

THE REBELLION

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RoboRebels excel at Boston Regional Competition

By Daria Grady
Class of 2013

Since January of this year, some of the brightest minds that make up Walpole High School have been meeting everyday to transform a simple hunk of metal into a flawless battling machine. Walpole's very own RoboRebels returned for yet another competition for FIRST's (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) game of "Rebound Rumble." The team attended the Boston Regional at Boston University's Agganis Arena for week four of competitions on March 21-24.

For the 2012 season, all teams involved with the international FIRST Robotics Program must attempt to play the game, "Rebound Rumble." The game consists of an alliance of robots from three different teams fulfilling a task similar to basketball. The playing field contains four nets at different heights, all varying in the amount of possible points that can be awarded. Not only does "Rebound Rumble" have the challenging shooting mission, but teams are also placed with the obstacle of crossing over tilting bridges that are placed in the center of the field as well as attempting to balance on them for extra points.

After the week one Manchester Regional Competition, the team had to recuperate from a damaging loss in a previous competition. The RoboRebels gathered again for three weeks to tirelessly work on improving their robot. Since the team is not allowed to work on the official, battling robot, they added engineering improvements to make the prototype-robot more precise and an all around better basketball-playing machine. The team arrived in Boston on Wednesday night, March 21, and promptly started to work on the competition robot Thursday morning. Parts were added, new codes were written, and the robot showed a vast improvement in comparison to the previous competition. Thursday afternoon consisted of continuous practice rounds that showed off the robot's capabilities. The RoboRebels displayed their 98% shooting accuracy and the team was anxious to finally start the qualification rounds.

Friday morning, the RoboRebels gathered at Boston University's Agganis Arena to begin the competition. In the stands, the team awaited the first round of qualification matches that the RoboRebels were featured in. The concern was that Boston would be yet

another Manchester repeat, but Walpole's FIRST Team 1153 proved to be triumphant. Senior Derek Caneja said, "We worked really hard and it was great way to end my RoboRebel career." As the team competed, the RoboRebels competed so well that they found themselves ranked third overall at one point in the day. By the end of the day, the team had been ranked 13th.

As the seeding matches were finished on Friday, March 23, an hour long award ceremony took place to congratulate teams on their efforts aside from the initial building of the robot. The RoboRebels were awarded with the Entrepreneurship Award, reserved for programs with an outstanding business plan. Not only must the team create a plan that is accurate and meets the specific criteria, but the leaders of the business team, Juniors Daria Grady, Erin McWeeney, and Molly Breen, had to impress several judges with their team's financial gains and losses, as well as goals for the future seasons. Winning the Entrepreneurship Award was especially gratifying, as it is the first year the RoboRebels have ever put together a business team. "Creating the business plan consumed the past six months of our lives and it is beyond words to describe the accomplishment," said Breen, one of the creators of the business plan. With the new addition of business mentor Mrs. Paula Fontaine, the team made producing an award winning plan look easy.

Finally, Saturday's alliance choices were made. The top 8 teams out of the 53 competing were gathered together to pick their teammates for the semi-final rounds. Each alliance consists of a leader from the top eight that get to choose two additional teams



The RoboRebels Robot attempts to play the "Rebound Rumble" game in competition.

to join them. Walpole's RoboRebels were unexpectedly chosen third out of all 53 teams. The RoboRebels joined FIRST Team 1100 from Northborough along with Beaver Bots from Beaver Country Day School in Chestnut Hill. The three local teams got together and made it to the last semi-final round before getting eliminated. The RoboRebels placed third along with another alliance that was stopped by the overall winner Team 341, "Miss Daisy" from Pennsylvania and fellow alliance members.

Boston's Regional Competition was a victory for Walpole's RoboRebels FIRST Team 1153 with the Entrepreneurship Award and the achievement of getting to the semi-final rounds. Since the beginning of January, the team continuously worked for six weeks to prepare the robot. This effort did not go unrecognized as the Boston Regional Competition turned into the one of the club's most successful competitions.

School Committee outlines potential cuts of a failed override

By Abigail White
Class of 2014

The Walpole School Committee held a meeting on March 22, 2012, which was attended by over 50 citizens, parents, administrators, and staff, and was also viewed by many others on television. The committee's main goal was to come up with final decisions on the much discussed 2013 budget cuts and the effects they will have on the schools if the override fails on June 2, 2012. If it fails to pass without additional revenue, the Walpole School Committee must cut \$1.3 million from a level-services school department budget. All Walpole Public Schools will be affected by this budget cut with the loss of teachers and classes, along with sizable fee increases. Superintendent Lincoln Lynch explained how the cuts were divided throughout the seven schools. If the override passes in June, however, no position cuts or fee increases will be put into effect.

Within the four elementary schools, eight classroom teachers will be cut. These cuts will cause the number of students in each classroom to in-

crease. Because the number of students in the classrooms will increase, the students will be at a disadvantage academically; they will not get as much attention from the teacher as they once had, and may fall behind.

Both Eleanor N. Johnson Middle School and Bird Middle School students will also be put at a disadvantage if the override fails. Foreign Language will be eliminated from both the 6th and 7th grade curriculum. With only

one prior year of experience in a foreign language, students will be at a disadvantage when they enter high school.

Walpole High School will have to cut many classroom teachers from the Math,

Continued on page 9

Finalized WPS Budget Cuts *			
Elementary	Middle	High School	Fees
8 classroom teachers (68% of classrooms will have over 25 students, 7 classrooms will have over 30 students)	Foreign Language is eliminated from 6th and 7th grade (loss of a popular, award-winning program and loss of instructional time; will create void in student schedules)	Classroom teachers from Math, Social Studies/Mandarin, Wood/Technology departments; 1 custodian; 1 Instructional aide; a partial secretarial position; and athletic funding	Bus fee will double (from \$250/child to \$500/child); Family cap doubles (from \$500 to \$1000) Athletic fees will double (from \$200/sport to \$400/sport); no individual cap, and family cap is \$1500

*If the override is successful, none of the above position cuts or fee increases will occur.

EDITORIALS

Skepticism over “Kony 2012” contains faulty arguments



Leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, Josef Kony.

By Amanda McManus
Class of 2013

If you have found yourself skimming through Facebook lately or perhaps sifting through tweets on your Twitter homepage, you might have noticed a reoccurring phrase, accompanied with a video link. “#STOPKONY” and “#Uganda” have become trending topics on Twitter, and everyone has seemed to take notice of the phenomenon within 24 hours. The video “Kony 2012” became viral overnight, and for a long overdue cause. The video’s purpose is straightforward: to bring attention to Josef Kony, the leader of the LRA (Lord’s Resistance Army), in order to find his whereabouts and arrest him for crimes against humanity of which he has been committing unnoticed for the past 26 years. The campaign is sponsored by a popular corporation called Invisible Children. Their aim is to publicize the struggle of Ugandan children forced to become sex slaves and child soldiers and contribute to rebuilding their society. But with every good cause, it seems there must be a counteracting force pulling it down. With the sudden popularity of the “Kony 2012” video, much skepticism and negativity has circulated around the video. People debate whether or not Invisible Children is a scam. Given, there may be some shadiness within the organization. But to be frank, “Kony 2012” is not about where the Invisible Children’s revenue is spent; it is a video whose sole purpose is clearly stated: “to make Josef Kony famous, not to celebrate him, but to raise support for his arrest and set a precedent for international justice.” Viewers are losing sight of that purpose.

Information has surfaced stating the reasons why Invisible Children has gained negative attention. The company refuses to let their finances be audited and sources state that only 31% of their income goes to Uganda. The creators of the Invisible Children campaign supposedly get very wealthy off the charity, and much of the income goes to video making and advocacy purposes. Though it would obviously make sense for more of the money to go to Uganda instead of on video making or yearly salaries, that is not what “Kony 2012” deals with. The purpose of the viral video was achieved, yet the skeptics have immersed themselves in controversy and forgotten what the original initiative was: to make Kony famous. By creating this video, certainly more people are aware of Kony and the LRA, which was its goal. Not one person can

argue against the fact that Josef Kony is a bad man and must be arrested, so any criticisms of anything the Invisible Children do with their money simply are not relative. The most important thing is that he is bad, and he must be stopped in order to gain justice for his 30,000 victims, and that is what “Kony 2012” works at. They are not demanding your money in order to find Kony. “The Plan” they have created, which is put in plain terms in the video, is to make sure that the “Kony 2012” campaign is not forgotten so that we can maintain the 100 troops that President Obama has sent over to Uganda to help their army search. It seems some have, for some unbeknownst reason, chosen to quickly believe the negativity, rather than support a worthy cause.

Other slanders against the viral video include the fact that, supposedly, Josef Kony is no longer active and is no longer in Uganda. Yet the LRA still exists and is moving into other countries. Viewers complained that the video simply glosses over this fact. But how many times must the point be made? There is a map diagram about midway through the half-hour documentary that

clearly shows the motion of the LRA merging into other countries, alongside narrative that states this fact. Whether or not Kony is still active, his Ugandan victims want justice, and men like him should be sought out and arrested.

Some viewers complain about the fact that arresting Kony is a miniscule cause compared to the issues Uganda is facing now, perhaps because of rumors that he is no longer active. But imagine a criminal like him in the United States, kidnapping 30,000 children over years and years and trans-

forming them into sex slaves and murderers. It is doubtful that these viewers would still see it as a miniscule cause just because it may not be occurring any longer. One must start small in order to fix bigger problems. If anyone has a problem with the goal of “Kony 2012,” rather than arguing over it, they can find another charity that donates what they believe is a more important cause. One of Kony’s child sex slaves, now a grown woman, recorded a message to the critics about this very judgement. She explains her first hand account of the Kony’s wrath, and makes it difficult to argue that “Kony 2012” does not do its purpose. One of the filmmakers and the narrator of “Kony 2012,” Jason Russell, explains in the video how the campaign began. Him and his team went on a trip to Africa, where they met Jacob, a victim of Kony’s acts as well. The documentary shows the teenage boy, whom the video portrayed as nearly unbreakable for a child beforehand, suddenly and uncontrollably crying for the loss of his brother which he had witnessed as a child, one of the heaviest clips of the video. This was the point where, in the background, Russell reas-

sures Jacob that he will do everything he can to help him. “Kony 2012” is a promise kept to Jacob and the rest of the victims who have been begging for acknowledgment, and frankly, it is insulting that people call it unimportant.

Another skepticism is the crowd supporting the video. There have been accusations that a charity supported by celebrities like Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift is not a reliable charitable organization. But yet again, viewer’s criticisms are irrelevant. They must not have caught the part in the video that states their goal is to advocate, though it is repeated numerous times. Using some of the biggest celebrities to advocate is one of the best advertisement tactics: people take notice of what celebrities say, whether they care about it or not. The “Kony 2012” website (www.kony2012.com) features a list of celebrities that are a click away from contacting to urge them to put out the message. Just because these people are mainstream, does not mean their support of the cause is merely a conformity as well.

As far as the extreme focus on Invisible Children’s financials, the organization has put out a statement in reply to the claims. They stated that they have a “three-prong-approach” to their goal. The first goal is to make the people aware of the LRA by creating free documentaries. The second goal is to channel that energy into “large-scale advocacy campaigns,” and the third goal is to work in LRA-affected areas and rehabilitate them. That would make sense why only 31% is spent on actual rehabilitation. Though there are far more issues viewers have with the short, summarizing documentary, all claims thus far have generally come across as weak, irrelevant arguments. Much of what they have complained about can easily be put to rest. If the skeptics would listen to the documentary instead of criticizing it, they might actually see the cause for what it is.

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 new website whstherebellion.com

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Override crucial for Walpole

Proposed override essential to WHS athletics

By Sydney Gillis
Class of 2012

Throughout the years, Walpole High School has had success in nearly every domain, most notably the Athletics Department. However, with budget cuts looming over the town, the Walpole school system is being forced to make some difficult decisions. The future of many programs throughout the school district are at risk of either being eliminated or severely affected. Although it is necessary for the town to save money, the means of doing so should not be through raising athletic fees or making cuts to the athletic budget. The only foreseeable solution to creating more revenue and maintaining the quality of the schools would be to pass the proposed override.

Outside of the classroom, students' opportunities to participate in sports and extracurricular activities will be threatened. Athletic fees will raise potentially to \$550 per student, per sport. An athletic fee will burden the families of athletes, and it could make it impossible for

some athletes to participate in sports. If students cannot afford to participate in sports, they will have a less competitive transcript and competing in sports at a college level will be nearly impossible. Senior Captain of the Swimming and Diving team Becky Idman is planning to swim for the University of Maine at Orono next year. "High school swim helped me so much when it came to college," said Idman. "Recruiters are often at meets and it is important that they get a chance to see you on. When you take that away, you do not have that real opportunity to show college recruiters your true ability." With an athletic fee over \$500, the opportunities Idman mentioned will be impossible for some students to attain. High school sports are an essential part in many students lives, and it would not be fair to limit their access to sports through extremely high users fees. Although the fees may seem extreme, they are necessary in order to close Walpole's \$1.3 million budget gap if the override does not pass.

In 2010, Mansfield faced a similar budget situation as Walpole. Two years

ago, Mansfield planned to eliminate all sports, after school programs, and many staff members from their school district in an effort to close their \$1.8 million budget gap. While some town members suspected that the cuts were part of an effort to pass the override later that spring, most were shocked by the potential eliminations. Cutting sports alone would have saved Mansfield over \$600,000. However, Mansfield's override was passed, allowing students to continue sports and after school activities. Walpole, on the other hand, is currently looking to eliminate a likely \$25,000 from the athletic budget, while gaining \$150,000 from raised fees and tuitions. Although some people in Mansfield thought the cuts made to their town were part of a scare tactic, the override passed and eliminated their budget gap. While Walpole assures town members that the proposed cuts and fees are not a scare tactic (but rather the future of Walpole if the override does not pass), they do make an override look like the most promising option. In order to avoid a situation

as extreme as Mansfield's, Walpole needs to pass the override to regain control over the schools' budget deficit and to improve the schools in general.

An override would cost the average home around \$330 per year—less than the proposed athletic fee for a single season. Although not all homes in Walpole will be paying an athletic fee, the future of Walpole looks bleak without an override. If the override passes, the budget gap will not only be closed, but the school system would generally improve. High school students will have stronger transcripts, making them more successful in the college admission process.

The \$330 the average homeowner will pay if the override passes is a small price to pay in comparison to if the override fails. Without an override, the quality of every school in Walpole will be severely affected. Some students will not be able to participate in sports, and their overall experience will be diminished. The override is necessary in order for the Walpole school system to uphold its successful reputation, and improving upon it will be im-

Failed override would be detrimental to Walpole schools

By Ashley Waldron
Class of 2013

The political-action group Walpole Pride has emerged to promote an override. As the saying goes, you cannot ignore the elephant in the room—and everyday it is getting fatter and fatter. It is time to stop pretending nothing is happening, and stop sweeping the inevitable under the rug.

In other words, we cannot sit this round out again for the override. How can a town expect to just sit around and not give back? It is not fair for the majority of us students who care about our education and experience as young adults. Pro-overrideers have been trying not to ask too much of Walpole taxpayers, but after a few years it has come to a critical point. In recent years, the State and Federal revenue has decreased not only for Walpole, but for other towns as well. In order to keep our town the way it is right now, we need to rely on taxpayers.

If you have not seen any of the Walpole Pride updates, it is now a good time to start looking at what is really going on. A surprising amount of people do not realize the detrimental cuts the town could face next year, or in a few years when the reality slams everyone in the face. The best way to make a good voting decision is to know exactly what would happen if the override does not pass this June.

The majority of students at Walpole High remember their Elementary school days at Old Post Road, Fisher, Elm, or Boyden in a positive light. What about their teachers as well? Most students have a teacher they had years ago who said or did something that has stuck with them ever since. If the override does not pass, veteran teachers who have been in the school system for more than 10 years will get cut, because of the possible cuts to foreign language, English, science, and social studies. This is a serious issue and it should be treated as such.

This is not a movie, this is real life. If you have kids in the school system who have a couple more years to go before they graduate, be prepared for them to have a limited education. So many people have been sitting around and waiting for the problems to fix themselves, but look where that has landed us. After a few years of trying to postpone on an override vote, the town can no longer ignore it.

One of the biggest concerns about the override actually stems from the students themselves. In a recent meeting on March 28, a group of interested students met with some of the members from Walpole Pride, and voiced their concerns. For a while now, many people have been talking about the possibility of cutting foreign languages from the middle schools, but there is a deeper, underlying evil. If the override does not pass, eventually there will be no AP language classes. This is a huge issue, especially for those students that have to take advanced classes to get into competitive

colleges and universities. Two students might be equal in grades and activities, but a college admissioner will be more drawn to the student who has taken Advanced Placement classes. As we can tell, this world is becoming a global society. Companies want the most educated and global employees available. However, students will have a difficult time achieving the level of education these companies desire without AP classes.

Another problem with having to cut teachers and large class sizes is that many students are getting blocked out of classes that they could have taken otherwise. For example, this year's AP Literature class contains 35 students. A few students were blocked from the class simply because the room could not fit anymore desks. Senior Erin Strickland, a member of the AP Lit class, explained the situation in simple terms. She said, "Mrs. Culliton can't reach them," meaning that there are so many students in the class, a few students are bound to fall behind. Even in the highest level of classes, people are not as focused when there are too many people in a classroom.

So if this is happening to seniors in high school, what do you think would happen if an elementary school class had 40 kids in it? The exact same thing.

It would take so long for teachers to pass out papers, and it would be a constant struggle to keep the class at a minimum voice level. Having to say "be quiet" every five minutes takes time away from learning and it prevents students from being focused.

One of the reasons why a few parents in Walpole started the Walpole Pride group is because they are worried about the future of Walpole Schools—something everyone should be worried about. Karen Bourn of Walpole Pride said, "My biggest concern is that my young children will not have the same quality of education as the students who are just about to graduate from Walpole High School." Currently, she has a son in kindergarten, and the future of not only her child, but also the futures all young kids in Walpole is in the hands of the override.

The Walpole taxpayer would have to pay about \$330 per year, which is less than the cost of an iPad. What if the iPad you just bought slips out of your hands and crashes into a million shards of broken glass? That would be about \$500 down the drain. For a student, that \$330 dollars the override will cost will never be gone or wasted, because in the end that student will have a substantial education.

Cartoon/ Ashley Waldron



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The Walpole High School Students and Class of the Month

JANUARY

Senior

Mary Kate Bindas

Calculus

Mary Kate had one of the highest averages in her Calculus class for first semester. In addition, that includes an impressive 100% on the mid-year exam. Mary Kate started her freshman year in CP1 math and has worked her way up to taking both Calculus Honors and AP Statistics during her senior year. Her quiz and test scores are consistently among the highest in the class and she has not missed a homework assignment all year. She works very well with her classmates, often explaining concepts to those that sit in the same group with her. Mary Kate always asks a question in class when something is unclear to her and works hard to get the clarification she needs. However, she is usually the one answering the questions, instead of asking them. Her class participation is terrific and I greatly appreciate her contributions. Mary Kate is a very worthy student of the month candidate.

Ms. Sheryl Lerner

Junior

Sean Burchesky

Pre-Calculus

Sean scored a perfect 100% on the Pre-calculus midyear exam. The exam had both multiple choice and free response questions both with and without a calculator, and he did not miss a single question. His work in Pre-calculus has been exceptional earning him grades of 98% each term. Not only does Sean possess a solid understanding of the concepts covered in class, but he has also explored problems on his own, which utilize mathematical concepts that are well beyond the scope of this course. He has come after school to discuss these problems and to have me look at his work. I am proud to nominate Sean for the January student of the month.

Mrs. Kathleen Milne

Sophomore

Connor Moriarty

Biology

Connor has been a role model in this class. He is naturally gifted with a high level of intelligence but does not try any less just because it comes easier to him. His attitude is one that I would love to replicate across all of my students, as he is conscientious, takes considerable care with his work and always turns assignments in on time, they are extremely neat and attention to detail is evident. In lab work, he is a true leader, keeping others on task, and helping others who are having difficulties. He always looks interested and invested, and is enthusiastic about learning new biology concepts. I know he has a bright future ahead of him because of his great blend of great study habits, personable demeanor and determination to always do his best.

Ms. Sue Wick

Freshman

Kody McCann

German I

Kody is simply an ideal student. He comes to class every day with a huge smile on his face. He speaks up during class. He helps his classmates understand, but does not overlord them. He is funny and everyone in the class loves him. He is incredibly positive and was one of the first students to sign up and get his papers in for the German exchange. He has a 99% average in the class and always seeks to learn even more than I can teach in 70 minutes. He is superlative.

Mrs. Liz Pierce

FEBRUARY

Senior

Kira Street

A.P. Calculus

Kira currently has a 100% average in Calculus, which is absolutely phenomenal. She has perfect scores on two of our three quizzes so far this term and she missed only a single point on the third quiz. Her recent chapter test was flawless. She earned 102%, the highest score in the class. Her explanations of concepts are thorough and her attention to detail is without reproach. Kira shows an excellent grasp of concepts and possesses the ability to apply her knowledge to new problems. Her homework is always complete, and she works well with others. Kira is a pleasure to have in class and is certainly deserving of the student of the month.

Ms. Kathleen Milne

Junior

Meredith Coleman

Algebra 1

In the first month of Term 3, Meredith continued the superb work she has been doing all year. She currently has a 98 average (through 12 homework assignments and quizzes) and has not missed a homework assignment all year. Meredith arrives to class every day fully prepared and with a positive attitude. Although math is not her strongest subject, her effort and preparation more than compensate for any difficulties she has had in the past. Her class participation is “quietly” enthusiastic – Meredith constantly volunteers to answer questions posed to the class, but she never calls attention to herself. She is not afraid to take a chance and try to answer a question that she may not be totally sure of. Her attentiveness during new material is unwavering; Meredith is 100% involved in learning the math. I know that if something is confusing to her, it is probably because I have not explained it clearly to the class. Meredith Coleman has been a pleasure to have in class all year, not just the month of February, and I think she is very deserving of student of the month recognition.

Ms. Sheryl Lerner

Freshman

Diane Maher

Geometry

I am nominating Diane for Student of the Month based upon her excellent scholarship and attitude. She is an outstanding student who is highly motivated to succeed. Diane earned 97 first term, a 96 second term and scored 97 on her mid-year exam. Diane is always prepared for class and completes all HW assignments promptly. She questions her results and uses mistakes as a tool to learn or improve her knowledge. Diane’s work shows time and effort, and an understanding of the mathematics and application involved in the problems. She shows curiosity and a desire to understand what she is learning. Diane is quiet in class yet she works well with others and is consistently on task, on time, and a pleasure to teach.

Ms. Beth Milligan

ACTIVITY AWARD

Danielle Cotton

Student Humane Society

Danielle has consistently shown leadership, initiative, enthusiasm, responsibility and helpfulness in her dedication to helping the local animal shelters. She has kept the tradition of having a Student Humane Society club bake sale at the school play alive, literally all by herself! Danielle baked 100 cupcakes, bought small stuffed animals, chocolates and drinks to sell, made posters, and recruited others to help her. Because of her initiative and drive, Danielle raised over \$200 for the local animal shelters. Prior to that, she sold hundreds of chocolate bars for a fundraiser. This money will be donated to local shelters caring for abused and abandoned animals. In addition, Danielle has just organized a fieldtrip to two local animal shelters, including providing transportation so that other students can visit the animals in the shelters, speak to the volunteers, and personally deliver the donation checks to them. There would be no Student Humane Society this year without Danielle’s efforts and initiative. Danielle plans to be a veterinarian and has shown a high degree of commitment, dedication and responsibility. She does everything with a great smile and a positive attitude. She is one in a million!

Mrs. Deborah Jordan

ACTIVITY AWARD

Emily Rose

Math Team

Emily is a four-year veteran of the math team and has performed well in our meets this year. In our February meet Emily was the team’s highest scorer, earning a score of 17 out of 18 possible points. When this score was added to Emily’s cumulative total, it made her the highest scoring senior in the entire SMML, which is comprised of 33 teams. Although our team narrowly missed qualifying for the playoffs this season, Emily qualified as an individual for the highest scoring senior award, which meant that she and I were able to attend the SMML playoffs on March 1st. Emily’s performance in the playoffs has earned her at least a share of the high scoring senior award. I am proud of what Emily has accomplished both individually and as part of our math team for the past four years.

Mrs. Milne

CLASS OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Kathleen Milne

Pre-calculus Period 2

This class is a pleasure to teach. The students are conscientious and highly motivated. They come to class prepared and ready to work. This group turned in a particularly strong performance on the midyear exam, which exhibits their ability to retain and apply mathematical concepts. I proudly nominate this class for the January Class of the Month.

Mrs. Liz Pierce

German I Period 5

As a class, this group is fabulous. They all come to class with smiles and energy. They speak as much German as they can. They push me to be a better teacher. I love to be with them. Their curiosity and respect are unbridled.

CLASS OF THE MONTH

Ms. Milligan

A.P. Statistics Period 3

This is a diverse group who quickly blended together to help each other with problems and activities. They are willing to share ideas and discuss the diverse topics covered in class. Some of the students have offered unique solutions to problems which resulted in great discussions. These students all demonstrate a willingness to learn. They challenge each other to reach a personal best. They are a pleasure to teach.

Ms. Lerner

Calculus Honors Period 1

This group of 20 seniors has been a pleasure to work with all year, Although this is an honors-level class, the students come from a mix of previous courses. Regardless, the students in the class have come together nicely into a very cohesive unit. They are encouraging to each other and work extremely well together. The students are attentive to detail and inquisitive, particularly when presented with difficult new material. I enjoy working with this group every day and am pleased to nominate them for the class of the month.

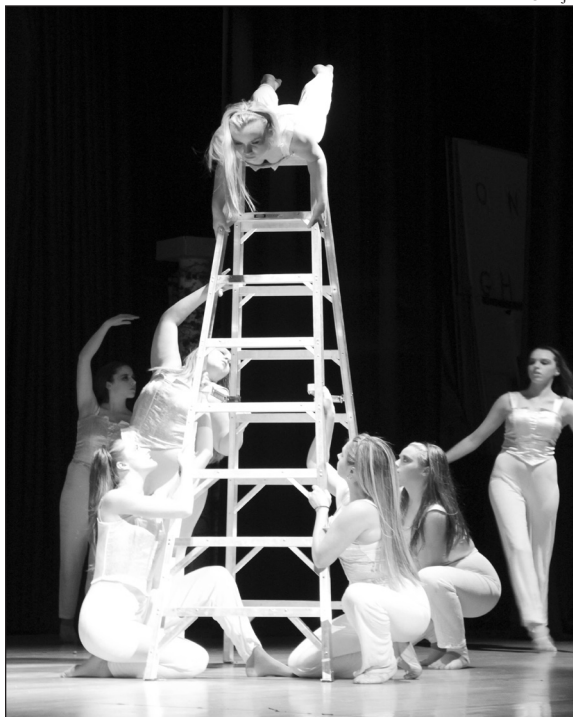


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News

Dance Company delivers iconic performance

Photos/Derek Caneja



The Dance Company performs their opening act, using ladders as props in "Heroes."

By Stephanie Sem
Class of 2014

The slowly inclining intensity of the opening number of Dance Company's seventh annual performance, "Icon," mirrored the excitement that the audience and dancers had while they waited for the 2012 show to begin. All of the hard work that these girls had put in from November to March is expressed in their two performances loaded with a variety of contemporary dances. The first number of the performance began off stage with the members positioned on top of ladders with mirrors suspended behind them. As the music in "Heroes" became more intense, the dancers used the ladders as a prop, with both the dancers and the ladders ending up on stage.

One of the more theatrical dances was "Chaplin's Muse." This dance consisted of a sad girl, Charlie Chaplin, flappers, cowboys, robbers, and balloons. an inspirational piece about smiling even when your heart aches; and, in the end, the positive influence

of the remaining characters spur a change in the sad girl's attitude. The mood is changed to a more serious one in "Suffrage," as it sheds light on the struggles women faced in the days preceding gender equality. During "Suffrage" the dancers perform the act of moving a boulder, symbolizing the perseverance that enabled gender equality to come to fruition.

A fun, upbeat dance came next when "My Baby Just Cares for Me" started to play and the dancers began bopping around the stage. The song is about a woman's happiness about being in a relationship, which the dancers showed as they strutted across the stage in their colorful, flirty dresses. Act One is ended with a dance, "Fate of Juliet," based around the female protagonist of "Romeo and Juliet." In it, Juliet dances around the stage in love, but she then receives a letter, which makes her want to die. Juliet goes behind the window as the others dance. When she comes out, she holds a knife as she walks toward the audience on boards suspended by other dancers, she stabs herself and falls. The dance provided an accurate representation of Shakespeare's classic in dance form.

Act Two started out with a comical piece full of pies and flour called "The 7th Annual Pie Eating Contest." The dancers all started out by doing a step and then releasing the flour in their hands at all different times, making the flour look like it is exploding in random spots around the stage. As the dance went on and the contest began, the dancers had pie all over their faces and envied the one who won the contest, resulting in a pie to the face. Next, an old lady in a wedding dress came onto stage. Her name was "Miss Havisham", a woman whose fiancé left her on the eve of their wedding, leaving her so devastated that she never took off her dress. Perhaps the most astounding element of this performance was the fact that each girl had to perform this act with a piece of fabric covering her face.

"New Era Dance" was an energetic dance which has a large amount of movement on the stage and a lot of running from one side of the stage to the other to show the all of the commotion that is happening during this era. "The Tomboy" was a light routine, where the dancers were all dressed in rompers with hats on, so they resembled tomboys. As the song goes on, these "tomboys" realize that they to move on and be who they really are, which is a girl,

so all of the dancers take off their hats to show this.

The show ended in a powerful piece, "Temptation and Expulsion of Eve", which had dirt, apples and thunder. This shadows what occurred in the story "Adam and Eve" where they take an apple that they were not supposed to and they are expelled from the garden. The dancers began to take down the set to show their expulsion, along with the thunder that accompanied the rest of the dancing in the show.

At the end of the show, when the curtains closed for the last time for the performers of "Icon," tears began to come to all of the eyes of the members of Dance Company, because this rewarding process had finally come to an end. "Icon" turned out amazingly after all of the effort that the members and artistic director, Richard Kim, put into the performance and it certainly showed.



Senior Casey Ricci, a veteran of the Dance Company, dances across the stage in "Icon."

Music Department enjoys success

Steve Salenik-Raccuia moves onto States

Photo/McKenzie Wilson



Senior Steve Salenik-Raccuia, one of Mr. Falker's most dedicated students, was invited to States this year for his efforts.

By McKenzie Wilson
Class of 2014

If one were to walk into Walpole High and walk through its lobby, he or she would notice a number of trophies for

success in a more simplistic manner. These awards came from competitions over the years, but they are not the only way this under appreciated department has found success. The Music Depart-

ment is also involved in five festivals over the course of the year: Junior and Senior Districts, Junior and Senior SEMSBA, and All States. Walpole students have performed in all festivals with the exception of Junior SEMSBA. Music department head, Mr. Michael Falker, also has appeared in SEMSBA as the Orchestra Director. When asked, Falker described being Orchestra Director as a privilege and said he was very excited to see how it unfolds. He plans on putting just as much effort in as he does with his own students in Walpole. Falker's standards for each student and group definitely are a part of the reason that so many students' achievements over the year. The students always try to live up to these standards, in hopes of successful auditions or a win in a competition. One of proudest moments of the Music Department this year was a Walpole student's acceptance to All States. For the first time in three years, Walpole sent a student to All-States -- Senior Steve Salenik-Raccuia, playing the bass in the orchestra.

Walpole's Music Department does not keep its trophies in a fancy case, instead holding them on the back table behind the percussion section, displaying their

success in a more simplistic manner. These awards came from competitions over the years, but they are not the only way this under appreciated department has found success. The Music Depart-

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This festival, only letting in the best musicians in the entire state, is without a doubt a great privilege. Eight hours of practicing the same musical pieces over and over again were a

great challenge. In the end, however, Salenik-Raccuia praised All States and said: "It was really hard. But in the end, [it was] the best players in the state, so we sounded professional."

Although he constantly jokes about retiring, Falker can always be counted on to come back each year. Falker remains, as ever, the head of the department and the reason that it keeps coming back strong each year. He is the one who finds competitions to showcase his students' skills, help organizes the ever popular Pops Night, and shows high school students that music can be fun--as long as they stop talking, of course.

The Music Department's success continues on as the year progresses, but, even then they often go unnoticed in school. But that does not stop them from trying. Whether it is in the fall, with Pep Band keeping fans' spirits up at football games, or in the winter when Jazz Choir can be found caroling from house to house, everywhere one looks the Music Department can be found, working its hardest to keep up the high standards that Falker has held them up to. Despite their lack of recognition, Walpole's Music Department is forever hard-working and will continued to be rewarded with success.

Drama Club packs auditorium for successful “Grease”

Photos/Bob Wyllie Photography



‘Greasers’ perform in a song together.

By Luke Witherell
Class of 2012

The Walpole High School Winter Musical, “Grease,” debuted March 10 and 11 with record crowds. Its opening night performance sold out so far in advance that ticket sellers added 25 plastic chairs to the auditorium for additional seats; its Sunday matinee saw the auditorium only 25 seats short of maximum capacity. Taking into account the law of averages, both shows sold out. Likewise, both rocked the WHS auditorium: crowds at the premiere and matinee finished the nights on their feet, clapping and cheering fervently for the high school students who made the “Grease” a success.

The musical starred junior Evan Parsons as Danny Zuko and senior Erin Strickland as Sandy Dumbrows-

ki, who were picked, not solely for their ability to fill the part, but for their dedication to the WHS Drama Club. “Erin and Evan lead by example,” said senior John Griffin, who played the dweebish Eugene Florczyk in the show. “They learned their lines; they learned their dances. They were extremely well-prepared, and they helped prepare others.” The show was not about its leads, however; it was a complete experience, which serviced 60-plus students in lead roles, ensemble roles, and spots in both the stage crew and pit orchestra. Said director Jim D’Attilio, “Like the rest of the cast, [Parsons and Strickland] brought a high degree of effort.” “This is not a competitive sport,” said D’Attilio, “nor is it commercial enterprise. It is a high school program where we want to nurture student’s abilities and skills.”

Junior Jackie Gately shared this sentiment, saying “the show allowed students interested in performing or producing to have a venue for their talents.”

Gately played Danny Zuko’s right-hand man, Kenickie. He said, “Drama Club gives more than 60 kids with no interest in sports something to do and a place to be.” Gately’s solo number, “Greased Lightning,” included backup from about 15 male actors, who received one of the more enthusiastic responses from the audience.

D’Attilio and Gately are not alone in their sentiments about the nature of the program. Current and former members alike have stated their approval for the family-like nature of the club.



Freshman Lauren Lorusso sings along with sophomore Rory Hardiman and senior Luke Witherell.

The club is not without its drawbacks: cast members occasionally miss rehearsals; disorganization runs rampant where returning scripts and props is concerned; and the cast members occasionally seek to draw blood after spending countless hours together in the show’s “Hell Week”—the week before production. Ultimately, however, none of that matters, when records are broken and everyone—cast and audience alike—leaves happy.

“I thought that [the performances of “Grease”] were two of the smoothest and liveliest performances I’ve ever seen our students produce,” said D’Attilio. “The cast should be very proud of themselves.” According to the director, the cast, and the massive audiences, the Walpole High School Winter Musical is an important addition to the town of Walpole. It may not always exist, however. The musical could be on the cutting block for the 2012-2013 school year, due to a school budget deficit of over \$1 million. The musical did its part to raise money.

At the musical, School Committee representative Mrs. Betsy Mullen was able to raise both money and awareness for the WHS Drama Club, and other artistic programs, by selling raffle tickets. Concessions were provided by Mrs. Deborah Jordan and volunteers from the Walpole High School Animal Shelter Club, another group looking down the barrel of an impending cut. Lastly, the musical itself fundraised, selling ads for its programs to Walpole businesses to help fund sets, costumes, and props for the shows. “Grease” made many people happy. Sales aside, the students in the show had a great time. Gately said, “The students put a lot into this. It’s great to see the show get such positive feedback.” As for cuts, said D’Attilio, “It will depend on future budgets, and decisions that are out of my hands.” For now though, the cast can be happy that they put on a successful show.



Juniors Jackie Gately and Becky Chariton act as Kenickie and Rizzo.

Stage Manager Megan Keough leads the Tech Crew behind the scenes

By Siobhan Kemple
Class of 2014

With the spring play coming up, senior Megan Keough is busy preparing for the big production. Keough has been behind the scenes of almost every production performed by the WHS Drama Club since the fall of her freshman year—a total of ten productions. Last year, Keough even helped out with the Dance Company Show “Over the Rainbow.”

She goes to the rehearsals for the Drama Club three days a week from 3 to 5:30 for the six weeks of rehearsals, which she said “really flies by,” to help design and paint sets and work with lights and sound. However, her prominent role in the play is Stage Manager.

As Stage Manager, Keough watches the first few weeks of rehearsal, calling lines for the actors and developing the set layout by reading the cues and descriptions of the scenes in the script.

As the actors start to become more comfortable with their lines, Keough moves backstage. She organizes separate cue sheets for each of the “backstage techies” so that they know their jobs and the cues for when to do them.

When the production hits the stage opening night, Keough is the brain behind the operation. She calls all set cues, makes sure all the “techies” are prepared for their cues, and ensures that the cast members are ready to go onstage.

Besides spending so much time with the plays and musicals, Keough is also part of the WHS orchestra which has rehearsal on Wednesday nights. She works at the Walpole Recreation Center as a mentor at dances and leading activities such as basketball and soccer. Most of her time however is spent with the Drama Club who she said have become “a second family to [her].” Keough said, “Drama Club has been my favorite part of high school by far.”



Senior Megan Keough, trained in lights and sound, takes the role of Stage Manager for the WHS Drama Club.

When asked about her so-called second family, she said that the cast members are “always so supportive and it’s such an open, loving environment.” With the unlimited number of people in the club, everyone is welcome and accepted. Keough said, “I

feel like we’re a melting pot of people, so everyone is a little strange but it’s okay because everyone is accepting of everyone else.” Keough made it clear that she loves working with the cast members and tech crew and said, “I am really going to miss it next year.”

Photo/Siobhan Kemple

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Student Council accepts silver at M.A.S.C.

Photo/Jackie Reilly

By Peter Hoegler
Class of 2014

The Walpole High Student Council was rewarded with the “Silver Council of Excellence Reward” at the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference on March 9 in Hyannis, Massachusetts for their exemplary commitment and contribution to their school and community. Last year, the Student Council obtained recognition at this conference as members of the “Council of Excellence” — a recognition that distinguished Walpole’s Student Council as one of the top groups in the state. However, this recognition was somewhat of a disappointment to the Walpole students, for they had higher hopes of attaining a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award, which are reserved for the top three Councils in the state. Thus, achieving Silver for their accomplishments signifies that the council has considerably grown since Ms. Kerry Mcmenimen took over the advisor position just five years ago.

The Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (or M.A.S.C.) is comprised of member schools representing the four regional student councils of Massachusetts: the Southeast, Central District, Northeast, and Western Councils (SEMASC, CDMASC, NEMASC, and WMASC). Providing one of the nation’s most highly regarded programs of activities for middle schools and high schools, the conference offers major opportunities for students to learn and apply leadership skills.

Lead by President Riche Bernache of Rockland High School and an entire executive board of senior leaders throughout the state, M.A.S.C. provides the top Student Councils in Massachusetts an opportunity to showcase their principal leaders and ideas. They presented the WHS Council with successful leadership workshops, inspirational sessions, and keynote speakers that included Judson Laipply, renowned dancer from the show Tosh.0, Bob Upgren, an NBA consulter, and Chris Herren, a former Celtic from Fall River, Massachusetts. Ms. Mac said in regards to the overall conference, “It was certainly better than last year’s conference. Paul Branagan, the director of the conference, did a nice job with the choice



Ms. Kerry McMenimen, the fifth year advisor of Walpole’s Student Council, stands alongside members of Student Council, which received the honor of “Silver Council of Excellence” at this year’s M.A.S.C.

of keynote speakers and workshop activities.”

On the final day of the conference, the Student Council was rewarded with Silver for their overall excellence—a goal that was implanted from day one of the Student Council meetings. Although the council fell one point shy of achieving gold, the mood of the Student Council delegates sustained its radiant feel. Student Council President Christina Freiburger said of the accomplishment, “Winning silver council of excellence was a big accomplishment for us, despite our original goal for gold, which we missed by one point. Our council was recognized and participated a lot more than last year.”

Additionally, senior Jackie Reilly succeeded in winning the “2012 MASC Program Cover Design” and was rewarded for her attainment at the concluding banquet. The program was distributed to each delegate and advisor; therefore, over 1,000 students were able to see and appreciate Jackie’s work. The cover reads: “Order Up a Leader, MASC” with a red background and a white cooking hat on its side. She spent countless hours working on this cover, which made her award

even more exciting. Jackie said, “It was kind of cool to see my design on over 1,200 program booklets. That is what I hope to do in the future with my career.”

This year, WHS Student Council sent sixteen delegates—thirteen of whom were upperclassmen and three were underclassmen. Sophomore CJ Weinacht, one of the few underclassmen to attend, said, “It was a great experience—I learned a lot about becoming a better leader. I just hope I can share my experience with other people by bringing back what I have learned to Walpole High.”

The activities, fundraisers, and community events that have been fostered and run by the 2011-2012 WHS Student Council have rightfully led to this highly coveted Silver Council of Excellence Award. These events include the pep-rally, the spirit week, the hypnotist show, the Date Auction, the gift wrapping; the list goes on and on. But one aspect remains to be certain: although student leaders will mature and graduate, Ms. Mac will continue to advise, and thus, the Walpole Student Council as a whole will continue to grow and develop into a gold-medal-caliber group.

Data Analysis Reveals Grade Improvements at WHS

By Christina Freiburger
Class of 2012

During the Walpole High School faculty meeting on March 5, Principal Stephen Imbusch presented a PowerPoint presentation about the Term and Semester Grades of all 2011-2012 high school students in comparison with grades from the previous two years. Interestingly, Principal Imbusch noted that there had been a substantial increase in the number “A’s” across all 2011-2012 grades, while the amount of all other letter grades - “B’s” and “C’s” and “D’s” and “F’s” - had decreased. Principal Imbusch pondered the causes of these improved grades: Were they due to better students? Better teachers? Improved grading practices? The renewed focus on student learning? The implementation of Professional Learning Communities or the new Tiered Intervention System? While he refused to credit only one cause, Principal Imbusch did not complain about the effect.

Since Principal Imbusch took his Principal position at the high school, he has begun analyzing data. He said,

“Without looking at data, [our school] can’t improve.” The amount of F’s in the first two terms of 2010-2011 was 212 but decreased by 27% to 130 in the first two terms of 2011-2012. Principal Imbusch has seen similar patterns for D’s, C’s, and B’s, with 14%, 11%, and 3% decreases, respectively. The A’s, on the other hand, increased from 1973 to 2007, a 20% increase.

Principal Imbusch also said that there are no records of our school having drastic grade changes, but that is mostly due to the fact that our school has never analyzed data in the past.

After introducing the concept of these improved grades to the staff through a PowerPoint, Principal Imbusch also stressed that he hopes that these grades are an accurate reflection of the skill and knowledge the students know. Since the beginning of the year, Principal Imbusch has encouraged teachers to review their grading practices to ensure that their grades accurately assess student learning. For example, he believes teachers should place a greater emphasis on major assessments that reflect student knowledge rather than

on “nominal assignments” (smaller assignments such as homework, classwork, etc.) that may reflect only student behavior. While Principal Imbusch never mandated any change in grading practices for all teachers, he believes that by focusing Professional Development time on creating meaningful grading policies, teachers may have individually improved their own practices.

Professional Learning Communities seems to also be a main contributor to the grade increases because it allows teachers to collaborate more. The next step for PLC is for teachers to make “smart goals” for their students and to make formative assessments. The goals will be both long and short term, from goals for a class average grade at the end of the term to MCAS score goals. Formative assessments will also be created, so teachers can compare assessment results to measure and compare evidence of student learning.

While some may argue that teachers are inflating grades in order to appease Principal Imbusch, other recent tests corroborate this recent improvement.

The 2010-2011 AP Tests had a record number of participants and had increased scores. For the English AP exam, not one student scored below a 3 on the exam, which is an exceptional accomplishment for the group. MCAS scores from 2010-2011 also have shown improvement for the English and Science Tests. Similar to the data analysis Principal Imbusch completed, the MCAS advanced scores have increased, while the failing scores have decreased.

Both the students and staff should be proud of the increased number of A’s and decreased number of lower grades. Since Principal Imbusch is aware of the data, he can encourage students and teachers to keep the strong effort through the spring season. If anything is to be learned from the most recent data gathered, it is that analysis is important because it keeps our students and staff aware of these improvements and reminds them that there is always room for improvement. Principal Imbusch said, “[Our school] can’t improve unless [we] have data to show [us] the direction to go.”

Walpole Public School System Faces Major Budget Cuts

continued from page 1

Social Studies, Mandarin, and Wood/Technology departments, as well as lose one instructional aide, one custodian, and a partial secretarial position. These cuts will cause class sizes to increase, which could negatively effect the quality of education in the classroom.

Athletic funding will also be cut, causing higher fees for student athletes. Currently at \$200 per sport, the fee will be doubled to \$400 per sport. There will be no individual cap for students who play multiple sports and the family cap will be \$1500. This raise in athletic fees will create some financial difficulty for some students who are unable to pay \$400 for ev-

ery sport in which they wish to participate. Sophomore Rachael Barry is one of the many students who participates in sports during all three seasons: cross country, hockey, and lacrosse. “A \$400 athletic fee is a lot of money, and for families with more than one child its going to be hard for them to pay it,” said Barry. Bus fees will also be raised from \$250 to \$500 per child. The family cap will also be doubled from \$500 to \$1000. Along with bus fees and athletic fees, the school lunch price will go up by \$0.25.

Many members of the Walpole Public Schools community continue to question how an over-

ride will remain sustainable. A balance of \$600,000 will be used for textbooks, program instructional materials updates, and other onetime expenditures. However, some of the \$600,000 may be used up by fixed cost increases and other expenses.

Many families in the Walpole community will be affected by the cuts. With all of the cuts and fee increases, there will be much adjusting to be done within Walpole Public Schools if the override fails in June. Students are liable to be put at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to applying to college. However, if the override passes, none the cuts will be put into effect.

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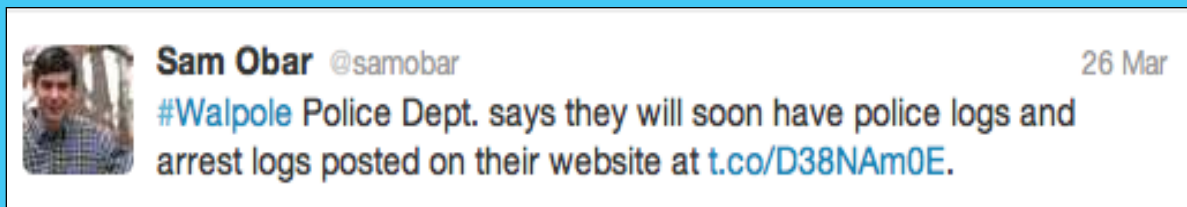
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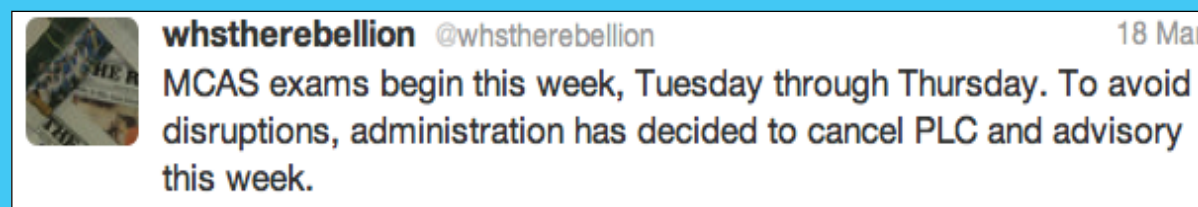
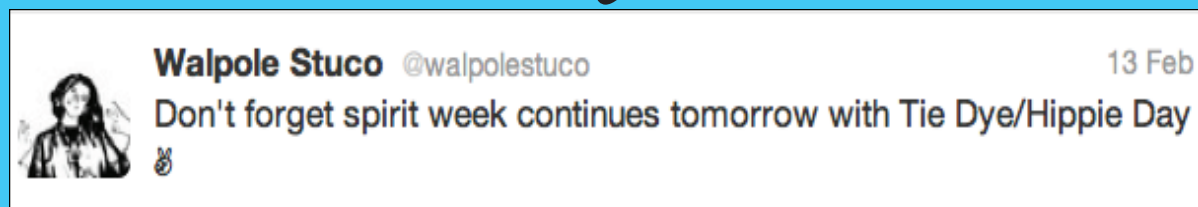
Prominent local tweeters like these keep local citizens instantaneously informed of events.

By Christina Freiburger
Class of 2012

Although iPhone's are a sweet and bitter addiction to people of all ages that diminish social skills, cause major distractions, and have data packages that are overly expensive, the instantaneous feed of information that flows through this small rectangular box is, what once seemed, unimaginable. The Twitter application, in particular, contributes timeliness to the spread of information from one tweeter to hundreds, or even thousands, of followers to ensure local citizens are updated on local news.

While one may use his or her Twitter application to avoid awkward social situations, and therefore continuously avoids developing small-talk skills, he or she is simultaneously staying updated on news. This application not only allows one to be updated on his or her friends and family, but he or she can also be updated on the news posted by twitter-famous users in the town and around the world. In Walpole, accounts such as @whstherebellion (WHS Newspaper), @WalpoleStuCo (WHS Student Council), @walpolefilmfest (WHS Film Festival), @samobar (Sam Obar-Walpole blogger on town concerns), @walpolerec (Walpole Rec Department), and @Keith_WalTimes (Keith Ferguson-Walpole Times Editor) consistently post updates on Twitter. The tweets include updates on town events, town issues, and general news about the town. By opening the Twitter application at a red light, on break at work, or to avoid saying hi to someone at the grocery store, one can access details about Walpole that were posted only seconds before. The iPhone, in this case, is creating a healthy addiction—a healthy addiction for one to stay involved within his or her community.

One may stay equally informed on news by reading a newspaper or watching the news, but the rate at which tweets are posted helps them exceed all other media sources. Within seconds, details on an event can be posted to followers' twitter homepage. Programs, such as the "No Foxboro Casino," inform followers on the latest news and updates from meetings. No Foxboro Casino has 436 followers, compared to the 11 followers that Foxboro Casino has, which demonstrates that the local communities are using Twitter as a source to promote opinions on controversial topics. The No Foxboro Casino account is run by Foxboro residents and consistently tweets article links, meeting information, and responses to followers. Sam Obar — writer for the "The Walpole Times" and 2010-2011 Editor-in-Chief of "The Rebellion" — also uses



similar techniques to keep citizens informed by posting up to 20 tweets a day about issues in Walpole. For example, on Tuesday April 3, Obar tweeted, "John Desmond, Bill Buckley, Brian Walsh all stepping down from #Walpole School Committee this year...what a major change in faces." Although he is reporting his information from Bryant University, he is still happily keeping the Walpole citizens informed on meetings and updates that the Walpole Times is only able to publish once a week. These tweeters are accurate representations of how Twitter has redefined journalistic timeliness.

WHS has practiced similar techniques for various events around the school. The Rebellion, Student Council, and the Film Festival Twitter accounts post tweets daily so students can easily stay in the loop with extra-curriculars. Since The Rebellion newspaper is the main source of publication for school events and it is only printed five times a year, students have the ability to use Twitter instead to instantly read up on the same information. A major portion of the tweets posted by The Rebellion are score updates on WHS sports games. Before the end of a quarter, followers will already know the score of a game. Rather than waiting for an untimely article from a newspaper later in the week, sports highlights are broadcasted through twitter as the event goes on. Senior Rebecca Goula is one of the many followers "The Rebellion" has; she said, "The tweets giving updates about the games are very helpful when you just can't make it to a game. It makes it feel like you aren't missing out because you know exactly what's going on." Certain settings can allow one to have a certain tweeter's tweets sent to his or her phone so a notification pops up every time they tweet. The notifications can get on the annoying side though, which is why people generally prefer to just read tweets when they open the application in their spare time.

The biggest problem with these informative applications however, is the amount of data they use. If a user is not connected to WiFi, they are using up data GB's. The average package contains about 2GB, which for some people is surplus, but for those consistent grocery-store-conversation-avoiders, it is not enough. When they complain about having to pay ridiculous prices for their overuse of data, they are encouraged to look on the bright side because they will always know the weather, who the best-dressed celebrities of the week are, and when the next Town Meeting is.

The endless flow of tweets through a homepage can make putting one's iPhone down a difficult task. The attachment some people grow to their iPhone is not always harmful, though, because they will either be constantly entertained by their friends tweeting about ridiculously random things or constantly informed on news, both local and global.

How to be a successful Tweeter

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

Judging from personal experience, I would venture to bet that everybody has a certain friend who simply should not tweet. If you don't, then chances are, you could be that friend. You know what friend I'm referring to: the friend who is mercilessly chastised after interjecting into any conversation regarding Twitter. This tweeter is often recognizable by their ignominious quantity of followers, most likely consisting of his or her closest friends and a handful of kindred spirits who lack the audacity to refrain from following this person back.

The reason why these twitters struggle to maintain followers is undeniably simplistic. If you suck at tweeting, people will probably unfollow you; however, you're more than welcome to return the favor. For some, Twitter

...for those who prefer to tweet about the mundane nature of everyday life, don't expect a loyal flock of followers.

users to operate their accounts on their own accord. If one chooses to overwhelm their follows with cunning humor, they will almost certainly excel. However, for those who prefer to tweet about the mundane nature of everyday life, don't expect a loyal flock of followers.

So, what makes a bad tweeter? Well, the answer to this question is far more complex than one would expect; poor tweeting can be a result of a great deal of different "twitterary elements" (Yes, that was a joke), ranging from redundancy to downright insignificance.

In terms of redundancy, irritatingly repetitive tweets are a sure-fire method for losing followers. For example, tweets regarding how strange it feels to be a senior are acceptable in some cases, but now that we've reached March, I'd say this should have become the norm for most seniors by now. And yes, this category includes all nostalgic hashtags and Holden Caulfield-like complaints about the loss of childhood innocence.

Speaking of the over exaggeration of teenage emotions, most tweeters are bound to go through a breakup at one point or another in high school, but does everybody really need to hear about it? Whether it be one publicly drowning in his or her own sorrows or condemning the former love of their life, the cyber world is notoriously unforgiving, and frankly, nobody cares. By slandering the reputation of past partners, the tweeters in question really only make themselves look desperate and self-centered. Sure, maybe I'm being overly heartless, but I simply cannot imagine any circumstances in which it would be safe to assume that all of one's followers would be completely absorbed in the emotions of the tweeter at hand. For this reason, spilling your hormone fueled emotions is one of the easiest ways to lose followers.

Perhaps even more dreadful than repetitious tweets are tweets of utter insignificance. For example, on February 29, The Rebellion's multifaceted Editorial Editor, Sydney Gillis, tweeted nothing but "Food" at Jenna Harrop, The Rebellion's diligent News Editor. This was particularly disheartening for me, as I have always considered Sydney to be one of the most eccentrically hilarious tweeters currently enrolled at Walpole High. For this reason alone, I will allow a one time "get out of jail free card", but next time, Sydney could be losing a once-devout follower.

The most entertaining tweets revolve around irony and hilarity, not what one had for breakfast on any given morning or how comfortable his or her bed is on any given night. However, it must be acknowledged that it would be nearly impossible for every tweet to be a knee-slapper; even "Men's Humor" and "The Fake Will Ferrell" have been known to produce some undeniable duds.

In this fact lies one of Twitter's greatest challenges: one is expected to be clever, but always runs the risk of appearing to be trying too hard. This being said, these misuses are certainly forgivable, as it would prove painstaking to find any tweeter who has committed this internet sin at least once.

Quite possibly the most perilous genre of tweets for the common wannabe comedian are those that commence with "the awkward moment when". Nothing infuriates followers more than a tweet similar to: "the awkward moment when I'm watching a movie alone" or

"the awkward moment when I start my homework at ten". I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but neither of these situations are even somewhat awkward. In like fashion, a national trending topic at the moment, tweets that begin with "#ThatMiniHeartAttackWhen" should most certainly personify stress-

ful or worrisome situations. Because they often do not live up to this hype, formulaic tweets such as these often fail to leave a favorable impression upon followers.

Sure, these tweets can be undeniably funny on occasion. For example, the aforementioned Gillis recently tweeted: "When you see the shadow of a bug flying by the light in your room and you're like 'sos, I'm about to be attacked by a pterodactyl.'" If that doesn't define eccentric hilarity, I can't even imagine what does. However, more often than not, they describe an event so pedestrian and unamusing that those on the receiving end of the tweet have no choice but to press unfollow. For example, is it really that awkward when one's phone dies in the midst of a conversation? Not in my opinion. Unfortunate? Maybe. Tragic? Probably not. Awkward, though? I just don't see it. So, for those looking to share their awkward moments with the Twitter world, please make sure that the circumstances at hand epitomize uncouthness; if it doesn't, you could be unfollowed before you even have the chance to delete this incredibly awkward tweet.

In regards to retweets, there is a moderate set of guidelines to follow when utilizing this cool, yet potentially exasperating, element of Twitter. If one has a favorite parody account, such as the aforementioned "Fake Will Ferrell" or the ever-popular "Pimp Bill Clinton," there is nothing wrong with retweeting this user, even if you do it frequently. In fact, the people who truly abuse the retweet function are those who retweet everybody who mentions them in a tweet. Seriously? Who are you, Chad Ochocinco? When one's best friend informs the tweeter in question how attractive and intelligent he or she is, it's almost creepy for them to retweet it. Even if you would not go as far as to call it creepy, it must at least be considered irritatingly pompous.

There is no formula that one can follow to become an original and memorable tweeter. However, the formula for unsuccessful tweeting is undeniably transparent. For those incapable of gathering a sizable Twitter following, one of these contributing factors is almost certainly the cause. Therefore, the solution to this problem is highly simplistic; one must avoid the abundance of annoyances that are so prevalent on Twitter, while also remaining their own individual.



Recently there have been reports of Facebook having problems with hacking, false friending, and complaints from users about the constant changing of this famed social network. The users of Facebook are also finding alternative social networks to use that are simpler and less hazardous to their private life; for most, this alternative proves to be Twitter. Parents of teenagers are also attempting to include themselves in the growing age of technology by claiming themselves a Facebook page; some parents do it to get in touch with past classmates, but others also do it to keep tabs on their kids. As teenagers being teenagers tend to enjoy their privacy away from the parental eye, parents joining

the social networking site deprive their children of this freedom. Not only do parents request their kids to accept them but some go the extra step and friend their child's friends, creating annoyance and fear.

Facebook began as a social network strictly regulated for Harvard students, and in time the website was being offered to about 25 colleges. From there, the website eventually began being offered worldwide and age-wide. Since 2004, the ages of people joining the social network have increased greatly, and the people behind the site feel that there are more middle aged men online rather than the secondary targeted ages ranging from 13-25 years of age. This could be a result of the rising amount of issues regarding Facebook privacy due to hacked profiles. Hackers seem to

be targeting an array of social networks, but the largest target is most certainly Facebook. There have been complaints of Facebook being hacked on multiple occasions. Indeed the usage of the network is an "at your own risk" deal, but for a business to continue flourishing there must be more security measures taken. The fear of being hacked or strangers seeking information through the use Facebook could lead to the website's demise: causing users to delete their accounts and advertisers to drop business with the site. People are also known to adopt fake names and identities to get close to those they friend and then turn on them with threats and blackmailing's in order to extort money. For example there has been a recent scare with a profile bearing the name, 'Sara John', who is actually a 30 or so year old man friending people and slowly gaining way into their life so he can use personal information against them to take their money. Facebook has become quite a dangerous social network for those who post private information and for those who are careless as to who they accept as friends.

To follow up on the hacking scares, Jason Zada has created the website takethislollipop.com to show people how easy it is and how scary it is to get hacked. The character in the website's video is Slate, a grungy middle aged man, who creepily logs onto your Facebook page after you have allowed the website to access your Facebook profile. He looks through your profile and pictures, gains your information and arrives at what the watcher can only expect is their house. As one watches the video, he or she can't help but feel uneasy and more prone to wanting to delete his or her Facebook and moving on to something a bit more safe.

Not only has Facebook become dangerous, but it has also become confusing and rather annoying. The newest update, the "Timeline", has many users frustrated and irritated with

the way Facebook has been running. Junior Mary Reedy said "The timeline is confusing and difficult to follow; things seem scattered. The old Facebook was better." Facebook has become a constantly changing social network, and with all of these changes its users are likely to switch to something simpler such as Twitter, Tumblr, or Instagram.

Teenagers have turned to Twitter recently, as the site is simple and seemingly more private. Twitter provides almost all of the same options that Facebook does, except it breaks down all the complications that Facebook has and turns it into a simple social networking site where people can exchange pictures and statuses to update followers with their lives. Junior Meghan Stanton says "I have switched over to Twitter because my mom kept friending my friends and I just feel like my stuff is safer within Twitter". Stanton also says that Twitter is indeed an easier site to use because the information is easily relayed to her friends by sending one simple tweet. Twitter is also a site where one can follow the people he or she desires to follow, whereas with Facebook, a user is mainly just accumulating friends in which he or she either don't know the majority of or just doesn't care about what they do. Twitter also provides the fun of following famous people and gaining information about what one's favorite celebrities are up to.

So, no matter what its direct cause may be, it is becoming increasingly obvious that there is a popularity shift taking place in the world of social networking. For Facebook to avoid falling into a state of extinction, similar to the state into which it pushed MySpace, it must adjust to the new trends of social networking. Though some would undoubtedly consider this "dumbing down" Facebook's sophisticated technology, the cyber word demands simplicity, and this is simply not what Facebook has been providing.



Entertainment

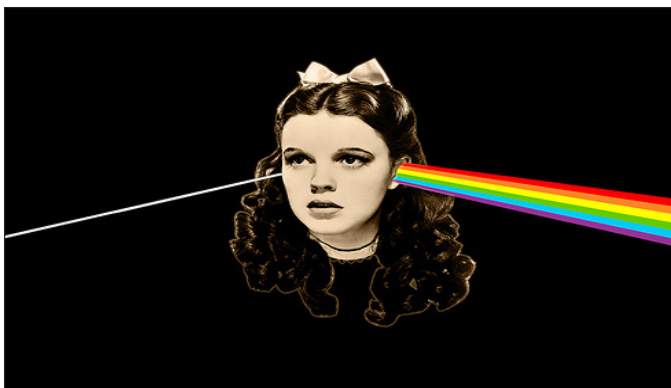
Generation rediscovers Dark Side of the Rainbow myth

By Ashley Waldron
Class of 2014

Over the last few decades, many urban myths have come about; especially, dealing with big name music bands. Remember “Paul is dead” and the devilish back-masked version of “Stairway to Heaven?” Some serious music gurus spend countless hours researching and looking for subtle clues—and in some cases, they find them. It is a question of belief, for the majority of people out there are pretty skeptical. Following their example, I recently tried out the old myth, that slamming Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon” and the classic film “The Wizard of Oz” together would create a perfect sync. The results were mind-boggling.

Released in March of 1973, “Dark Side of the Moon” had impressive record sales within the first week. To this day, the album is considered one of the greatest and most unique ever released. Intricate music matched with lyrics about conflict, greed, the passage of time, and mental illness—inspired by Syd Barrett’s departure from the band in 1968 due to his diminishing mental health. Many people would say the best way to experience this album is to listen to the complex sounds and voices from huge loudspeakers. Somewhere along the line, however, somebody tried synchronizing “DSOTM” and “Wizard of Oz” and took the already excellent album to a whole new level.

No one really knows where the myth originated. Pink Floyd lyricist Roger Waters calls it “amusing,” and the band claims that the movie was never mentioned during the production of the album. Clearly then, it is up to anyone interested to really pay attention and see for themselves. The key is to press “play” on the album at the precise moment that the famous MGM lion completes the third roar. Experimenters are supposed to wait to see if they lined it up right if the first chords of “Breathe” start to play as soon as the words on the screen show up: “Produced by Mervyn LeRoy.” Mine synched up, and I actually felt chills. There is no question about it; the whole idea, whether real or not, is absolutely mystifying and creepy.



One of the first coincidences that happens is when the lyrics, “balanced on the biggest wave” from “Breathe” are sung, and Dorothy happens to be balancing on a fence. The weird part about it is that once the words “race towards an early grave” are sung, she falls into the chicken coop. At that moment, “On the Run” starts to play, and the farmhands help her out to save her. As if that is not enough, as soon as the woman’s voice in “On the Run” is heard, Auntie Em starts talking. Then, Mrs. Gulch is shown furiously riding her bicycle as soon as the bells and chimes loudly start playing in “Time.”

Probably the most impressive match up is the tornado scene, and of course, “The Great Gig in the Sky” is playing in the background. Coincidence? I think not. The vocals from “Clare Torry” seem to match up with the wind gusts and Dorothy’s mouth as she yells out to her family. The famous saying in that song, “I am not frightened of dying, anytime will do, why should I be frightened of dying, there’s no reason for it, we’ve all got to go sometime” is heard as the twister is shown in the background for the second time. As soon as the song becomes calmer, Dorothy is knocked unconscious. During the part when she sees things out the window, the line, “I never said I was frightened of Dorothy” is heard— which is actually straining to hear clearly, even with the sound turned all the way up. Could Pink Floyd have possibly made it that way so as not to give the secret away? Ending that scene, when the Kansas sepia-gray color changes to the Technicolor of Oz, the cash register sounds are heard from the song “Money.” The amazement of the synchronization of that scene

has lead to further analysis of the album cover, which could be interpreted as the gray line being transformed into the colorful rainbow, the same as how it happened in going from Kansas to Oz. As a true believer of this cultural phenomenon, it is nice to think that the yellow strip of color on the rainbow prism represents the Yellow Brick Road—but again, that is just my opinion.

Skeptics might think that “Us and Them” would be impossible to match up with the Munchkin scene, but they have not looked or listened. First of all, throughout the scene, the Munchkins seem to be in sync with the drumbeats from the song. And if one takes a closer look at the lyrics, as soon as the Wicked Witch of the West emerges from the cloud of red smoke wearing all black, the lyrics “black” are heard. Then, when the shot of Dorothy is shown in her blue dress after that, the lyrics are “blue.” As Glinda says, “Witch is witch” the lyrics are “and who knows which is which.”

Striding into the last few songs on the album, during “Brain Damage,” the lyrics, “the lunatic are on the grass” are heard while the Scarecrow flails about on the ground. Finally, the heartbeat at the end of “Eclipse” is heard while Dorothy taps on the tin man’s chest—as if to hear a heartbeat.

All of this evidence may be just a freaky coincidence; yet, the first side of the vinyl of “DSOTM” is the exact same length as the non-color Kansas scenes. The only problem with the myth is that not everything in the movie goes perfectly with everything in the songs. It’s the subtle match-ups here and there, however, that really stand out. Additionally, how on earth could Pink Floyd accomplish this phenomenon during that time period, where they did not have all the musical sound recording technology we have today? Well, I say the answer is the same answer behind one of the greatest albums of all time: they have an unimaginable creativity. Pink Floyd might have pulled one of the greatest synchronizations of all time, but with no proving response from the band itself, the world may never know. By merging the timeless album “Dark Side of the Moon” with the equally timeless movie “The Wizard of Oz,” Pink Floyd has truly created one of the most mind-blowing urban myths ever.

Dr. Dog puts on unique performance during “Be the Void” tour



By Laura Drinan
Class of 2013

A few months ago, Pennsylvania psychedelic-rock band Dr. Dog announced that one of the shows on their tour for their newest album, “Be the Void,” would take place at the Boston House of Blues on March 22. Being a long-time fan, I quickly bought tickets and awaited what I knew would be a great show. I didn’t know, however, how much I’d love the experience.

At around seven, a friend, junior Erin Batchelder, and I arrived at the beat-up concert hall. A small line had begun to form outside the venue’s door; luckily, we were able to score a spot at the front before big crowds arrived, and we quickly made our way into the House of Blues. The place was spotless, the lights were dim, and there was only idle chatter—but the excitement boiling in all of us was phenomenal. Erin and I were able to stand slightly off center against the guardrail, as people lazily filed in. We were hoping to have a packed house, but the thirty or so people in attendance by half past seven concerned us. It wasn’t long, however, before we saw Walpole High juniors

Daria Grady and Molly Breen wandering the venue aimlessly, and we quickly made a fearsome foursome. We later saw juniors, Josh Colón and Andrew Myers, and their dates, Steph Bogle and Melissa Tufo. With plenty of time before the opening bands played, we took a look at the merchandise (which included Dr. Dog vinyls and their rarest album, “Toothbrush”) and various shirts, hats, and pins. Erin, Molly, Daria, and I noticed a steady stream of people entering and decided to make the best of our general admission tickets by getting a spot about twenty-or-so feet from center stage.

By the time the opening band came out on stage, our previous fears of an empty venue had completely disappeared. The standing room was completely packed and people were filing into lines against the railings upstairs. We didn’t know much about the two opening bands, and their performances were complete shocks. The first was The Nickel and Dime Band, who performed with the incomparable Rick Berlin. Despite his age, Berlin, an experienced musician from Jamaica Plain, put on an excellent show. He received plenty of laughs from the audience due to his self-deprecating sense of humor (he danced and jiggled his beer-belly on his song “Beer Belly”) and his engaging manner. After a big thank you to the crowd and to Dr. Dog for allowing them to play, The Nickel and Dime Band made their exit. Next to perform was Purling Hiss, a three-man group with a grunge style. Overall, the set was well-played; I, however, was just too excited for Dr. Dog at this point, and I only thought their performance was monotonous. When Purling Hiss finished, they announced that Dr. Dog would be performing shortly. A huge cheer arose from the crowd.

As the stage crew assisted with the set up, Erin and I made our way closer to the stage, as Daria and Molly had done earlier. We found ourselves in the front row next to a young girl named Ester, a long-time fan of Dr. Dog. Ester told us about the history

of the intricate stage setup (the stage was cluttered with numerous lamps, rugs, chairs, posters, and even a fireplace). According to Ester, the band visits yard sales during their tour and collects furniture and interesting pieces to display on stage. Grady remarked afterward, “It looked like my bedroom”

When the band came on, their welcoming attitude matched the cozy set. Immediately, they played “That Old Black Hole”, a song from their new album. I found myself grinning at the end of the song, as I realized their sound was a million times more enjoyable live: rather than a slow, poetic performance, Dr. Dog took an alternative route through their performance, with a heavier beat and a wilder sound. I was even more ecstatic to hear a new twist on some of their older songs, rather than tracks from only the new album. “Shadow People” (which probably 99% of the audience, including me, sang along to), “I Only Wear Blue”, and “Shame Shame,” a few of my favorite songs, sounded absolutely amazing. “These Days” was also very good live, as the intro is heavily drum and guitar based.

Dr. Dog played a perfect set-list, a valuable mix of their old and new material. After closing with “Heart It Races”, the audience was devastated and didn’t hesitate to chant for an encore. After several minutes, the band walked back on to a roar of cheering. The encore included “From”, “The Lazy Way We Do”, “Die, Die, Die”, and “Jackie Wants a Black Eye,” and I was thrilled that the show lasted an extra four songs— and the screams from the crowd made it obvious that everyone agreed with me. By the end of the night, I couldn’t erase the smile off my face (especially since lead guitarist and co-lead singer, Scott McMicken, and I made eye contact on more than one account). Basically my life was changed after just a few hours. Dr. Dog performed an absolutely incredible show, and I will definitely be attending their next local show, without a doubt.

Kid Cudi proves fearless with release of “WZRD”

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

A staple of the hip hop scene since 2009’s release of his debut mix tape, “A Kid Named Cudi,” Cleveland-born musician Kid Cudi has proven unafraid of taking risks. Exemplifying this fearless nature was 2010’s “Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager,” a dark and emotional record that helped to separate him from the fun-loving reputation brought about by his studio debut, “Man on the Moon: The End of the Day,” an ode to euphoric drug use and nearly all of life’s remaining forbidden pleasures. However, Cudi made Mr. Rager look like nothing more than a run-of-the-mill album with the February 28, 2012 release of “WZRD,” a work bearing the title of its creators, a rock band formed with close friend and producer Dot Da Genius.

Always hungry to illustrate his originality, Cudi does just this on “WZRD.” Unfortunately, the quality of the music

itself does not match that which has become expected of the ultra-evolutionary artist. This is not to call “WZRD” an atrocity or anything, because it simply is not. However, despite possessing flashes of creative genius, “WZRD” fails at fully achieving any sense of groundbreaking originality.

The bulk of “WZRD”’s worst moments occur when Cudi and Dot Da Genius appear to be trying too hard to sound like a legitimate rock band. “WZRD” commences with an instrumental track entitled “The Arrival”, which fails to live up to the hype caused by this highly anticipatory title. Similarly, “Love Hard” does little to impress listeners, sounding more like a misguided blend of techno, hip hop, and alternative rock than a well executed attempt at individuality.

This may be a result of the fact that Kid Cudi does not possess the vocal prowess required for the majority of “WZRD”’s tracks. Most notably, Cudi truly butchers his vocal rendition of “Where Did You Sleep Last Night?”, an emotional anthem that gained immense notoriety after Nirvana made it their own in the

early 1990s. Kurt Cobain’s “MTV: Unplugged” performance of this song may very well be the defining performance of 1990s rock and roll, and Cudi simply does not come close to filling these shoes; this is nothing to be ashamed of, as not many could compete with Kurt Cobain, but listeners cannot help but wonder why Cudi would even try.

Ironically, with the album’s rock-based structure being so highly publicized, the best tracks on the album are those that sound more like a seamless blend of multiple genres, rather than those that sound like an uncomfortable, forced attempt at head-banging. A prime example of this comes in “WZRD”’s most recognizable track, “Teleport 2 Me, Jamie”, a hybrid sounding song that typifies the true originality of Kid Cudi. In a similar manner, “Efflitim” is an emotional track that often sounds grunge influenced without pushing the boundaries of copyright infringement and utter unoriginality. “Efflitim” features Cudi playing simplistic acoustic guitar and singing vocals well within his range, as opposed to the less impressive

tracks that appear to strain to stay within the blueprint of rock and roll music.

While listening to “WZRD,” listeners would not be remiss to feel as though Cudi may have misinterpreted the meaning of the word “originality.” If Cudi’s hybrid album had consisted of eleven tracks similar to “Efflitim”, “WZRD” could have cemented Cudi amongst the creative geniuses of our generation. However, it was not, as it simply did not produce the desired result of any new album: an abundance of great music.

This being said, one must admire Kid Cudi’s courage in putting out an album with such great risk. “WZRD” is a relative success in comparison to similar albums that attempted to bridge the gap between hip hop and rock, most notably Lil Wayne’s 2010 crossover album, Rebirth, which was little more than a poor excuse for music of any sort. Once again, the Kid from Cleveland proved to fans and critics alike that music is truly his passion and an outlet for his current emotions, rather than a cash crop destined to dry out with time. This is undeniably respectable in its own right.

“Wrecking Ball” proves Bruce’s relevance to modern teens

By Luke Witherell
Class of 2012

Just prior to the release of Bruce Springsteen’s newest album, “Wrecking Ball,” on March 7, I excitedly espoused my love of The Boss to a fellow Rebellion entertainment writer. That writer responded with the normal cautious affirmation that is the appropriate response to any passionate rant, and I began to head on my merry way, when she said, “Don’t you think he’s a little... old? I mean, does he really have a place in music any more?”

My response was a wildly emphatic affirmative (so emphatic, in fact, that my fellow writer appeared frightened). I found myself, however, questioning Bruce’s role as America’s Rock-and-Roll Ambassador. I began to ask myself how a rocker who’s on the edge of AARP membership can speak for Gen-Y kids on the edge of adult life, in a world that is entirely different from the world of “Darkness on the Edge of Town.” I repeatedly asked myself why I should even listen to Springsteen.

Then, I listened to “Wrecking Ball.” I remembered one simple but irrefutable argument as to why Bruce Springsteen should speak for my generation, one beat-all-end-all statement to silence my opponents: Bruce was, is, and always will be The Boss.

I do not say this in an arbitrary or obstinate sense. I say this because Bruce Springsteen’s newest album has provided me with the first album in years to give me a glimmer of hope for the future of my country, my generation, and my world. The last album to give me this kind of hope was, coincidentally, Springsteen’s “The Rising.” The hope that is present on this newest album is the same kind of hope that Springsteen gave Americans 10 years ago, after that September morning when hijackers in Boeings tried to break our wills with flames. Springsteen fired back then, and he fires back now. The targets are different, but the aim remains constant: to provide an incentive to the people of his country to rise up, not in hatred, but in brotherhood. Springsteen fired back, then, with “My City of Ruins,” which bore witness to the recuperation from 9/11. This



time around, he fires back with “This Depression” and “Shackled and Drawn,” which, like the rest of Wrecking Ball, address America’s current economic crisis, ongoing wars, and partisan politics. All of the songs make their salvos with the same kind of lyrical aplomb that Springsteen has been known for throughout his career, and, in the same way, the lyrics reflect the conflict from the same perspective— that of the common man. In “Shackled and Drawn,” he gives an invitation, singing “Pick up the rock, son, and carry it on/ What’s a poor boy to do but keep singing this song.” In “Wrecking Ball,” he gives a challenge and presents a conflict, saying “If you think it’s your time, then step to the line, and bring on your wrecking ball.” In “Death To My Hometown,” he calls out robber barons; in “We Take Care of Our Own,” he asks where compassion has gone. He does so with enough ambiguity to leave room for skeptics to doubt Bruce’s validity as a figurehead, but I choose to see it as quite the opposite. America is in your hands, he says; he is just one aging rock-and-roller, but he’s got a whole country behind him.

The newest iteration of the E Street Band takes part in a similar firey and eclectic display of American will. They do this by incorporating characteristics of every musician or genre Bruce and the boys have been influenced by, into a patchwork of American idealism. The album

addressed the diversity of America by making homage to Latin music, gospel music, American folk music and, especially, Irish music (the similarities to Boondocks Saints might ostracize some non-Bostonian fans; I, for one, was able to relate). And it’s not just the genres that collide: one can’t pinpoint sonic similarities to any one artist at a time, but a dozen simultaneously. “Death to My Hometown” sounds like the Mighty Mighty Bosstones to the power of Pete Seeger, multiplied by Dropkick Murphys and divided by Arcade Fire. “We Are Alive” is an amalgamation of Andrew Bird, Johnny Cash, and “This Depression” has a dash of Bob Dylan, a pinch of Gregg Allman, and just a drop of Flaming Lips. Eventually, though, all comparisons fail to describe the sonic quality of the album. Every artist I just name-dropped has a touch of Springsteen, but there is only one artist capable of not only combining the best traits of all of them, and then harnessing this holy union for change to a broken country. As I said so vehemently several paragraphs ago, Bruce Springsteen is forever. The Boss.

As a teenager, I can’t help but take this music to heart. I am a member of Bruce’s vision of America, and I feel liberated to both take back my country in some vague way. “Wrecking Ball”’s lyrics are the sonic equivalent of the Occupy Movement: they can’t actively change anything, but they can provide Starbucks employees and children of yuppies with hope for change. If we all really take Bruce Springsteen’s message to heart, however, we will use his words as the igniting spark for the brilliant blaze of our actions. I, for one, will use “Wrecking Ball” as my soundtrack as I become a citizen of the world. I invite you to do the same.

So, now, to formally answer my fellow Rebellion writer’s question, yes, Bruce Springsteen still has a place in music— if we let him have a place in music. He is just as relevant in 2012 as he was in 1982, or 1972, or even 1942— 7 years before Springsteen’s birth, because Bruce Springsteen’s truth is universal. It’s about the persistence of upstarts to incite change. If 2012 teenagers, decide to be those upstarts, The Boss’s message will live forever.

“Some Nights” introduces a different kind of “Fun.”

By Megan Peterson
Class of 2013

Fun. recently released their second album “Some Nights” on February 21— the follow up to their first Album “Aim & Ignite.” This fairly new group has risen to success with their latest album and single. The recently released single “We Are Young” has become extremely popular with people that are fans of all types of music. Although most of their fans still love their second album, others are critical. To new listener, their album will be enjoyable,

but older fans may be disappointed.

Fun. is described as indie pop, but “Some Nights” slightly strays from their usual style. Their new heavier use of Auto-Tune disappointed some fans who liked their old sound better. In the song “Some Nights,” they sound like the indie pop band they are categorized as., although there is a brief moment where there is an overload of Auto-Tune. The band’s newer fans do not question their new sound; they highly enjoy it. Not knowing the band’s old sound, they are not disappointed by their latest album. The recent fans enjoy the album be-

cause it has a pop side to it. The factor that made Fun. lose some of their old fans may have been the same thing that brought them so many new ones as well. Some may argue that the band used Auto-Tune wisely in this album, but others say that it was cheap and just for sales. Lead singer, Nate Ruess has an impeccable voice, and Auto-Tune is not needed to improve his singing. Ruess and the rest of Fun. should stick to their true sound, instead of adapting to what is popular.

On the other hand, some old fans are happy with the new album’s sound, enjoying the mix of indie and pop.

However, they are also not happy with the overuse of Auto-Tune. Fans can only take so much Auto-Tune.

Fun. still have a lot of different sounds in their album, just as they always have. Sadly pop trappings makes all of those original sounds get lost in the noise.

Although some of the band’s old fans do not like Fun.’s latest album, it did hit number two on iTunes— a great accomplishment for the band. Going mainstream may alienate some people, but it sure has helped their career. The indie-pop style may be just what Fun. needed to get people’s attention.

Oscar-nominated “Paradise Lost” pays respect to West Memphis 3

By Amanda McManus
Class of 2013

Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin, and Jessie Misskelley, the teens notoriously known as the “West Memphis 3,” were convicted of brutally murdering three 8 year-old boys living in their hometown of West Memphis, Arkansas in 1994. Echols, only 18 years old at the time of the murder, was sentenced to death; Baldwin, who was 16, was sentenced to life in prison; Misskelley, who was 17, was sentenced to life in prison plus 40 years. But what sets these convicts apart is the belief and irrefutable evidence that they are innocent. The documentary chronicles the disputed trials and imprisonment of the West Memphis 3 and advocates the belief and near-fact that they did not commit the murders that have paused their life for 18 years. The movie’s release was delayed two months when the Arkansas Supreme Court released the trio from prison unexpectedly on August 19th, 2011, shortly before the film was to premiere. The directors, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, recount the lives of the WM3 (West Memphis 3) since the murder accusations up until their release, in a manner that the men deserve after their 18-year trial.

Aspects of the story are portrayed in “Purgatory” in a way that brings out one’s strongest feelings of contempt for the court of Arkansas, for the way that they handled such a serious crime. The film hints at Echols being wrongly targeted as a suspect because of his strange appearance and different personality. Baldwin was simply close friends with Echols and was dragged in by acquaintance, and perhaps by former charges of shoplifting and vandalism committed with Echols by his side. Officer Steve Jones, one of the police officers involved in the investigation, felt Echols was capable of murder, simply because drawings were found made by Echols of satan and other devilish



symbols, and the murder scene was thought to be one of his satanic rituals. The three victims were hogtied naked and thrown in a creek and one of the boys, Stevie Branch, had his genitals removed. Quickly, and without real evidence, the police targeted the WM3 as suspects. This amount of ignorance and quick assumption from the investigators involved genuinely frustrates viewers. Real, heart-wrenching, and gruesome pictures and video of the crime scene are shown as well. The very sight of it disgusts the viewer, and makes one wonder how the police investigators could have jumped so quickly to conclusions, and more importantly: why was it allowed?

The documentary is able to draw out feelings of anger for the wrongly by holding the viewer’s attention sternly. Where the film really begins to pick the brain is when interviews with Terry Hobbs, stepfather of 8-year-old Branch, are examined. The interviews are extraordinary, and the editors have skillfully edited them so that suspicion of Hobbs being the murderer slowly builds. Hobbs cannot pinpoint his

whereabouts on May 5th, 1993, as seen in real interviews featured in the documentary. There was also a hair on one of the shoelaces around the boys limbs that was, years later, DNA tested and found to be Hobbs’s hair. Yet the cops had not even considered him as a person of interest, let alone a suspect for the crime, despite the facts thrown in their face—another terribly frustrating bit of information for the viewer. Meanwhile the innocent WM3 rot in prison for a crime they did not commit. Even John Byers, stepfather of Christopher Byers (one of the victims), feels strongly that the West Memphis 3 are innocent, and Terry Hobbs is blatantly guilty. The documentary features a clip of Byers holding a poster board, that states in its simplest form, reasons why Hobbs may be innocent and reasons why he would be guilty in a compare-and-contrast fashion. The guilty side dramatically outweighs the innocent side—one of the various points in the film helping the viewer develop more confidence and passion in the WM3 and their innocence. Now grown men, awaiting the court’s de-

cision on whether they will be free or not.

A strong point in the documentary would be the amount of raw footage and real interviews and recordings with the WM3 and several others involved. Featured are interviews with the judge of the trials, the WM3, the parents of the victims, police investigators, and many more. There is also video footage of the crime scene, and recordings of Jessie Misskelley’s confession of the crime to the police. They had questioned Misskelley, who is also borderline mentally challenged, for 12 hours straight, yet only about 45 minutes were recorded, and led him to confession through manipulation and fatigue. Misskelley states he would nearly just repeat what the police wanted him to say. Interviews with the convicted trio help form a connection and a passion for what they stand for. In one particularly interesting interview, Echols, whom was at the time sentenced to death and had been in prison for over a decade, states that he has “a rather amazing life.” The viewer develops a sense of respect for the calmness the suspects maintained throughout their lives despite one of the most frustrating occurrences to happen to a person, and that is an understatement.

Many times a crime investigation can be intricate and a documentary may lose the viewer’s attention due to lack of understanding. Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory gives a detailed overview of the complicated case that is understandable to the common person. The Oscar nominated film gives the reader a lasting respect for the men convicted, left with a need for closure and further pursuance of the true murderer. It offers the idea that a court system may not always be right. It features real life footage and no dramatizations. The directors, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, captured the trials from the beginning when the now middle-aged men were just kids, and the last of the “Paradise Lost” series has been able to expose the truth that the WM3 needed and celebrates the freedom that they gained at last.

“Jump Street” sets bar for future buddy comedies



By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

Released on March 16, 2012, “21 Jump Street” attracted viewers who expected to see some of their favorite actors star in an amateur film about parties and cops, as well as get a couple of laughs from poorly-crafted and idiotic dialogue; yet, much to everyone’s surprise, “21 Jump Street” exceeded all expectations. Instead of a slipshod performance and a pointless plot, the movie—starring Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill—

keeps the audience in hysterics for all 109 minutes.

In high school, Schmidt (Hill) was never considered part of the popular crowd. Adopting a Slim-Shady persona, he was constantly tormented by those higher up on the social ladder, including Jenko (Tatum)—one of the most popular kids in school. After graduation, the two reunite at the Police Academy and become fast friends after discovering a way to utilize each other’s capabilities— Jenko’s athleticism and Schmidt’s book smarts— in order to survive training. Unfortunately for them, the levels of danger and action in the public park they are assigned to patrol do not live up to their dreams of life in the fast lane, which are characterized by car chases and explosions. Soon, the two find themselves in trouble after getting too carried away with their first arrest, and they are given one more chance to prove that they have what it takes to be real cops.

Their new mission is to infiltrate a drug ring that is dealing a new, highly dangerous synthetic drug known as HFS. Assuming the fake identities Brad and Doug, the duo is sent to a local high school that is supposedly crawling with the illegal substance, and they must pretend to be students in order to find the supplier and terminate the distribution altogether. Upon returning to high school, the pair is completely in awe of the drastic change in dynamics of the culture, fashion, and structure of the social pyramid, which leads them to wonder just how much has changed since they were real students. In a strange turn of events caused by a simple identity swap, the cops undergo a surprising role reversal in which Schmidt seems to fit in with the popular kids and Jenko (former jock and football player) befriends the nerds of the school. The sheer idiocy

and immaturity of the two main characters, once they assume these roles, keeps viewers laughing throughout the entire movie and begging for more once it is over.

The best aspect of the film is undoubtedly the cast and its seemingly effortless compatibility. On screen, the two actors unite to introduce a “bromance” unlike any other; Hill and Tatum’s characters seem to share a bond comparable to that of two brothers who have been best friends since the beginning. The acting is perfection, and the two deliver each line with the ideal amount of comedy, sincerity, and sarcasm needed for a given scene. Funny guy Jonah Hill taking the role of an immature cop was expected to arouse several laughs, but it is Tatum’s performance that deserves the most praise; for an actor usually cast as the handsome, sensitive guy in chick-flicks, Tatum proves his versatility as an actor by showing off his funny, stupid side in “21 Jump Street.”

The movie is simply hilarious. Whether it be preparing for the party of a lifetime (organized solely to identify the drug supplier, of course), suiting up in a Peter Pan costume for the school musical, or getting dressed up to crash the prom, Hill and Tatum keep the audience roaring with laughter. However, the film is rated R—and for a good reason. Not a line is uttered that does not include a swear, and teen drinking and drug use is almost glorified. Although it is laden with raunchy comments and inappropriate jokes, “21 Jump Street” is a comedic masterpiece that puts “The Hangover” and its sequel to shame. Thanks to a stellar performance by the cast as well as a side-splitting plot, “21 Jump Street” sets the bar extremely high for future buddy-cop movies.

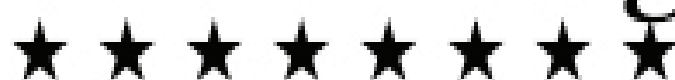
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Spring Sports Previews

Girls Lacrosse adjusts to new changes

Photo/Derek Caneja



Mike Tosone's girls lacrosse team will be led by senior Captains Erin Nelligan, Hope Kelly, Adrianna Frattasio, and Courtney Bradley.

By Courtney Gorman
Class of 2014

The girls lacrosse team will kick off their new season on March 19, but with some changes. Having lost three seniors, all of who were starters and captains, the girls will need to work to find replacements for them. Along with that, there are several coaching staff changes being made. Tim Drummey, the previous head coach, is stepping down to the position of assistant coach because of scheduling issues with his work. Mike Tosone, the previous assistant coach, is taking on the head coaching job to fill Drummey's place.

After losing three starters due to graduation, it may seem hard to replace them; however, Tosone said, "I think we will have good team speed, a very good goalie, and a bunch of extremely competitive girls."

Senior captain and starting goalie Erin Nelligan is optimistic about being able to fill the spots. Nelligan said, "While we lost three seniors the rest of the starting lineup is returning and many of the other players have the ability to step in and help out the team." After finishing last season with a record of 11-11, the team hopes to make tournament with a wider margin this year.

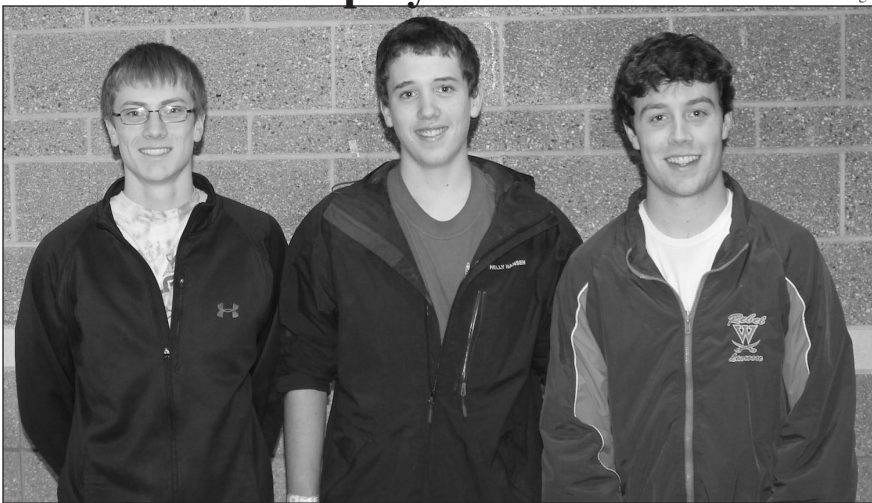
Since Tosone and Drummey are just switching their roles, it should not take the team as long to adjust as it might if the team got a new coach. "With the coaching being changed, it may seem a little off at first, but Coach Tosone has always been a key role in our lacrosse program and was a key to the success over the past years," Nelligan said. "I think that everything will run smoothly in the transition."

Along with the changes between the head coach and assistant coach, the coaches are looking for another assistant coach. The program is in search of a JV for the second year in a row. The only coach who is staying in her place is the freshman team coach, Ms. Kerry McMenimen.

This year's captains—Hope Kelly, Courtney Bradley, Erin Nelligan and Adrianna Frattasio—are hopeful that their team will make it farther in tournament and become closer as a team. Nelligan said, "With returning almost all of the varsity team I hope that right from the start we gel and are able to fully function as a team."

Young Boys Lacrosse shoots for the playoffs

Photo/Dan King



Senior captains Bryan Rockwood, Thomas Corcoran, and Russell Ollis will look to bring this rebuilding lacrosse squad back to the playoffs this spring.

By Aidan Lancaster
Class of 2013

Last spring, the Rebels Lacrosse team did not reach their goal of winning the Division 2 state championship; however, they made it to the second round of the playoffs and lost to Medfield, the eventual state champions. Senior Captains Russ Ollis, Bryan Rockwood, and Tom Corcoran will try to lead this talented bunch to another winning season. This year the Rebels hope to overcome playing in one of the toughest divisions in the state and make a run for the state title. "Even though we lost a lot of starters from last year, I think we will still be able to compete," said Rockwood.

A major upside to this season is a plethora of talented underclassmen. Juniors Steve Thulin, Chris Frye, and Brad Webber will look to supply the offense for the team, while sophomore Andrew Blood and senior James O'Neill compete for the starting job in net. Junior Tyler Bailey and captains Ollis and Corcoran will be the returning starters on the defensive side of the field. If the Rebels are able to play as a team then they will have a very good shot at finding success this year.

Girls Tennis hopes for comeback

Photo/Derek Caneja



Seniors Tessa Bloechl and Emily Davis will captain the girls tennis team this spring.

By Kinsey Hirae
Class of 2013

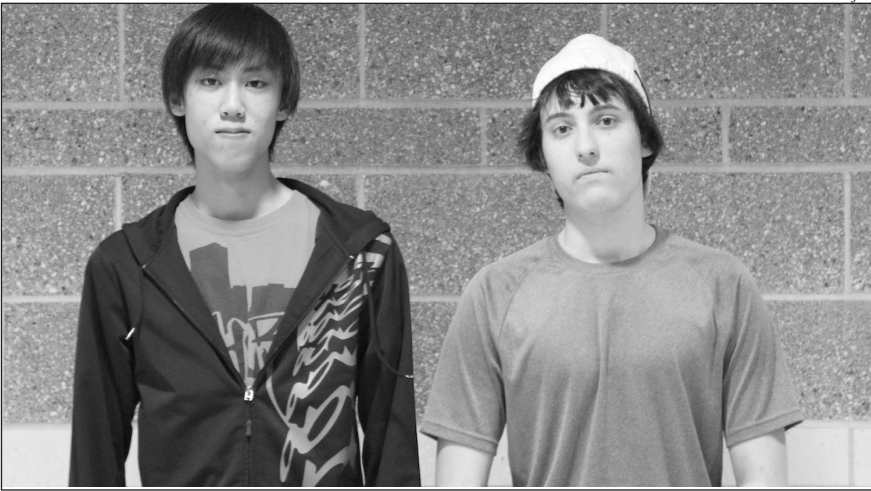
It's the start of a new season for the Girls Tennis team and hopes are high this season in what many hope will be a comeback season after last year. The Girls Tennis team was not able to make it to the tournament last year, for the first time in six years. Although last year's season did not end as well as they would have liked, the Rebels have an optimistic outlook on the upcoming season, and there will be plenty of opportunities to improve from last year's record. "This will be a rebuilding year, seeing as we have lost some of our senior players," said Head Coach Bill Powers.

Some of the concerns that are being voiced about this year's season are the small number of girls returning to varsity. The team must rebuild their talent throughout the season in order to be eligible to play in the tournament. Coach Powers is also going to have to find talented players to fill in the vacant senior spots as well. Even though there are some setbacks on the tennis team, there are also many strengths as well. Senior Captains Emily Davis and Tessa Bloechl are returning varsity players and were ranked first and third on the team last year. Many of the tennis athletes trained during the winter so their skills will be up to par at the start of the season. There are about 30 new freshmen joining the girls tennis team this year; this large number of freshman joining the girls tennis squad this year reflects the growing popularity of this fun and competitive sport and will undoubtedly prove beneficial in years to come.

The goals of the tennis team this year are to just make it into the tournament after being left out last year, and to develop the younger player's skills in order to help rebuild the team. Powers also has a second agenda for this year's team: he wants his players to have a fun season, whether or not they have a winning season. Along with all the fun, Powers wants to build up his team to become tough competitors so they can have a successful season this year and in the future.

Experienced Boys Tennis Team returns for success

Photo/Derek Caneja



Captaining the boys tennis team this spring will be seniors Phil Chen and Pat McKernan.

By Danielle Levya
Class of 2013

The boys tennis team finished the 2011 season with a record of 9-9, and qualified for the state tournament for the 8th year in a row. Unfortunately, last year the boys lost in the first round to Duxbury. This season, which begins on Monday, March 19th, the boys are being led by senior Captains Pat McKernan and Phil Chen. The boys hope to do as well or better than last year's team. "Our goal again will be to qualify for the postseason," said Head Coach Shawn Gough.

The team's depth in playing doubles, as well as junior Alex Fraser returning to play singles, are strengths that will be beneficial as the team works toward playoffs. Last year, Fraser placed third in singles with a record of 13-5. Seniors Dave Dichter and Brian Lotsbom, as well as juniors Zach Rogers, Alex Taurone, Steven Bean, Caleb Cofsky, and Brandon Chin, have the capability to fill in at the double positions. "With quality, experienced players returning - like McKernan, Fraser, and [sophomore] Andrew Morrier - our goal will again be to qualify for the postseason," said Gough. The outlook on paper appears rough for the boys tennis team this season as they graduated 5 out of the top 7 players, but Gough hopes the depth will hopefully carry the team to their 9th winning season.

Veteran softball team expects success

Photos/Derek Caneja



Seniors Jill Songin, Katie Cavaca and junior Bridget Nicholson will look to lead Jim Duffy's squad to the playoffs this spring.

By Mehron Hoag
Class of 2014

The 2012 Walpole High School Girls Softball Team begins their season with tryouts on Monday, March 19. This season will be the seventh year that varsity Coach Jim Duffy will be coaching the team. After a successful season last year, with a record of 16-4, the team's expectations remain high for themselves.

Pitching is a key factor for the team. Pitchers who were on the varsity team as freshmen will be able to expect what is going to happen in a game situation giving them the ability to handle whatever is thrown at them. Every starter is coming back besides last year's senior Captain Kelsey Cosby. Duffy said, "Kelsey will be a tough one to replace, but I have confidence that someone will step up."

Outfield will be just as strong as the infield. With some teams having powerhouses at the plate, the outfield has to be on its toes. Duffy said, "The outfield will be the fastest I have had in five years." A majority of the girls who played on varsity last year have played together for over six years. Because of this strong bond between the girls, Duffy said "The young talent in the program will also serve well in the upcoming season."

Despite all the strengths this year's team will have, Duffy has some concerns. He said, "Team hitting against the stronger pitching and being prepared for tournament play will be key." To address these concerns Duffy scheduled the team to play against tougher teams in the non-league preseason.

To ensure a successful season, Duffy set goals for himself and the team. Duffy said his team must be "Mentally and physically prepared for the season and make sure there is plenty of fun along the way."

With the season starting soon there is hope that the team will make it to tournament again, and then will go even further to winning the State Title. Duffy said, "It is time for a softball banner to be raised."

Girls track team rebounds from loss of seniors



Seniors Erin McCarthy, Lizzie Almeida, and Steph DeSantis, along with Junior Nicky Browne (not pictured), will captain the girls track team this year.

By Danielle Levya and Kinsey Hirae
Class of 2013

The Girls Outdoor Track season begins on Monday, March 19. Last year the girls finished off the season with a record of 6-1, tying the best record in 20 years in Walpole. The girls team graduated a big point scorer, all-state runner Amanda Carney, as well as sprinter Jackie Clinton and Javelin Thrower Kristan Papirio. The team also lost a strong distance core of Brigitte Lawton, Courtney Shea, Jocelyn Lydon and Liz Jelloe. This year, the girls are being led by senior captains Erin McCarthy, Lizzy Almeda, Steph DeSantis and junior captain Nicole Browne.

The team's strengths are jumping, javelin, discus and sprinting events. The jumping events consist of senior Erin McCarthy, juniors Nicole Browne and Maddy Shea and sophomore Savonna Small-Brown. These girls will help the team by scoring points in long jump, triple jump, and high jump. In the throwing events, some of the athletes hold school records. Senior Steph DeSantis is fifth for the school record in javelin, and junior Michelle Monahan holds the school record in discus. For sprinters, the girls will need to focus on filling Carney's shoes. To do this, senior Erin McCarthy and junior Maddy Shea may be running the 100m Dash for some meets. Shea will also contribute heavily in the 400m, as she is the second fastest 400 runner in school history.

The team has a lack of depth in distance, hurdles, and shot put. For distance, junior Megan Peterson and sophomore Kristen Coyne have stepped up big in the indoor season to finish races behind sophomore Gina Conti. Coach Cashman hopes they continue to step up in the outdoor season, but other girls in the distance events need to step up as well. In hurdles, senior Cailey Griffin and junior Jacqui Conley need to help junior Nicole Browne in receiving points in their event. Seniors Lizzy Almeda and Natalie Doyle need to step up their game in order to receive more points for their event. Coach Conor Cashman would like "to win the Herget and qualify as many athletes for Division 2."

Boys Track anticipates a competitive season



In his first season at the helm of the boys track team, Kevin Butera will rely heavily on his captains: senior Andrew Berardinelli and junior Connor McCarthy.

By Danielle Levya and Kinsey Hirae
Class of 2013

The start of a new track season brings high hopes for a successful season. Kevin Butera, the Head Coach of the Boys Track Team predicts that this season will mark "another successful indoor campaign." There are also many new additions who should be helpful for Butera's team, which finished last year's dual meet season with a record of 7-0.

Butera said, "We have the talent to do extremely well as a team, and [we have] multiple individuals that will perform at a high level at championship meets. I am also excited to see what school records fall as the junior and senior team members have been rewriting the Top 10 lists in school history for the past couple of years."

The team does have concerns over the loss of last year's impressive senior class including Alex Lee, a stand out sprinter. Also, some of the winter athletes may not return due to other choices of sport during the spring.

Butera is also concerned about the Carey opponents, Weymouth and Newton North, who will be very difficult to defeat. Despite having their concerns, Butera is confident that the Rebel strengths far outweigh the team's weaknesses. Butera said, "We have two or three capable athletes for every event and with some of the newcomers we have the potential to be even stronger in some. I expect our distance crew to continue their strong year, as well as the hurdlers. We also bring back a majority of our javelin team from last year and I expect them to continue to improve."

The team's goals for this season are to win the Herget as well as qualifying over 10 athletes for States. Butera hopes for his boys to perform better as a team at the Division II Meet. He also said, "repeating our top 5 placement from the indoor season [at Division II Meet] is also a good goal for the team to shoot for."

Baseball makes a run for tournament



Led by four senior captains in Matt Lavanchy, Craig Hanley, Mike Baryski, and Dan King, the Rebel baseball team has their sights set on the tournament come spring.

By Justin Rouhana
Class of 2014

Spring is just around the corner and with spring, comes baseball. The Walpole High School baseball team has a promising upcoming season. Headed by Coach William Tompkins and led by senior Captains Dan "Shank" King, Craig "Hammer" Hanley, Mike Baryski, and Matt Lavanchy, the team looks as if it is going to be a force. Finishing with a record of 16-5 and winning the Bay State League Title for the 14th time in 20 years, they hope to defend the title and with many players returning with varsity experience, this should prove probable.

With strong hitting and pitching, the team should be equally skilled both offensively and defensively. Brother of star Captain Craig Hanley, junior Cam "Nails" Hanley, who led the team in hitting last year as a sophomore, will be sure to do it again this season. King, a three year starter, will be behind the plate for several skilled pitchers such as Co-Captain Mike Baryski. Behind Baryski will be junior lefty Mike Gaughan, who proved talented during last summer in Legion Post 104 baseball, and a cast of talented seniors including Joey Murphy and Kyle Donnelly. Coach Tompkins said, "I am very optimistic, I'm confident in our team's ability and we have a great coaching staff so that helps too." Tompkins and the team have set the goal of qualifying for the tournament, which would require them to achieve a minimum of 10 wins. If they do in fact qualify for the tournament, then they hope to go on to win some championships. "We need to peak at the end of the season not at the beginning like last year's season," Tompkins said.

Although this team is used to winning, Tompkins is weary of their league because of the competitiveness of the Bay State League. The team is definitely one of the top teams in the league but they do have "an 'X' on [their] back's" as Tompkins said.

Little League World Series 2007: Where are they now?

By Bill Rockwood
Class of 2013

Late spring and early summer in 2007 started out as a run of the mill season for a group of rambunctious 12 year-olds playing baseball, not knowing how far their talents would carry them. The team breezed through all Massachusetts tournaments, leading them to compete against teams from each of the New England states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Undefeated until this tournament, Walpole slaughtered Shelton, CT 14-4; enabling them to compete against teams from the U.S as well as international teams. Walpole kicked off the Little League World Series playing Hamilton, Ohio. The game had a fantastic ending, just a sign of things to come. Let's catch up with the players on the Little League World Series team to see what they're up to five years after their spectacular summer.



The 2007 Little League World Series team has continued their success throughout their respective high school careers.



Mike Rando (CF) - One of the most memorable performances in the 2007 Little League World Series was when Rando made "the catch." His play was on ESPN's top plays, securing the number one spot on the countdown. "It was pretty weird seeing myself on a show I watch everyday," said Rando, "I guess it was a pretty good play." Rando's success has continued into high school where he is now a Captain of the Rebels football team, and will be competing for a position on the baseball team in the spring.



John White (RF) - Known for his clutch double during the opening game of the LLWS, White has been very successful throughout his high school years. White is the Captain of the hockey team as a junior and maintains a 4.2 GPA; putting him 9th in the junior class. "Whitey" has decided not to play baseball in the spring this year in order to focus all of his attention to hockey and school. Whitey explained his decision by saying, "It's not too hard to balance academics and sports. Especially because I'm not doing any sports in the spring, I'll have a good amount of free time."



Johnny Adams (SS/P) - A standout at Williamsport, Adams has continued his dominance on the diamond, as he has been a fixture in the middle infield for the varsity baseball team. Adams has verbally committed to play baseball for the Boston College Eagles. Adams attributes Williamsport to some of his success adding, "It was the first time I've experienced really tough competition on a big stage. It showed me what needed to be done to have success against the best players around the world."



Mike LaVita (1B) - Back in 2007 he was Walpole's starting first baseman. He is now a senior at Xaverian Brothers High School. "I've loved baseball my whole life and Williamsport is my favorite baseball memory." He is now Xaverian's starting first baseman. LaVita has decided to join Sullivan and will also go to Skidmore College - where he'll be a part of the baseball team.



Sam Falkson (P) - Falkson was an ace for Walpole throughout their Little League World Series run. He now attends Thayer Academy, where he continues to be successful on the mound. Not only does Falkson pitch, but he also utilizes his arm playing quarterback for the varsity team. "I really enjoyed meeting the different kids from different countries," said Falkson, "I also enjoyed competing."



Brendan Donovan (OF) - Although Donovan saw little playing time in Williamsport, he has greatly improved his baseball skill. "It provided good memories and a good start to my baseball career." Last spring, "Dono" was an ace on a great JV baseball team, and is looking to make a splash on the varsity level by earning a spot in the rotation. Donovan will be competing against returning seniors, co-Captain Mike Baryski, Kyle Donnelly, Joey Murphy; along with juniors Mike Gaughan and Tom Farrow.



PJ Hayes (LF) - In the LLWS PJ played left field, but in high school PJ has re-written the Walpole Indoor Track records for the 55m dash, and competed in the championship heat at the Indoor Track Nationals. Hayes was also a stand-out junior at cornerback for the Rebels football team this past fall. He will not be competing for a spot on the baseball team, rather continuing his upstart career on the track. About his decision Hayes said, "It was a tough decision to do track instead of baseball. I think I will be more successful in track, even though I've been playing baseball all my life."



Matt Bender (3B) - Bender has achieved success in all three seasons as a standout in golf, hockey, and baseball. This spring, Bender will compete for a spot on the varsity baseball team. Bender is hopeful about this season saying, "I'm looking forward to this spring. The team has a good chance to go deep into the playoffs. Williamsport was fun, but I think this year might be better."



Tim Sullivan (2B) - A second baseman in the LLWS, Sullivan has found his success on the pitch, where he has captained the Rebels Soccer team for two years, leading them to the playoffs each year. Sullivan also plays for the Rebels Baseball team. "Being one of the older players on that team taught me a lot about leadership. I think it will probably carry over into this year's season." Sullivan will attend Skidmore College next year where he'll play soccer.



Kyle Donnelly (C) - A key pitcher in '07, Donnelly has continued to succeed on the bump as he competes in the varsity pitching rotation. Also, Donnelly finished an illustrious career on the links as a golf Captain. Donnelly hopes to finish off his high school career on a positive note as he is a part of a strong senior class on the baseball team. Donnelly will be attending Coastal Carolina University in the fall.



Joey Guarino (P) - As a standout pitcher for the LLWS team, Guarino was known for his unhittable knuckle curve. He now attends St. Sebastian's High School. Guarino has continued to play baseball and is still a stellar pitcher on the Arrow's baseball team. Guarino said, "Williamsport showed me that I could compete with great players, and that has motivated me."



Brian Wolpe (1B) - Wolpe was a utility player on the '07 team. He played infield, catcher, and pitched. "Williamsport gave me lasting memories," said Wolpe. He now attends St. Sebastian's High School. He has not continued his baseball career because of his growth spurt. Although the picture does not show it, he is now 6'4" and 235 lbs. Instead of baseball, he starts on the St. Sebastian's offensive line and is a starting power forward on the basketball team. "Even though my focus isn't really on baseball, I still remember the experience."



Mike Cabral (3B) - Cabral has since terminated his baseball career at the high school, but has found success playing basketball for the Rebels. Cabral enjoyed the comradie of the team stating, "I had a good time hanging out with the team and playing at Williamsport." He plans on becoming a state trooper when he graduates.



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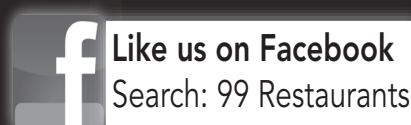
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Rebels boys track team falls short of win against Weymouth

By Bill Rockwood
Class of 2013

The Walpole boys track season kicked off with the Rebels competing against the Weymouth Wildcats for the first time in Coach Kevin Butera's early career. Unfortunately for Butera and the Rebels, the Wildcats out performed them on the track; resulting in an 84-52 loss.

The day started out ominous, with the weather being overcast, windy and cold — weather unfavorable for the outdoor track season. However inclement the weather was, it can not be blamed for the Walpole boys' futility, because both teams had to compensate for the same conditions. The meet started off favorably for the Rebels, as the dynamic hurdling duo of junior Connor McCarthy and senior Connor Murtagh placed first and second respectively, giving the Rebels an early 8-1 lead after one event. The next event, the 100 meter dash, also yielded favorable results as junior PJ Hayes ran away from the field of runners with a time of 11.14 seconds. "I knew I wasn't going to get a really good time be-



Junior Connor McCarthy received a time of 15.5 seconds in the hurdle event.

cause of the weather. I just wanted to make sure I won my races and not worry about my time," added Hayes.

By the end of the first two events, the Rebels had amassed a 13-5 lead over the visiting Wildcats. The lead was short lived, though, due to the surging Wildcats performances in the 400m,

the 4x100m relay (against no Walpole competitors), and the 400m hurdles.

The main storyline of the meet was the lack of depth in Walpole athletes. Aside from the top runners in each event, the Walpole boys were not able to place - allowing Weymouth boys to rack up points. Six events resulted in only one Walpole athlete placing, while two Weymouth athletes collected points. This is a problem Butera is working on. The return of senior sprinter Joey Petruziello will help with this problem as the season progresses.

With the good comes the bad, and vice versa. Junior standouts McCarthy and Hayes have been anchors for the Rebels dating back to the winter season. Both athletes competed in the New Balance Indoor Nationals - along with Murtagh - in individual events. Hayes scored 13 points for the Rebels,

while McCarthy accounted 14 points. The junior duo contributed more than half of the Rebels points, showing the great need for depth in the team.

The Rebels take on the Natick Red and Blue at Turco Memorial Field on Tuesday, April 3. Pending the outcome of the meet, the winner has a very real chance of capturing the Bay State Herget title.

Walpole girl's track takes a beating against Weymouth and Natick

By Danielle Levya and Kinsey Hirae
Class of 2013

The Girls Outdoor Track Team opened their season against Carey Division foe Weymouth on Thursday, March 29. Unfortunately, the girls lost and started off their season with a record of 0-1. The meet could have been closer if the Walpole Girls Track Team had three of their top athletes—senior Lizzy Almeda, junior Nicole Browne, and sophomore Savonna Small-Brown—but all were out due to injuries.

For distance events, sophomore Kristen Coyne was the only Rebel to run the two mile. Coyne finished in third with a time of 12:40. In the mile, a handful of girls PR'd, such as freshman Lucy Lynch who not only PR'd by reaching a time of 6:01, but finished in third for the Rebels. Following Lynch, sophomore Mackenzie Wilson and freshman Allie Morris ran together to both PR, finishing at 6:09 and 6:12, respectively. Freshman Katherine Lawton PR'd as well, finishing with a time of 6:23.4.

Junior Mary Reedy PR'd finishing only seconds behind Lawton too, with a time of 6:30. In the 800 meter race, junior Megan Peterson finished in third for Walpole and PR'd with a time of 2:34.4. To conclude the distance races, sophomore Gina Conti ran a close race beating the Weymouth junior Jen Kimball by .1 second to take first. Conti finished the race at 60.6.

The sprinting and hurdling events were a mix of highs and lows. Freshman Claire Rinne showed off her growing skill by placing third in the 100 meter hurdles. She began her track career during the winter season and quickly learned the art of jumping the hurdles. As for the next hurdling event, senior Cailey Griffin also placed third in her heat. The sprints were the highlight of the meet for Walpole as senior Erin McCarthy placed first for the 100 meter with a PR of 13.54. Junior Maddy Shea partnered up with McCarthy by placing first in her 200 race as well. Although it was not a PR for Shea, her race against Weymouth senior runner Melissa Darling was a close race. The race began with Darling speeding ahead of the other runners, but about halfway through Shea was able to surge ahead and beat Darling by .1 second. The last event of the



Sophomore Gina Conti finishes strong with a time of 60.6 seconds.

meet was the 4x100 and the Walpole team was made up of seniors McCarthy and Suzy Gallivan, junior Maddy Shea, and sophomore Olivia O'Hara. The team ended up stealing first from Weymouth in the event.

For field events, returning junior Michelle Monahan threw the discus a whopping 94'1" which gave Walpole another first place finish. Along with her throw, senior Steph DeSantis threw a PR of 69' - another first, this time in the javelin. Also occurring on the lower field, senior Natalie Doyle accompanied DeSantis' first place win by taking third in the javelin while PR'ing with a distance of 81'11". Doyle took second place in the shot put as well. Moving to the upper field, McCarthy PR'd in the triple jump by jumping 32'10" and took third place. Although Weymouth took first place in the long jump, Shea and McCarthy stopped Weymouth in their tracks by jumping far enough to take second and third for the event. As for the final score, Weymouth beat Walpole with a walloping score of 92-44.

The girls lost to Natick on Tuesday, April 3 at home. Natick is one of Walpole's toughest meets and the team only had four days of rest to prepare themselves.

To start the meet off, being the only Rebel in the 100 meter hurdles freshmen Claire Rinne took second place to get a time of 19.4. Following the 100 meter hurdles, sophomore Olivia O'Hara ran the 100 meter dash in the varsity heat for the first time. O'Hara took first for the Rebels reaching a time of 14.1 as well as taking third for the 200 with a time of 29.0. Leading O'hara was senior Erin McCarthy who took first with a time of 27.0. In the 400 meter race, Sophomore Gabbi Petruziello finished in third for the rebels to PR with a time of 65.4. To conclude the highlights of the meet sophomore Gina Conti and sophomore Meghan Jenkins stole first and third for the 800. Jenkins was able to PR with a time of 2:38.2.

Walpole has faced two of their toughest opponents for the start of the spring season, fortunately Weymouth is not included in the Herget Division. With many of the top athletes still out of circulation for performance the Walpole track girls team has been doing a notable performance. As for the next meet against Wellelsley next Tuesday, hopes are high for the top athletes to return and make their comeback.

Boys Lacrosse falls in season opener to Dover-Sherborn

By Jake Moser
Class of 2013

The boys lacrosse team entered the season on April 2 with high hopes, but unfortunately, the outcome did not meet their expectations — the Rebels fell 7-2 in their season opener to Dover-Sherborn Regional High School. Dover-Sherborn proved that they were a very talented team and an early favorite to win Division 3, and the Rebels showed their lack of experience with such a young roster.

During warm-ups, it appeared that the Rebels were feeling some pre-game jitters on the crisp April evening. Players were missing shots from point-blank range and missing passes left and right. Un-

fortunately, the Rebels did not change their play before the opening minutes, and continued to play poorly. Dover-Sherborn kept Walpole on their heels for the majority of the first half — the Raiders kept Rebel defenders busy, forcing them to shift their focus from scoring to keeping the ball out of their own net. Despite valiant efforts by the Rebel defenders, Walpole went into halftime down 4-0.

The second half was not much different for the Rebels. Walpole was able to find some offense in the forms of senior Bryan Rockwood and surprise freshman forward Seamus Ford. Despite the two goals, Walpole gave up three more goals to the Raider onslaught, and as the final whistle blew, the scoreboard read 7-2 in Dover-Sherborn's favor. "We just never

were able to build any momentum," said Rockwood. The Rebels could not build any continued possession against the Raiders. "Our offensive players are young and inexperienced, but with some more time we will find our game on offense," remarked Rockwood. In addition to their inexperienced offense, the Rebels have been struggling to deal with injuries to their key players. Walpole was without two of its key players - juniors Steve Thulin and Chris Frye - during the game and lost two more offensive players in juniors Eric Jansen and Brad Webber due to injuries.

With their next game Saturday against Franklin, the Rebels will look to capture their first win by creating more chances on offense while maintaining their defensive efforts.

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Girls Lacrosse trumps Acton Boxborough, 9-5

Photos/Courtney Gorman



Junior Seana Cofsky and sophomore Brooke Matherson defend senior goalie Erin Nelligan from Acton-Boxborough's attack.

By Courtney Gorman
Class of 2014

The Girls Lacrosse Team played their first game of the season on April 2, against Acton Boxborough - an out of league opponent. Going into the game, the team expected a challenging game. "We definitely thought it was going to be hard to win because Acton Boxborough is a good team with a good coach," said sophomore Bri Doherty.

Just a minute after the start of the game, junior Seana Cofsky scored the Walpole's first goal, giving the Rebels a 1-0 lead to start the game. Senior Captain and goalie Erin Nelligan made a key save as Acton Boxborough carried the ball down the field, but failed to score on an excellent shot. Walpole moved the ball into Acton Boxborough's end again and junior Erin Richardson added a goal of her own. Coming off of the draw from Richardson's goal, Acton Boxborough managed to carry the ball down the field to get a shot off, but they were once again shut down by Nelligan. Junior Michaela Tosone scored another goal, making the score 3-0 in Walpole's favor.

After a fast start, the game stagnated as the ball stayed in the middle of the field and neither team held possession long enough to make a run toward the goal. Both teams played tight defense - one of the goals for Walpole entering the game. Acton Boxborough eventually came away with the ball and fired off a shot that



Junior Seana Cofsky runs the ball down the field.

slid past Nelligan. Tosone answered Acton Boxborough's goal with another for herself. Acton Boxborough managed to get past the Rebels' tough defense in the arc to score another goal. After letting up two goals to Acton Boxborough, the Rebels picked up the pace of the game and made more aggressive runs down the field which resulted in another goal by Cofsky. Junior Jen McDonald scored her first goal of the season that ended up being the sixth goal for the Rebels during the game. Walpole scored another goal to end the half with a score of 7-2.

The second half started the same way that the first half did - with the Rebels coming out strong that was capped off by Cofsky scoring again and finishing a hat trick for her. The pace of the game changed from this point as Acton Boxborough picked up their third goal shortly after and called a timeout. When the teams returned to the field, Nelligan turned away a very impressive shot by Acton Boxborough. After Walpole failed to score, Acton Boxborough then scored two goals of their own and stopped Walpole from getting any shots off. The final goal of the game was yet another goal by Cofsky and gave the Rebels a 9-5 victory.

"We did really well on defense," said Doherty, "our goalie Erin Nelligan played really well, but we still have some things to work on if we want to be a powerhouse." Walpole will continue to work on their skills and improve as a team, but through one game it appears as if the Rebels are on the right track.

Adams, Rebels make statement against Delano, Wamps

By James Cullinane
Class of 2012

Because of New England's unfavorable weather conditions, which prohibit baseball players from taking part in year round competition, it is very seldom that a Bay State League match up contains two Division I-committed players. However, for the Rebels and the Braintree Wamps on Thursday, April 4, to begin the bottom of the first, the stage was set for a marquee at-bat as Rebel junior shortstop and Boston College commit, Johnny Adams, stepped into the batter's box against Braintree senior Pat Delano, who will be heading to Vanderbilt in the fall.

For Rebel fans, this at-bat was somewhat anticlimactic, ending with Adams grounding out to third base. Seniors Captains Matt Lavanchy and Craig Hanley would be retired soon after, leaving the game scoreless entering the second.

Rebel junior Mike Gaughan, who got the nod for the Rebels on the mound, out-dueled Delano in the second inning, striking out the side in order. Unwilling to allow the Rebels to jump out in front of his squad's struggling offense, retiring junior Cam Hanley, senior Captain Dan King, and senior left fielder Tim Sullivan in order.

The Rebels broke the game open in the third inning; following a one-two-three top of the third by Gaughan, Rebel junior first baseman Tom Farrow recorded Walpole's first hit of the afternoon, a line drive between second and shortstop. Delano would then strike out Rebel nine-hitter, junior Mike Rando, bringing Adams to the dish once again, this time with two outs and a runner on first. Epitomizing Adams's equanimity, which was largely compiled during his freshman and sophomore campaigns, both spent as the starting Rebel shortstop, the third year starter smacked a double into right center, setting the table for Lavanchy with two outs and two in scoring position. Lavanchy delivered with a single up the middle, driving in two runs, with Adams sliding in safe in a bang-bang play at the plate.

Already leading by a score of 2-0, Craig Hanley

stole the show from the Vanderbilt-bound Delano, hitting an opposite field blast over the right fielder's head. As the ball bounced onto the hill in right field, Hanley motored around the bases, scoring easily with his first home run of the season. In regards to this game changing plan, Hanley said, "I knew I got a piece of it and that I needed to score. I just ran as hard as I could the whole way. I was pretty tired after, but it was definitely well worth it." Following a walk by Hanley's younger brother Cam, Delano worked his way out of this damaging jam, striking out senior Captain Dan King to end the inning.

With a four run lead supporting him, Gaughan walked Delano to begin the fourth, before making quick work of the next three batters. The bottom of the fourth also proved frustrating for the Wamps, as Sullivan reached on an error before stealing second base. After a walk to Farrow, Braintree Head Coach Bill O'Connell pulled his ace; the Division I bound Delano's inability to last over 3 1/3 against the Rebels is a testament to Walpole's relentless offensive attack, which forced Delano to throw a lot of pitches and tagged almost every poor pitch that came out of his hand. Against Braintree's reliever, a crafty left, the polar opposite of Delano, Lavanchy flew out with the bases loaded, keeping the score at 4-0.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Rebels would expand their lead behind an errant throw by the Wamp shortstop, which allowed Cam Hanley to advance from second base to the plate.

Trailing 5-0 in the top of the sixth, Braintree was finally able to get to Gaughan, as he loaded the bases after surrendering an RBI double. With the bases loaded and one out, Tompkins and pitching coach Chris Costello made a pitching change, replacing Gaughan with sophomore Nick Cordopatri. The combination of Cordopatri, Craig Hanley, and King saved a run in Cordopatri's first match up; Cordopatri induced a fairly shallow fly ball, which Hanley caught with ease before firing a missile to King behind the plate, holding the Wamp base runner at third.

Keeping his composure, Cordopatri then forced an inning-ending ground out to Lavanchy at second base.

The Rebels would add another run to their lead in the eighth inning of a past ball that allowed Sullivan to scamper in safely to the plate. Cordopatri, in his first varsity experience, held strong for the remainder of the game, shutting down the talented Wamps lineup in impressive fashion.

Following the game, King said, "Today was definitely a big day for us. Every time we face Delano it's a statement game. We're all glad we came out on top today, but we all know this is only the first step. We need to play with that much intensity or the entire season to reach our goal."

For Tompkins, King, and the remainder of the Rebel squad, they will be under pressure for the remainder of the year, as Boston Herald columnist Danny Ventura tweeted following the game: "Rebels are the team to beat in the BSC."

Photo/James Cullinane



Junior Mike Gaughan compiled seven strikeouts over the course of 5 2/3 innings against Braintree.