

THE REBELLION

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Walpole High School

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Record-breaking snowfall blankets Walpole



Walpole High School Custodian Jeff Matson shovels the sidewalks on February 16 to ensure that sports team can practice over vacation.

By Julie Moser
Class of 2015

Three weeks. Four snowstorms. The town of Walpole, along with every town in New England, has been blanketed by record-breaking amounts of snowfall that have piled high this winter. For many adults, this wintry weather has meant working from home; for students, six snowdays — the most Walpole Public Schools (WPS) have had in at least twenty years.

“This has definitely been the most active month of storms in my 29 years in education,” said Superintendent Lincoln Lynch, the individual at the head of the decisions to cancel school.

After the highly anticipated 2015 Winter blizzard Juno blanketed Walpole on January 26-28 with upwards of two feet of snow and two snow days, Mother Nature did not stop there: the Northeast was again pounded by more snow and two more snow days on Groundhog’s Day. From February 8-10, Walpole experienced *deja vu* for what Punxsutawney Phil promised on February 2: its third snowstorm in two weeks. “While we may have received a lot of snow in past years, it was spread

out over a longer period of time. This winter is different because we got this snow in such a short amount of time that it has been impossible for any of it to melt,” said Lynch. Pounded by more than 69 inches of snowfall, Boston has subsequently surpassed the previous 1978 record

Boston record for the most snow in 30 days. For the third week in a row, Superintendent Lincoln Lynch permitted two more snow days for Walpole Public Schools, making it a total of six snow days so far this winter, with still a month and half remaining in the winter season. According to the Superintendent’s Secretary Mary Mortali, Walpole Public Schools has had more snow days than any previous year in the accessible Town Hall records, which only goes back until 2002. However, many believe that both 1978 and 1995 may have had higher snowfall totals. Because of these snow days, the

looming question remains right now on most students and faculty minds: Will they ever get out of school? Originally, Walpole Public School students in grades 1 through 11 were

going to be released for the summer hiatus June 18; however, with the six snowdays, these students will now be in classes until June 26. With June 30 as the last possible day for classes, the school calendar includes 5 extra built-in days in June that can be used when snow days impact the calendar.

“Right now we can eat into two more days at the end of the year (June 29 and 30). After that, I must make scheduling changes that have to be approved by 4/7 of the Walpole School Committee,” said Lynch. In the case that Superintendent Lynch must make adjustments to the calendar, he plans on looking at Professional Development days, as well as Good Friday. Additionally, adding an

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early release on a Saturday is an option. Currently, while April vacation remains an option, that adjustment is a last resort for the Superintendent. “I know many families and faculty have vacations planned, and it would be an extreme financial hardship on them. Also, there are a lot of activities, specifically sports-related, that take place during April vacation that make impacting April vacation not my main consideration,” said Lynch. As for seniors, their final day of classes remains May 27, unimpacted by the recent snow days. Due to the regulations determined by the Massachusetts Department of Education, seniors must graduate within 12 school days from the last day of classes for the rest of the students, June 26. Therefore, with teachers also having to grade final exams prior to graduation, the seniors’ June 7 graduation date cannot be adjusted.

With possibly more snow in the coming weeks, Superintendent Lynch will be assessing any future changes in the calendar, as the town’s safety remains the main priority of both the DPW and Lynch.

While the ultimate decision must be made prior to 5 a.m., Lynch has cancelled all six snow days this month the day before the storm. “We know that waiting too long will impact parents’ options when making child care decisions. We understand that any disruption to family routines poses challenges to parents and students,” said Lynch.

Luckily, with February vacation, Superintendent Lynch did not need to cancel school for the most recent storm. “I am very pleased with everyone’s understanding so far this winter,” said Lynch.

As for now, students and faculty must wait and see if this snow will ever stop.

With more snow in the forecast, the Walpole community knows the drill by this point. Paralyzing travel and halting school, as well as community activities, the snow forced the Department of Public Works (DPW) to constantly hit the roads to keep up with the consistent accumulation of snow. “As a high schooler in 1978, I thought we received a lot of snow then,” said Mr. Robert LeBlanc, the Superintendent of Highways, Parks and Cemeteries for the Walpole DPW, “but it seems this winter we may get even more.”

Walpole High forms plan for expansion of TV studio

By Julia Sandquist
Class of 2016

With a new year comes big changes for the future of Walpole television and Walpole High. In 2013, Selectmen had voted to spend \$10,000 of cable revenue to begin the process of creating a new cable television entity that would replace the current cable access channel, Walpole Community Television, to launch in the next couple of years. Now that January 2015 has arrived, Selectmen have begun planning where to create a new studio for the channel. Walpole High has emerged as the best option with available space to expand its television studio for both the town and school.

Walpole Selectmen’s history of conflicts with Walpole Community Television has led to the establishment of the new channel. In 2008, Verizon agreed to pay over

\$520,000 over 15 years, split between the town and WCTV. In the last few years, however, Selectmen have accused WCTV Board members of using cable dollars for personal profit and have also questioned its proposed use of its significant funds to build a new studio.

In 2013, Selectmen cut off WCTV’s revenue from Comcast and Verizon because the station refused to make changes in its management of the money. WCTV had begun to build a Walpole High studio, but it was unable to finish before its revenue was cut.

This past September, Selectmen voted for the creation of a new cable television channel to replace WCTV. The WCTV Board could begin working with Selectmen to transfer the cable station’s remaining funds to the town and school department for various projects and to the new cable station. The school has partnered with the town in the cre-

ation of the new cable studio: instead of two stations (WCTV and school channel) for 2015, there will be one that solely operates out of Walpole High.

Public Access Committee member Jim D’Attilio said, “The new channel combines the operations of all three of our channels, Public, Education and Government, and as a result, we will eliminate a major duplication of effort, equipment, facilities, and particularly people, both paid and volunteer, which will allow us to make the best possible use of all our resources.” A single studio will put all of the tower sources in one location for access by all three branches. It will also put all operations in a town building rather than have a portion conducted in privately owned space. Because the town will be funding the new studio, the high school will essentially receive double the money to run it.

Continued on Page 3

EDITORIALS

New tardy policy encourages absences, not timeliness

By the Rebellion Editorial Board

For many high school students, the period of time between waking up and arriving in homeroom is one of the most stressful parts of one's day. Between driving through the busy morning traffic, waiting in the extensive line of cars in front of the school, and struggling to maneuver through the crowded parking lot among other drivers and students who are equally as late, high school students face a number of challenges that could potentially hinder their timeliness to homeroom.

But for administrators, punctual daily attendance is an extremely important habit to develop for the future, and students should strive to arrive to homeroom on time every day. But although regulating students' tardies is undoubtedly a necessary school policy, the unnecessarily strict guidelines of the current tardy policy encourages students to skip school altogether rather than to arrive to school late.

Up until this year, the school's policy on tardiness was firm but reasonable — a student could be late to homeroom four times per semester or to first period six times per semester before the attendance office issued him or her a detention. This policy forced students to make a daily effort to be on time but was lenient enough to cover occasional tardies that were often out of students' control. With this policy, administration issued 84 tardy-related detentions between September 1, 2013 and November 21, 2013.

But at the beginning of this year, administration enacted a new policy that greatly reduced the number of times a student could be tardy before he or she had to serve a detention. Students can arrive to homeroom late two times and do not have to sign in with the attendance office; however, on the student's third offense, he or she has to serve a detention that same day. Additionally, students can only come in to school late after homeroom one time before he or she has to go to detention. The numbers reset at the end of every semester.

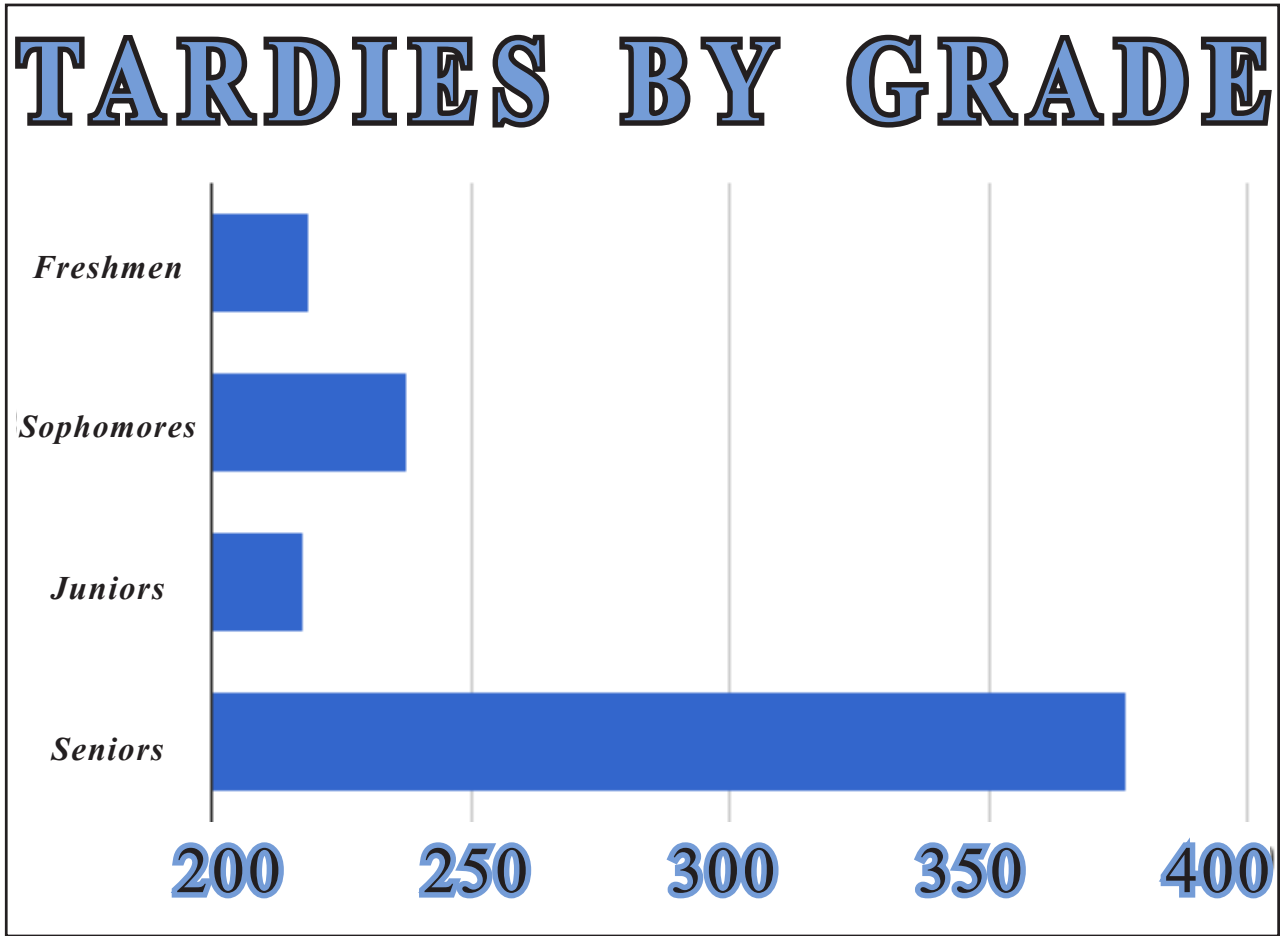
One of the best received aspects of the new policy is how students do not have to go to the attendance office in the morning if they are late to homeroom. In the past, students had to wait upwards of ten minutes in line before they could continue to class; as a result, many students who were only a few minutes late to homeroom ended up missing the beginning of their first period class.

But as a result of this policy change, many students opt to skip school for the entire day in order to avoid receiving a detention. Compared to last year's 4,942 total absences between September 1, 2013 up until February 11, 2014, the student body has had 5,406 total absences between September 1, 2014 and February 11, 2015. The 9.4% increase in absences is not a coincidence. Rather than promoting timeliness, the new policy encourages students to miss school completely rather than to come in to school late.

"I'd rather not go to school than go in late and get a detention," said senior and Rebel Report anchor Brendan Jeannetti. "If I were to get to the parking lot and realized that I'm late, I would probably drive back home because I'd rather go home than get a detention for coming into school a minute late."

Many students who would previously consider coming into school late due to oversleeping or illness now choose to skip school entirely instead of receiving a tardy because students have a more reasonable six unexcused absences per semester.

Senior Katie Smith — an AP student, NHS member, and swimming state champion — said, "In the past, if I didn't feel well in the morning, but then felt well enough to go to school in the afternoon, I would consider going to school late. However, now that I'm going to be penalized with an hour for deciding to go to school, I prefer to stay home." If students are a few minutes late, the punishment makes sense. But should students who come in to homeroom a



Between September 1 and November 21, Senior were responsible for 35.8% of the overall tardies-to-homeroom with 377. Sophomores (22.6%) followed them with 238.

TIME	ABSENCES
9/1/13 - 2/11/14	4,942
9/1/13 - 2/11/15	5,406

The number of absences this year has increased 9.4% compared with last year.

"I'd rather not go to school than go in late and get a detention," said senior and Rebel Report anchor Brendan Jeannetti.

few seconds late be punished the same as students who come in five or more minutes late? And should all of those students be punished the same as students who receive detention for behavior-related issues?

As a result of the new policy, the number of tardy-related detentions has increased to 166 as of November 21, 2014, which is almost twice the number of last year. Although students should have some sort of punishment due to a large number of tardies, detention is an unreasonable consequence based on the severity of the offense. Students with behavioral issues should not receive the same punishment as generally good students who arrive to school late.

"I have never ever gotten a detention in my four years at Walpole High," said senior and NHS member Maureen Herlihy. "I feel that it is unfair that I got one for being less than a minute late for homeroom twice in the entire semester. It does not seem fair that being a minute late to homeroom translates into an hour of detention."

The policy is also inconsistent from homeroom to homeroom depending on the leniency of the teacher. While some teachers do not penalize students so long as they are not more than a minute or so late to homerooms, oth-

ers require that students are seated before the bell rings. Because of the disparity between teachers' adherence to the policy, some students are held to a different standard than others and therefore are punished more severely for the same offense.

The changes to the high school tardy policy does little to improve students' daily attendance or timeliness to school; rather, the new rule punishes students far too severely compared to the seriousness of the offense. Additionally, the policy promotes inconsistencies between homerooms due to teachers' personal tardy policies. But perhaps most importantly, the policy prompts students to choose absence over tardiness, which inspires more students to skip school altogether in previous years. If a student is going to be late, he or she should not see skipping school as a more desirable option to coming in late.

The harsh change between last year's policy and this year's policy is not only unfair to students, but also encourages harmful habits that will affect students in college and in the working world. For the benefit of both students and teachers, administration should consider revising the new tardy guidelines in order to craft a new policy that is more fair and more reasonable than the current policy.

Until administration creates a policy in the interest of the students, the new policy will continue to backfire on administration and spike students' absences rather than instill good habits to improve students' futures.

"I feel that it is unfair that I got one for being less than a minute late for homeroom twice in the entire semester," said senior Maureen Herlihy.

Administration must increase student representation in policy-making

By Emily Martin and Daanya Salmanullah
Class of 2017

A school administration creates new policies to stabilize the community. Usually, they create those policies with the approval of school leaders — leaders such as department heads, teacher volunteers, parents, and representative students — in order to ensure the effective implementation of the policy changes.

However, sometimes these groups get overlooked. With the many changes at Walpole High School in the last two years, students have lacked a voice in the planning and implementation of some new policies. An earlier school start time, an extended passing time, the retake policy, a new midterm exam schedule, a new tardy policy — these changes were all made with little to no input from the students.

At times, the lack of student input has gone unnoticed because those decisions are clearly beneficial to students. For example, the recent change to a ten minute extending passing time between second and third block classes proved to be a positive change with the support of the majority of the student body. However, in many cases, these new policies rarely receive such positive feedback from the entire school because students have little say in administration's decision making process.

Conversely, for other cases, the administration seeks input from only a small number of students at a time. For instance, Principal Stephen Imbusch visited student homerooms this fall to hear their concerns about potential changes to the midyear exam schedule. In the Student Council homeroom, junior Stina Cofsky, created a potential schedule of her day for Principal Imbusch to show that when given exams during a full length day of school, the average student did not have time to study for other exams and complete daily homework. Other students (from outside of Student Council) also circulated a petition, while one student made a Powerpoint to present to administration. Principal Imbusch and administration appeared to listen to the student concerns, for they adjusted the midyear schedule by eliminating the midyear schedule entirely and giving teachers the option to give or not give an exam. This positive change demonstrates how student input can have positive effects on the school; however, that student input needs to be more systematic.

Last year, Walpole High implemented a retake policy (or philosophy). Principal Imbusch encouraged teachers to offer retakes for students on assessments to improve student learning — a largely beneficial change for students. However, the policy varies from department to department and even teacher to teacher. Some teachers allow retakes for students below a certain numerical threshold; others refuse retakes altogether. Since the new policy has not been included in the Walpole High School Student-Parent Handbook and the policy varies based on teacher, students perceive unfairness in the wide variety of teacher's personal retake philosophies. While students have been invited to the Handbook Committee meetings, the retake policy currently does not exist within the handbook, so students really have no control over the policies. Had administration included students on the process of brainstorming or implementing, they may have avoided many of the student misperceptions about the unfair implementation of the policy. Both administration and student body must learn

to work together in a systematic fashion in order to achieve the most effective and efficient balance of both learning and contentment. Once this balance has been achieved, the productivity of the school will be at its peak, creating the best environment for all.

Currently, History Department Head Michael Donahue heads the "Vision Committee" for Walpole High School — a committee comprised of teachers, department heads, administrators, and janitorial staff. This committee does



"Hear No Evil." By Daanya Salmanullah and Emily Martin.

not have a single student.

The Vision Committee is meant to establish a five-year vision for Walpole High School — where will we be in 2020? What will the high school look like? What kind of electives should we have? Should every student have a laptop? However, there is not a single student voice at the table. Similarly, this fall, there was a "Grading Policy Committee" that met with Assistant Principal Bryan Hand to review the grading changes that took place last year. This Committee was comprised of teachers and department heads, but there was not a single student voice at the table.

Students could easily be present at different committee meetings to share their opinions with the faculty to gain feedback on decisions being made to enhance the school's function for

all. Also, with the current advances in society and technology, there are many possible ways to effectively have a cooperative school environment where everyone has a chance to voice their opinion through Twitter or the updated School Website.

When committees do have student representation, decisions are more well received by the student body. On the District Level, the District School Improvement Plan and Strategic Planning Committee (which aims to create long-term goals for Walpole Public Schools) at least have students on



"Retakes for Everyone?" By David Moser, James Randall, and Luke Donovan

the committees. Additionally, senior Mary Hinton, junior Julie Hinton, and sophomore Liv DiPasca are several student representatives for the Walpole School Committee. These students attend the meetings — held twice every month — and summarize current events at the high school such as tournament sports matches and extracurricular activities. The School Committee and the District-level Committees prioritize students at each of their meetings, and that model should extend to the high school level.

If the school administrators want to create effective policies, they need to systematically include students on the policy changes that affect them. If students can go to college or get full time jobs after they graduate, then they should be able to make decisions regarding the biggest part of their young lives: high school.

If students can go to college or get full time jobs after they graduate, then they should be able to make decisions regarding the biggest part of their young lives: high school.

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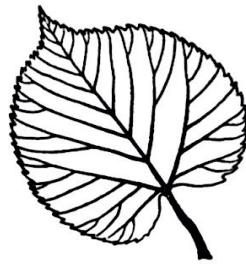
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SPORTS

Girls Track flies to finish at Division III meet

Photo/ Connor Cashman



Senior Allie Morris came in second place in the two-mile during the Division III State Meet. With her time, Morris qualified for Nationals and broke her personal record.

By Colleen O'Connor
Class of 2015

As the winter sports seasons progress, competition becomes more stiff and the determined athletes themselves apart from the rest of the crowd. Preparation becomes even more important, as one small mistake can cost the best athlete an career opportunity.

Heading into Divisionals on February 13, Walpole Girls Track and Field knew they had to elevate their level of competition.

Led by personal bests from senior Captains Allie Morris and Claire Rinne and juniors Alyssa Murphy and Tori Lynch, the Rebels scored 22 points and finished eighth out of twenty-four teams.

Rinne started the night off with her personal best in the 55-meter hurdles preliminaries (9.25) and then went on to run the exact same time in the finals for the race, finishing sixth overall.

“Warmups before meets became key, enabling me to treat the prelims like finals,” said Rinne. “This allowed me to place where I was seeded and set a new [personal record].”

Both Murphy and Lynch also made the podium, with Murphy placing sixth overall in the 1000-meter run in 3:05.00 and Lynch coming in eighth in the 600-meter dash in 1:41.22. Murphy and Lynch also

ran legs of two relays that placed, as Lynch helped the 4x400 team to a seventh place finish and Murphy anchored the 4x800 team to a fourth place finish.

After leading for most of the second half of the two mile, Morris, the highest scorer of the night, was outkicked in the final straightaway by Bishop Feehan’s Abigail Long, finishing in 11:07.23, good enough for second overall. This mark not only qualified her for the All-State meet on February 21, but also qualified her for the New Balance Indoor National meet at the Armory in New York on March 13.

“I needed to go into the race with confidence that I could hang with the top girls in the state but also knowing that I needed to start conservatively and hopefully grab a top four finish,” said Morris about her race.

Both Morris and the 4x800 “Baton Squad” of sophomores Emily Martin and Stephanie Forester, freshman Sarah Tierney, and Murphy placed high enough to compete at All-States, with Murphy also earning a wild-card spot in the 1000-meter run.

“I am really proud of the team for their performances at Divisionals,” said Head Coach Conor Cashman after the meet. “We have never had that many athletes on the podium at one meet. Now, we need to keep the momentum rolling and look at All-States on Saturday as an opportunity to continue improving and maybe breaking some school records.”

REBEL REVIEW

BOYS BASKETBALL: Boys Basketball had back-to-back-to-back games this week on February 11, 12, and 13 due to scheduling conflicts from snow days. Even with the busy week, Walpole secured the Herget title with a win over Dedham and an emotional 70-51 victory over Norwood. The Rebels lost their final league game to Wellesley by a score of 51-45.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Girls Basketball had the same schedule as the boys this past week. They emerged victorious in both games to win the Herget title with a 60-32 win over Dedham and then won 77-71 against Norwood on Senior Night.

BOYS HOCKEY: After a 6-game winless streak, Walpole Boys Hockey beat Dedham 4-1 on February 11. A clash with archrival Norwood on Valentine’s Day ended in a 2-1 loss for the Rebels — which eliminated them from tournament contention.

GIRLS HOCKEY: After missing the playoffs last year, Walpole Girls Hockey needs one point from their last game. If they are able to tie or win in that game, they will advance into the MIAA tournament.

BOYS TRACK: After a strong start to the postseason, Boys Track finished a 21st out of twenty-six teams with the absence of the record-breaking 4x400 team at Divisionals. The Rebels send a 4x800 team to All-States on February 21.

GIRLS TRACK: After two second place finishes in the Bay State Conference Championship from senior Captain Allie Morris (mile, 5:15) and sophomore Stephanie Forester (two mile, 12:25), Girls Track finished in eighth place overall at the Division III meet on February 13.

WRESTLING: With a 15-11-2 record, Walpole Wrestling qualified for Sectionals on Valentine’s Day. On February 11, they beat Weymouth 57-21 to continue their momentum going into Sectionals. Senior Captain Kyle Kilroy (126), junior Charlie Groves (145), and junior Matt Hancock (152) all competed at the Sectional meet.

GYMNASTICS: Gymnastics finished 0-9 in Bay State play this season. The Rebels placed 8th out of nine teams at the Bay State Conference championships on February 7, putting together a score of 116.

Senior Stephanie Lund signs her NLI to Holy Cross for Soccer

Photo/Max Simons



Senior Stephanie Lund signs her N.L.I. at the WHS Library for the College of the Holy Cross on February 5.

By Colleen O'Connor
Class of 2015

Senior Stephanie Lund signed her National Letter of Intent to the College of the Holy Cross, a Division I college, for Women’s Soccer. Lund, a 3-year varsity athlete and senior Captain this year, will play midfield and forward for the Crusaders for the next four years.

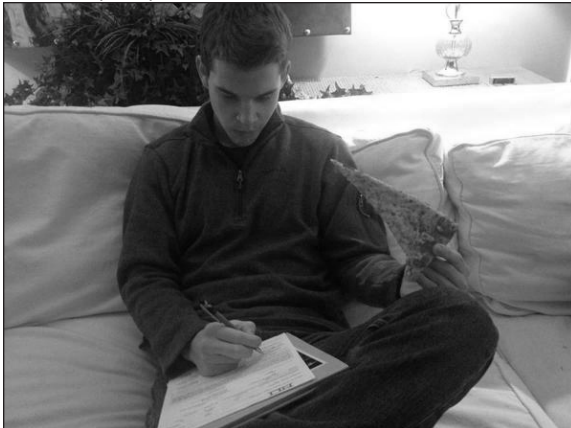
“Unlike at other schools, I fit right in with the girls on the team and the school seemed perfect for me,” said Lund about committing. “It’s a beauti-

ful school and I can’t wait to have the opportunity to play there next fall.” Lund started playing soccer at age five, and has also played for New England Futbol Club (NEFC), a highly selective club team, since fifth grade. This past year, her team won the 2014 Massachusetts State Championship and Region 1 Premier League Championships. In addition to her club team, Lund co-captained the Rebels to their first Bay State Herget Championship since 2006. She also played her way to Bay State Conference All-Star honors and to the Division I Eastern Massachusetts All-Star second team.

“Steph’s a great teammate,” said fellow Captain Annie Gallivan. “It has been amazing these past few years to watch her improve and become one of the most skilled players in the league.” “I couldn’t imagine myself going to college without playing soccer because it’s always been my passion,” said Lund.

Senior Jack Lavanchy signs for Division II Football at Merrimack

Photo/Lavanchy Family



On February 6, senior Captain Jack Lavanchy tweeted out this picture of himself signing for Merrimack College.

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

One of the many players who signed an National Letter of Intent in the past few weeks was Walpole football star Jack Lavanchy. On February 6, Lavanchy signed to play for Merrimack College, a Division II college in New Hampshire.

Lavanchy had an incredible career for Walpole, especially in his senior season. He showed his talent in the opening week of the season, scoring three touchdowns, three extra points

and a field goal in a 31-8 demolition of Foxboro. For all the feats he accomplished during the season, none measured up to his 28-yard field goal in the final week of the regular season against Natick, which gave them a 17-14 win over their archrival.

The Rebels went undefeated in the regular season and made it to the state semifinals, partially led by Lavanchy’s weekly superhuman displays on the field.

What Lavanchy has learned in football has also influenced his off-field life.

“Football has taught me that hard work pays off,” said Lavanchy, “if you want something bad enough nothing can stop you.”

His impressive career at Walpole High led to many offers from college, but Merrimack felt right for him. “I chose Merrimack because it is close to home and I feel like it would be an easy transition from Walpole,” said Lavanchy. “I hope that I can make an impact on and off the field as soon as I can.”



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Under New Management

Coach Petrosino leads Walpole Wrestling resurgence



Wrestling Coach Sean Petrosino takes a break for a picture after a wrestling match on January 29.



Junior Charlie Groves competes in a match against Wellesley High School on January 29. The team defeated Wellesley in a close match.

By Michael Curran
Class of 2016

Walpole High School's wrestling program is in the midst of a resurgence. As of February 11, first-year Head Coach Sean Petrosino has coached his incredibly young team to a 10-8-2 record so far this season.

"We have to credit most of our success to our new coach Petrosino," said senior Captain Ryan McWeeney, "He's a great guy and an awesome coach. He has led us to a winning record even with the amount of younger wrestlers we have who lack varsity experience."

Coach Petrosino comes into Walpole High School with an already impressive wrestling background. Petrosino wrestled at Plymouth South High School for four years before being recruited to wrestle at Rhode Island College in Providence, Rhode Island. However, Coach Petrosino found his passion in coaching and became a volunteer assistant from 2004-2007 for Plymouth South High School, his alma mater.

After three years as a volunteer assistant, Petrosino became the team's head coach. During his

tenure as head coach, he led his team to a very impressive 43-4 record, a record which included an undefeated 25-0 season. Plymouth South won two Division 1 South Sectional Championships, as well as two Atlantic Coast League Championships.

With a group as young and inexperienced as this year's wrestling team it would be hard for anyone to attain a winning record, but Coach Petrosino has found a way.

After graduating a strong class of wrestlers that included Sectional Champions, Armen Andonian, Noah Kung, Kyle Robbins, and Trevor Wassel, Walpole Wrestling had many preseason holes in their lineup. However many freshman and sophomores stepped up and fit nicely into the team.

While many believed this season to be a rebuilding year for the team, the Rebels have proven otherwise. Last year's team, which included four sectional champions (but without Petrosino), went 14-5. With several underclassman on the squad this year, the team, now led by Petrosino, is 10-8-2. Sectionals are Saturday, February 14, and

the Rebels hope to match last year's success.

Senior Captain Ryan McWeeney said, "I'm happy with how the season is going so far. We lost a lot of good wrestlers at the upper weights but we had a lot of younger guys fill in and help us to clinch a winning record."

Freshman Luke Wassel has come in clutch in key situations for the Rebels. Luke Wassel, younger brother of last year's wrestling captain and sectional champ, Trevor, continues the long and successful wrestling tradition the Wassel family has built at Walpole High School. Luke's most notable moment was when he pinned his opponent in the final match of the night against Dedham to lift the Rebels to a 36-36 tie to prevent a loss to the Marauders.

Walpole felt fortunate to land Petrosino as the team's head coach because he was also offered the job by other schools within the league. Coach Petrosino was drawn to Walpole for many reasons, but most importantly its history. "[Walpole] has such a rich history for athletics," said Coach Petrosino. "And I want wrestling to be a part of that."

Rebel Gymnastics perseveres despite injuries

By Hiromi Kondo
Class of 2016

A varsity gymnastics team needs four athletes to officially compete in every event against another team in the Bay State League. If a team only has three healthy athletes, they must forfeit the entire team competition. For 0-9 Walpole Gymnastics this year, the flexible roster of ten athletes has been stretched across the numerous events to ensure that they never forfeit a meet.

Walpole Gymnastics has a total of ten gymnasts and seven out of those ten have been injured at some point this season. While 2013-2014 Walpole Gymnastics averaged about 127 points per meet for their 6-3 season, the Rebels this season averaged about 112 points, and they have lost by an average of about 14 points against other Bay State teams.

Because they lacked depth, numerous gymnasts stepped up for the team during competitions. One of the healthy newcomers, freshman Carlie Cavanaugh started her gymnastics career this year and although limited in experience, Cavanaugh reliably competed in two events—vault and beam.

"Joining the team as a freshman is probably the best decision I've made

this year," said Cavanaugh. "Everyone is really friendly and supportive and it really does become like a second family."

Similarly, sophomore Sarah Stanton also stepped up on multiple occasions to keep the Rebels from forfeiting. On Tuesday, January 13, Stanton intended to compete two events—bars and floor. However, at the last minute she ended up competing vault and beam as well in order to meet the requirement. Despite the lack of preparation, Stanton stuck her beam routine.

In addition to Stanton, sophomores Jillian Sweeney and Izzy Nee consistently competed in every event and usually scored the highest Walpole Point Total. For many events, they often led individual scoring, sometimes achieving an 8 in their respective events.

Sophomores Elyse Good, Jill Sweeney, and Izzy Nee, and juniors Catherine Formica and Kaitlin Porter make up over half of the competing members, and all faced injury at some point. Good struggled with ankle pain; Sweeney recovered from a sprained ankle and tendinitis in her wrists; Nee dealt



Walpole Gymnastics relaxes after their recent meet against Weymouth on January 27.

with back pain; Formica has a weakened elbow due to multiple dislocations, and Porter broke and severely sprained muscles in her ankle during the fall.

"It was easy to get frustrated because I couldn't come back fully all at once, but I realized it would heal quicker if I came back slowly," Sweeney said, "and now

that I'm almost back in full I'm glad I chose to do that."

Sophomore Brigid Ford has the most serious injury that kept her from competition for the entire season. Ford has genetic back problems that sidelined her for this season; however, she attended every meet to support her team.

"It's hard to watch everyone while I sit out," Ford said, "but

it makes me realize how hard everyone works and I'm excited to come back next season."

Despite the multiple injuries, they persevered throughout the season. "I think it's more important to beat our own personal scores in order to build up the team," said senior Captain Christina Coville, "and we need to stay positive despite injuries."

Photo/ Coville Family

Boys Basketball rebounds to clinch first Herget title since 2004



Junior Andrew Noyes defends against an opposing player. On Friday January 16, Walpole defeated Norwood 58-47 at Norwood High School.



Senior Andrew Papirio sets up a final offense for the Rebels in their win over Norwood.

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

An 0-4 start to a season usually spells doom for any high school sports team. Even for some of the sports with more games than others, four games is normally around a quarter of a season without a win. Regardless, the morale drain from such a cold streak is capable of wrecking an entire season.

However, Walpole Boys Basketball took all those assumptions and threw them down the drain. The Rebels are now – for the first time in eleven years – Herget Champions.

After starting the season with losses to Newton North, Brookline, Needham and Bishop Feehan, Walpole salvaged the lost season by shockingly going 10-2 since December 21 to improve their season record to 10-6.

In each of the first four games, the Rebels started the game very well, and then steadily lost their lead throughout the rest of the contest. To a casual observer, it seemed as though the Rebels could not maintain the momentum they built up in the opening quarter.

According to Head Coach Dave St. Martin, his team knew they were capable of a comeback from their rough start. “When we started out 0-4 we heard the doubters,” said St. Martin, “but this team knew they could be good.”

On December 22, they got their first win of the season with a 73-44 demolition of Natick. After a short break for Christmas, they participated in the Boston Classic tournament where they lost to Oli-

ver Ames in the finals after beating Boston English. The new year began with another game against Bishop Feehan, where the Rebels won 68-57.

“Players are beginning to play to their strengths and as coaches we understand what we have to do,” said Coach St. Martin.

With the players beginning to find their roles, the Rebels jumped back into Bay State play with newfound intensity. An incredible comeback win against Milton was the highlight of the early part of the month, with senior Riley Tetreault hitting 5 of his 20 points in the final minute to tie the game at 52 at the end of regulation.

In overtime, Walpole simply ran away with the game. Tetreault hit two more three’s, and the Rebels ended up winning the game 65-57 to bring their record back to .500.

After the Milton win, the Rebels won four more games, until their seven game win streak was snapped by a 66-54 loss to Braintree on January 29th.

However, the boys turned around quickly after the loss, once again dominating their Herget rivals Natick by a score of 65-36.

On February 6th Walpole had a rematch against Milton, this time with a berth in the state tournament on the line. In the first quarter, the momentum swung back and forth between Walpole and Milton, but Milton ended up ahead, 23-16. After that, the rest of the half was all Walpole. Tetreault and sophomore Ike Shepherd hit three’s early in the second quarter to put them back in the game, and at the half Walpole held a 35-31 lead.

On the other hand, Milton showed no signs of quit-

ting in the second half. They clawed their way back into the game, and throughout the third quarter the two teams traded the lead. Finally, Walpole was able to keep the lead for good. Coming into the fourth quarter with a four point lead, they managed to snuff out each Milton comeback with points of their own.

Even with the non-stop hustle from Walpole, Milton managed to cut the lead to one in the closing seconds, but senior Captain Patrick Donovan scored a huge and-one with time running down to make the score 71-67. On Milton’s next possession, Donovan swatted a shot with 10 seconds remaining to seal a 72-67 win, and guaranteed a return to the tournament for Walpole. Donovan finished with 15 points, including the three that cut down Milton’s final comeback. Tetreault also chipped in 19 points of his own, and senior Captain Chris Gallivan had 12.

With the win over Milton and Dedham on Tuesday, February 10th Walpole Boys Basketball clinched a Herget Championship and head into their final regular season games 9-0 in Herget play. With a tournament berth guaranteed, the Rebels will be looking to keep their squad healthy in order to facilitate a tournament run.

The turnaround from Bay State cellar-dwellers to contenders in the state tournament is certainly remarkable. Even though the team still has formidable opponents in the state tournament ahead, they will look for motivation from everyone who “doubted this team since the end of last year,” according to St. Martin, and have been proven wrong thus far.

MacMillan leads Walpole Girls Hockey’s fight for a tournament berth

By Olivia O’Brien
Class of 2015

Last season, Walpole Girls Hockey missed qualifying for tournament for the first time since 2007.

This season, the team stands two points away from qualifying for the state tournament and earning redemption for their two-win campaign last year. The Rebels are led by the experience of their few upperclassmen, particularly junior forward Olivia MacMillan, the team’s most prolific point scorer with a team-high of 11 goals this season.

“[MacMillan] has been a prominent offensive player since her freshman year and now as an upperclassman is more aggressive and helping our team even more” said Senior Captain Lauren Hirshom.

On January 17, MacMillan achieved her first hat trick in a tie against rival Norwood. In the following game on January 21, she scored the first of two goals for the Rebels in a



Junior Olivia MacMillan skates down the ice with the puck during the Rebel’s 4-0 win over Natick on January 31. MacMillan leads the team in scoring.

2-0 victory versus Weymouth. In their most recent win against Natick, MacMillan chipped in 1 goal in the Rebels 4-0 victory.

“[MacMillan] is typically the

one who gets our momentum going when we start off slow and we can always count on her to step up and start something offensively,” Hirshom added.

On February 4, the Rebels held the Wellesley Raiders, ranked second in the state, to a 0-0 standoff. “We were especially proud

of this because earlier in the season Wellesley beat us 7-0,” said senior Captain Olivia Knight. “It just goes to show how much we’ve grown over the course of this season.”

While Knight leads the team in assists with seven, MacMillan follows close behind with five assists. With only two regular season games left, the Rebels must win all two of them to ensure qualification in the state tournament. Of the two teams left to play, Walpole has previously tied Norwood. As for Canton, a non-league opponent, this will be the Rebels’ first time facing off against them this season.

MacMillan looks forward to leading the varsity squad to a successful postseason. “We have grown so much as a team since last year,” said MacMillan. “We want to change it this year and I think we can make tournament as long as we play our hardest but also play with our hearts and give everything we have.”



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NEWS

High-Scorers Mike Sullivan and Kevin Xia lead Walpole High Math Team

By Meagan Sundstrom
Class of 2015

You have 10 minutes to complete the following without a calculator:

1. Find x given the following: $\sqrt[3]{\sqrt[3]{16}} = \sqrt[3]{2}$
2. Solve for k : $\frac{27k+9}{9} = 82$
3. Solve for x : $3^{2x} - 12 \cdot 3^x = -27$

Think you could get a perfect score? In the first two meets of the 2014-2015 math team season, junior Mike Sullivan received perfect scores. As Walpole's high-scorer for the first two meets on November 6 and December 4, and second highest scorer for the third and fourth meets on January 8 and February 5, Sullivan is certainly an asset to Walpole's Math Team. In addition to Sullivan, junior Kevin Xia is a top performer for the WHS math team: he was Walpole's second highest scorer in the first two meets and Walpole's highest scorer in the third and fourth meets. After the final meet of the season, Xia became the Math Team's overall highest scorer for this season.

Now ranked third in their Division behind Sharon and Dover-Sherborn, Walpole also competes against Dedham, Dover-Sherborn, Medway, Sharon, and the Norfolk Aggie in their Division of the Southeastern Massachusetts Mathematics League (SMML), which is comprised of 36 teams. Walpole took fourth place in the first meet, third place in both the second and third meets, and third place in the fourth meet at the Norfolk Aggie.

For the playoffs, the first place team within each division automatically qualifies and the next three top teams in the league also make it. Although the overall results of the final league ranking have not yet been determined, Walpole will not advance into the playoffs.

Throughout the season, Walpole's high-scorers Mike Sullivan and Kevin Xia remained important components of Walpole's success. Sullivan joined the math team midway through his freshman year when the team needed more underclassmen. Since then, he

has excelled as a math team competitor; particularly, he is strong in the Algebra categories such as solving complex rational expressions that involve factoring. Due to his current enrollment in Pre-calculus Honors, Sullivan also succeeds in trigonometric topics.

"He has really been a force to be reckoned with this year, earning perfect scores in our first two meets and double digits in the third," said faculty supervisor Mrs. Kathleen Milne. "Mike remains calm under pressure and will do whatever rounds I think will be most beneficial to the team."

Xia has also been part of the Walpole math team since his freshman year, during which he took Pre-calculus Honors and handled advanced topics that are usually given to upperclassmen. Last year, he received the Outstanding Sophomore Award and completed AP Calculus.

"Having completed AP Calculus as a sophomore, Kevin is able to do any category," said Mrs. Milne. "He is intuitive and knowledgeable and works well under the time pressure of completing three questions in ten minutes."

Walpole's other assets include increases in team spirit and the number of students on the team. The rising number of females and juniors that participated on the team this year was also an advantage for Walpole, as they had more alternates at the meets.

"We benefit by having more people on the team so we can select those who have strengths in the topics of the month," said Mrs. Milne. "Team members benefit by constantly working on challenging problems and by being part of an academic team."

However, Walpole's weaknesses occur in the fourth and fifth rounds of the meets, for the problems involve difficult topics such as complex factoring. The small time frame given to complete the rounds is also a challenge for some competitors.

"I think the time limit is what's really holding everyone back," said Xia.

Nonetheless, the team is optimistic about next season, for their young



Junior Kevin Xia competes at the Math Meet on February 5. He finished the competition season as Walpole's highest scorer.



Finishing the competition season as Walpole's second highest scorer, junior Michael Sullivan competes at the Math Meet on February 5.

and experienced members will be able to handle more advanced math categories in shorter amounts of time.

"With only three seniors on this year's team, Jen Conroy, Alex Phan, and Melanie Caneja, I am optimistic about next year's team," said Mrs. Milne. "Our current members will have a stronger knowledge base as well as more experience. The

hope would be to make the playoffs and maybe even States next year."

Despite not making the playoffs, Walpole's youth and increasing student participation suggests strength in upcoming seasons. With high-scorers Xia and Sullivan leading the team into next year's season, Walpole's Math Team will continue to strive for perfect scores and a spot in the playoffs in the future.

New commuter rail bound for Foxboro

By Meghan O'Meara
Class of 2016

The Kraft Group and the MBTA agreed to move forward with the implementation of a full-time commuter rail stop in Foxboro on Monday, January 5. This change extends the Fairmount Line to Foxboro using the current Franklin Line tracks that run between Readville and South Station. However, in order to provide the most direct route to Gillette Stadium, the service will not have any stops between Readville and Foxboro.

David Mohler, the Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Planning for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), presented the proposal at the Foxboro Board of Selectmen Meeting on Tuesday, November 18. The tracks that will be used for the new commuter rail are currently used solely for freight trains and special events at Gillette; however, the new schedule will run five trains a day during weekdays—two in the morning and evening, and one midday.

With more trains running through South Walpole, some residents are concerned with how the new stop will affect the town. Since the line runs from Read-

ville to Foxboro without stopping in between, Walpole serves as a cut-through for the service to Gillette. At Walpole's Board of Selectmen meeting December 2, Mr. Mohler answered questions about the proposal. When Walpole Selectman Jim Stanton asked how the new commuter rail will help Walpole, Mohler said, "I don't believe that it does."

Currently, the Franklin Line runs a commuter rail service to Walpole, but it is not making a profit. At the meeting on December 2, a Walpole resident asked what the net revenue on the Franklin Line was and Mohler said, "Every line loses money." The new commuter rail would bring in an estimated 650 new riders, but the capital expense for the Framingham Secondary Line is \$23 million, the capital expense for new rails and improvements is an estimated \$35 million, and operating costs will go up an estimated \$500,000.

Also, many residents see a lack of communication as a major flaw in the planning of this line: Walpole and Foxboro residents did not hear about the potential service for months. "This is sneaky, deceitful, and wrong. And completely irresponsible," said Walpole Selectman Nancy Mackenzie.

Despite opposition from residents, the MBTA and

the Kraft Group moved forward with their decision. No votes or agreements needed to take place in Foxboro or Walpole in order for this to happen, as the state is not bound by local zoning or local decisions.

Rumors have spread of this service being part of a long term plan by the Kraft Group in order to help Boston with its 2024 Olympic bid or a potential Super Bowl bid at Gillette. "As far as I can tell, this is unrelated to an Olympic bid," said Mohler.

Previous reports pointed out the inability of Gillette Stadium to host a Super Bowl in the future due to its location in Foxboro as opposed to in a city; however, holding Olympic events at the stadium is still a possibility. The Boston Herald published a map of preliminary proposals for 2024 Olympic venues, claiming the Foxboro stadium could host soccer, along with potentially more sports.

Regardless of whether or not the 2024 Olympics were a factor in the decision about the new commuter rail, the route to Gillette will be convenient if the games were to be held in Boston. As for now, a full-time commuter rail stop in Foxboro will be available for local residents to utilize in the near future.

Summer King reaches millennial mark for Walpole

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

Scoring one thousand points in a high school basketball career is incredibly rare. Even with four years of varsity basketball with about twenty games per year, a player has to average about 12.5 points per game over that four year span to reach the one thousand points. According to Athletic Director Bill Tompkins and extensive yearbook research, only six other people have hit this benchmark: Walpole basketball legends such as Tim Collins (1988), Meghan Sullivan (1989), Nicole Wolfe (2002), Tim Clifford (2004) and Matt Wolfe (2004).

While the Rebels' record improved to 5-3 with the win against Milton on January 9, the game will be most remembered for Summer King's 1000th point. She finished the game with 11 points and 1003 points in her career. The feat was made all the more impressive by the fact that Walpole is not yet halfway through their regular season, so King has even more time to pile up the points.

Before the game, King already had 992 points to her name, so she needed only eight more points to get to the 1000 mark. She started the game off in the best possible fashion: driving through the lane and getting fouled while scoring, giving her a three point play.

At that point, she was up to 995 points and the Rebels were up 3-0. Walpole's hot start soon cooled, and they were up 7-6 until King hit a jumper from the elbow. She was now only 3 points from 1000, and the Rebels were up 9-6.

With a minute left in the first quarter, King had 999 and was gunning for that last bucket. With just 35 seconds left, she finally had her chance with a simple layup. It was her ninth point of the game, and put her at 1001 for her high school career. A timeout was called, and all of the fans stood up and cheered.

"I mostly felt relieved and excited because [scoring 1000 points] has been a goal for a few years,"



Photo/Max Simons

Summer King shoots shortly after scoring her 1,000th point during the team's 52-39 win against Milton.

said King. "Being able to experience it with my friends and family was the greatest reward."

Even after the ceremony, there was still plenty of basketball left to be played. Walpole was up by a score of 17-11 after the first quarter, and Milton certainly was not going to roll over. However, Walpole pushed the pace and seem to score, determined not to sour King's special night.

Ever since the first possession of the game, Walpole held the lead and never looked back. They got up 28-20 at the half, and at the end of three quarters they extended their advantage to 18 points, going up 46-28.

In the fourth quarter, Coach Jim Gallivan brought in the entire rotation of substitutes to let every



Photo/Hiromi Kondo

Summer King's teammates congratulate her with celebratory balloons and flowers after she receives her award for one thousand points on January 9, 2015.

player get some time. However, they dominated the flow of play and won by a score of 52-39.

In her very next game, King showed she has no intention of slowing down. In a 52-30 beat-down of Dedham on Tuesday, she exploded for 23 points and was the highest scorer in the game.

With King continuing to score at a prolific rate, everyone is wondering how high she can go, and how far she can bring this Walpole team in the state tournament. The MIAA will reveal the Division II bracket on February 21. As for the statistics, reporters will need to go back to the yearbooks and old newspapers to see how Summer's career point-total measures against the rest of her esteemed company in the history books.

Team effort wins Boys Track the Herget

Photos/ Kelli Celentano



Senior Captain Joe Keough takes the lead against Natick in the mile on January 15. Walpole beat Natick and won the Bay State Herget Title with a final score of 52-48.

By Colleen O'Connor
Class of 2015

Lackluster. This is one of the only words that can accurately describe the Walpole Boys Indoor Track and Field teams of the last two years. They couldn't win when it mattered. They couldn't score points when needed. They couldn't find anyone reliable to step up meet after meet after meet. They couldn't pull through with key victories when necessary. For example, last year, a tie against Bay State Herget rivals Milton before Christmas vacation sapped all the momentum out of the team. The Rebels needed something big this year, something momentous to turn the team around. This year, the team did not disappoint.

With an 81-15 win against a weak Dedham team on January 22, the Rebels cruised to the Herget title for the first time since 2012, solidifying them as a

top-level competitor. Taking eleven of the twelve first place spots from Dedham guaranteed the win for the team and prevented complacency from setting in.

"The big difference for this team was our balance across all events" said Head Coach Kevin Butera. "We've always had a weakness that would cost us big points and this season that really was not the case."

Standout performances on the oval went to junior Andrew Wheeler in the mile (4:49) and sophomore Luke Berardinelli in the 1000-meter run (2:49), with both athletes winning their respective events as well as qualifying for the Division III meet on February 13.

On the infield, freshman Tau Preacher pulled through for the team and put forth two career performances, adding a first place in the 55-meter high hurdles and a second place in long jump to pad the Rebels' already ample lead. Junior Akin Street posted the second



Freshman Tau Preacher and senior Guy Michel hurdles ahead of their competition against Wellesley on January 8.

fastest 55-meter dash time of the meet to lead a sweep of that event, with senior Bergomi Francois and junior Luis Yumet following close behind.

The throwers — particularly junior Nick Campobasso, senior Captain Ben Sacco and Francois — also stepped up to provide needed points not only for the Dedham meet but for the whole season.

"The big thing we needed this year was an improvement in field events. The throwers were a real hidden gem for us and they performed really well all dual meet season," said Coach Butera.

Sacco also added, "I saw a lot of improvement throughout the season, and I am hopeful we can contribute in the postseason."

The Rebels' only lopsided loss came against Newton North, who has been undefeated over the past eighteen years, on January 29. Despite the outcome, the Rebels remain hopeful as they look towards the Division III

meet and the rest of the postseason.

"We have enough team depth and scoring potential in multiple events to potentially place top 5 as a team. I also think the 4x400 and 4x800 could potentially move onto All-States. A couple individuals may sneak into that conversation as well," Butera said.

At the Division III meet on February 13, the Rebels again had a lackluster finish, scoring only 7 points. The 4x800 team of seniors Brendan Wohler and Captain Joe Keough and juniors Christian Carr-Locke and Berardinelli secured a bid to All-States with their 8:24.93, an indoor school record. The other two points came from senior Captain Billy Heiberger, who raced to seventh place in 10:20.79, a personal best. Other personal records went to seniors Bryan Kelleher in the 600-meter dash (1:26.18, ninth overall), senior Captain Tommy Helm (38.05) in the 300, and Wheeler (4:47.07) in the mile.

Walpole television plans for new local network and studio expansions

Continued from Page 1

A shared space in Walpole High between students and town employees would allow students to work with full-time staff on educational programming during the day, and staff could work on public and governmental programs in the afternoon or night. “The merging of the studios in Walpole High is a real positive for the school environment because students will get the chance to work with the town in the TV studio and gain some real life experience, which would provide them with internships and part time job opportunities,” said Principal Stephen Imbusch.

In order to expand the studio, the school must alter the layout of the current studio and staff offices near it. As of now, the classroom for students in the TV studio is at the center of the room, a space that town employees will need for their equipment in the future studio; thus the school must designate a separate instructional space for students during the day. The principal is looking to create this classroom for TV students in the Janitor’s main supply closet, which is adjacent to the studio. For certain, there are challenges when it comes to creating more space for the studio. D’Attilio said, “Integrating all



The Walpole School Committee gathers in the TV studio for a meeting broadcasted across town.

three branches together is a process that will take work, time, and include numerous small adjustments. Space is always at a premium in school buildings, so that will require careful planning, but it’s an adjustment that can evolve over time.” Despite various setbacks in the expansion such as organizing space, TV students are

excited about the expansion. Walpole High TV anchor Brendan Jeanetti said, “Right now I have to bring in most of my equipment, like my laptop, iPad and flash drives, so I think that expanding the studio and getting more realistic equipment will help people like me who have an interest in broadcasting to be one step ahead

of other students in college.” High school students and staff alike are enthusiastic about the expansion of the studio and see it as a positive development for Walpole High and its students. The project is set to begin this month once the partnership is established and completed as soon as school opens next September.

School Committee adjusts suspension and expulsion policies

By Anna Van der Linden
Class of 2016

The School Committee recently made significant changes to Walpole High’s student discipline policy to better represent the standards set by state law. The policy (Policy JIC), determines the restrictions regarding the suspension and expulsion of students. While the School Committee made primary plans to adjust the policy during a first reading January 15, the changes have now been officially implemented. The goal of the update was to clearly reflect the guidelines in Massachusetts’ State Regulation 603 CMR 53.00, so that all Massachusetts schools follow a similar plan that is fair to all students.

The most significant changes to the policy involve four topics: the education services provided for students during their removal from school, the length of time students can be suspended, hearings and appeals, and the possible reasons for expulsion. While Walpole High School has unofficially been practicing these changes for the past four years, these developments are now being made official this year.

The new policy now mandates that the school is responsible for a suspended or expelled student’s education, even after his or her removal from the school. Possible services include a tutor, an online plan, or an out-of-district placement.

“Probably four or five years ago was the last time when we had a student who was put out of school without a plan for their education services, so this wasn’t a real change for us, but it’s a big change from 10 years ago,” said Mr. Stephen Imbusch, the Principal of Walpole High School.

In previous years, if a student was on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or on another learning plan, he or she received full educational support after expulsion or suspension from the school, whereas regular students did not. The policy’s changes give everyone the same support. Mr. Imbusch said, “It is now covering every student, whether you are on an IEP or not, so that’s a major change.”

Additionally, the policy enforces restrictions on the length of an out-of-school suspension. Students can only be suspended from the school for 90 days, as Administration believes an extensive suspension is not successful in pushing a student to change his or her ways.

“Research shows that long term suspensions or expulsions really don’t help,” Mr. Imbusch said, “And the state is encouraging limiting the time that the students spend out of school.”

As another new development to the policy, students can only be suspended for two days before a hearing is required. A suspended or expelled student must attend a hearing, where Administration addresses the student’s punishment. Contacting the student’s parents or guardians, the school must also make a significant effort to encourage an adult to attend the hearing.

“Before, I would just meet with the student and say ‘You’re suspended for what you did,’ but the parents never had that opportunity to come in,” said Mr. Imbusch. An extension of the hearings, students also will have the right to make an appeal to the superintendent



Students face detention as a consequence for violating the school’s Code of Conduct. An average detention will last about one hour, from 2:20pm to 3:20pm.

regarding an expulsion or suspension. These hearing and appeal guidelines clear up confusion about how the punishments will be administered. Mr. Imbusch said, “It’s good that they have a parent or guardian there to represent them.”

Another note-worthy alteration to Policy JIC involves the reasons why a student can be expelled. The four expulsion justifications are the following: bringing alcohol or drugs to school, bringing a dangerous weapon, assaulting a staff member, or being charged with a felony. Administration hopes that these restrictions will reduce expulsions drastically, as it is not in the state’s best interest to have young adults out of school, lacking high school degrees.

“It hurts society in general to have a student who doesn’t have a diploma because a student who doesn’t earn a diploma won’t be as productive and contribute to society as much as someone who does,” said Mr. Imbusch.

All of the changes to Policy JIC aim to make the policy more sympathetic to students, while still allowing administration to dole out strong consequences when necessary. “I don’t find that any of it is tying my hands behind my back, when I think of things that I need to keep students safe,” said Mr. Imbusch, “It’s all positive.” The policy underwent a first reading but it also must go through a second reading and an official adoption before it will apply to students in the future.

THE REBELLION

Walpole High School’s newspaper is committed to informing the public, reflecting the students’ views, creating a public forum and serving as an educational medium.
Check out our website whstherebellion.com

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THE WALPOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND CLASS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

SENIOR	MEGAN SIFFERLEN
Megan consistently leads her class in her academic achievement in honors anatomy. She is incredibly conscientious, attentive, and has an amazing memory! She deserves recognition for all of her hard work.	
	Ms. Walleston
JUNIOR	RUBENIA ANATA
Rubenia has been doing excellent work in Geometry. She exhibits a strong grasp of the concepts covered having earned perfect scores on 2 out of 3 quizzes and a 97% on the third quiz. Rubenia is able to provide justifications for her responses. She recently scored 96% on a chapter test, which was the highest score out of my two Geometry classes and an improvement over her previous test scores, which were both in the B range. Rubenia is well mannered and polite, always prepared for class. She is not afraid to ask a question or to ask for clarification if she has difficulty with the language component. Rubenia is a pleasure to have in class.	
	Mrs. Kathleen Milne
JUNIOR	AMIRE LOFTIS
Amire hopes to be a college athlete, but last year he realized he needed to improve his GPA in order to be a more competitive recruit, and he has made nice progress toward this year. His recent term 1 report card has grades of 80 or above, and he made honor roll for the first time ever. He proactively checks in with me and Mr. Ramsdell (out intern) about how he can improve, get more organized and study better. Recently he has been taking some of his study period time to come into the guidance office and use Naviance’s test preprograms to study for SAT’s.	
	Ms. Conley
SOPHOMORE	MICHAELA DONATO
It is my pleasure to nominate Michaela Donato for Student of the Month. She has the highest average for Term 1 and Term 2 in my competitive Spanish III Honors class. I can count on Michaela to raise her hand for every question asked in class and to volunteer for anything that needs to be done. Michaela is always ready to help anyone in need of help. No matter how busy she is with school work, Michaela comes to class with a positive attitude and a smile on her face.	
FRESHMAN	THOMAS LESINSKI
Tommy is a fantastic student who always tries his best. He is a real thinker, and he always contributes to class in a thoughtful way. During the unit on Of Mice and Men, he was always lively and intelligent during discussions, asking questions that really helped move the class toward more sophisticated analysis of the text. He goes the extra mile with his writing too – Tommy’s points are always clear, and he explains his reasoning in a way that convinces the reader. His first term average was a one of the highest anyone has ever had in my freshman class, and this average was earned through his curious mind and his excellent writing!	
	Ms. Skwar

ACTIVITY AWARD

TESS LANCASTER	SPEECH TEAM	MS. LOFLIN
I am nominating Tess, who recently broke into two final rounds this year. She placed 3rd out of 30 students in the event of Children’s Literature and 4th out of 24 students in the event of Poetry Reading at the two tournaments that she has attended. She is a powerhouse Speechie and is representing Walpole very well. She has already qualified for the state tournament in the event of Poetry Reading, and she is very close to qualifying in the event of Children’s Literature. In addition to Tess’s awards, she should be recognized because she has been very dedicated and diligent all year long, whether it is rehearsing her piece many times after school with me, fundraising for the team of making every effort to attend most tournaments. Tess is definitely an inspiration to others on the team who aspire to win a trophy. It is such a joy for me to see Tess win; she is always beaming!		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

HEALTH	PERIOD 5	MR. KAMPPER
This health class is truly a pleasure to teach. The class is made of a mix of all four grades. In the past, this would result in some student’s not participating in class discussions because they did not know many of their classmates. However, this class has really come together over the past few weeks. The seniors act as mentors to the younger students and the freshman students are not afraid to express their opinions. This helps generate meaningful classroom discussions. These discussions are critical in a health class because the topics are mostly related to “teen health issues”. The students are learning a lot from the content and the excellent instruction, but also from their peers. This makes for an ideal learning environment and I am happy to be a part of it.		

DECEMBER

SENIOR	EMMA SEWELL
Emma is an excellent student in Statistics, maintaining high marks in all areas. Her homework is always well done. Her current grade is a 92%, where the average is currently a 79%. She performs very well on quizzes and tests due to her detailed note-taking skills and superb study skills. She asks questions during classwork and makes an effort to fully understand the material. She is an asset to other students during group work and can often be found helping the entire class, not just those in her group. Her effort has been consistent throughout the school year thus far and is well deserving of recognition. Emma is a pleasure to have in class and I highly recommend her for student of the month.	
	Mrs. Hackett
JUNIOR	ALLISON CULLEN
Allison shows an excellent command of the concepts of Pre-calculus. She is always prepared for class and ready to work. Allison frequently raises her hand to ask questions, actively participating in class. One day after several of her classmates had given incorrect responses to a question; Allison confidently raised her hand giving the correct answer. She pays attention to the finer details of precalculus, which enables her to avoid common pitfalls. When she is absent, she assumes full responsibility for completing missed work and checking homework answers to make sure that her work is correct. Allison is a pleasure to have in class and is deserving of student of the month.	
	Mrs. Kathleen Milne
SOPHOMORE	DAVID XIA
David is a student in my Honors Biology class. He is an excellent student. He is clearly interested in understanding the material and puts time and effort into his work. David regularly comes by to ask questions and to try to understand the nuances of complex concepts. David has had Several perfect scores on summative quizzes – which is an accomplishment in Honors Biology.	
	Ms. Jennifer Reichheld
FRESHMAN	RACHEL ANDERSON
I am happy to nominate Rachel Anderson for student of the month. Rachel has been a diligent, sharp leader who pushes herself and her peers. She is excellent in class discussions; she volunteers regularly and always has a thoughtful response at hand. Rachel has improved as a writer because of her conscientiousness and enthusiasm -- During the drafting process, asking intelligent questions about her writing that demonstrate her focus and scholarship. In addition, Rachel is an active listener; she has excellent note taking skills and these benefit both her and those around her during group work. Thanks Rachel for your hard work! Keep it up!	
	Ms. Krystal Skwar

ACTIVITY AWARD

JONATHAN BENOIT	MATH TEAM	MRS. KATHLEEN MILNE
Jonathan has been a welcome addition to the team. As a freshman enrolled in Algebra 1, many of the topics for the meets are concepts, which are taught outside his mathematics course. As a result, Jon sometimes has to learn concepts on his own. Jon turns in his problem sets on time and he has outscored some of our upperclassmen on the problem sets. Jon has competed officially in all three of our meets so far, and has earned points in each. In our most recent meet, Jon was instrumental in earning points in the team round which covered concepts that are no longer in the curriculum. Jon read the notes prior to the competition, and as a result was able to correctly answer questions in the meet. Jon is an excellent candidate for the extracurricular activity award. I proudly nominate him for this honor.		

CLASS OF THE MONTH

FRESHMAN PE	PERIOD 4	MR. GEARY
This PE class is one of the hardest working, team oriented, well-behaved classes I have ever had. The class has a very diverse group of students, who have been supportive, positive, and helpful with one student in particular. They have continuously shown patience and maturity. Every student in the class has a 90 or above and each student consistently remember all of their materials. Every student is willing to try new things. I am very pleased to nominate my Freshman PE class as the Class of the Month.		



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Speech team proposes new class and makes Nationals

Photo/ Daanya Salmanullah



Junior Tess Lancaster showcases her medal from her last competition. Tess will compete at the Grand National Tournament in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this May.

Photo/ Max Simons



Freshman Riley Mulroy presents his piece to members of the team at a practice. Members perform their pieces at many different competitions throughout the year.

By Erin Pitman
Class of 2016

As technology continues to play a large role in society today, the Walpole High School Speech Team challenges this social norm, encouraging students to learn how to speak with others face to face—rather than through texting or the use of social media.

This year, the team has more than one goal in mind; not only do they hope to have a successful season, but they also want to bring the benefits of the Speech Team to the entire student body at WHS. Recently, Ms. Emily Loflin, the adviser of the team, put forth the idea of adding a public speaking class to the list of electives offered to Walpole High School students next year.

Open to all students, the public speaking course centers around the objectives of the Speech Team; the class allows any student to improve his or her communication skills without having to be a member of the Speech Team. Based on a class Ms. Loflin took during her time as a student at Framingham High School, the course will

consist of lessons on various types of speech presentations including debates, interviews, and informal speeches.

Ms. Loflin said, “I definitely feel that a public speaking class would help students speak better- not only publicly, but it would also help students have more confidence and poise when they speak to people. We live in a world where technology has taken over, and too many people rely on texting and emailing.”

Recently, the Program of Studies has added the public speaking class; however, until the School Committee decides if new staff will be added to the English Department, the course will not be made an option next year.

As the Speech Team continues to advocate for the creation of the new class, the club continues to compete in their third season. They have already participated in several competitions throughout the state this year. However, they had not received any trophies for their

efforts up until their most recent events. Finishing 8th out of 32 schools at the Winter Festival Tournament (Newton-South High School) and 12th out of 29 schools at the Holly Festival (Natick High School), the team was awarded their first trophy in the club's three years.

“The team did really well as a whole because there weren’t just individuals who won the placement for the team;

it was a group effort and a really big accomplishment for us.” said freshman Ellen Irmiter.

With interest in the Speech Team

growing, more students have joined, expanding the team from 15 students to about 30 students for the 2014-2015 school year. While the team utilizes its new underclassman, they have been able to place higher in tournaments than ever before.

“The involvement of more students in the tournaments, along with improvements by each competing member, has helped our young team beat

out schools who have had speech teams for many years,” said Ms. Loflin.

While the team includes several new members, it is the veteran students who have dramatically improved from last year and act as leaders to the newcomers.

After not qualifying for the State Competition last year, junior Eileen Cooney is eligible for States in two categories this season.

Additionally, having been two of the four members on the team to qualify for States last year, junior Grace Hoegler and senior Samantha Corcoran, President of the club, have again also been nominated to compete in the State Speech Team Competition this season.

For the first time in club history, the team will also send one individual to Nationals: junior Tess Lancaster. The tournament will take place this May, during Memorial Day Weekend in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Lancaster said, “Qualifying was a surreal moment for me because overall, it felt like an accomplishment for the whole Walpole Speech Team, not just me.”

“Students need to learn the importance of speech in everyday life”

—Ms. Loflin

Hallway Talk:

For Hallway Talk, we poll ten Walpole High students on current issues pertaining to the school and the community. This weeks question: **What do you think we should do with all the snow days?** For the full report, see online at www.whstherebellion.com

“Probably take days off of February vacation, but that’s kind of short notice.”

—Sophomore Luke Berardinelli

“I think they should extend the school day or have us go on Saturday. They should not take away April vacation.”

—Junior Nicole Bogrett

“Cancel spring break, like April vacation.”

—Freshman Darragh Fahey

“Use [the snow days] to plow out the parking lot which they obviously haven’t.”

—Senior Joe Burke

“I think we should take off April vacation, I don’t want to go on Saturdays...I heard that was an option.”

—Freshman Carter Knott

“I’d rather get them taken out for April vacation than go into summer.”

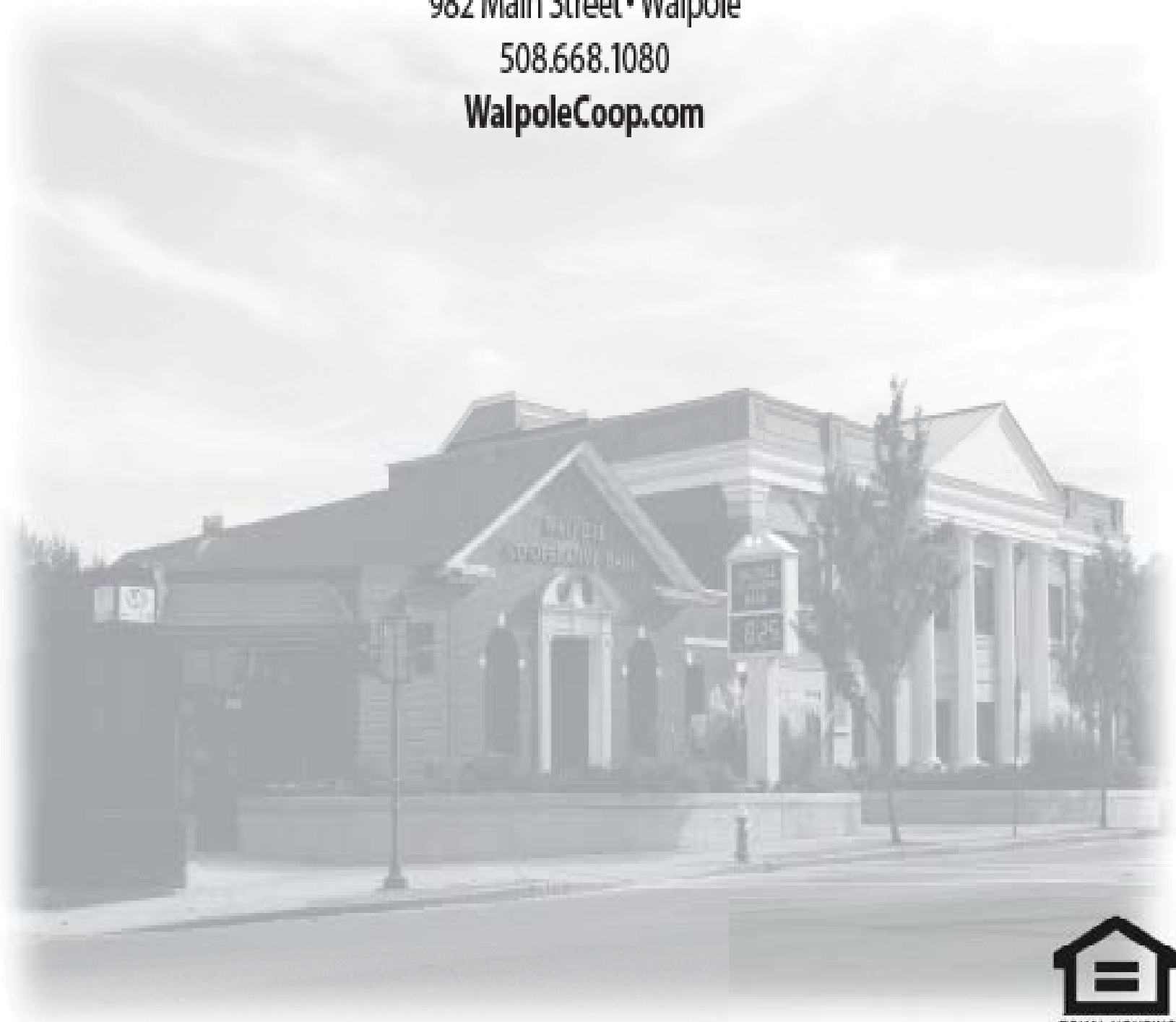
—Freshman Gayle Cataldo

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ENTERTAINMENT

Selma's Oscar snubs raises debate about racial tensions in and out of Hollywood

By Rachel Spang
Class of 2015

One of the most critically acclaimed films of the year, *Selma* chronicles the three-month period in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference travelled to Selma, Alabama to peacefully protest the restriction of voting rights for black people in the South. While black Americans were given the freedom to vote in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the act was difficult to enforce and many were denied the right to vote despite meeting all qualifications.

The film is a masterpiece in more ways than one — strong performances from lead actors, a fantastic screenplay, and beautiful cinematography all contribute to the film's great cinematic success. With four Golden Globe nominations, including Best Drama Motion Picture, Best Actor in a Drama Motion Picture (for David Oyelowo as Dr. King), Best Director (for Ava DuVernay), and Best Original Song (for "Glory" by John Legend and *Selma* co-star Common), *Selma* proved to be one of the year's best films.

When it came to the nominations for the 87th Academy Awards, however, the amount of nominations for the film was cut in half. While the academy nominated the film itself for Best Picture and "Glory" received another nomination for Best Original Song, they snubbed the individuals involved with the film.

The lack of recognition for black individuals started controversy, with diehard film enthusiasts and casual fans alike all asking the same question: Was the lack of Oscar nominations for *Selma* a simple difference of opinion or a display of the spectre of racism still alive in the Academy today?

The answer, unfortunately, is most



The lack of racial diversity in the 2015 Academy Award nominations, particularly regarding the film Selma, sparked discussion about America's own racial issues.

likely the latter. In 2012, the Los Angeles Times reported that an overwhelming 94% of the members of the Academy were white and had an average age of 62. While the Academy has made some efforts to increase their diversity since this statistic came out, one can guess that they have not made much of a dent in such a massive majority over just a few years. This lack of diversity shows in the nominations: all 20 nominees in the acting categories are white.

Whether the Academy's voting was knowingly biased or not is a virtually impossible question to answer. However, it begs another question: does it matter if the Academy was aware that they were being discriminatory with their votes, if the discrimination was still happening?

Dr. King himself said, "I am sorry to have to say that the vast majority of white Americans are racists, either consciously or unconsciously." The problem in this situation seems to be not blatant, hate-filled racism and a

willingness to snub black individuals, but rather an internalized bias against black people and their work due to living in an inherently racist world.

Nonetheless, in an industry so dependent on the values of personal and differing opinions on talent and achievement, people argue that controversy surrounding the accusation of racism in the Academy can only be brought to speculation.

While it is unlikely that there was a huge lack of outstanding black actors and directors this year, some Academy defenders argue that a lack of diverse nominees simply echoes a lack of black people involved in cinema. This argument itself sparks yet another racially charged issue, which is that big-budgeted films only give lead roles to black people for historical accuracy, rather than create black original characters.

This issue took prominence in last year's Academy Awards, when the only nominations given to black actors were to Lupita Nyong'o for playing a slave in *12 Years a Slave* as well as the same

film's director, Steve McQueen, and Barkhad Abdi for playing a Somali pirate in *Captain Phillips*. These roles are dynamic and important to cinema; however, when the only roles available to black actors are available to them only because of their race, black influence in film shrinks indefinitely.

While the creators of *Selma* were most likely unaware of the Academy drama their film would start, they certainly did not shy away from starting racial discussions in modern America. The film completely takes place in 60s America, but its parallels to the Ferguson-based protests against racist police brutality are clear. "Glory," which won Best Original Song at the Golden Globes and is a nominee in the same category at the Academy Awards, proudly boasts the lyrics: "Resistance is us/That's why Rosa sat on the bus/That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up."

In one scene, a weeping mother holds her teenage son's body after police officers beat and shoot him to death for attempting to peacefully protest; in another, black protesters are beaten, shot, and charged at by police officers while trying to march to Montgomery from Selma. The film is unashamedly gory, but the immense violence serves a purpose. The brutality in *Selma* is meant to shock the conscience of the audience, and while it may disturb some, it appeals to their empathy and humanity in order to effectively show both the horrors of police brutality in the past and present.

While people will always disagree whether or not the Academy Awards and the film industry in general is racially biased, *Selma* succeeds not just as a film, but as a phenomenon that sparked important discussions of the possibility that this bias and racial tensions still exist in our country and around the world today.

19 Kids and Counting family has right to freedom of speech



Audiences criticize the stars of reality show 19 Kids and Counting for their conservative Christian values.

By Natalie Luongo
Class of 2016

The controversial Christian family of *19 Kids and Counting* has had a rough year. The Duggars have come under fire for their political views and campaigns and even spurred a petition to cancel the TLC reality show. However, their situation is not unique.

The media criticizes celebrities all the time for making statements on their beliefs. *Duck Dynasty* star Phil Robertson made headlines with his anti-LGBT comments in *GQ* around the same time last year. Such expressions of beliefs range from Angelina Jolie's philanthropy to Clint Eastwood's bizarre condemnation of Obama a few years ago. Obviously, actors and television stars have the right to free speech, but can their politics go too far?

The *19 Kids and Counting* controversy began in mid-August when matriarch Michelle Duggar recorded a robocall asking Arkansans to oppose anti-discrimination legislation. She identified transgender women as "males with past child predator convic-

tions that claim they are female" and urged voters to allow business owners to discriminate against people based on characteristics such as one's gender, sexual orientation, religion, or race.

A few months later, her son, Josh Duggar, led an anti-gay marriage rally, asking the government of Arkansas to uphold a law defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Yet another controversy came up when Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar asked Facebook users to post images of PDA with their spouse. Gay couples' photos were reportedly removed, and the Duggars banned those users from posting on the page.

Traditional celebrities like actors and musicians advocate for their beliefs in interviews and fundraisers, not in their work. That line between work and personal views, however, is blurred in the case of reality stars, in which their personal views are their work.

It is hard to distinguish between freedom of speech and inappropriate actions. The law that the Duggars protested, which would have prohibited discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion, was repealed in December. One can infer that the decision had something to do with the Duggars' rallies and calls, publicized by entertainment sites.

However, reality stars should be able to express their views on their shows unless their language is hateful or discriminatory. The Duggars' faith is, after all, one of the reasons they have a show. One of the reasons why reality shows are so popular is because viewers find interest in people with lives different than their own.

For example, Michelle and Jim Bob's conservative views on "courting" — no hand-holding until engagement or kissing until marriage, supervision required on "dates" — are unique, which is good material for a reality show. Even in the age when

there is a reality show for everything—cupcake decorating, Amish home improvement, dating a man who looks like a British royal—the show must have some kind of interest factor, which is usually that the show's focus is foreign to most viewers. How else would Americans gain insight into the world of child pageantry, if not for *Toddlers & Tiaras* contestants or Honey Boo Boo?

A year ago, when Phil Robertson's *GQ* cover made headlines, people also campaigned for the cancellation of *Duck Dynasty*, which did not happen. Robertson later said that his comments were not meant to be abusive, but to simply express his faith. Some reality shows focus on conservative or religious families, and if viewers do not want to watch those families, they should not watch the show.

Reality shows are not meant to truly reflect our own realities — if they did, who would watch them? Instead, they portray unfamiliar cultures. Thus, the Duggars' views should be taken with a grain of salt. They are a Christian family with old fashioned child-raising techniques and dating rules, and there is nothing wrong with their expressions of faith.

Individuals can decide whether they will be watching such controversial shows or not. And although they speak out hatefully, freedom of speech protects opinions that are both right and wrong.

Rather than preventing the Duggars from speaking their minds, society should instead educate them about compassion and tolerance. Their comments and abuse of fame in a culture where everyone wants to speak their mind will not end with the cancellation of *19 Kids and Counting* because no matter how controversial their family is, viewers will continue to tune in to see the Duggars' crazy life.

Victoria's Secret harms women despite facade of empowerment

Photo/ Victoria's Secret

By Jamie Ferguson
Class of 2015

Every year, the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show* sparks heated conversation about whether or not the company — and, by extension, the fashion industry as a whole — is an institution that reduces women to sexual objects or one that empowers women to be confident. 2014 was no exception, and with the most recent show that aired on December 9, the discussion on just how harmful the brand is started up again.

The idea of women openly expressing their sexuality is actually a largely positive value for the models to project. As we live in a society that often shames women for being proud of their appearance, any example of women refusing to be ashamed of their sexuality or good looks should be respected. If a woman feels comfortable enough to wear elaborate lingerie, she should be able to express herself in this way. These models should not be shamed for their confidence or even for their generally unattainable figures. Confident women are relentlessly labelled as vain, and the models suggest that confidence in one's appearance is a positive attribute.

Many of the Angels even identify as feminists; for example, when asked at the 2014 show if she identified as a feminist, Elsa Hosk replied, "Of course! I believe in equal rights for women. I want women to be just as powerful as men."

But the problem with the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show* is not the models. The problem with the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show* is that the company conditions models to think that empowerment is displaying oneself as a sexual object. Victoria's Secret models are famous for their beauty, but also because the company consistently hires models with nearly identical bodies under the guise of promoting body positivity.

Ironically, a 2010 campaign called "Love My Body" featured ads with — unsurprisingly — tall, slender, beautiful models. Of course everybody should love their bodies, even women

with the so-called ideal body. Shaming women for being skinny is still harmful, even if they do not face nearly the same amount of shaming and bullying as larger women do. However, people with body types that are not represented in pop culture often struggle to accept their bodies because they feel as if there is something wrong with them. If a woman only sees women with these thin figures she will believe that she should strive to have that body and that body alone.

Similarly, the company went under fire recently for their ad campaign for their new "Body" line of lingerie. The ads displayed a row of women with the classic Victoria's Secret model figures with the words "The Perfect 'Body'" printed across the photo. Although the phrase was referring to their "Body" line, the ad still perpetuated idea that the women in the photo — the thin, long legged women with tiny waists and large breasts — have the perfect body. Thankfully, after receiving heavy criticism, the company changed the ad so it read "A Body For Every Body." However, the ad still suggests that the women in the ad represent every body type, which is far from true.

One of the biggest arguments advocating for the modelling industry is that skinny models are hired because their job is to look aesthetically pleasing. Model Erin Heatherton said, "[Victoria's Secret] is not selling reality; we are selling a story. It's all about creating this fantasy." In defense of the heavy Photoshopping, she likened the process to putting on makeup. "I think we're all intelligent enough to know the difference between what's real and what's not," she said.

So what does this say about Victoria's Secret, a company that promotes over-the-top perfection? Will consumers soon realize that they should be funding companies that choose to empower them rather than make them feel insecure?

But no matter what the intentions of the models or the company are, the fact remains that companies such as Victoria's Secret do have harmful effects on young girls. The average American



Many models in the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, referred to as "Angels," claim the show empowers women rather than objectifies them.

woman sees upwards of 400 advertisements per day, and the Nielsen Company reported that American teenagers have roughly 10 hours and 45 minutes of media consumption a day. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 69% of girls believe that models influence their idea of the perfect body shape. And as stated by the *New York Times*, girls who already have issues with their body images show more dieting, anxiety, and bulimic symptoms after exposure to models and advertising in magazines geared toward teenage girls.

Even if Victoria's Secret genuinely intends to empower women, its advertising, model selection, and company values are doing more harm than good. Companies need to understand just how much power they have to influence their consumers, and they need to use their influence to spread more positive ideals.

If young girls are told that a particular body type is the ideal for women, they will strive to emulate that body type even if it puts them in danger because they live in a society that suggests that a girl's worth is only determined by her appearance. And if the bodies of Victoria's Secret models are seen as this

ideal, women will start to believe that models' tall, slender frames are normal and that their own bodies are undesirable. For example, according to the Media Education Foundation, 75% of women with average weights think they are overweight due to unrealistic standards in the media. The media has the ability to warp one's beliefs about what is considered normal, and unfortunately, what was once considered to be ideal is now largely considered to be normal.

In theory, the *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show* is not a harmful idea. The models even largely attempt to promote positivity and confidence to viewers through their empowered sexuality. However, Victoria's Secret as an industry fails to recognize — or, perhaps even worse, does not even care about — the dangerous influence the promotion of extremely thin, overly Photoshopped women has on the average girl. Unless the company actively seeks to change its values in order to promote positivity in women rather than feed off of the insecurity of its consumers, Victoria's Secret will continue to be an extremely harmful brand for women regardless of its facade of empowerment.

Networks should cancel *American Idol*, *The Voice*

Photo/ FOX



For its 14th season, American Idol host Ryan Seacrest returns with a celebrity panel of judges.

By Lucy Lynch
Class of 2015

Eleven years ago, to most Americans, Caleb Johnson—the most recent winner of *American Idol* — would be a household name. But today, just several days since the show's fourteenth season aired, the victor's name is known to few, just 10.1 million, the smallest *Idol* finale audience garnered by the show since its premiere season. By contract, Caleb Johnson will receive a record deal because of his feat, but will he really find success? Shows like *American Idol* and *The Voice* discover talented performers, but because of the surplus and nature of these shows, viewers are no longer interested in supporting these shows and artists.

For many years, *American Idol* transformed the lives of average Americans destined for the spotlight. Its highlights included the start of Grammy winners Kelly Clarkson (Season 1 winner)'s and Carrie Underwood (Season 4 winner)'s careers. Other contestants not victorious on *Idol* also found suc-

cess in the music and entertainment industry. *Idol*'s own Chris Daughtry (Season 5) started the popular band Daughtry following his brief stint on the show and Jennifer Hudson (Season 3) resurfaced after receiving an Academy Award for her role alongside Beyoncé in the movie-musical *Dreamgirls*.

The show has also had its fair share of massive failures. The decline of *American Idol* might as well be attributed to the downfall of the Season 5 victor—Taylor Hicks. Most well known for being a twenty-something year-old with white hair and a sub-par voice, Hicks quickly lost his earned record deal after his album failed to sell even a few copies. From then on, most victors of *American Idol* have not become noteworthy members of the music world. Forgetful names such as Lee DeWyze, Kris Allen, and David Cook have plagued the reputation of *Idol*.

NBC's *The Voice*, which premiered in 2011, first garnered interest from viewers for its unconventional style of holding auditions. In their "Blind Auditions," the four judges—Christina Aguilera, Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, and Cee-Lo Green—are seated facing the audience, rather than the performer. In this way, the judges can base their opinions solely on the contestant's voice, instead of their outward appearance. If a judge wants the current performer on his or her "team," he or she will press a button that swivels their seat around to face the contestant. If two or more judges press their button, a fight for the contestant ensues among the judges.

The idea of these auditions is enticing; the audition episodes of *The Voice* generally draw a large viewing audience. But in the end, like *American Idol* in recent years, the winners of *The Voice* have been unsuccessful. Unknown victors like Javier Colon (Season 1) and the most recent winner Josh Kaufman

are virtually unknown figures to music listeners.

So what is the real problem? Why are reality talent competitions no longer popular and why haven't these shows been canceled? The answer lies in the changed technology and appeals of today's young adult demographic — the category to whom these shows aim to please. Just last year, Fox pulled the trigger to end Simon Cowell's *X Factor*—another singing based competition—after just three seasons. Fox should take the same action against *American Idol* and NBC for *The Voice*.

When *Idol* started in 2002, the concept of YouTube was non-existent. The show was one of the first well-done talent shows of the new millennium, and it was to most, a new, feasible way to gain fame and a record deal. Years later, the internet took over. The advent of YouTube in 2005 changed the ways people gained access to all kinds of videos. Day after day, thousands of people posted music videos and song covers, and many users gained large followings based on their work. Successful teens like Justin Bieber got their starts after music producers saw their performances on the website, and after meeting with them, were soon to receive a record deal. YouTube and the web in general, have helped make dreams —once only feasible through reality talent shows— possible by the click of a button online, and because of that, these television programs have crumbled.

Today, people no longer watch shows like *American Idol* and *The Voice*. The internet and appeals of other reality shows have impacted their successes, but ultimately throughout many years and seasons of repetition, talent shows have run their course on television. These shows should end now—leaving a legacy of success and some defeats—before future seasons become true catastrophic failures.

OSCARS

At 8:30 on January 15th, the Oscar nominations for 2015 were announced. Cinephiles all over the country have been itching for this moment all year. Per usual, it was a year of surprises and snubs. Here is a list of the nominees, complete with the biggest surprises and snubs for each category:

 The Grand Budapest Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Boyhood- Selma- The Grand Budapest Hotel- Birdman- American Sniper- The Imitation Game- The Theory of Everything- Whiplash	<h3>BEST PICTURE</h3> <p>Surprises: The most surprising nominee out of the field is <i>American Sniper</i>. When the film was announced as a contender to be released this year, the Oscar die-hards went into a frenzy. Clint Eastwood released a poorly reviewed <i>Jersey Boys</i> over the summer, but <i>American Sniper</i> is said to be one of his best. It came along so late in the game, however, that not everyone was sold on its nomination.</p> <p>Snubs: This is the first year that the Academy has only nominated 8 films ever since they moved to the new format (which allows anywhere between 5-10 nominees), and they definitely left a big one out. Bennett Miller's <i>Foxcatcher</i>, which scored directing and writing nominations (important ones for Best Picture nominees) as well as two acting nominations, did not land a nomination. <i>Foxcatcher</i> was a Best Picture threat last year until it was pushed to this season. Somehow, the Academy neglected to acknowledge one of the more certain contenders.</p>	<h3>BEST DIRECTOR</h3> <p>Surprises: As mentioned many times before, <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> was a dicey pick to get recognition. Wes has never received a Best Director nomination, but after two decades of quirky films, one of his masterpieces has finally received a lot of recognition. The directing nod for Wes is a huge compliment to his unmistakable style. Another surprise is Morten Tyldum, a new director who got in for directing a fairly simple movie. <i>The Imitation Game</i> is of quality, granted, but this a a huge award.</p> <p>Snubs: The snub no one will stop talking about: Ava Duvernay. The <i>Selma</i> director was to be the first African American woman to be nominated for the Best Director prize. Controversy has swirled this snub, and black Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs has responded to the criticisms of the Academy. Whether or not the Academy is racist is a topic for another day, but people should not attack the Academy for the exclusion of any contender, regardless of race.</p>	 Wild
 Gone Girl				 Birdman
 Nightcrawler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bradley Cooper (<i>American Sniper</i>)- Benedict Cumberbatch (<i>The Imitation Game</i>)- Eddie Redmayne (<i>The Theory of Everything</i>)- Michael Keaton (<i>Birdman</i>)- Steve Carell (<i>Foxcatcher</i>)	<h3>BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE</h3> <p>Surprises: The surprise here is Bradley Cooper jumping into the fifth spot. As mentioned before, the movie was a late-bloomer and Cooper is outstanding, but there was very little wiggle room in the category. Furthermore, Bradley Cooper is the first male to be nominated back-to-back-to-back years for a lead role, a feat that is rather impressive due to the heavy politics of the Oscars.</p> <p>Snubs: David Oyelowo's performance as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in <i>Selma</i> garnered significant critical acclaim. Although critics did not consider Oyelowo a shoo-in, the importance of his entire movie was projected to have helped his chances. Numerous critics have bashed the Academy for being racist even though <i>12 Years A Slave</i> just won the top honor last season. I think Cooper getting in over Oyelowo was more because of Cooper's incredible transformation into Chris Kyle.</p>	<h3>BEST ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE</h3> <p>Surprises: Marion Cotillard. Sure, she had a bit of buzz. And the last slot was definitely a toss-up. But this is a foreign drama scoring a lead nomination, which is certainly not easy to do. Cotillard is (rightfully so) adored by the Academy, but <i>Two Days, One Night</i> was so small compared to other films that her performance was thought to be overlooked. In addition to Cotillard, Julianne Moore could be considered a bit of a late player in the game. However, this nomination was not all that surprising. At first a big contender for her role in <i>Maps to the Stars</i>, she lost a lot of steam. And then <i>Still Alice</i> came into the game and launched her to the top of the category.</p> <p>Snubs: Nothing missing here really. This year was fairly weak for the leading ladies and the top four all got in as expected, including Julianne Moore.</p>	 The Theory of Everything
 Whiplash				 American Sniper
 Selma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Robert Duvall (<i>The Judge</i>)- Edward Norton (<i>Birdman</i>)- Ethan Hawke (<i>Boyhood</i>)- J.K. Simmons (<i>Whiplash</i>)- Mark Ruffalo (<i>Foxcatcher</i>)	<h3>BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE</h3> <p>Surprises: A well-predicted category. The only guy that is somewhat a surprise is Robert Duvall, who becomes the oldest nominee at 84. <i>The Judge</i> is a really small Massachusetts film and whenever a movie like that can get nominations, it's a pretty big deal. Small movies don't usually do well on the big Oscar stage, but this nomination is a great nod to the elderly Duvall, whom Hollywood has been so kind to over the years. Aside from Duvall, Ethan Hawke is a bit of a late player in this race. Although <i>Boyhood</i> was a summer flick, it took Hawke a little bit of time to finally get some buzz about his incredibly likeable performance in <i>Boyhood</i>.</p> <p>Snubs: Nothing here, as the race has been pretty consistent throughout this season.</p>	<h3>BEST ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE</h3> <p>Surprises: A lot of people said Laura Dern's part in <i>Wild</i> was too small, but she ended up getting in. It probably really helped her that this year is very thin for female roles. Hollywood has seen an increasing trend in female roles as of late, but this year wasn't exactly spectacular.</p> <p>Snubs: Again, a thin race, so there wasn't necessarily a snub. Perhaps many people were betting on Academy sweetheart Jessica Chastain to get in for <i>A Most Violent Year</i>. She got the Globe nom, but Laura Dern beat her out for the Oscars. In my opinion, the snub was of Sienna Miller for <i>American Sniper</i>. Miller has a heavy role as a wife dealing with the struggles of having a military husband. Her pain is pitiful, as the audience watches her panic constantly, never knowing whether her beloved husband is alive or dead.</p>	 Inherent Vice
 The Imitation Game				 Into the Woods
 Foxcatcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Richard Linklater (<i>Boyhood</i>)- Wes Anderson (<i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i>)- Alejandro Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, Jr. & Armando Bo (<i>Birdman</i>)- E. Max Frye & Dan Futterman (<i>Foxcatcher</i>)- Dan Gilroy (<i>Nightcrawler</i>)	<h3>BEST WRITING, ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY</h3> <p>Surprises: After being torn apart by Mark Schultz regarding story inaccuracies, <i>Foxcatcher</i> scoring a nomination here is a bit of a surprise. Although based on a true story, the screenplay qualifies as an original since there was no other writing medium from which the screenplay was derived.</p> <p>Snubs: J.C. Chandor's <i>A Most Violent Year</i> is a crime movie that was loosely based off of true stories dealing with the violence in New York in 1985. Not a huge snub, but just something else that was in consideration. In fact, if anything is a snub, it is Christopher Nolan being left out for yet another brilliantly meaningful film. His newest, <i>Interstellar</i>, received little recognition (mostly technical aspects), but the story is so littered with science and originality that it's a little shocking that it went unnoticed to the Academy.</p>	<h3>BEST WRITING, ADAPTED SCREENPLAY</h3> <p>Surprises: A bit of a surprise is Paul Thomas Anderson for <i>Inherent Vice</i>. Considering the love for PTA, perhaps this isn't a surprise. However, whenever a movie gets only one nomination, especially in a writing category, it's a little unexpected. The most surprising in this category is Damien Chazelle who wrote and directed <i>Whiplash</i>, a Sundance smash. However, the writers guild noticed that the story was based on another medium—a short written by...Damien Chazelle. This was, in my opinion, a really questionable call by the guild. A favorite for the original category, his chances in the adapted category were unsure, but he ended up with a nomination in the end.</p> <p>Snubs: The only thing that I would have considered a snub would be Damien Chazelle for <i>Whiplash</i> had it not gotten in.</p>	 Still Alice
 Two Days, One Night				 The Judge
 Boyhood				 Whiplash