine is a very “uplifting person,” he said, “We’re thrilled to have [her].” Eric Magers, green team director and physical education teacher at the school, echoed Murphy’s thoughts. “Jill is an awesome addition [to the PE staff],” he said. Levine, too, is excited to be part of the physical education staff. She said she “love[s] kids,” which is why she is teaching and training at the high school.

Former Rockport teacher joins math department

Amanda Warren replaces Brian Carlson, takes on CP and Honors Algebra II classes

By Emily Clark
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Amanda Warren, a former math teacher from Rockport High School, was hired to replace Brian Carlson, who resigned last year to become a pastor. Warren teaches five Algebra II classes, including three College Prep and two Honors classes. She received her bachelor's degree at St. Joseph's College in Maine in math with a concentration in secondary education. Although she is new to the school, Warren is a good ad-

‘She is very collegial, works well with colleagues in the department, and has a very good way with students.’
- DANIEL LUNDERGAN

dition to the math staff, according to Dan Lundergan, math department chair. She is very experienced, and adapting to the culture of this school will not be a problem for her, he said. “She is very collegial, works well with the colleagues in the department, and has a very good way with the students,” he said. Warren is teaching all Algebra II classes that are a mix of sophomores and juniors, but according to sophomore Kevin Albertazzi, Warren seems to be able to manage her heavy class load with her teaching style and will be sure to get



EMILY CLARK PHOTO
Amanda Warren teaches sophomores and juniors her math class. She took over for Brian Carlson, who left to become a pastor.

all of the needed lessons taught. According to Lundergan, Warren adds a lot to the math program with her experience and ability to put math in context; she finds other means and modalities to teach math, which will make her a great asset to the math department this year. Lundergan also said that Warren's energy will benefit to the math department and school as a whole. According to Warren, she always wanted to be a teacher and would just “flirt” with other

FUN FACTS

- **She is an avid runner.**
- **Currently training for half marathon.**
- **Favorite movie is “Big Fish.”**
- **Favorite flavor of ice cream is mint chocolate chip.**
- **Also a full-time mother to 3-year-old daughter.**

professions. Currently, her other “profession” is being a full-time mother to her 3-year-old Gracie. For an outlet and hobby, Warren trains for and runs half marathons. She ran one last spring in Manchester and is planning to run another this fall.

New director of facilities drawn in by school’s positive reputation

By Oscar Heanue
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

After a year-long search, Jay Pagliarulo has been hired to fill the position of director of facilities. Pagliarulo has years of experience in the facilities field, having held a facilities job for 16 years at Brookline before leaving this school year. Pagliarulo said that the school's proximity to his home and a positive school culture helped draw him to Manchester-Essex. “I wasn't really looking for a new job, but when I saw the position open here, I figured it was worth looking into. I'm a North Shore guy, so Manchester is a much easier commute for me [than Brookline was]. We also just have a good reputation and culture and that was a big factor for me,” Pagliarulo said. The search for a new facilities director after the departure of Joe Lucido in 2013 began last spring and involved a series of screen-



OSCAR HEANUE PHOTO
Pagliarulo oversees the scheduling of all buildings in the district.

ings and building walkthroughs, according to principal Patricia Puglisi. “We interviewed and screened several candidates and did a walkthrough of the buildings to see what sort of sense they ad of how

our facilities work and how the buildings run,” Puglisi said. Having Pagliarulo as a full-time facilities director has been helpful to the custodial staff, according to head custodian Andy McGilvary.

‘It’s really helpful having Jay... This guy really knows what he’s doing.’
- ANDY MCGILVARY

FUN FACTS

- **Is a youth wrestling coach**
- **Avid Scuba diver**
- **Favorite team: Bruins**
- **Favorite season: Fall**
- **Favorite restaurant: Jack-Tar American Tavern**

“It's really helpful having Jay here rather than an interim. This guy really knows what he's doing,” McGilvary said. As director of facilities, Pagliarulo oversees the op-

eration and scheduling of all the buildings in the Manchester-Essex School District. Pagliarulo said that he believes that work should be an enjoyable experience. Personally, he strives to think outside the box, coming up with his own creative solutions; this is an ideology that he has already showcased with his handling of the poison ivy problem at Essex Elementary. “I believe in looking for alternative approaches for solving problems. At Essex, they had a problem with kids getting poison ivy on the playground. Rather than shutting off the playground and spraying with dangerous herbicides, I decided to bring in goats from a local ‘goat-scaping’ company to help solve the situation. I figured that it's safer and also more fun for the kids,” Pagliarulo said.

‘I believe in looking for alternative approaches for solving problems.’
- JAY PAGLIARULO

CONTINUATIONS

WIRELESS IMPROVEMENTS
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-Inology such as Google Classrooms allows the school to use a broader source of materials. Resources that are free and online are beneficial towards the school budget and can help keep students up to date. The final objective that the administration is focusing on this year is solidifying the school motto of a “community that cares.” “The social and emotional piece is central to our work this year. It's the students, the faculty, and the

‘We are focusing on the social and emotional health and the overall wellness of our students and faculty.’
- PAMELA BEAUDOIN

parents to some extent that take part in the community that cares. We are essentially focusing on our students' health,” Puglisi said. As a whole, the school district is concentrating on preventing students from focusing on school during all hours of the day. “We are focusing on the social and emotional health and the overall wellness of our students and faculty. We want to make sure we are helping everyone develop healthy, lifelong habits to be a balanced human being. We don't want to cre-

ate workaholics,” Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin said. According to Beaudoin, teenagers shouldn't have 14 hour work days when it comes to school work. “The past few years we have really gone down this road of tests and scores and stats and colleges to the point where we are sending the wrong message on how to balance out life. We can't help it because we are a community that works hard,” Beaudoin said. **NEW SCHOOL YEAR PLANS**
Continued from page 1 “We could have introduced Google Classroom last year, but everyone would have been so frustrated because nobody would have been able to access anything. We knew we had to build that first, then we could begin to build on top of it,” Morrison said.

Puglisi similarly described the improved wireless as the “first step” in integrating technology into classrooms more regularly. **BELL COMMITTEE**
Continued from page 1 -nities for students,” she said. Members of the committee hope to create a schedule that allows for one 90-minute block for each class during each cycle of the schedule, allowing science classes to maximize their time for labs and music classes to have more practice time, according to Puglisi.

Art teacher Caroline Epp, who is a member of the committee and has helped principals create schedules in the past, believes that the committee is off to a strong start. “We are attacking scheduling issues from a philosophical standpoint by assessing what we need in a schedule before we create something. For example, we are looking at the logistics of our students' needs and wants,” she said. Puglisi said that the committee is beginning to research flexible schedules and will ask students for their opinions as the year goes on.

‘We are attacking scheduling issues from a philosophical standpoint by assessing what we need in a schedule...’
- CAROLINE EPP

Health Matters



New detoxification trend uses activated charcoal

By Courtney Fraser
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In today’s culture, people crave the feeling of being cleansed to wipe away unhealthy or harmful substances from the body to maintain a fresh and clean mindset.

Detox programs and supplements that have been created over the past few years, however, were proven to be more harmful and less beneficial towards staying healthy.

Recently, a new trend has been raised known as the activated charcoal detox diet that has numerous advantageous detoxifying properties.

“Charcoal isn’t absorbed by the body – it goes in, clings to poisons and toxins, then moves out – that’s the beauty of it and why it’s in all of our cleanses,” Juice Served Here director Danielle Charboneau said.

According to Harper’s Bazaar, activated charcoal is negatively charged carbon that’s treated with oxygen to create a natural magnet for positively charged toxins that may be lining the digestive tract.

“Activated charcoal has the potential to remove pesticides, nonorganic vegetables, and di-



JUICEGENERATION.COM

The new charcoal detox is becoming all the rage for feeling fresh.

oxins on fish from contaminated waters,” Harper’s Bazaar writer Nicole Catanese said.

Not only is this substance found in many facial cleansers and hygienic products, but the activated carbon found in the charcoal can be found in water filters to purify drinking water and in the emergency room for patients who have experienced toxin exposure.

Juice Served Here has kick started the charcoal detox trend by selling their signature Charcoal Lemonade, which consists of alkaline water, charcoal, clay, lemon, and sugarcane juice. The product sells for a price of \$8.

According to Harper’s Bazaar, The New York’s Juice Generation has introduced

three charcoal-based juices, one including Activated Greens, ranging from \$4 and \$10.

“You’re feeding your body two pounds of greens and activating a detox, so it’s dual purpose,” Juice Generation founder Eric Helms said.

According to United States News Health, the many beneficial health advantages charcoal can have on the body include having better heart health, improvement of skin tone, and the reduction of digestive issues such as gas and bloating.

This substance has been seen in cold pressed juices, in supplements, and in powder form.

SOS aims to reduce rate of teen suicide and depression

By Maddie Conway
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

In order to better educate the student body about depression and what to do if faced with it, the school implemented a program called Signs of Suicide into the curriculum, according to Principal Patricia Puglisi.

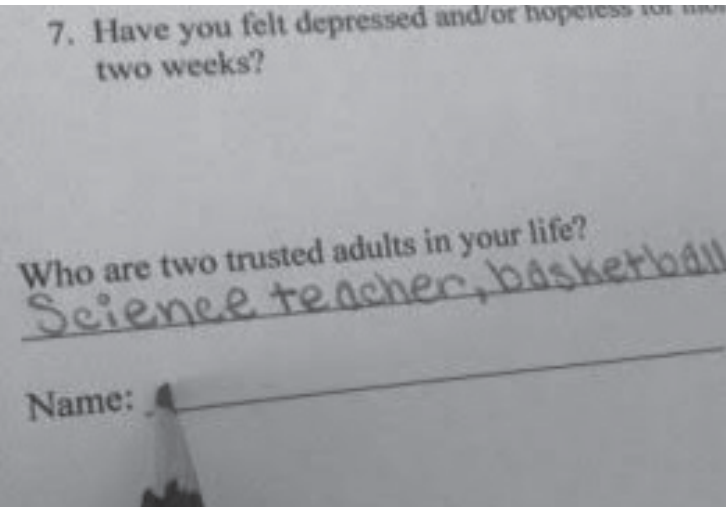
The program, better known as “SOS,” has been implemented in all 50 states and in Canada, according to its website, and in a randomized trial conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, students who watched the video were 40% less likely to commit suicide.

In addition, Holly Brabson, the school adjustment counselor, and Steve Guditus, the middle school principal, had brought the program to the schools at which they had previously worked, Puglisi said.

“We decided to implement this program mainly because of the social and emotional stresses of high school,” she said.

In English classes during the week of September 28, sophomores and juniors watched an educational DVD in which actors role-played correct and incorrect responses to the signs of depression and suicidal tendencies their friends exhibited. Students were then instructed to fill out a seven-question screening tool and list the names of two trusted adults.

The program focuses on the acronym “ACT,” which stands for acknowledging depression,



MADDIE CONWAY PHOTO

Students filled out a survey as a screening tool for Guidance after viewing a video about the signs of suicide and depression.

caring about a friend’s problem, and telling a trusted adult.

According to Puglisi, she, other school administrators, and the guidance department chose not to have freshmen go through the program because “we just didn’t feel we knew them enough.” Seniors will be included in the spring, so they can take the skills with them to college.

“I opted out of the program because I felt as if it was something I’d already heard before,” junior Santana Tosi said.

Students praised the program for its helpful information, but they said the video was unrealistic and ineffective in some respects.

“I think that it is an important program and something that everyone should be aware of, but I thought skits made students not

really relate or take it seriously... [detracting] from the overall message,” junior Jenny Duff said.

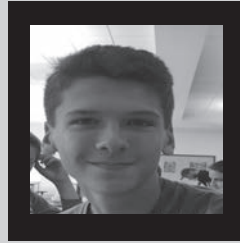
Others agreed that the program was needed but that the way the information was delivered was not effective.

“I think it is necessary to talk about suicide and things like that because they’re so relevant in the teen population today, but the video was really cheesy. It only portrayed easy-to-see cases,” sophomore Rebecca Braimon said.

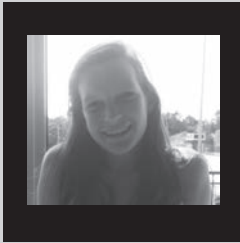
Despite this criticism, Puglisi commended the program for educating students and encouraging them to seek help. “Really what it is about is creating a climate, a community, where people really do care about each other and want to find the right help,” she said.



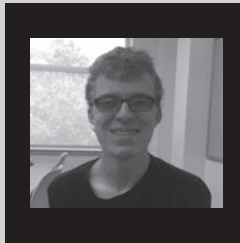
**Freshman
Faithe Shatford:**
Chocolate covered pretzels because I’m both sweet and salty



**Freshman
Will Janowicz:**
Nestle Buncha Crunch because you can only find them at the movies.



**Sophomore
Heather Holley:**
Smarties because then I’d be a smarty.



**Sophomore
Konrad Nowak:**
A Kit Kat because then I would have a cool name.



If you were a candy, what would you be and why?

**Junior
Jazmine Appeltofft:**
Sour Patch Kids because I’m sour on the outside and sweet on the inside.



**Junior
Tim Grimes:**
Skittles because they are colorful and make me happy.



**Senior
Melissa Schuh:**
Candy canes because I love Christmas time.



**Senior
David Reid:**
Candied apples.





Google Cardboard headset allows students to become fully immersed in their academic studies

By Zack Even
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

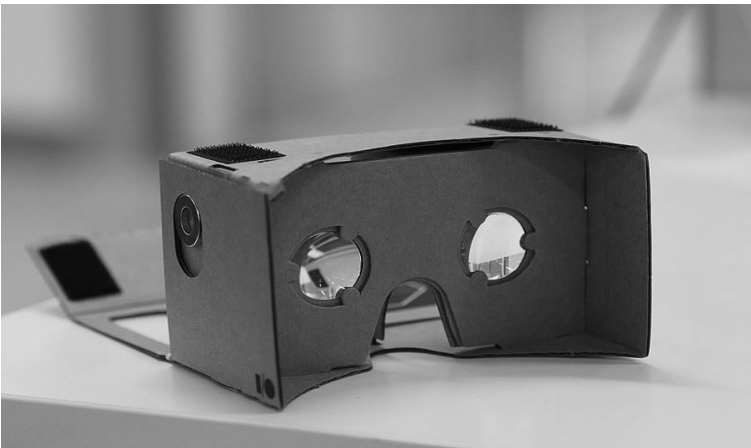
As a less expensive, more readily available alternative to virtual reality systems like the Oculus Rift, Google has created a new classroom tool that allows students to visit far away destinations without getting up from their desks.

Google Expedition, as the system is called, involves cardboard cases that turn smartphones into quasi-viewfinders with screens that can be controlled by the teacher via a nearby tablet.

As up to 50 students look on through the phones, the teacher guides them through tours of over 100 distant or inaccessible places like Machu Picchu and the ocean floor.

These in-class field trips provide students with a welcome break in the day and help them see everyday topics from a new perspective. According to the New York Times, for example, one teacher used the system to take her students to Verona after reading “Romeo and Juliet.”

Google is currently in-



COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Google’s new product, Google Cardboard, enables students to view locations all over the world without leaving the classroom.

stalling the system for free, smartphones included, in classrooms throughout the US, Brazil, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand, but a Google Cardboard headset can also useful outside the classroom.

Hundreds of cardboard-com-

patible apps have already been created, and systems are available for Google, Apple, and Samsung phones.

The headset costs less than \$7, and over one million have already been sold. Google Cardboard arrives

ready to be folded. This isn’t Google’s only foray into virtual reality; GoPro, which Google recently purchased, has created a combination of 16 different cameras that can film a full 360 degrees, combining the video filmed by each camera into one.

This camera array has already been used to create a few notable music videos. The invention, which should make filming in a full circle far easier, along with Google’s headset and education initiative may be just enough to make virtual reality systems a common tool rather than futuristic technology.

GoPro...has created a combination of 16 different cameras that can film a full 360 degrees, combining the video filmed by each camera into one.

Steve Hunt begins job as head of maintenance

By Lydia Parker
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

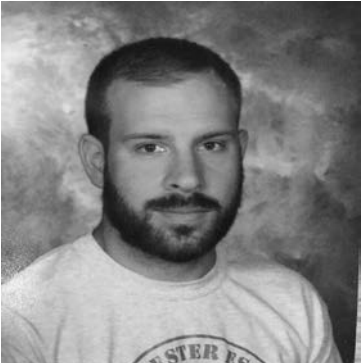
Responding to the need for a designated maintenance employee, the administration recently promoted Steven Hunt to the head of maintenance for the district.

Hunt has worked at the high school since 2007, where he began as a substitute night custodian. His shifts ran from 2 p.m.-10 p.m., but when a daytime opening became available, he began working during the school days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eight years after he began working at the high school, he now works from 6 a.m.-2 p.m.

When it became apparent that there was a need for a specific employee to be designated for maintenance work in the district, the school created the new position this past July.

Many faculty members in the district considered Hunt the right employee for this new job.

“Mr. Hunt last year just rose



LYDIA PARKER PHOTO

to the top, as we had a lack of leadership in the facilities department. He showed himself as a leader and a person that was able to get things done, and I’m really thrilled to see him advance in his career,” high school Principal Patricia Puglisi said.

As the new district head of maintenance, Hunt will focus his work solely on maintenance at the elementary, middle, and high schools.

“When I was doing custodial work, I would do a little bit of both, and I was mostly cleaning during the day. I was cleaning

‘...[Steve] has always been a hard worker and accommodating in so many ways.’

-PAUL MURPHY

in the cafeteria, cleaning some offices, and now I have pretty much all my time I can dedicate to doing maintenance at all three buildings. I’m looking forward to having a lot more time to get things done,” Hunt said.

High school Assistant Principal Paul Murphy considers Hunt well deserving of his promotion.

“I am thrilled for Steve Hunt and his promotion into the maintenance department. Over the last five or six years, I have worked closely with Steve, and he has always been a hard worker and accommodating in so many ways. We are lucky to have him,” he said.

STUDENT PROFILE

Arden
Edgerton



By Sarah Williams
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Where in California are you from?
Westlake Village, just outside of Malibu.

How many people are in your family?
There are 7 people, 4 siblings. Brigid is 15, Conlon is 12, Mac 10, and Shields is 7.

What do you think of MERHS?
I like it a lot! It is different from the school I came from. I’m used to 500 to 600 kids per grade, so this feels tiny. But, people have been so welcoming, I love it here.

Explain the lacrosse situation?
I am committed to play division one lacrosse at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Meet any celebs in California?
I worked in a pretty famous smoothie shop, so I used to make smoothies for Tyga and Howie Mandell. I saw Matthew McConaughey at the beach and Britney Spears and Robert Downey Jr. at a coffee shop. I went to a party with Kendall Jenner, once and lots of NFL athletes went to my gym and trained with my trainer. I got to work out with Clay Matthews and Taylor Mays, which was awesome. I worked out with them every Saturday morning for a year and a half and often times we would do beach workouts, which was really fun

Favorite non-school hobby?
I like lacrosse and surfing

Favorite Cuisine?
I love all kinds of food. Mexican is awesome, but my favorite food is definitely sushi.

Favorite TV show?
“The Office,” “Friends,” and “How I Met your Mother.”

How do you like to relax?
I like to go surfing or go to the beach with friends.

Favorite bands?
Red Hot Chili peppers or Sublime

What do you want to be when you are older?
I’d like to be a doctor .

Favorite movie?
“Breakfast Club”

How do you like the North Shore?
The North Shore is great! I loved the beaches this summer, and it’s all around a super nice area.

English department organizes electives for future seniors

Senior English elective classes aim to broaden student learning

By Zack Even
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Instead of the usual options of Honors and CP British Literature, seniors next year will be able to choose between different quarter-long electives. This decision came after Principal Patricia Puglisi encouraged departments to re-think their curricula, according to English department chair Debra Isensee. After visiting other schools with far more English options during a Professional Development Day, she was inspired to add elective courses for seniors. “Mr. Koughan and I got to visit Phillips Andover... they

have 39 electives for English, and they get to pick whatever they want in their junior and senior year,” she said. In order to prepare for electives, the English department will not administer midterms this year. Five members of the department (all but the AP 12 teacher) will be responsible for planning their three classes by December. “Some [class ideas] are floating around,” Isensee said. “There’s everything from Middle Eastern Lit. to Southern Gothic to the Western to Film Noir.” Allison Krause, another English teacher, is planning an elective tentatively titled “Hardcovers, Hollywood, and Homicide: Murder on the Page and Screen.” Although these classes will be entirely new, some may expand upon ideas that students have discussed in past years, such as unlikely protagonists. “We often watch ‘The Godfather 2’ [during junior year],” Koughan said. “We would...

have discussions about why we were rooting for this person that’s... a murderer and a thief.” These conversations inspired Koughan to create an elective that explored such anti-heroes. These electives will be the first additions since the English department cut out Drama and Creative Writing a few years ago in order to keep class sizes small. Koughan expressed enthusiasm over the new teaching opportunities. “[I’m most excited about] the variety of it, honestly... the idea that [students] might be a little bit more excited about the choices that they have... and also on the teacher end... that we get to mix it up a little bit,” he said. In order to give all seniors the opportunity to participate, these classes will all be offered during A Block. Isensee said that the department is still deciding whether AP English Literature will be offered during the same block as certain AP students may



ZACK EVEN PHOTO

AP English literature classes watch “ O Brother, Where Art Thou?” to relate to “The Odyssey.” In the future for the senior English curriculum, some classes will become more film-based.

want to take part in the electives. The classes will also focus far more on teaching through film, according to Isensee, particularly in the third quarter when “senior slide” kicks in. This aspect in particular ex-

cited junior Robert Carter. “Having electives about film and other mediums... is important because movies and film are becoming more... common in everyday life, so it’s more applicable to us,” he said.

Teachers increase technology in classes with Google Classroom

By Charlotte Freed
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

To promote a connection between technology and education, teachers in the history department started following an initiative called “Bring Your Own Device,” which encourages a paperless classroom. Many teachers in separate departments across the school have created accounts on Google Classroom, which allows students to see and submit homework assignments nightly and provides an outlet for students to get instant feedback from a teacher on pre-tests or homework assignments. History teacher Lauren DuBois said the purpose of this initiative is to “harness technology in a way that lets students use it for educational purposes and understand what’s available on these technologies.” History teacher Jennifer

Coleman, who has gone completely paperless in her classes, also mentioned the focus on student-centered learning as well as several organizational benefits that come with a greater use of technology in the classroom. “[Paperless submission of assignments] helps keep the students organized...with Google Classroom, you can submit [your work] instantly and you don’t have to worry about forgetting it at home. Students always have access to any work they have done on their Google Drive,” Coleman said. Additionally, DuBois said since the school is concerned with environmental safety, Google Classroom provides a green-friendly option for classes to avoid extra paper and waste. Coleman agreed, saying Google Classroom allows the school to develop its reputation as an environmentally friendly district. “If we want to advertise



CHARLOTTE FREED PHOTO

Students use personally owned laptops and cellular devices to easily access websites such as Google Classrooms.

ourselves as one of the greenest schools in Massachusetts, I think one of the biggest resources in

this school is paper...this saves the environment, but it also saves the District money,” Coleman said. Senior Kara Hersey said her AP Psychology and CP British Literature classes have been using Google Classroom this year. Hersey said she likes the paperless classroom because of organizational benefits; however, she does not think all classes should use this initiative. “I think at a certain point [the sole use of technology] is too much. Sometimes I like using a notebook for notes and homework because it is easier to remember information when you are writing it down,” Hersey said. Junior Robert Carter dis-

agreed, saying he thinks it is beneficial to access resources in one place. “Once you get used to using [Google Classroom], it is really nice and easy to use, and I like being able to check up on my assignments,” Carter said. DuBois said she did not go completely paperless. She noted several disadvantages that come with an increased use of technology in the classroom and also argued that many students need to write information in order to learn it. “There is always the possibility that students are using their devices for non-education purposes... I also don’t want it to take away from the face-to-face interaction that we can have in a classroom,” DuBois said.

‘Students always have access to any work they have done on their Google drive.’

-JENNIFER COLEMAN

Global Issues partners with Heifer International for this year’s Gardner Project

Students aid Third World countries through fundraising

By Fritz Spofford
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Students in this year’s Global Issues class have decided to provide livestock for villages in need for their latest Gardner Project. After a direct democracy vote within the class, the students chose Heifer International as their N.G.O. (non-governmental organization) for the year, according to the Global Issues teacher James Wallimann.

“We are providing livestock and cattle for remote poor villages in Third World countries,” he said. “What’s great is that the livestock will then reproduce, which means the villagers will have a supply that replenishes itself,” said junior class member Abbey Roundy. “As opposed to just giving them food, we are now giving them livestock to be able to produce their own food and continue to do that as the months and years progress,” Wallimann said. “Our goal is about \$10,000,” Wallimann said. The class plans to “recycle a lot of the fundraisers that [they] have had in the past” in addition to some that are “new and fun and get the



FRITZ SPOFFORD PHOTO

Junior Jenny Beardsley helps organize the selling of pizza to students after school every Wednesday. The cost of one slice of pizza is \$2, which will go towards the class fundraising goal.

students involved,” he said. The planning for fundraisers is divided among students, according to junior Jacob Callahan. “We split into groups for the year and every group gets its own fundraiser...Then for big fundraisers, we all work together,” he said. “We’re going to be able to travel to Heifer’s farm in Rutland, Mass.,” Wallimann said. This will provide students with the opportunity to “work on the farm with the cattle and livestock to give the kids a hands-on feel.” “The last time that I had a smaller group like this we were able to raise a significant amount of money,” Wallimann said.

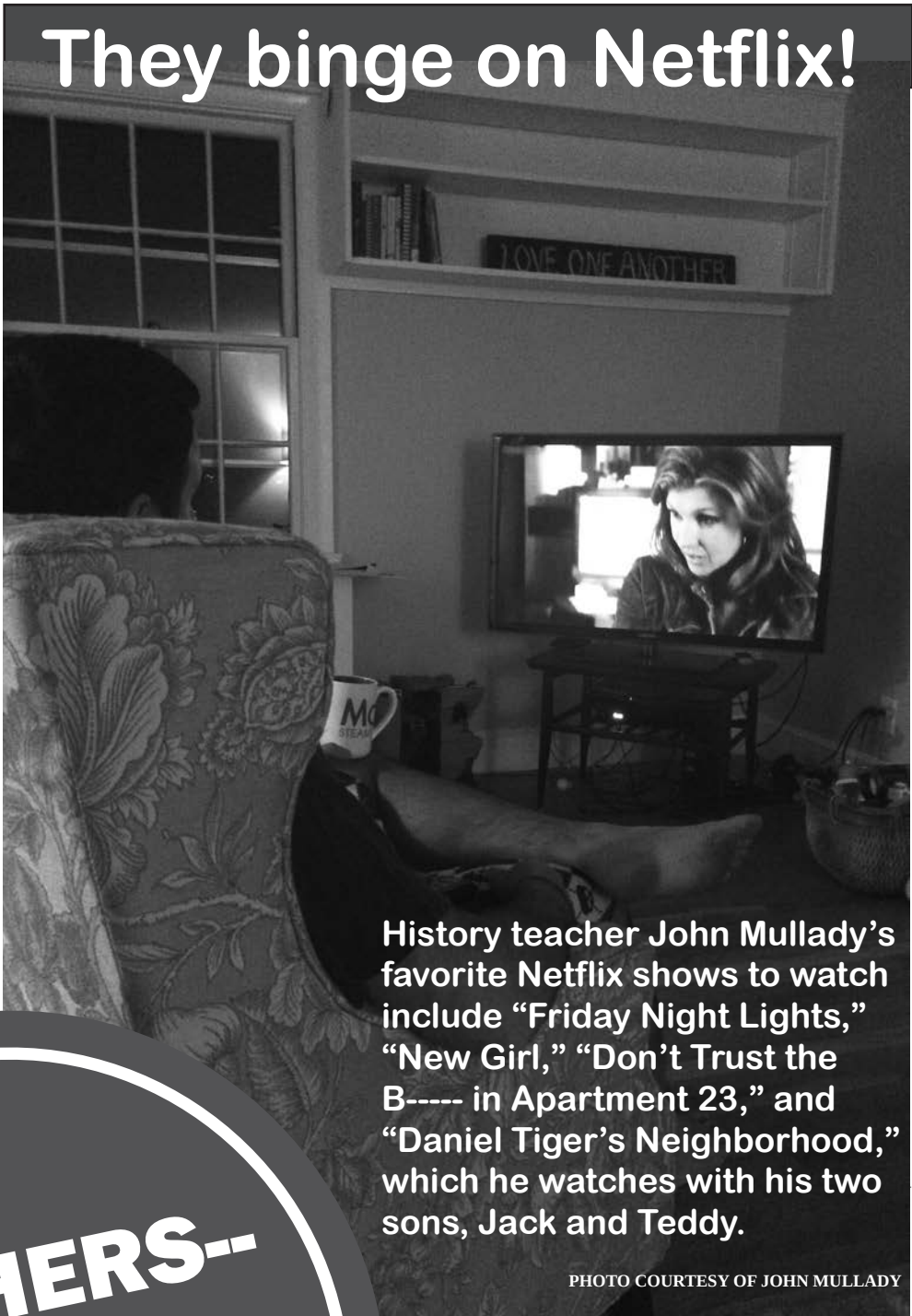


**They
group
text!**

History teachers Jennifer Coleman, Jessica Tran, Abigail Donnelly, John Mullady, and Lauren DuBois group text.



History teacher James Wallimann is not a member; he thinks group texting is annoying.



They binge on Netflix!

History teacher John Mullady's favorite Netflix shows to watch include "Friday Night Lights," "New Girl," "Don't Trust the B----- in Apartment 23," and "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood," which he watches with his two sons, Jack and Teddy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN MULLADY



**They eat
lunch
together!**

Teachers Tamera Burns, Gloria Tanner, Dan Koughan, Debra Isensee, Mary Buckley-Harmon, and Rachel Wallen eat lunch in the second floor workroom.

CHARLOTTE FREED PHOTOS



**They like
music!**

Math teacher Dan Lundergan went to Boston Calling this year and saw Of Monsters and Men, Alt-J, and Father John Misty.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN LUNDERGAN

Movies

Is viewing in theaters better than viewing at home?

Pro

Sarah Williams

Movie theaters can seem like a thing of the past these days with the rising access to new movies instantly on networks like On Demand and Netflix, and the options are much cheaper too. But, something that can never be replaced is the experience.

When one goes to the movies, it is an event unto itself. First comes the popcorn and the red or blue slushy, and then 3D glasses are sometimes thrown in.

The viewer sits down in the large cushioned seats and slowly becomes completely immersed in a movie with a whole group of people.

The crowd will often yell in shock at something scary, or silently cry at a sad scene. Everyone seems connected to complete strangers.

At the end of the film, people normally clap, and everyone leaves the theater with this shared experience, especially if the film was a good one.

Compare this whole trip with staying at home, and one can find that exterior distractions still surround the movie. There is normally no popcorn and definitely no blue slushies.

Watching films at home versus the theater can take away some of the immersing qualities a large screen and a good sound system can have.

Movie theaters are electrifying because all the people are enjoying the film together.

While movies these days can be rather pricy, verging on \$15 for night showings, the viewer goes not just for the movie but his or her time there as well.

Typical movie theaters such as AMC and Hollywood Hits are not the only types of theaters out there too. Other theaters, such as the Cape Ann Community Cinema have customers sitting on comfortable couches. The IMAX Theater at Jordan’s Furniture makes the viewers feel like they are in the film.



ETHAN ANDERSEN ILLUSTRATION

Con

Ethan Andersen

Going to the theater to watch a movie can be rewarding, but this experience is quickly becoming outdated and costly.

Many moviegoers may believe that the only way to truly enjoy a film is to go to the local theater, grab some popcorn and a soda, and sit in a crowded, dark room.

This method is clearly passé. With today’s technology and the advancement of streaming, viewers can access a variety of movies in mere seconds.

Services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime provide subscribers with hundreds of movie options, each available in an instant.

Sure, theatre enthusiasts may argue that this eliminates the sentimentality of movie watching as an age-old tradition begins to fade; however, this is clearly not the case.

With the aforementioned services, people can watch exciting movies in the comfort of their own home; they need not interact with grumpy customer service, sticky seats, and sweaty crowds.

New releases may draw more customers to the theater, but why bother with the trouble of driving to the movies when the film will be out on Blu-ray in a couple of months?

The appeal of simply staying at home and relaxing on the couch greatly outweighs the tedious process of going to the theater.

Is the theater even worth it? By the time tickets, popcorn, candy, soda, and snacks are purchased, the cost can exceed \$20.

Why spend that money when customers could just pay the \$8 per month charged by Netflix for unlimited movies streamed instantly to their laptop or tablet?

If the appeal of movie popcorn and candy is so enthralling, why not just make it at home? It will be over-priced and stale at the movie theater anyway.

The theater is rarely a positive experience; in fact, it can be quite annoying. Employees can be rude, unenthusiastic, and uncooperative. Moviegoers may soon grow tired of the impolite teen asking for a third time to see their identification.

By watching movies through alternative methods, people avoid the fuss and struggle of the theater and its drab staff.

Sure the movie theater can provide the occasional memorable time, but it should be avoided in most cases. Going to the movies has certainly lost its glimmer.

European countries should open their borders to Syrian refugees

4,000 refugees flee to Europe each day, number of escaped Syrian people reaches 4.1 million total

By Juliette Kelley
INDEPENDENT STAFF

European countries should open their borders to the Syrian refugees who have been fleeing their home in Syria due to the devastating effects of the Syrian Civil War and the presence of ISIS in their home country.

Since its start in 2011, the Syrian Civil War has killed over 200,000

people, according to the New York Times. More than 4,000 refugees are coming to Europe every day, according to António Guterres, head of the United Nations Refugee Agency. This means more than 4.1 million people have tried to flee the war since it began, said CNN.

These numbers have created tension among European countries, which are forced to deal with the worsening refugee

situation, said the Skimm, a daily email newsletter.

However, Guterres said the crisis “is manageable, if there is political commitment and will.” As long as the crisis remains to be “manageable,” European

countries should not reject Syrian refugees.

In fact, accepting refugees will benefit European countries in the long run. European nations will get more people to work in their countries, and they will be able to have a wider diversity of culture. It is also a moral obligation for European countries to help these refugees.

For a while, European countries did not help the refugees because they were worried the influx of people would be too much for the countries to sustain, the Skimm said. Now, Europe is unable to ignore the growing

European countries have a moral obligation to help.



COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Various elements of destruction and instability during the Syrian Civil War have caused emigration.

calamity. “It is close to the scene of the tragedy that the refugees must be kept, welcomed, supported,” French President Francois Hollande said, according to CNBC. Although France has only had 6,700 refugee requests, they are ready to accept more, according to CNN.

The number of French refugee

requests pales in comparison to Germany, who has had 98,700 shelter requests and is willing to accept hundreds of thousands of refugees, according to CNN. Although the number of refugees going into each country will be different, Europe has decided to redistribute 160,000 refugees across its countries, the Skimm said.

According to CNBC, European leaders have also promised to give 1.1 billion dollars to U.N. agencies that are supporting Syrian refugees in places like Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon. This support, however, is not enough. European countries must help the refugees by allowing them to find sanctuary in European countries.



Institution of class rankings shows students’ academic progress

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Some schools have foregone publishing class rankings and just reveal the valedictorian and salutatorian at graduation, and while some school officials argue that class rankings create pressure, colleges lose data that helps the decision-making process.

Admissions officers are now forced to rely increasingly on GPA and test scores in the absence of class rankings. This can be problematic for the officer when having to calculate students’ GPAs based on an unfamiliar scale or for students if they are not strong test takers.

With our school, class rankings could be calculated based on the percentiles the school uses to present the top 5% of the class. This would allow students to have an idea of their positions in their classes.

Now that standard class rankings are gone from some schools, Dean of Admissions at Swarthmore College Jim Bock says an influx of applicants seems to come from schools where other ranking systems are utilized.

“It’s more of a challenge for us to understand the quality of curriculum, where they really fall, and how they are challenging himself or herself,” Bock said to U.S. News.

While most college admissions counselors prefer that students include their class ranks in their applications, some admissions officers have embraced eliminating ranking systems.

David Hawkins, executive director of educational content and policy at the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, noted to U.S. News how class rankings force students into competition and lead them onto a more rigorous path than their initial course load might be.

“It’s tough to allow a student to find their own course when they’re obsessed with only taking the courses that will put them closer to the top of the class,” Hawkins said.

On the contrary, schools like ours offer elective classes at the honors and AP levels, which allows students to maintain their GPAs with good grades.

The use of class rankings is on the decline, but since they help determine academic skill, their use expedites the application review process and allows students to track their academic progress.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Starboard should celebrate, not discourage students

Crammed with multicolored stars, each adorned with a college or university a senior has been accepted to, the starboard has become more of a discouragement to some seniors than a celebration of the class’s accomplishments.

To underclassmen, the starboard seems harmless, right?

Now look at it from an anxious senior’s point of view.

Every trip to guidance becomes a reminder of how many incredible schools his or her classmates have gotten into that he or she hasn’t.

The tons of stars constantly being pinned over one another more resembles an experiment on natural selection, where only the student with the most stars will survive, rather than a cheery reminder of how accomplished the senior class is.

Imagine a senior, having just been rejected from his or her top choice, walking past the board



HANNAH RIORDAN PHOTO

Last year’s starboard was filled with all of the colleges that students were accepted to, causing some seniors to feel stressed.

and seeing his or her classmate’s star parading the name of that same school.

This is naturally upsetting to the student, and it becomes even more so when his or her classmate’s name is also plastered on stars all over the board

feelings of failure and jealousy each time he or she passes the guidance department.

In such an important and stressful time for seniors, as they transition into the next step of their lives, it is not right for the school to have a forum like the starboard that can be potentially harmful to each student’s self-esteem.

Instead of allowing each of member of the senior class to post a star on the board for every single school he or she is accepted to, each student should only be allotted one star on which he or she can write the school he or she is attending to proudly pin on the board.

If this change is made, students would be able to still feel accomplished and their hard work still being celebrated, but it prevents the starboard from becoming an opportunity for overachieving students to flaunt their successes.

Study hall students work with limited space, resources in auditorium

School should utilize cafeteria, empty spaces to accomodate students’ needs

By Maura McCormick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Although the auditorium is not a suitable study hall location, administration is struggling to find an alternative within the building’s limited space.

All students need an adequate space to spread out materials and a quiet location for study hall. The auditorium does not provide these essential factors.

The desks in the auditorium are roughly the size of a sheet of paper, a fraction of the space required to fit the materials necessary for most homework assignments.

The key issue with the

auditorium as the location of study hall is the lack of tables for students to use. If fold-up tables could be placed in the auditorium in open space and on the stage, students would have more space to spread out as they complete their work.

Another potential solution is to use the cafeteria during non-lunch blocks. Students could have the option of signing out to go to the cafeteria, where there are plenty of tables available for them to utilize as a space to study.

For each study hall block, lunch would only interfere at most two times of the six-day cycle, and for blocks such as A, B, and C, lunch block would never interfere.

Because most students cannot study in the confined space, they often talk instead of studying. This noise can be distracting for

students who do want to focus.

The library is unavailable to students during most blocks.

A sixth grade literacy class, taught by librarian Sue Krause, occupies the library for five out of the seven periods. According to Principal Patricia Puglisi, most classrooms are filled up each block as well.

Although Puglisi has made some progress on the issue by giving seniors the privilege of studying in the library during Krause’s literacy class, the library is noisy during literacy classes, making it difficult for some students to focus.

Krause thinks the library should be available to all students.

“Last year when I was asked to teach sixth grade, I really wanted to still keep the library open to everybody. I think in a 6-12 grade school, all students need to have access to the library,” she said.

Eventually administration will have to find a more permanent solution as the school continues to deal with larger class sizes, but for now it is essential to maximize the space that is available in the building for the benefit of students.

Because most students cannot study in the confined space, they often talk instead of studying. This noise can be distracting for students who want to focus.

the **INDEPENDENT**

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All submissions must be signed and put in the newspaper mailbox in the front office of MERHS.

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.

New device requirements create educational barriers

Requiring students to bring their own devices leaves some students at a disadvantage

By Julia Bonaccorso
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Newly introduced this year, Google Classroom and the Bring Your Own Device Initiative are both meant to enhance education, according to history teacher Jessica Tran, but they are actually doing the opposite.

Students constantly use laptops to complete assignments or check their cellphones to receive homework updates from teachers; however, issues arise when teachers and administrators assume this kind of technology is available to all of their students.

Though most students do have access to some kind of device that can be used in the classroom, those who don't have technology at their fingertips are left in the dust when it comes to Google Classroom and the Bring Your Own Device Initiative.

As Tran admits, students

using laptops during class to access Google Classroom have an advantage over students who use their cellphones.

Google Classroom is designed for computers.

Cellphones have smaller screens and miniscule keyboards, making it difficult to use Google Classroom.

Students using cellphones in class may have computers at home, although there is no guarantee.

Some families can't afford computers, so for students in this situation, completing their school work becomes extremely difficult.

Google Classroom creates educational barriers for students from struggling families, and these walls are only heightened by the Bring Your Own Device Initiative.

Public schools should not require a student to bring a device



JULIA BONACCORSO PHOTO
Students, such as senior Molly Lynch, can use their laptops, but some must use small phone screens.

to use in class.

It's the duty of public schools to extend the same opportunities to every student.

The history department pro-

vides two laptops to each classroom, which although beneficial is not enough devices.

Either the school must provide the same devices to every

student, giving them equal opportunity to learn, or initiatives such as Bring Your Own Device and Google Classroom should not be implemented.

Lack of transparency raises questions about athlete budget

Transportation, Athletics & Activities	
Salaries	\$743,181
Expenses	\$794,377
Total	\$1,537,558
% Budget	6.58%
% Growth	4.39%

CHARLIE DAVIS PHOTO
Administration only provides information about the total amount of money in the athletic budget, not its distribution.

By Charlie Davis
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Since there is clear disparity between the financial needs of sports such as football, which require massive amounts of equipment, and sports like cross country, which need comparatively little equipment, the question of where athletic fees are spent presents itself.

Although families pay hundreds of dollars in athletic fees each year, the budget does not clearly break down the allocation of these funds to specific sports. These families have the right to have access to this information.

Considering the fact that athletic fees are more direct than the typical revenue addition to the school budget (such as taxes), it is important that budget information surrounding athletic fees be

held to the highest standard of transparency.

Principal Patricia Puglisi said there is already some level of transparency regarding athletic fees.

"The budget itself reflects the amount of income we get from the fees and also various line items related to athletics, so you can see all of the money in from athletic fees," she said.

However, the published budget does not go into depth on how the money is allocated to different sports teams.

Since the fees are required to participate in sports, it is logical that these families should know how much of the athletic capital goes toward the sports that the families' children are partaking in. Unfortunately, this information is currently unavailable.

Puglisi said that new mea-

sures are set to be implemented this year that will help to spread awareness about how the athletic budget is structured and where the fees are spent.

"This year we have an athletic department review board... which is sort of like School Council for athletics. I believe that it is in November... that there will be an overview of the budget," Puglisi said.

She said this board will meet monthly and will consist of parents, coaches, and administration, and that a main focus will be the "big ticket" payouts of the athletic fees.

The school has taken a step in the right direction by recognizing and attempting to remedy this issue. Transparent systems are beneficial to communities because they prevent discrepancies, issues, and injustices.

If elected president, Donald Trump would not destroy the United States

By James Riordan
INDEPENDENT STAFF

As basically everybody in the world knows by now, Donald Trump is running for president. He makes headlines everywhere he goes, and reporters are listening nonstop for him to make his next incendiary comment.

Trump has attracted attention for his entire life and is a worldwide celebrity, but not necessarily for the desired reasons. Obviously he is an exceedingly complicated person, so what would it be like if he was actually won the election? It certainly would not be as horrible as many seem to think, but it would not be ideal.

Donald Trump would be an unfortunate choice partially because he would give the United

States a terrible international image. The President of the United States is an extremely well known around the world, and all Americans are judged based on that single person. Trump would cause foreigners to see Americans as obnoxious and loud..

Another negative effect of Trump's hypothetical presidency is that he would likely offend a number of groups. In the past, he has claimed that Barack Obama should not be president because of his ethnic back-

ground, and Donald Trump has shared many of his controversial beliefs about foreigners and women.

These aspects of his personality would be a huge distraction from the prevalent issues in the United States. Additionally, even though he always seems to be commenting on politics, he has not had any jobs in the government in the past and would not know what to do as president.

Although most of the general public assumes that Donald Trump is quite successful

The governmental system that is in place includes many careful checks and balances so that no one person or group can have too much power.

because of his wealth, he actually gained most of it through inheritance and has almost gone bankrupt on multiple occasions.

All of these reasons make it quite apparent that Donald Trump would make a poor president, but he would not destroy the United States as many seem to think. The country would still survive and function in the same way it has for many years.

This is simply because the governmental system that is in place includes many careful checks and balances so that no one person or group can have too much power.

For example, Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In general Donald Trump's



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO
Despite negative media attention, Trump isn't an awful candidate for president.

entrance into the Oval Office would not be a valid reason to flee to other countries. Many people would be upset for good reason, but it certainly would be an entertaining four years.

BOYS’ SOCCER

Coach: Robert Bilsbury
Captains: Seniors George Lantz, Henry Rohner, and Emmett Strack, and junior Marco Kaper
Record last year: 11-6-6
Record this year: 7-4-3
Goals: to win the small league and make a tournament run.
Impact players: Seniors George Lantz, Henry Rohner, and Emmett Strack, and juniors Antonio Gillespie and Marco Kaper.
Coach’s quote: “The entire team has been very well rounded...I’ve never had a team where I’ve felt so comfortable with every single person that I put into the match.”
Captain’s quote: “We don’t give up a lot of goals, so I would say that our biggest strength is our defense; we take pride in it.”
-Senior George Lantz



Henry Rohner



George Lantz



Emmett Strack



Marco Kaper

GIRLS’ SOCCER

Coach: Bryan Shields
Captains: Seniors Bella Mastendino and Maddie Shaw
Record last year: 2-16
Record this year: 4-8-1
Goals: To get to the state tournament and improve last year’s record.
Impact players: Seniors Bella Mastendino and Maddie Shaw, junior Courtney Holley, sophomore Hadleigh Richard, and freshman Jade Cromwell.
Coach’s quote: “I am proud of the hard work and effort that the team has put forth so far this season.”
Captain’s quote: “I really wanted to see us work as a team that shared a good chemistry of equal passion for the sport and drive to win, and I think this year we really have that.”
-Senior Maddie Shaw



Bella Mastendino



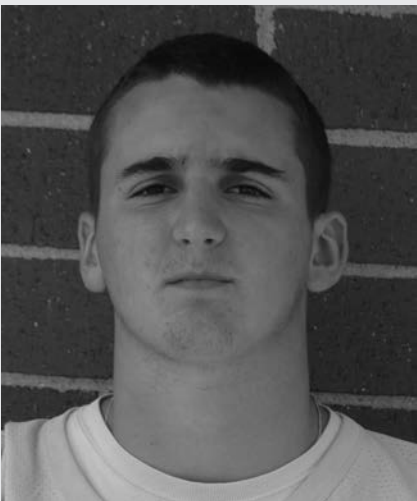
Maddie Shaw

FOOTBALL

Coach: Jeff Hutton
Captains: Seniors Chris Carr, Nick DiPietro, and Jack Hennigan
Record last year: 2-9
Record this year: 3-1
Goals: to steadily improve each and every week.
Impact players: Seniors Chris Carr, Nick DiPietro, and Jack Hennigan, and juniors Charlie Otterbein and Evan Pennoyer.
Coach’s quote: “Coaching at Manchester was an awesome opportunity to become a head coach in a wonderful school system. It was really a no-brainer when the opportunity presented itself.”
Captain’s quote: “We have a legitimate shot at making a deep playoff run, and I know the guys are excited to have success.”
-Senior Chris Carr



Chris Carr



Nick DiPietro



Jack Hennigan

CROSS COUNTRY



Charlie Davis



Nathan Evans



Megan Clark



Maura McCormick

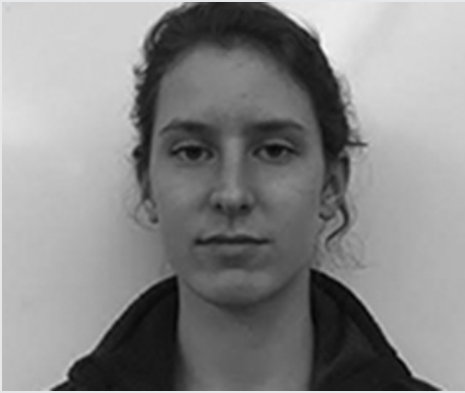
Coaches: Andrew Migonis and Mark Dawson
Captains: Seniors Charlie Davis, Nathan Evans, and Megan Clark, and junior Maura McCormick
Record last year: Girls’: 9-1, Boys’: 8-2
Record this year: Girls’: 6-1, Boys’: 6-1
Rival: Hamilton-Wenham
Goals: Win the divisional state-qualifier meet and compete well at the state meet meet by giving runners more difficult workouts in the beginning of the season.
Impact players: Seniors Charlie Davis, Nathan Evans, Megan Clark, and Connor Senay, juniors Spencer Feuerbach, Niamh Dalton, Evelyn Lantz, and Maura McCormick, sophomores Holly Fossa and Patrick Guinee, and freshman Eve Feuerbach
Coaches’ quotes: “We like everyone to train as a team and race as a team...it’s important to look out for each other, and this will help us when it comes to important meets such as the state meets.”
-AJ Migonis
“It’s a longer season than usual. We want to put on a lot of mileage and hard work in September and October so that we can be as fit as possible later on in the season.” -Mark Dawson
Captains’ quotes: “We’ve been doing a lot of base work, long runs, and high-volume workouts. This will give us the strength we need at the end of the season.” -Charlie Davis
“We lost some key runners last year, but we still have a solid group that can work together well.” -Maura McCormick

FIELD HOCKEY

Coach: Kara Beauregard
Captains: Seniors Charlotte Freed, Courtney Fraser, and Julia Bonaccorso, and junior Liddy DeConto
Record last year: 5-4-9
Record this year: 8-1
Rival: Triton
Goals: To win as many games as possible, make the tournament, make it to the end of the season, take one game at a time, and improve the next game based on what needs work.
Impact players: Seniors Charlotte Freed, Courtney Fraser, and Julia Bonaccorso, and juniors Robert Carter and Liddy DeConto
Coach’s quote: “Last year we really struggled with getting the ball in the net, but this year that seems to be something that has totally changed. The talent that this team has wouldn’t be seen without their good morale, and I think that that is a huge strength for us. I think that everyone gets along very well. We consider ourselves a family, and with that, everything falls into place from there.”
Captains’ quotes: I always look forward to field hockey season and not just because I love the sport but because we always have so much fun together. I think that is reflected on the field too. We are comfortable with each other, so we all work together really cohesively.” -Liddy DeConto



Charlotte Freed



Courtney Fraser



Julia Bonaccorso



Liddy DeConto

GOLF



Alex Beckmann

Coach: Hollis French
Captain: Senior Alex Beckmann
Record last year: 11-2
Record this year: 5-7
Rivals: Lynnfield and Hamilton-Wenham
Goals: Achieve more victories than losses while still putting a strong emphasis on having fun and enjoying the game.
Impact players: Seniors McKenzie Woodman, Brad Graves, Alex Beckmann, and Matt Donnelly, and sophomore Mitch Paccone
Coach’s quote: “My number one goal, which I tell everybody every time we go out, is to have fun. I want to make sure that the course gives people a couple of hours every day where they can forget about all of their school work and have fun, learn a lot about golf, and enjoy the game.”
Captain’s quote: “This year, we have a younger team; it is a year of rebuilding for the team, but I know that everyone is having a fun time and trying to improve every day.”

Club sport offers new opportunity to students in coed volleyball

Team focuses on teaching sport to members

By Ethan Andersen
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With the recent formation of a volleyball club, a new activity is added to the list of fall sports which invites both male and female students to join.

“Ever since I got here last year, I’ve been trying to get a volleyball team together,” coach Kara Brown said.

Brown coaches volleyball for the club and is also an active player herself. She played throughout college and currently plays in a local league.

According to senior Kara Hersey, the team practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school with help from assistant coach Joshua Wladkowski and

parent Kristin Francoeur.

Francoeur was a key contributor to forming the team after her daughter, sophomore Caroline Francoeur, showed interest in the idea of joining a team.

“My mom played volleyball at FSU and so I told her I had heard about people wanting to try something new, hoping she would help start a team,” Francoeur said.

According to Brown, the team is not technically affiliated with the school because its funding comes from the town of Manchester’s Parks and Recreation Department. The sport is exclusively for students, though.

“Mrs. Francoeur and I sat down last year and determined what needed to be down to make



KARA HERSEY PHOTO

Members of the volleyball club practice basics of the sport in preparation for their first scrimmage.

a team. Apparently we were not allowed to make another high school team, so we went to Parks and Rec. and they said they could sponsor a program,” Brown said.

Because volleyball is not a varsity sport, students may participate while also playing another high school sport, Brown said. Additionally, all games are considered scrimmages.

The team will play against

Danvers, Marblehead, North Reading, Reading, Essex Tech., and rivals Georgetown.

“As of right now, we do not have captains. I’m sure they will emerge later on in the season, but a lot of our practices consist of teaching the sport,” Brown said.

“We’re still learning the basics and rules because there are about three of around 30 that have played before,” Hersey said.

“Next year we are hoping to start this as a school sport and hopefully achieve varsity status,” Francoeur said.

Brown stated her goal was for all participants to enjoy the experience and learn how to play.

“I just want everyone to have fun and learn about the sport. Hopefully they will come back next year and the team will grow!” she said.

Funding sports stadiums with tax dollars sets dangerous precedent

By Oscar Heanue
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With the Milwaukee Common Council upholding approval for the building of a new stadium, the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks have become the latest professional sports team to acquire a new home at the expense of local taxpayers.

Milwaukee’s willingness to succumb to the demands of their professional sports team is just the latest demonstration of a troubling trend in the relationship between teams and their host cities.

In Milwaukee, the council’s plan, which is marketed as allocating \$47 million for the construction of a new arena, is

actually far more costly than is popularly believed. Although only \$47 million will be directly taken out of the city budget, the total cost to Wisconsin taxpayers is estimated to be over \$400 million.

Other recent arena deals have put a similar financial burden on the taxpayers. In 2013, baseball’s Miami Marlins received \$639 million in public funding for their new stadium. Forbes Magazine now estimates that the annual public cost of building and maintaining stadiums for professional teams has reached \$4 billion.

The sheer quantity of public funding that is shelled out yearly is troubling on its own, but it becomes far more egregious when considering the methods that

teams use to extort funding from the public.

In recent years, teams such as the NFL’s Oakland Raiders and the NHL’s Minnesota Wild have threatened to leave their home cities if they did not receive funding for a new stadium or stadium upgrades. Cities have been forced to resort to extreme measures to clear room in the budget under the threat of losing their teams. Glendale, Arizona even discussed selling their city hall in order to fund a new stadium for their NHL team.

To make matters worse, cities see little return on investment when they assist in building a stadium. Legally, the teams own the deeds to the venues, meaning they control all revenue that the stadiums pull in. Consequently, decisions such as naming deals are completely under the jurisdiction of the teams, despite the



MILWAUKEEBUCKS.COM

Tax dollars funded the Milwaukee Buck’s stadium shown above.

fact that the stadium was funded with public dollars.

Ultimately, it is important that cities stop succumbing to the bullying of professional teams.

While sports teams can help to build community, it is an unfair burden to the taxpayers to make them shell out millions to help fund privately owned property.

Lessened punishments for marijuana use demonstrate changing societal norms



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Punishments for marijuana use in professional sports have historically been unfairly tough compared to other crimes.

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With legalization of marijuana on the state level becoming increasingly common, the drug has slowly become more common in legalized parts of the country, but what does this mean for professional sports? The hammer comes down equally as hard, maybe too hard.

Recently, UFC fighter Nick Diaz received a five-year suspension and \$165,000 fine for testing positive for marijuana on a drug test. In a much more serious offense than one-time drug use, NFL running-back Ray Rice was caught knockout punching his wife in an elevator last year. He only faced a two-game suspension.

Granted, these are two completely different sports,

but marijuana use is unjustly punished in football as well. Cleveland Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon was suspended for the entire 2014-15 season after failing a subsequent drug test for marijuana use.

One argument behind the severity of marijuana penalties is that marijuana use directly affects players in game-time situations as well as at practice. An easy response to this is cigarettes are legal and damage one’s lungs substantially more.

Additionally, with the legalization of the herb in two states and decriminalization of it elsewhere, are these punishments reflective of the direction our culture is headed?

Earlier this year in May 2015, a handful of NBA players started the push to be able to use medical marijuana, especially after it was revealed that Kevin

Durant was found with medical marijuana in his SUV following bone graft surgery on his foot.

Policies regarding marijuana all across the sporting world are now deemed antiquated by multiple professional sports organizations due to their unreasonably strict limitations on possession of the drug. The NCAA is one such governing body whose policies are outdated in a progressing society.

Currently, the NCAA’s minimum punishable amount in the body is five nanograms of THC, the main ingredient in marijuana. This amount is miniscule in comparison to the NFL, which punishes 35 nanograms or above and the MLB, which punishes 50 nanograms.

Marijuana is not as harmful to an athlete’s performance as once perceived and should be punished less severely.

‘Rick and Morty’ provides more messy, irreverent fun in second season

Adult Swim’s latest cartoon success continues to impress in sophomore run

By Zack Even
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

More so than any other format, animation offers limitless creative opportunities, and no show capitalizes on those possibilities better than Adult Swim’s “Rick and Morty.”

A sci-fi comedy that focuses on an elderly scientist and his grandson, even the less memorable episodes span multiple dimensions and introduce entire alien races.

The best part of “Rick and Morty”? It’s not afraid of making a mess.

Creators Dan Harmon (“Community”) and Justin Roiland (who voices both of the titular characters in all their stammering, burping glory) never feel the need to explain the show’s ridiculous logic.

As Rick tells Morty after

mistakenly causing an epidemic, “Sometimes science is more art than science.”

Even as each episode inevitably spirals into chaos, “Rick and Morty” somehow stays grounded and emotionally resonant.

In the newest season, an episode where Rick reunites with an extraterrestrial ex-girlfriend ends on a melancholy note when Rick realizes that they’re no good for one another, and in another Morty must justify killing hundreds in an attempt to save an alien he’s befriended.

But even as characters face these moral dilemmas, the show refuses to comment on them. Multiple story arcs end with characters trying and failing to figure out what they’ve learned.

While season two of “Rick and Morty” improves upon the first, perfecting the show’s blend of cynicism, shock value, and



ADULTSWIM.COM

Adult Swim’s animated sci-fi comedy ‘Rick and Morty’ brings together the deadpan comedic stylings of ‘Community’ creator Dan Harmon and voice actor and comedian Justin Roiland.

bantering, it’s not without its problems.

Most notably, nearly every episode of the new season contains a story about the failing marriage of Morty’s parents, and even though they end up re-connecting by the time the credits

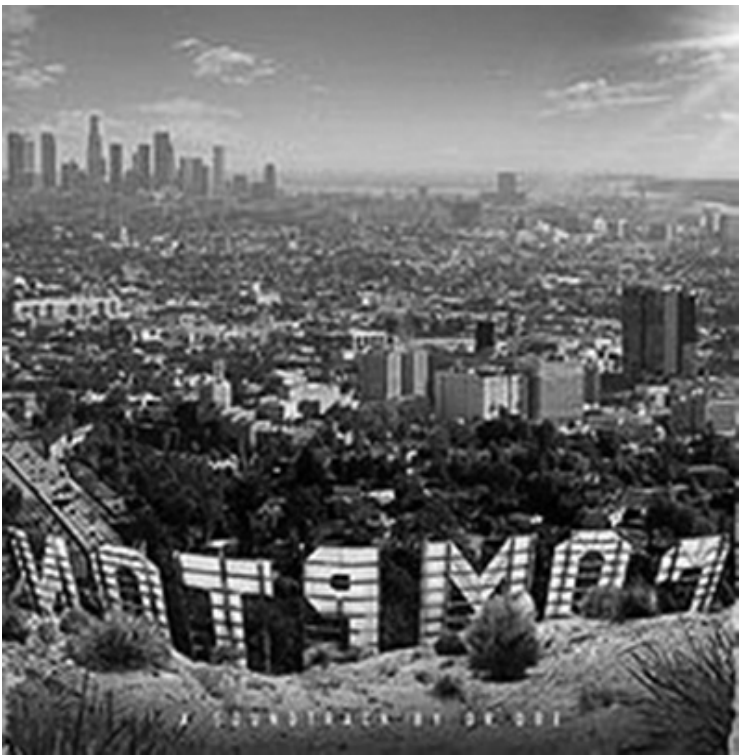
roll, their marriage seems to be in worse shape than before by the next week.

Other problems arise when the writers opt for easy jokes that don’t align with the show’s zany spirit. The weakest moments in the new season either draw upon

pop culture references or past successes.

And yet even with these new and notable issues, it’s difficult to criticize a show as consistently funny, startlingly unique, and brashly unapologetic as Adult Swim’s “Rick and Morty.”

Dr. Dre offers satisfying conclusion to career on ‘Compton’



DRDRE.COM

Legendary N.W.A producer and rapper Dr. Dre finally released his highly anticipated final project ‘Compton,’ a move that was timed to align with the release of the popular N.W.A biopic.

By Oscar Heanue
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

Sixteen years after the release of his groundbreaking platinum album “The Chronic 2001,” hip-hop’s first billionaire has finally released his long-awaited final project, “Compton.”

For years rumored to be titled “Detox,” the album was long believed to have been shelved by those within hip-hop circles. Now, timed to coincide with the release of the Dre-produced N.W.A biopic “Straight Outta Compton,” Dr. Dre’s final release has had the hip-hop world abuzz.

Focusing on the historical demographics and eventual segregation of Compton, Calif., the intro and lead track “Talk About It” welcome Dre back onto the music scene in an emphatic fashion. Hard hitting trap-inspired bass lines boom throughout the track, while G-Funk influenced West Coast synths remind listen-

ers that Dre’s style is still alive and well.

Loaded with plenty of braggadocio, the lead track sees Dre flaunt his wealth by boasting “I still got Eminem checks that I ain’t opened yet.” The larger-than-life persona that Dre cultivates on “2001” doesn’t miss a beat on ‘Compton.’

While Dre’s superficial raps provide excitement and style, it is the guest features that really help to tie the album together and add depth.

Newcomers and old faces alike shine on “Compton,” as the track list is a veritable “who’s who” of Dre’s former compatriots and current protégés. On “One Shot, One Kill,” Dre successfully pairs youngster John Connor with legendary Long Beach rapper Snoop Dogg.

Compton rapper Kendrick Lamar discusses his rise up from the projects on the track “Genocide” and continues with the

same thematic material in “Darkside/Gone,” where he delivers the album’s strongest verse over a jazz-inspired piano beat.

The album continues to take listeners for a ride, drifting through hard-hitting West Coast beats and performances from familiar faces.

Finally, Dre concludes with a solo performance on “Talking to My Diary.” Dre reminisces about his time with N.W.A, including his memories of his deceased friend and colleague Eazy-E. The track serves as the perfect farewell to Dre’s illustrious musical career, touching on every aspect of his rise from rags to riches.

Although the album lacks the style and radio appeal of “2001,” Dr. Dre’s final project impresses in terms of cohesiveness and substance. Though 16 years of waiting led to heightened expectations, Dre delivers a satisfying grand finale with “Compton.”

Horror-comedy ‘Scream Queens’ keeps its tongue firmly in cheek

By Fritz Spofford
INDEPENDENT STAFF

Ryan Murphy debuted his new black comedy brainchild “Scream Queens” this fall, a wildly ambitious and razor sharp satire of Greek life, slasher movies, and the “Heathers” of today.

The new horror-comedy, which airs on Fox at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, has been deemed by its own star Emma Roberts as “Mean Girls” meets “Friday the 13th,” but its sharp wit and self-awareness put it somewhere more along the lines of “Heathers” meets “Scream.”

Both Roberts and Jamie Lee Curtis, in her long-awaited return to the horror genre, shine as Chanel Oberlin and Dean Cathy Munsch, respectively. Additionally, the star-studded cast features teen heartthrob Nick Jonas.

Munsch has made it her mission to end the tyranny of the Kappa Kappa Tau sorority, whose leader, Chanel, tosses wonderfully snarky one-liners left and right (use of the term “Pissy Spacek” remains a personal favorite) as she deals with unwanted pledges, a golf-playing boyfriend, and a masked killer creeping around campus.

While some of the show’s grabs at pop culture don’t hit the mark (Pumpkin Spice Latte jokes have been dead for over a year), others are spot-on (one pledge to the sorority is a self-proclaimed “candle vlogger”).

The show thrives on its

satire. Ariana Grande’s character engages in a face-to-face confrontation with the killer during which they only text each other. Many of the students at the college view the murders simply as a way to be on television, waving to the camera behind Munsch as she is interviewed about the crimes.

Though some of Chanel’s remarks come off as outrageous and even offensive, it is clear that her character is far from anything anyone should look up to. In other words, the show makes it clear that its main characters are not meant to serve as role models. Part of what gives “Scream Queens” its edge is that there is no clear protagonist.

Even the trope of the pains-



FOX.COM

In Fox’s horror-comedy hit ‘Scream Queens,’ witty and self-aware college humor meets classic slasher-movie excitement and suspense.

takingly “adorkable” persona that commonly embodies the lead in the exact breed of “teen comedy” that this show mocks is engineered to be slightly too “quirky”

to be the heroine. Viewers are practically forced to become invested, as it remains a mystery who, at the season’s end, will be the last girl standing.

Newly renovated Village Market offers wide variety of breakfast, lunch options

By Maura McCormick
INDEPENDENT EDITOR

With the new renovations to The Village Market in Essex this year, the local café will likely gain more business for its brighter atmosphere and vast selection of baked goods, sandwiches, and local produce.

The new open layout of the bistro creates a comfortable atmosphere to enjoy breakfast or lunch, although much of the café’s business comes from takeout orders and pickups.

Just a minute’s walk away from the boat ramp at 1 Martin St, The Village Restaurant is the perfect place to order sandwiches to take to the beach.

The breakfast menu consists of muffins (\$2.25), croissants (\$2), apple turnovers (\$2), and a variety of breakfast sandwiches, ranging from \$5 to \$6.

The egg and cheese sandwich (\$6), was delicious and was made quickly.

Baked goods are made on site every day. The muffins are the perfect combination of moist and crumbly. Muffin flavors include

raisin bran, cranberry orange nut, lemon poppy, apple cinnamon burst, corn, morning glory, and cinnamon coffee cake.



NETFLIX.COM

For nicer weather, the restaurant offers outdoor benches and chairs with a street view along with comfortable indoor seating.

The owner bakery and deli is family-run, and the owner is Laura Wright, who is often working and is friendly and welcoming to customers.

The Village Market also offers traditional breakfast beverages such as coffee (\$1.35) and tea (\$1.50).

The lunch menu is extensive, with 18 different sandwich options. Sandwiches are very affordable, only costing between \$5 and \$7.

The curried mango chicken salad sandwich (\$6.50) is made

with fresh mango and raisons and is spicy with the perfect balance of sweetness. A corner of the shop is dedicated to selling local produce from Marini Farm in Ipswich, selling vegetables such as lettuce (\$1.79), zucchini (\$1.29) and summer squash (\$1.29). The produce varies depending on the season.

There are around five tables to sit at as well as chairs outside the front of the restaurant, providing plenty of space for customers.

The Village Market does not have a parking lot; however, there is plenty of parking on the street.

The bistro is open from 7 a.m. to 3p.m. every day and is the perfect place to stop by for a quick breakfast or sandwich for lunch.

The new open layout of the bistro creates a comfortable atmosphere to enjoy breakfast or lunch

WEBsurfer

By Connor Senay
INDEPENDENT EDITOR



The Sketchbook Project

The Sketchbook Project redefines the simple flip book of a bouncing ball that you draw when you’re bored in class. People from all over the world post their amazingly creative sketchbook pages for the viewing pleasure of the general public. Each sketchbook that is posted comes with a small blurb of information detailing the author’s name, number of pages, and location of the book so that it can be checked out if one so pleases. Creating an account is free, but if you’re serious about uploading a sketchbook for the world to see, you can pay either \$28 or \$63 depending on whether or not you wish to have it viewable online as well as in the Brooklyn Art Library.

ClickHole

ClickHole is a parody website run by The Onion that mocks nearly every single piece of content on the Internet, namely the website BuzzFeed. Set up almost exactly like the aforementioned site, it features six categories of articles displayed at the top of the main menu: News, Life, Voices, Quizzes, Videos, and ClickVenture. It is nearly impossible to become bored while perusing the site, but if you’re not sure on what category or article to start with, here are a few suggestions of pieces that I have found quite humorous: “The 8 Biggest Mistakes People Make on Their First Driving Test” and “Latest Attack: ISIS Just Put the Pentagon on eBay.” .

Find the Invisible Cow

Everyday Carry gives the public a view of, well, what everyday people carry with them every day. Some of the items are too big for pockets, so one would assume they’re accompanied by a backpack. Regardless of pocket or backpack, pictures of people’s everyday carries are uploaded to the site with the names of each item and hyperlinks to buy them, usually through Amazon. The website even dictates whether or not the item is on sale. Although it may seem bland and uninteresting, many items are rare or unique, such as a “coin claw,” that no one would ever expect someone to have on a daily basis, and these items can broaden one’s own item-carrying horizons

What to...

Watch: TV “Bloodline”

This Netflix original series, which aired last spring, is not one to be missed. Following the story of the Rayburn family, the viewers watch how each person’s life in the show is slowly turned upside down. Living in the Florida Keys, the Rayburns are a family of four grown children and their two resort-owning parents. Three of the kids seem to have their lives together – at least in the beginning – and then there is the oldest son who is considered the black sheep.

The story begins when the black sheep, Danny returns home with illegal baggage and long forgotten family issues that the rest of the Rayburns would rather pretend never happened. What makes the show so compelling is that no one is the “good guy” like in real life, they all have their flaws and the show will easily conflict the viewer on whose side to be on. The story has a very slow rhythm to it that is surrounded by great music and a beautiful Florida backdrop that is sometimes contorted from its normal tropical paradise for added dramatic effect.

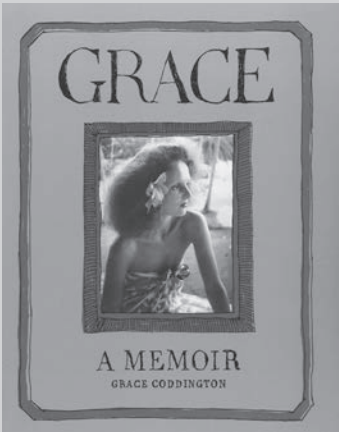


NETFLIX.COM

Read: Book

“Grace” by Grace Coddington

If seeing into the world of fashion and the industry that surrounds it creates interest, reading “Grace, A Memoir” by Grace Coddington is any fashion maven’s go-to book. A rather fast paced 333 pages will go by while reading this book that is content rich with anything and everything someone looking to get into the fashion world would like to know. The memoir came out in 2012 but still holds much relevance to the fashion world today. Even though fashion changes quickly, this book will be relevant for times to come. It chronicles the creative director of American



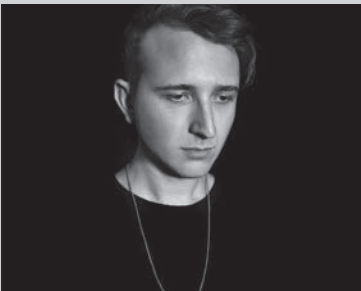
GRACETHEMEMOIR.COM

Vogue’s, Grace Codington’s, fashion adventure. In the story the reader can pick up on many tips such as how to take a good photo of a weird dress or how one can be unique and own it, not only in the world of fashion but life in general. This versatile book is also good for anyone who wishes to learn something from one of the best business marketers out there – fashion being a big business.

Listen To: Artist RL Grime

With a variation of smooth electronic mixes to amped up dance songs, RL Grime is basically a modern remix rap master. Some of his own songs like “Kingpin,” “Core,” and “Scylla” all have very dubstep vibes that can easily make the listener pumped up and ready to go for a run or breakdance at a club.

RL Grime is not only known for his original songs. He has a multitude of remixes that enhance the songs he chose for some epic qualities.



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By Sarah Williams, Independent Editor