

THE REBELLION

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Walpole High School

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Class of 2014 Graduates from WHS

Photo/ Annie Gallivan



With a decorated cap, Graduate Meghan Lynch proceeds onto Turco Field.

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

There are exactly 1,460.97 days in four full years. Depending on how one perceives this particular period of time, it consists of 35,063.28 hours, 2,103,796.8 minutes, 126,227,808 seconds, or-- arguably more importantly-- 43,829.1 episodes of Breaking Bad. However, for the Walpole High School Class of 2014, the precious seconds and minutes of the past four years of high school were spent forming friendships, exploring individual interests, and-- hopefully-- learning a lesson or two along the way.

When the seniors gathered in the Mathematics

wing at 12:15, the students milled about excitedly as they made the finishing touches to their graduation-day look. While the guys donned sunglasses and tightened ties, girls scurried around in search of someone to help them secure their decorated graduation caps to their heads. There were precisely 15 minutes until the seniors were to file into straight lines-- two by two-- down the staircase, through the back doors, and onto the outside courtyard. Finally, 30 minutes afterward, the first few notes of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" would mark the beginning of the ceremony, the end of the seniors' high school careers, and the advent of the rest of their lives.

On Sunday, June 8, 271 soon-to-be graduates entered

the John Turco Memorial Field for the last time as Walpole High School students. As they searched the crowd for their friends and family members who filled the bleachers and lined the fence, the students took their respective seats and chattered noisily in anxious anticipation for the commencement speeches.

Immediately after Principal Stephen Imbusch addressed the crowd and welcomed them to the afternoon's proceedings, A group of Mr. Michael Falker's senior chorus members sang the National Anthem. Met by a roaring applause when they finished, the senior singers then sat in their seats in preparation for the remainder of the ceremony.

Next, Imbusch inducted Mr. Garrett Dalton into the Walpole High School Hall of Fame. His compassion and devotion stretched far beyond the Walpole High School walls, as his influence is felt throughout the entire Walpole community today. Involved in various clubs and organizations in WHS, such as Student Government and Best Buddies, Dalton made a lasting and positive impact on his peers by the time he graduated from the school. At Sun-

day's ceremony, his wife and several other members of his loving family accepted the award on his behalf.

Soon after, Senior Remy Love presented the class of 2014's gift-- a \$2,000 donation to the Best Buddies Program. Junior Class President Lucy Lynch graciously accepted the gift and wished the seniors luck in their future endeavors with a few of her own parting words.

Afterward, Salutatorian Lauren Regan took to the podium to speak to her peers about balance. She said, "High school was one long balancing act between the schoolwork, sports, extracurriculars, and maybe a little bit of a social life-- if you were lucky."

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Michael Falker ends career on a high note

By Alyssa Rosen
Class of 2016

Since 1974, one person in the Walpole High School community has been impossible to ignore.

He is the guy with the crazy bushy hair and the incredibly loud sneezes. He is a fervent fan of the hit show Awkward and the cult classic Clueless. His room is located in a almost secret hallway (maybe so that nobody can hear his loud sneezing or cracking an awkward joke to get the students to laugh). While most teachers average 25 students per class for a annual total or around 125 students, this individual has the highest student total for every year for the last decade. His classes regularly have over 40 students in them for an annual total of well over 150 students. Whether it is a packed Orchestra class of 60 or a packed gymnasium for Pops Night, he commands everyone's attention through his offbeat jokes and his eccentric personality. Mostly, he does what he does best - conduct. In his tenure, no other teacher has impacted more individuals in this school community than this bushy-haired Music Department Head: Michael Falker.

Falker started teaching in 1974 after graduating from Dalhousie University in Halifax and attending the New England Conservatory of Music. After college, he performed in various

professional music groups of his own. up to becoming the sole teacher in charge of orchestra, band, and chorus.

Outside of his responsibilities at the high school, Mr. Falker also maintained the Music Program in the Elementary and Middle Schools for the majority of his career. Although he started with 3rd grade beginners, he taught 4th grade beginners until about 9 years ago. This year, his last 4th grade class graduated from the high school.

A student of Mr. Falker since 4th grade, senior Andrew Hazerjian said, "Mr. Falker by far has had the biggest impact on me throughout my last nine years in the Walpole Public School System. My gratitude towards him is immeasurable and I wish him the greatest luck in all of his future endeavors."

Over the years, Mr. Falker has become known for his unique teaching style. Although many teachers have long lists of rules for students to follow, Mr. Falker has only two rules for class: Don't chew gum and no feet on the chairs. There is no written homework in the class, but Mr. Falker's signature command to students is "You will practice." He asks students his students to reach his or her full potential which requires at least two hours of practice a week. He loves to remind them of one of his favorite mantras: "Practice does not make perfect, but perfect practice makes perfect."

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Diane Cokeley bids farewell to Walpole

By Julia Sandquist
Class of 2016

Thirty years ago, Mrs. Diane Cokely walked through Walpole High School's front door for the first time. She was not yet the beloved guidance counselor she has become today; rather, she was a first-year home economics teacher. On June 23, Guidance Counselor Diane Cokely will walk out of Walpole High for the last time after over 30 years of dedicated service.

A former Framingham State undergraduate, Mrs. Cokely started her career at WHS as a Home Economics teacher in 1984. Mrs. Cokely (Ms. Barr at the time) enjoyed teaching students Home Economics -- a class comprised of life skills such as food preparation and nutrition. A teacher in Walpole for 38 years, Technology teacher Mr. Neubauer said, "One of my favorite memories with Mrs. Cokely was when she would make gingerbread houses with the students at Christmastime and hold formal dinners when she taught Home Economics."

The course was very popular in its day, and it was the reason why Mrs. Cokely went into guidance. "When I was in Home Economics," Mrs. Cokely said, "Girls would often come to me with their problems for advice. That's when I realized I wanted to become a guidance counselor: I want-

ed to help more students."

In 1997, she received her Masters Degree in guidance at Bridgewater State University. Mrs. Cokely then rose to Guidance Department head in 2000, but stepped down in 2010. She said, "It was a very tough decision to make, but because I commute from Portsmouth, NH to Walpole every day, it was too big a responsibility, and I wanted to do what was best for everyone in guidance."

During the National Honors Society Ceremony, senior Anna Orfanidis chose Mrs. Cokely as her special educator. She said, "I picked Mrs. Cokely because she was a steady supporter of everything I wanted to do [...] She has shown me how to live my life by taking opportunities and using them to better my own life and the lives of others."

Teachers also valued her as a peer.

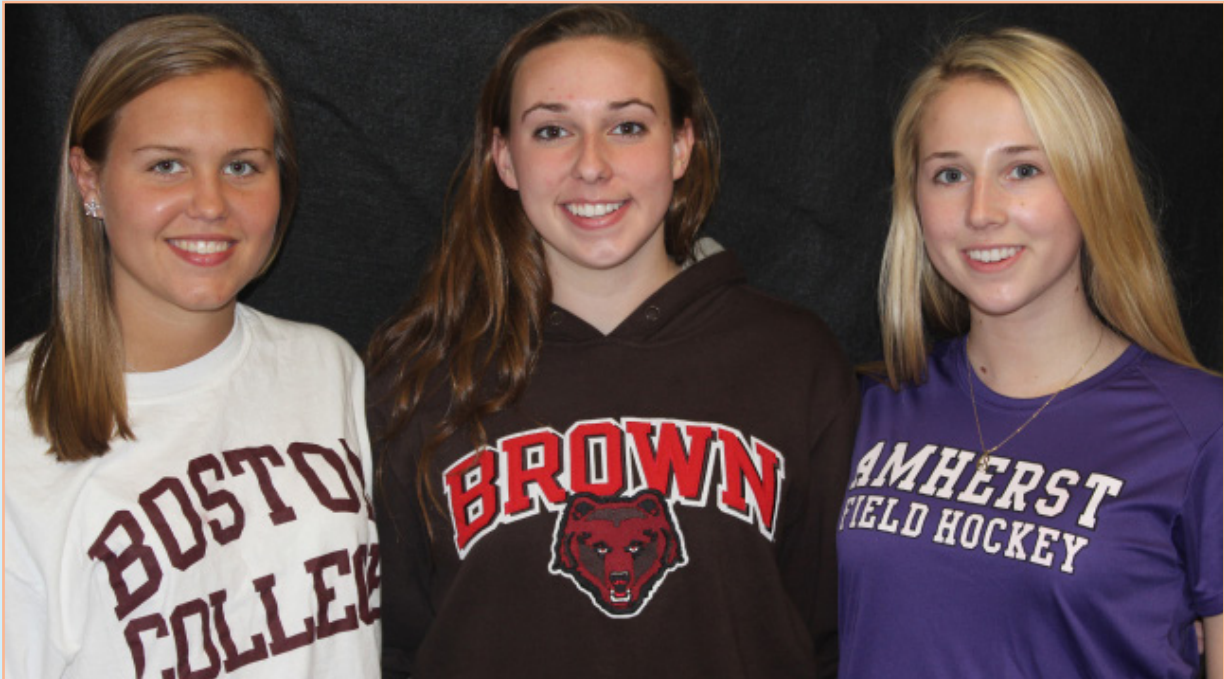
Mr. Neubauer said, "It is great going to work with someone every day who is positive, upbeat, and has a great deal of advice and wisdom that she is willing to share with her students," he said.

As a guidance counselor, Mrs. Cokely has been described by her co-workers as positive, efficient, and caring. Mrs. Dolan said, "She is so great at what she does because she loves her job. She has always been invested in her students."

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CLASS OF 2014

FIELD HOCKEY



GOLF



BROOKE MATHERSON
BOSTON COLLEGE

What coaches inspired you the most?
Coach Murphy and Jenn Quinn

Favorite high school sports memory?
Winning the state championship.

ASHLEY WALDRON
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
Being a senior captain – taught me what it means to be there on and off the field

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
Every team has a great deal of pride; you can really see this during playoffs

CAROLINE FEELEY
AMHERST COLLEGE

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Spend as much time as possible with your teammates.

Hardest part of playing high school sports?
Properly balancing my time.

ROBERT BOUSH
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

Favorite high school sports memory?
Winning All Stars and Student Athlete of the Year.

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
We always contend for a top spot.

LACROSSE



ANDREW BLOOD
ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Work hard, don't give up, you can always get better.

Favorite high school sports memory?
Playing Medfield in tournament sophomore year.

BRI DOHERTY
STONEHILL COLLEGE

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Tosone

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
Everyone plays their hardest and is dedicated to winning.

ERIN LEBLANC
UMASS DARTMOUTH

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Drummey

Favorite part of playing high school sports?
The effort my team puts in to win.

SEAN DONNELLY
RPI

Hardest part of playing high school sports?
Losing the games we should win.

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
Everyone wants to beat us so we have to play together every game.

HUNTER NEMEC
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Abate

Favorite part of playing high school sports?
Playing in night games on Turco Field.

SOCCER



ANTHONY CHAUVIN
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Delaney

Favorite high school sports memory?
Playing and scoring in the state championship game.

BASKETBALL



SCOTT ARSENAULT
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL

Most difficult part of playing a high school sport?
Working on my mentality.

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
We treat each teammate and coach like family.



ADAM QUINLAN
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Gustus – my AAU coach

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
Winning.



RYAN FOGARTY
CLARK UNIVERSITY

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Work harder than others do.

Favorite high school sports memory?
Beating Westwood in the playoffs.

NOT PICTURED ABOVE: MAURICE YOUNG

CLASSES OF 2014

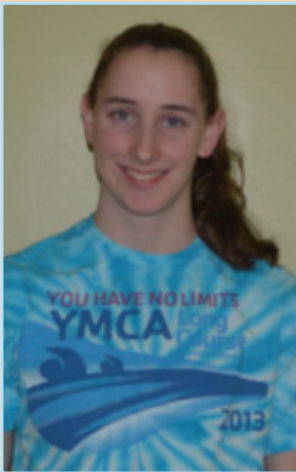
SWIMMING



LEXIE RIGGOTT
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Don't give up on sports

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
The team aspect



DANIELLE SAUVE
RPI

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Follow your passions and don't let others get in the way of your dreams

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
How people looked at me until they realized Jess and I were two separate people and, indeed, twins.



JESSICA SAUVE
RPI

What coach inspired you the most?
Sue Roycroft - my club swim coach.

Favorite high school sports memory?
My 200 free relay team (Danielle Sauve, Bobby Gay, Christian Kelley, and I) won at Sectionals sophomore year.

WRESTLING



TREVOR WASSEL
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
Winning the sectional title.

What makes Walpole's sports program unique?
We win a lot.



KYLE ROBBINS
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
You can't play sports if you screw around in school.

Hardest part of playing high school sports?
Cutting weight and watching everyone eat at lunch.

TRACK & FIELD



OLIVIA O'HARA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
The pride of the student body.

What coach inspired you the most?
Butera because he always motivates me and pushes me to do my best.

GINA CONTI
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Cashman taught me the fundamentals and techniques for running and competing.

Hardest part of playing a high school sport?
Losing, but realizing my mistakes make me a better athlete.

JACKIE APPLIN
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Never quit doing something you love. Use your gift to its fullest potential.

What makes Walpole's sports programs unique?
The coaches; without them, athletes would never come this far.



JON KELLAND
WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

Hardest part of playing a high school sport?
Crazy long practices practically every day for four years, even over the summer.

Favorite high school sports memory?
Beating Norwood last year for the Herget in the last event of the meet, the relay.

BASEBALL



NICK CORDOPATRI
FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY

Advice you would give to other high school athletes?
Make the most out of each and every game.

Favorite high school sports memory?
The baseball team's state tournament run my junior year.



JAMES SMITH
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

What coach inspired you the most?
Coach Tompkins because he came to practices while overcoming cancer.

Favorite high school sport memory?
Beating Norwood at Balch field under the lights

FOOTBALL



MYLES COFIELD
WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

Favorite high school sport memory?
Thinking of how excited my grandpa would have been for the Foxboro game.

Favorite part of playing a high school sport?
Making my teammates proud.

ROB LEDERMAN
WPI

Hardest part of playing a high school sport?
Having the energy to do schoolwork after practice.

Favorite high school sports memory?
The overtime Natick game in my senior season of football.

CONNOR MORIARTY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Advice to other athletes?
Enjoy the random practice days and bus rides because you will miss those the most.

Favorite high school sports memory?
Scoring a 99 yard touchdown in the last play of my high school career.

Class of 2014

Senior Profiles

Ian Fetting-Doe
School: SNHU



Favorite person at the high school?
Mike St. Germain

Best high school decision?
Taking IR with Mr. Jean

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
Rush Hour 2

Best high school moment?
Playing with the high school soccer team and making it to the state finals.

Abby White
School: UMass Amherst



Best high school moment?
Getting inducted into NHS

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Falling up the stairs

Best high school decision?
Playing lacrosse and volleyball

Advice to any underclassmen?
Enjoy your time in high school because it goes by faster than you think. Get involved

Nick Morey
School: UMass Amherst



Favorite person and WHS and why?
Ms. Walleston because I never had a bad time in her class.

Best high school moment?
Breaking my thumb in gym class.

Most embarrassing moment?
Getting out the 1st day of senior assassins.

Advice to any underclassmen?
Don't be a hardy.

Kayla Flynn
School: Assumption College



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Ms. Rhodes because she is my wonder twin

Favorite teacher quote?
"Haters need hobbies" - Ms. Mac

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Freshman year: ran into a senior going to one of my classes and he yelled at me.

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
The Breakfast Club

Pat Baker
School: UMass Amherst



Best high school moment?
Playing at Frozen Fenway my senior year

What is your biggest high school regret?
Never playing football

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Going to the wrong lunch and showing up twenty minutes late to class

Best high school decision?
Taking film my senior year after dropping it junior year

Mary McAvoy
School: UMass Amherst



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Ms. Culliton because chocolate is high up on her list of values.

Favorite teacher quote?
"I don't need to pop it or lock it, I'm ready to drop it" -Mr. Kim

Best high school moment?
Dance Company show week

Dumbest thing you got in trouble for?
I was forced to practice my Spanish Charla alone in a corner because I was whispering too loudly.

Dan Aldridge
School: UMass Amherst



Favorite person at WHS and why?
J-E-F-F Jeff, Jeff, Jeff the Janitor

Best high school moment?
Becoming internet famous

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
Fast Times at Ridgemont High

Dumbest thing you got in trouble for?
Loving my country.

Gracie Nelson
School: UConn



Favorite teacher quote?
"Tough noosies buttercup" -Mr. Whittenhall

Best high school moment?
Winning Regionals for Cheer in Fall 2012

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
The Cleaners

Advice to any underclassmen?
Walk faster

Brian Hazerjian
School: Northeastern University



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Mrs. Milne because she's too nice and only gets mad when we don't do well.

Favorite teacher quote?
"B-Haz, I own your soul." - Mr. Alan

What is your biggest high school regret?
Never doing robotics.

Advice to any underclassmen?
Join as many things as you can

Abbey Smith
School: Villanova University



Best high school moment?
Senior season of Rebsoc #PPW

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
When our entire fan section at a playoff hockey game started chanting my name by accident. I sat down and hid my face in shame for the rest of the game.

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
16 Candles

Advice to any underclassmen?
Don't take yourself too seriously. School's important, but you won't look back and remember your grades.

Matt Brownsword
School: Brown University



Favorite teacher quote?
"Don't give up the ship" -Cashman

Best high school moment?
Watching girls soccer upset OA, then my team beating OA in the South Sectional Final

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Advice to any underclassmen?
Try now so you don't have to later.

Meghan Driscoll
School: UMass Lowell



Favorite person at WHS?
Mr. Whittenhall

Best high school moment?
Journalism field trips

Dumbest thing you got in trouble for?
Holding my phone in my hand in the hallway and getting an hour.

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
When I asked to go to the nurse because my hands were blue and I thought there was something wrong with my blood circulation. I was wearing new jeans.

Nick Fuller
School: University of Connecticut



Favorite teacher quote?
"Rhode Island is the closest thing we have to communism in America" -Mr. Szymanski

What is your biggest high school regret?
Not getting involved in film festival.

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Accidentally walking into the girls locker room freshman year.

Best high school decision?
Joining the tennis team sophomore year

Jenna Donahue
School: Colby-Sawyer College



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Ms. Walleston because I can go to her with anything and she rocks.

What is your biggest high school regret?
Freshman year grades

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
17 Again

Dumbest thing you got in trouble for?
Choking while drinking water in class.

Maggie Moriarty
School: Suffolk University



Favorite person at WHS and why?
The lunch lady who lets me buy a smoothie when I'm \$20

Best high school moment?
Breaking my ankle and then getting mono. Gtmz

Best high school decision?
Acting in the film festival

Advice to any underclassmen?
Be nice to everybody

Justin Rouhana
School: Westfield State



Favorite teacher quote?
"Is your IQ below room temperature?" - Barry Greener

Best high school moment?
The Weymouth match senior year, come from behind win with 15 seconds left.

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Getting blown out in the playoffs by North Attleboro.

Advice to any underclassmen?
Take advantage of every second you're here, have the time of your life.

Mackenzie Wilson
School: UMass Amherst



Favorite teacher quote:
"If Britney Spears can survive 2007, you can survive this, ladies." - Ms. Farrell

Best high school moment?
Winning Heret Champs in XC for the first time since 1994.

What is your biggest high school regret?
Not doing film fest, it is without a doubt the coolest part of WHS.

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
Degrassi Goes Hollywood

Jack Ronan
School: Tufts University



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Ms. Culliton. She's hilarious, understanding, and a fantastic teacher.

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
I fall up the stairs on a regular basis, so.

Best high school decision?
Taking AP US History with Mrs. Sullivan

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
The Wave

Ashley Waldron
School: Brown University



Best high school moment?
Winning the 2013 Field Hockey State Championship

What is your biggest high school regret?
Not doing dance company

Best high school decision?
Doing film festival and STUCO

Advice to any underclassmen?
Don't get too stressed out; everything works out in the end.

Peter Hoegler
School: George Washington University



Best High School moment?
Beating Nauset in the state tournament

What is your biggest high school regret?
Not going to more swim meets.

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Falling on my face in my first track meet.

Advice to any underclassmen?
Don't just stay in bed all day watching Netflix

Karalyn Kickham
School: Wheaton College



Favorite person at WHS and why?
Cashman because he will never give up the ship.

Favorite teacher quote?
"If you turn broccoli upside down it kind of works" -Ms. Culliton

Best high school moment?
When rebsoc beat OA in eight rounds of PKs #PPW

Most embarrassing moment at WHS?
Getting absolutely decked on senior night and then getting a yellow card in front of the Brigade

Douglas Stewart
School: New England Center for Circus Arts



Best High School Moment?
Final curtain call of Beauty and the Beast

What is your biggest high school regret?
Not joining Best Buddies

Best high school decision?
Getting involved with Drama and Film

Movie that best describes your high school experience?
The Hunger Games



THE 12TH ANNUAL WALPOLE FILM FESTIVAL



The boys of plum represent their crew's color on awards night.



The makers of Inception get interviewed by WHS alumni Justin Connolly.



Members of quince crew show clear excitement on the red carpet.

By Melanie Caneja
Class of 2015

In recent years, the Walpole High Film Festival typically has been dominated by one extremely successful film. In 2013, Alby won 5 awards. In 2012, A Serious Student won 4 awards. In 2010, The Mathlete won 5 awards. 2014 was different though.

This year, the Walpole Film Festival Awards Night bucked recent trends by not having one movie take home the majority of the awards on May 15. Instead, every one of the 9 movies received at least one nomination, and 5 of the 9 films received awards. Hence, the night was filled with many different crews walking on stage. Because the academy spread the awards to numerous movies, more crews took home a coveted "Alan" (the film name for the award) than ever before.

First, the audience watches the four films nominated for best picture. This year, Xavier Grades, A Day in the Life, Carmichael, and The Cleaners were all nominated for this prestigious award. In addition, on this night, film students reveal side projects that they have been working on called TSTs - Top Secret Trailers.

For these trailers, students often create comical parodies utilizing the titles of real movies. For instance, this year, viewers saw students spontaneously fall without any warning (in the hallways, down the stairs, against lockers) before the film title Gravity facetiously appeared on screen.

Another trailer made a joke out of Ameri-



The Cleaners crew pose for a picture before the awards ceremony.

can Hustle and created 'Amoreycan Hustle,' which showed senior Nick Morey attempting to hustle and rush around the school (for once in his life). These quick and fun trailers acted as the comical relief for the night, for once all the films are shown and the award ceremony began, the tone became very serious.

The first award of the night was given for Best Art Direction to juniors Kody McCann and Brian Tracey and seniors Steph Saba and Ashley Waldron for AP Health. This film called for an immense amount of art direction due to things like Mr. Kampper's lair and the health obstacle course. Director Brian Tracey said, "The effort we put in was very much worth it and we are glad it paid off."

The next award went to seniors Peter Kougiass, John Barry, and junior Jamie Ferguson of The Haunting of Emily White for Best Editing. Surprised and humbled, Director Peter Kougiass said he initially "started cheering for the other people and then realized that [they had] actually won."

As the night progressed, the academy awarded more students for their accomplishments. Best Achievement in Music went to senior Brian Hazerjian, who provided music for 8 of the 9 full length films this year. Next, senior Stacy Petit-Maitre won Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Marina in The Haunting of Emily White.

Junior Marc Sheehan became the first person in WHS Film Festival history to win three awards in one year by winning Best Screenplay for The Cleaners, Best Actor for Carmichael, and Best Director for Carmichael.

Sheehan said, "It's really an honor [to have won all these awards]. It was also a pleasant surprise to win as much as I did, [for] it helped me realize how



The creators of the documentary display anticipation for the night to come.

important the other people I worked with are."

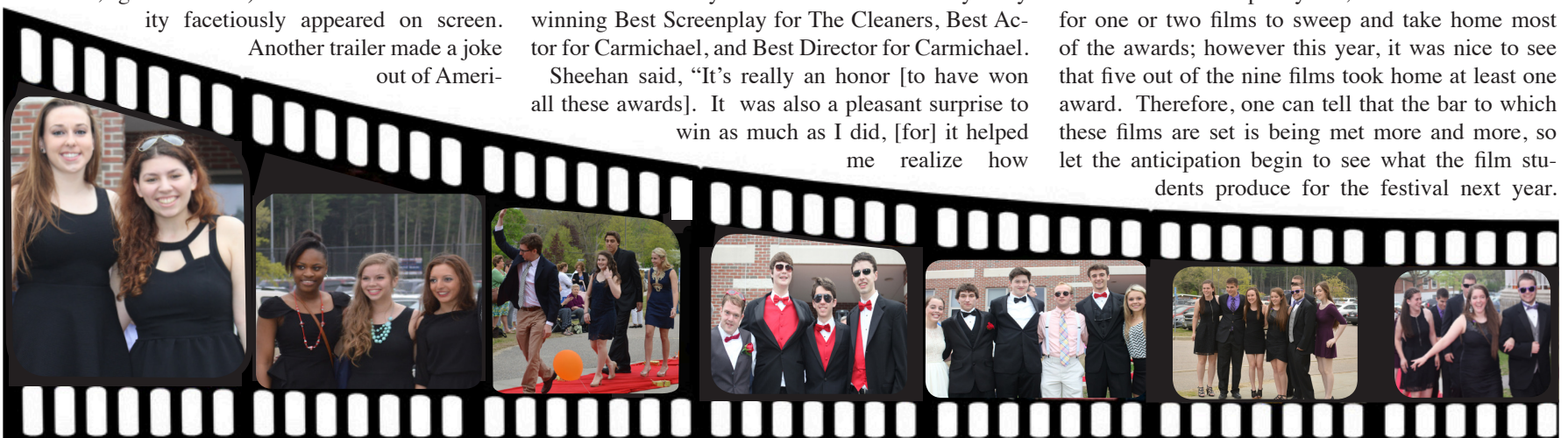
Along with Sheehan, RT Hardiman and WHS alumni Jackie Gately shared the Best Screenplay award while seniors Pete Hoegler and Elizabeth Ryan shared the Best Director Award.

Lastly, the night wrapped up with two final awards: Best Faculty Performance and Best Picture. To no surprise, Mr. Kampper won the Faculty Award for his performance as an overly enthusiastic, semi-psychotic health teacher in AP Health. Finally, the academy awarded Best Picture to A Day in the Life, which became the first documentary to win this award in WHS Film Festival history. The heartwarming, inspiring story about the life of Eric Folan that the film brought to the screen touched everyone.

Creator of the Film Festival, Michael Alan said, "It was a really cool moment, [A Day in the Life] is the only movie to get a standing ovation, along with [Director] AJ Quinlan's speech honoring Eric."

Through this documentary, the community of Walpole saw not only the struggles, but also the triumphs that Eric Folan faces in his everyday life. Quinlan's speech honored and thanked Eric for being courageous enough to share his story on screen, for without Eric, the film would not have been made.

One of the great things about this year's film festival is that everyone of the nine films received at least one nomination and a majority of the films received awards. In past years, it has been common for one or two films to sweep and take home most of the awards; however this year, it was nice to see that five out of the nine films took home at least one award. Therefore, one can tell that the bar to which these films are set is being met more and more, so let the anticipation begin to see what the film students produce for the festival next year.



STUDENTS ENJOY A NEON NIGHT

Photos/Henry Baker



Members of the prom court Anthony DiVirgilio, Jackie Applin, Sean Donnelly, Meghan Dundon, Andrew Hazerjian, Katherine Oxley, Will Bolster, Elizabeth Ryan, Harrison Berkland, Shadai Harris, Connor Moriarty, Stephanie Sem, Kody McCann and Grace Uhlar take a picture after the king and queen are announced.

By Max Simons
Class of 2016

On Friday May 16, Walpole High School had its annual Junior-Senior Prom at Demetri's in Foxborough, and it was a truly unforgettable night. Many WHS students annually take pictures at Bird Park, but this year the heavy rain kept students from taking pictures outside. The parking lot at Demetri's is also a popular place for students to meet up with their friends, but the rain forced students inside the ballroom as soon as they arrived. The night began at 6pm, and the first hour was filled with arrivals and picture-taking. At 7pm the dinner was served, and everyone returned to their seats. Various sports teams, clubs, and tables took pictures while dinner was served. After a lengthy two hour dinner the dance floor was reopened. Unsurprisingly, the DJ was one of the hits of the night. "My favorite part of Prom was dancing with my friends," said junior Amanda Pineo. This year's subtle prom theme was "Neon Nights," as the dancefloor featured vibrant neon balloons and a black light. The dance floor was electrified with students dancing to trendy music, and exhibiting their cool dance moves. While the dancefloor was open, there were also many other activities taking place, the two newest additions being the most prominent. "This year we added a photo booth for the students, and it was a big hit," said Prom Coordinator Mrs. Sandra Allison. "The booth came with props, and the students were given two sets

of pictures from each photo shoot." Many students loved the change, and thought the photo booth fit in nicely at the prom. "I thought the photo booth was a lot of fun because it allowed you to have a keepsake memory to remember this special night forever," said junior Mackenzie Lachkey. As a nice compliment to dinner, this year's prom also featured an ice cream sundae bar. At the conclusion of the night, the 2014 Prom Court was announced. The 2014 Prom Court consisted of: Grace Uhlar, Ryan Cisternelli, Stephanie Sem, Connor Moriarty, Shadai Harris, Harrison Berkland, Katherine Oxley, Andrew Hazerjian, Meghan Dundon, Sean Donnelly, Jacquelyn Applin, and Anthony DiVirgilio. "I was really shocked" said WHS Prom Court Member, Jacquelyn Applin, "It's going to be a memory I'll never forget". After the announcement of the court, the 2014 WHS Prom King and Queen were revealed, Will Bolster received Prom King, and Elizabeth Ryan won Prom Queen. The Prom Court then led the Walpole High School student body in the first slow dance of the night. The whole student body then joined the Prom Court on the dance floor to enjoy the rest of the Prom. Despite the inclement weather, the Prom was a success. "A number of students told me they had a much better time this year than they did last year" said Mrs. Allison. "Teachers even emailed me to tell me that they overheard a lot of their students saying what a great time they had."



Seniors Stephanie Sem, Abbey Smith, Siobhan Kemple and Tom Heffernan pose with Ms. Mac for a picture.



Members of the prom court, Harrison Berkland and Shadai Harris happily dance together.



Seniors Sean Donnelly and Meghan Dundon dance after their Prom Court nominations.



Senior Caitlin Barry, Sophomore Romi Kondo, and Seniors Mehron Hoag and Sara Murtagh smile for a photo.



Junior Katie Flinn, Sophomore Sarah Perkins, and Juniors Kali Scott and Claudia Schoenthaler pose for a group photo.

Walpole High celebrates 2015 Graduation

Photo/ Kyra Arsenault



Valedictorian Michael Van der Linden gives a speech to the graduating class.

Photos/ Catherine Shivers



Walpole Graduate looks out to the crowd walking to the ceremony.



Four graduates stand to be recognized for their enrollment in the Military.



Graduate Colin Fair receives the Dental Associates of Walpole Scholarship.



Graduate Amanda Guidoboni accepts her scholarship.

continued from page 1

She later reassured the graduates that they-- like everyone else before them-- are imperfect. Regan said, "Searching for perfection leaves no time to enjoy what you already have." Regan ended her heartfelt speech by urging the seniors to "find balance in whatever comes [their] way and to pursue whatever it is that makes [them] happy, because it makes [them] happy for a reason." After a long applause from the audience, Regan introduced the Class of 2014's Valedictorian, Michael Van der Linden.

Van der Linden's combined both comedy and genuinity in his lighthearted speech about Walpole. Touching on the optimistic aspects of living in Walpole, Van der Linden said, "Be grateful for Walpole, with its duck races and road races; its soccer jamborees and hardened criminals. Be grateful that this town invests in our school, and in us." He then asked the students to thank those who aided them through

out their academic journeys when he told his peers to "say thank you to the teachers who have challenged you, hounded you, pushed you, and shaped you to think for yourself." Finally, Van der Linden challenged the seniors to embrace their talents and use them to find personal success in the future. He said, "Even if your goal isn't something that makes headlines, if you're passionate about it, don't ever give it up. Find that thing that starts your engine, and in the immortal words of cross country coach Tim Giblin, 'Get after it.'"

As soon as the speeches were finished, students were called by name to accept academic awards and scholarships from the Walpole Scholarship Foundation and other such organizations. After receiving recognition for their achievements and scholarships, students waited for the main event of the Commencement Ceremonies: receiving their respective diplomas.

Walpole High School Assistant Prin-

cipals Mr. Edward Connor and Mr. William Hahn read the students' names while School Committee Member Nancy Gallivan and Superintendent Lincoln Lynch handed the newly-graduated individuals their high school diplomas while congratulating them on a successful education experience.

After the ceremony, Walpole High School Alum Harrison Berkland reminisced about the years he and his friends spent at the local school. He said, "I'll miss all of my teachers because I built such a strong bond with them over the years. I'll definitely miss being able to walk the halls with the people I know well and have spent so much time with. Mostly, I'll miss my teammates and the school spirit-- I'll never be able to put a Rebels jersey on again."

Graduate Kristen Koyné spoke about the vital lessons she learned throughout high school, as she offered advice to the underclassmen. She said, "Take tons of pictures because it's funny to see how

you change over the years. Also, don't limit yourself to one group of people; be friends with everyone!" Regarding the importance of getting involved and embracing one's own strengths, Koyné said, "Make sure to take risks because life begins outside your comfort zone."

Whether it was by joining clubs, trying out for a sport, or running for an officer position in student government, this year's graduates explored and accepted the countless opportunities presented to them during their four years at Walpole High School. These students won championships, and trophies; awards and recognition.

They were given 1,460.97 days. They had 126,227,808 seconds. Walpole High School's 140th graduating class took advantage of the short time they were allotted to spend with faculty and friends. Though the good times were fleeting, the Class of 2014 enjoyed every moment at walpole high school-- all 2,103,796.8 of them.



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Sports

Conti breaks 800M Record at BSC Meet

By Katie Carter
Class of 2015

This summer, the Walpole Track Boosters will be installing a Walpole High School Record Board that lists the school records for all Cross Country, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track and Field Events. Currently, one individual holds more records than any other athlete: Gina Conti. Fittingly, in her second to last meet of the year at the very competitive Bay State Conference Championship in Braintree on Wednesday June 21, she added one more record to her resume. At this meet, Senior Captain Gina Conti not only placed third in the 800 meter race, but also achieved one of the greatest feats of her career - breaking the school record for the 800.

"I've had my sights on the 800 record since freshman year," said Conti. "It's the first one that I wanted to break, but ended up being the last one."

In total, Conti holds eight school records. For Indoor Track, she holds the records for 600m, 1000m, Sprint Medley, 4x400 and 4x800, and for Spring Track, she holds the records for 400m, 800m, and 4x400.

After she ran 2:19.24 sophomore year, she thought she would break the 2:18 record last spring. Unfortunately, she struggled all spring to go under 2:20. This spring, she only went under 2:20 once before this race, when she got 2:19.44 at the Coaches Invite Meet.

At the Bay State Championship, Conti found herself in a heat of runners with very similar talent to her. With such a competitive heat, the race was extremely close. Kaliegh Hughes of Needham took first place with 2:14.09 and Sarah Armstrong of Needham took second. Conti finished just 0.31 seconds behind Armstrong.

"I'm shocked that I ran that fast and smashed the school record by a lot. I thought I would run 2:17 this season, 2:15 was nowhere in my head. But hopefully I can bring my time down even lower in the next meet or two to 2:14, or even 2:13."

Unfortunately, Conti did not improve that time this season. On Sunday June 1, 2014 at the Division II Championship, Conti had an unfortunate end to her high school track career. Although she was seeded second in the 800m race, she struggled with the slow start and the strategic first



Senior Captain Gina Conti wins the 800m against Milton with a time of 2:21.5 to place first.

lap of a heat and finished in fifth place overall. Because only the first four places receive automatic bids to the All-State Meet, Conti's career ended at this meet.

As for her post-high school track career, Conti has committed to the University of New Hampshire. However, over the course of her track career at Walpole High she has made many memories.

Conti said, "One memory that I will always remember is winning the Division III 600m this past winter, and then competing in the 400 a few weeks later at the New Balance Indoor Nationals."

However, her teammates — sophomore Hiromi Kondo and senior Olivia O'Hara — made it further in the postseason. After winning the Triple Jump at the Conference Meet, senior Captain and League Champion Olivia O'Hara jumped 34'10" at Nationals on June 13. Meanwhile, after jumping 16'1" to get 4th

Photo/ Kyra Arsenault



Sophomore Tori Lynch runs a 69.59 to improve her school record in the 400m Hurdles.



Freshman Emily Martin ran a 5:19 to place fourth.

Place in Long Jump at Divisionals, Kondo placed 19th at the All State Meet on June 7.

Rebels Fall to Medfield by a Score of 12-6

By Ben Brownsword
Class of 2016

Only a few days off of a two day 9-8 victory against Holliston (the game was delayed on the first day because of lightning) on May 30 and 31, the Rebels came into Medfield on June 3. The task ahead for the Rebels was tough, as Medfield is a perennial contender in the state tournament, who had been ranked in the top five in the state for a large portion of the season. Although they made the game competitive in the first half, the Rebels ultimately fell 12-6 to Medfield. Medfield opened the scoring in the game halfway through the first quarter with a goal, but Senior Captain, goalie, and Bay-State all star Andrew Blood made some incredible saves to keep the deficit at two at the end of the first quarter. Coming into the second quarter, the Rebels mounted a strong challenge, tying the game 2-2 off of a goal from Junior attackman Mike Mazzotta, and a long range snipe from Senior Captain Patrick Baker. Medfield scored one more going into the half, but the Rebels kept it close.

"We felt like we had an oppor-

tunity to win at that point," said Sophomore midfielder Ben Lucas. "We had an excellent second quarter and our momentum was high."

However, coming into the second half, the Rebels lost their momentum. Medfield capitalized on the energy from their late goal, converting three more to take a four goal lead quickly in the third quarter. Even with the growing deficit, Walpole continued to fight but struggled to make up that 4 point swing to start the half. Walpole and Medfield traded goals to end the third quarter, but the Rebels remained four goals down going into the final quarter, 7-3.

Although Niden opened the fourth quarter with another goal, — in addition to his third quarter goal — their comeback hopes were short-lived. Walpole and Medfield traded goals again, but the Rebels remained three down with the score 9-6. After an unlucky bounce off of Blood led to Medfield's tenth goal, Medfield quickly put in two more goals at the close of the game to make the final score 12-6 in favor of Medfield.

Although the Rebels lost, Baker was still proud of his team's effort. "I walked out of Medfield sad that



A Rebel player defends against Newton North in a home game earlier in the season.

we lost, but more importantly proud of the way we never gave up," said Baker. "I feel like we left everything on the field and held our own against one of the top teams in the state." With seven graduating seniors, includ-

ing two Bay-State All Stars, their contributions will be surely missed. However, the Walpole High School Rebels look forward to another crack at the tournament next year, especially after their step forward in this year's postseason.

Photo/ Peter Hoegler

Track Herget streak ends after six years

Photo/ Kyra Arsenault



Senior Captain Jon Kelland leads a pack in the 800m against Milton

By Matt Brownsword
Class of 2014

In the first meet of the season, Boys Track faced off against the Wellesley Raiders, one of their main competitors for the Herget Crown. The boys suffered a critical blow, losing 80-56, and their chances to be the Herget Champions for the seventh year running seemed slim to none. Then, when Natick beat Wellesley, the Rebels' future grew a little brighter: If they beat Natick in their final meet of the year, they could be co-champs with both the Natick Red and Blue and the Wellesley Raiders. However, the boys were not able to overcome their perpetual Herget rivals on May 14 and lost a close meet, 70-66.

After the early 100mH and the 100m, the two teams were even, as senior Myl-

es Cofield and sophomore Akin Street's 1-2 finish negated the Natick duo who finished first and second in the 100mH. Street narrowly beat out Natick's top sprinter by a tenth of a second. Walpole continued to gain momentum after the 100m race, as junior Joe Keough sprinted past a Natick runner to pull out third in the mile. Junior Brendan Wohler came in first by a large margin, with a personal record of 4:34.20. Walpole appeared to lose ground when junior DJ Villa got beat in the final leg of the 4x100; however, Natick was disqualified for a faulty pass to give the Rebels an early eight point cushion.

Walpole's real strength was in the throwing events: Natick only achieved 4 out of the 27 points available across the three events. Senior Robbie Lederman and junior Bergomi Francois went 1-3 in

Photo/ Catherine Shivers



Pat Connell run 4:49.7 in the 1 mile at the Bay State Championship Meet.

Shot; seniors Mike Williams and Mike Greulich went 1-2 in Discus; and senior Jon Rockwood, junior Nick Corcoran, and senior Colin Fair swept the javelin.

"Everyone stepped up for throwing when we needed it. There was a PR in every event," said Greulich. "We don't usually know how much of a factor the throwing events are for the final score, but we performed really well in a meet we at least knew could be close."

There were also some notable performances that kept the meet — which was definitely not expected to be as close as it was — pretty close. Senior Bobby Ross came in second for the triple jump and third in the 400mH, locking up some crucial points for the Rebels. Junior Bryan Kelleher — who won the Unsung Hero team award this year — set a personal record by a second and gave Natick's top runner a run for his money in the 400M Hurdles. The Rebels lost ground in the 400 and the 800, where Natick went 1-2 and 1, 3, respectively. Senior Jon Kelland set a personal record in the 800 but ultimately fell just short, while sophomore Nick Ricci took third in the 400.

"I found out that Natick's best 800 runner was running the 400, so I came in thinking that I could win the race," said Kelland. "I ran a good race and PR'd, but it just was not enough. The other kid ran a good race."

After Natick took the top spot in the 2 mile, just ahead of junior Mike Orsi

and ahead of senior Mikey Van der Linden, it came down to the 4x400 to give the Rebels a chance. Ricci and Kelland established a solid lead, but Natick closed the gap on the third leg. Kelleher was neck-and-neck with Natick's top relay runner at the 200 meter mark, but started to lose ground at the 300 meter mark and fell just short of the win.

"It was disappointing," said Kelleher. "I know the kid ran a 49 and that would have been a challenge for anyone to top, but we felt that we were so close and could've come out in first."

After the 4x400 finished, the Boys knew that no matter what the javelin results were, they could not win. This meant the end of their Herget streak six years in the making. However, the boys were not too upset about the loss, as there were many personal records and surprising results that made the meet much closer than either team predicted. "I wish we could have gotten a win in our last home meet," said Kelland. "But I think that we performed well and exceeded some expectations this year. It was a great four years."

At the Division II Meet on June 2, the boys had one athlete place. Senior Jon Rockwood — after qualifying on his last throw of the season with a 152' 10" at the South Shore Principles Meet — continued to surprise everyone by placing 5th overall with a throw of 158'1." However, he missed All-States by one place.

New Girls Tennis Coach Leads Team to Successful Season

By Catherine Formica
Class of 2016

After being assistant coach in Milton, Diane Heinold took over as Walpole Head Girls Tennis Coach in April 2013 after Coach William Powers stepped down from his coaching duties, and for the last two seasons. Heinold has been on a mission to rebuild the Girls Tennis program from the ground up. This year, Girls Tennis had a strong season that ended with a record of 8-12, doubling their record of 4-16 from 2013. Unfortunately, they missed tournament by two matches.

Heinold focuses on bringing order to the team. She has introduced the girls to a new warm-up with dynamic stretches, organized more fundraising, and encouraged team bonding events.

Under Coach Heinold, the team has had an in-

credible resurgence and Junior Captain Sarah Armstrong said, "I think we needed a change and Coach really knows what she's doing."

Heinold has set a solid foundation for years to come by coaching the entire team and not picking favorites. She focused some of her attention on the upperclassmen to set up a strong Varsity Team for next year, but she also paid just as much attention to the underclassmen who are the future for the WHS Girls Tennis Team. Her new drills and evenly split coaching time made for a fairly successful season and base to build from.

This year, the Tennis team had a grand total of 6 wins in the Herget League against Norwood, Milton, and Dedham (two wins per town) and four losses, two to Wellesley and two to Natick. When opposing the Carey League, Walpole won two matches against Weymouth, lost two to Braintree, and lost one to Brook-

line, Newton North, Framingham, and Needham. Walpole also lost two matches to Ursuline Academy and one match to Medfield in Out-Of-League matches.

Girls Tennis missed qualifying for tournament by only two matches this year. They also had very close losses to Natick on Wednesday, April 9 with a score of 3-2 and Braintree on Wednesday, May 14 with a score of 3-2. At the close of the season, WHS Girls Tennis finished third in the Herget standings and sophomore Alyssa Rosen was named the Bay State Conference First Team All Stars for Singles matches.

First singles sophomore Alyssa Rosen said, "As a whole, our team has definitely improved, and after our comeback this year I'm excited and hopeful for next season. I think that our main goal for next year is to make it to tournament. It would be nice to achieve that in my high school career."

EDITORIALS

WHS Needs a New Gymnasium

By Helen Hinton
Class of 2015

Because many consider Walpole a sports town, playoff games are significant events for the whole town. For instance, a Walpole-Natick football game could draw the same number of spectators as graduation. Unfortunately for basketball, Walpole High School’s gymnasium simply cannot hold those numbers. On Tuesday February 4, many spectators lined the hallways of Walpole High School, for there was no longer any room in the stands for the Walpole Boys Basketball game against Wellesley (which was also the Tommy Quinn Brain Tumor Foundation Fundraiser). For those spectators who did get access into the gym, ushers packed them so tightly on the bleachers that almost no one could move. Students packed the front row of the stands, less than foot away from the end-line — an obstacle which made playing and officiating harder for the players and referees. To all the people forced into an uncomfortable position (the fans in the stands, the fans in the hallway, the players trying to inbound a ball), they all shared one topic of conversation: Walpole’s gymnasium is too small.

Fortunately, Walpole High School’s Basketball Coach Dave St. Martin wants to change that.

“The gym is absolutely too small,” St. Martin said. “We need a facility to be able to host events, like the state tournament games, and other sports would also benefit from a new and

larger facility. I also think it would benefit the community as a whole, because local youth teams would also be able to use these new facilities.”

At a tournament game at Westwood High on February 28, Walpole defeated Westwood 50-46 in front of a crowd of 1,300 spectators. Westwood has only 922 students and their gym seats over 1,300 people. Walpole’s gym, on the other hand, is 35 years old and seats only 499 people (less than half of the 1,172 students). Now, put this in perspective: If that game had been held in Walpole, only 499 people (a whopping 38% of Westwood’s capacity!) could have fit in the gym.

When the town approved the renovation of Walpole High School in 1999, the contractors were supposed to expand the gym; however, the expansion never happened due to problems with the contractors. Essentially, the contractors went over-budget, so some theoretical changes remained only blue-prints. While there is no coalition or community group to support this project, Coach St. Martin has reached out to some prominent community members to get ideas for fundraising. St. Martin hopes to get someone in the gym to give the school an estimate for the old renovation plans for the gym. Back in 1999, the architects intended to expand the gym into the current courtyard between the gym and the foreign language wing. However, the courtyard is only 80 feet wide, and therefore, there would not be enough room to

simply add another court. The old gym would have to be remolded and laid out the other way so that both courts would go horizontally. However, the guidance offices take up a third of that space so they would also have to be demolished.

Not only would the school benefit from this expansion, but the community would as well. For example, the summer’s Rebel Hoop Camp is one of the most popular youth camps in Walpole. A new gym would provide a spacious environment to learn and run drills, and two courts would prevent some campers from having to use the courts outside on a sweltering hot Summer days.

Outside of sports, the gym’s size also affects the school in other ways. For the fall Pep Rally, Student Council broke the school up into two separate groups and had two separate rallies because the entire school population could not fit in one place. Another problem with the gym is the court itself. While the gymnasium does meet high school regulations, there is only 2.5 feet in between the end-line and the wall, which makes it very difficult to even enter the gym as a spectator without disrupting the game. Typically, to minimize these types of disruptions, retired Athletic Director Jim Erker must direct spectators in between plays. Hence, if a fan goes to



Mr. St. Martin reviews the current blueprints of Walpole High’s gymnasium.

the bathroom, he or she will most likely have to wait in the hall for a few plays until Mr. Erker gives the green light.

Consider this: Norwood and Natick had the same problems as Walpole, but unlike Walpole, those towns built entirely new high schools with bigger gyms. Norwood High School just built a new 18,000 square foot facility with two full sized basketball courts and a second floor track, and Natick High School’s new facility can seat up to 1,800 students after they added more bleachers for spectators this Summer. Although Walpole failed to complete the 1999 addition to Walpole High complete with a bigger gym, the town should investigate funding for a larger gym. Otherwise, enjoy watching next year’s playoff game from the lobby.

Obama Negotiates with Terrorists, Exchanges 5 Taliban Leaders for One Deserter

By Mike Curran
Class of 2016

For anyone who has watched any action movie that pits patriotic heroes against terrorists in a hostage situation, like Air Force One with Harrison Ford as President, it is memorable that these heroes all had one thing in common: they do not negotiate with terrorists.

Obama recently struck a deal with the Taliban for the release of five “hardcore” and “high risk” Taliban senior leaders in exchange for a man who deserted his unit while stationed in Afghanistan. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl walked off base dressed in civilian clothing without his weapon and never came back. He wrote to his family in an email leaked by *Rolling Stone* just days before his desertion, “I am ashamed to even be American... The US Army is the biggest joke the world has to laugh at.” These emails come from a man who no longer believes in what he is fighting for and is no longer committed his country. President Obama defended his decision, saying the United States “has a pretty sacred rule... We don’t leave our men or women in uniform behind” on the field of battle. The United States has another rule that is equally as sacred: this country does not negotiate with or adhere to the demands of terrorists.

Aside from the potential lives that could be lost because of the release of these 5 Taliban leaders, six American soldiers have been killed on missions to search for Bergdahl and his captors. The families of the fallen soldiers are irate that some are calling Sgt. Bergdahl a hero. This man left his fellow soldiers because he was unhappy with what he saw during war and he did not care about what happened to his men after he walked away.

Obama justifying this prisoner swap as a refusal to leave a soldier behind is incredibly ironic because there is currently a US Marine being held captive in Mexico whose release Obama has yet to demand. US Marine, Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi, accidentally crossed the Mexican-American border on March 31 while driving to dinner in San Diego. When Mexican police stopped him

they found three firearms in his vehicle and arrested him. Since his arrest, Sgt. Tahmooressi claims that he has been “stripped naked, chained to a bed, and beaten” by Mexican guards. Obama has yet to make an effort to bring Sgt. Tahmooressi home. Why is a deserter taking priority over an innocent Marine?

Obama’s decision to turn these prisoners over is not only incredibly dangerous for America, but is also illegal and a complete abuse of power. For a prisoner of war to be released, congress needs to be made aware of and approve of it 30 days before any action can be taken. The vast majority of congress claims to have never been made aware about Obama’s secret negotiations with the Taliban. In turn, there was no congressional approval given.

The exchange and the events following it have been one massive blunder by the Obama Administration and have endangered Americans. Bergdahl will likely avoid being court martialed and the soldiers who died searching for the deserter will continue to be kept in the background. Hopefully, these released Taliban soldiers will not return, but, statistically speaking, that is highly unlikely. All the country can do now is hope someone will finally take a stand against these injustices. This precedent of negotiation is dangerous. The Taliban will likely look to capture more American troops and exchange in the future. These exchanges are one of the major changes that need to be made to the Obama Administration.

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Tennis Beats Apponequet; Loses to Plymouth North

Photos/ Kaitlin Brown



Junior Dan Frankel reaches for a high ball from his opponent.

By Katie Carter
Class of 2015

After an 11-8 season, Walpole Boys Tennis clinched the #15 seed in the South Division II tournament. Walpole won their first tournament game against #18 seed Apponequet on May



Junior Joe Delaney prepares to hit the ball back to his opponent.

27 to advance to their second game against #2 seed Plymouth North on May 31. Unfortunately, Walpole lost to Plymouth North, but they did manage to achieve their season goal — continuing their 11 year playoff streak.

Against Apponequet, juniors Daniel Frankel, Joe Delaney, and Captain Mike Bloom all earned 3 points for Walpole by winning each of their singles matches. Also, the doubles of juniors Jack Young and Captain Scott McLean, and juniors Dimos Katsaros and Andrew Drogan, both won their matches, contributing 2 more points to Walpole's score.

Katsaros and Drogan won their match by winning their first two sets 6-0 and 6-2. In the end, Walpole was able to sweep 5-0 to advance to

the second round of the tournament.

"Throughout the past two years, we had never won a tournament match even though the team had a lot more raw talent than this year," said McLean. "Although we were considered a worse team than our predecessors, we had a drive to win that really helped us beat Apponequet."

With Plymouth North, Walpole faced one of the best teams in the division. Walpole went into this games as the underdogs, as they were the #18 seed and Plymouth North was #2. The highlight of this match was when the double team of McLean and Young managed to beat Plymouth's undefeated doubles team. McLean and Young ended up scoring Walpole's only

point that day, as the team lost 4-1.

Although their run in the tournament only lasted for two rounds, the team was very happy with how far they got. "Considering how we lost all of our varsity players from last year but one," said McLean, "I am very impressed with how well our team came together this year to have another strong season."

Along with achieving their season goal, Walpole also made several more respectable achievements throughout the season. They beat Framingham for the first time in 17 years. Also very unexpected, they beat the historically-stronger Braintree two times.

Walpole suffered through many obstacles this season though. Starting this season, Walpole had lost all but one varsity player, leaving the team with little, much needed, experience. They needed the juniors to step up and fill these empty spots, and the juniors managed to carry the team all the way to tournament.

Walpole experienced another challenge when they lost their one senior varsity player, Captain Mike Griffin, as he needed to get his appendix removed. Walpole dealt with this unexpected hardship and Delaney stepped up from second doubles to take over Griffin's third singles spot. Also, Walpole had a rough start to this season, as after their first seven games they had a lackluster record of 2-5. However, Walpole managed to improve upon their record and finished 11-8.

After struggling with these obstacles, Walpole Boys Tennis continues to prove that they are the most consistent boys team in the high school. Boys Tennis still holds their title of the boys team at Walpole High with the most consecutive tournament berths — now with 11 years in a row.

Despite strong defensive play and pitching, #19 Rebels fall short of upset against #3 Marshfield

By Meghan O'Meara
Class of 2016

After earning a victory over Plymouth South on May 30 in the first round of postseason play, the Rebels faced Marshfield on June 1. Going into the tournament game as the 19th seed, the Walpole Softball Team accepted the role of the underdog for their game against #3 seed Marshfield. Despite an impressive defensive performance, they lost in a tight 2-1 game to end their season with an 11-11 record.

Photo/ Annie Gallivan



Sophomore Kathryn King hits a double to bring Lauren Regan home.

"All of us were really prepared and mentally ready for the challenge and, being the underdog, we were excited to show what we could do as the much lower seed against a tough team," said senior captain Lauren Regan.

With sophomore Melissa Cochrane pitching and junior Colleen Semler returning as catcher (after a concussion), the Rebels held Marshfield to two runs, despite Marshfield's impressive roster. Filling in for senior Captain Stephanie Sem, Cochrane had 3 strikeouts and limited Marshfield to 2 runs on 3 walks and 9 hits.

In the bottom of the second inning after Cochrane walked Marshfield's left fielder, Marshfield's first baseman singled to right center. With two runners on and one out, Cochrane walked another batter to load the bases. The Marshfield shortstop then hit a sacrifice fly to left center to make the score 1-0 by the end of the second inning.

The second and final run was scored in the fifth inning when Marshfield's pitcher hit a triple, allowing the runner on first to score. Although the ball was launched in a gap in the outfield, senior captain Lauren Regan, in center field, kept the monster hit from the Marshfield pitcher to a triple and prevented the deficit from increasing.

One of Walpole's most notable plays was a double play in the sixth inning. Marshfield's center fielder hit a hard grounder to Cochrane on the mound. Cochrane then threw to junior Madison Oser at first to get the out, and Oser fired to Semler at the plate. Semler



Photo/ Annie Gallivan

Sophomore Melissa Cochrane pitches for the Rebels.

held on to the ball and put down the tag to prevent the run from scoring, holding Marshfield to 2 runs.

The Rebels' solid defense kept the game close throughout the game. "I am okay with the loss because we continued to fight throughout the entire game," said senior Captain Mehron Hoag.

Although the Rebel's defense was sound, they struggled to execute on the offensive side of the game when facing the Marshfield pitcher's speed and flawless riseball. The Rebel offense was dormant until the fourth inning when senior Lauren Regan bunted for a single; she was then able to reach home due to a single from sophomore Kathryn King.

With an 11-11 record for new Head Coach Rachel Sprague's first year, the Rebels look to improve with the experience gained from this year's tournament. Despite the graduation of 4 strong seniors—Songin, Regan, Hoag and Sem—10 players with varsity experience all return next year to provide a solid foundation for the Rebels.



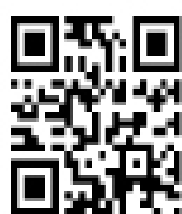
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Girls Lax loses to Wayland in Semi-Finals

Photos/Kaitlin Brown



Junior Meagan Sundstrom scores a goal against Wayland.



Senior Captain Michele Lucas goes past a Wayland defender.

By Olivia O'Brien
Class of 2015

Ending the season with a 15-3 record, Walpole Girls Lacrosse earned a first round bye as the #2 seed in the East Division 2 to make their Quarter Final game on May 29 against #7 seed Dover-Sherborn. Similar to their April 26 game against Dover Sherborn where Walpole won 10-9, Walpole again defeated them by a narrow margin of 12-9. However, Walpole's playoff success ended on June 3, when they lost their Semi-Final game to Wayland by a score of 13-6.

Although fans expected a close game between Walpole and Dover-Sherborn because of their history, the Rebels took a commanding 8-2 lead by the end of the first half.

"The first half was probably our best lacrosse of the season," said Head Coach Mike Tosone.

Junior midfielder Meagan Sundstrom led the Rebels offensive charge by scoring a team-high 4 goals. Because Dover Sherborn's defense immediately shut off

Walpole's leading scorer, junior midfielder Molly Lanahan (by double and triple teaming her from the start) other Rebels stepped up to provide additional offense.

"When the other team shut off Molly and Bri, I knew I had to step up and be an important part of the offense," said Sundstrom.

Despite the defensive adjustments, Lanahan chipped in 3 goals; senior attackman Bri Doherty, 3 goals; and freshman attackman Alison Foley, another 2 goals.

In the second half, Dover Sherborn rebounded from the 8-2 halftime deficit to come within 3 goals of Walpole. However, they were unable to take the lead.

"Even though Dover-Sherborn made a comeback toward the end, we were able to make smart passes and play well in transition throughout the game," said Sundstrom.

In the Semi-Final on June 3 at Turco Field, the Rebels faced the #3 seed Wayland High School, a team they had never faced before. The Rebels jumped out to a 4-2 lead with 2 goals from Lanahan and 2 goals from Sundstrom.

However, Walpole did not have the lead for long. Wayland soon recovered with a 5 goal come back, making the score 7-4 by halftime.

"We got lazy on the draw circle," said Sundstrom, "and they were able to quickly score in transition."

At the start of the second half, Wayland furthered their lead by scoring 2 goals right away. With 15 minutes left in the half, Lanahan scored her third goal of the game to bring the Rebels within 4 goals.

However, Wayland responded immediately with 2 more goals before Sundstrom then scored her third goal, making the score 11-6. With 5 minutes left in the game, Wayland scored two more goals. Although Lanahan chipped in one last goal with one minute remaining, it was not enough for Walpole to make a significant comeback, as they fell by a score of 13-6.

"We all played hard and gave a good effort, but we did not play up to our potential," Lanahan said. "Next season we'll have a young team so I think we will be able to repeat our success this year and hopefully go further in the playoffs."

Baseball knocked out in first round playoff game

By Matt Brownsword
Class of 2014

It was thought that the metal bats would be their savior.

After going through the year with unbelievable pitching – highlighted by a couple of big-game shutouts from senior ace James Smith – and below-average hitting (the Rebels only averaged 3.6 runs a game, tied for lowest in the Herget Division), the State Tournament rolled around along with the exciting ping of a metal bat. Last year, Walpole rattled off 7, 8, and 9 runs in their tournament games – much higher than their season average; this year's version hoped it would turn out the same way.

However, this was not to be: Walpole Baseball suffered an early round exit at the hands of the 14th seeded Brockton Boxers, 4-0. Despite all the offensive struggles of the year, this was only the second time that the Rebels were shutout and only the sixth time that the Rebels' opposition scored four runs or more in a game. Smith started the game strongly, accruing 4 strikeouts in his first two innings, but Brockton – even with the strikeouts – grinded out 10 and 11 pitch at bats to increase Smith's pitch count.

The Rebels, however, were doing the opposite: only seniors Bob Ivatts and Smith reached base in the first three innings (two walks and a bunt single) as they struggled to figure out the Brockton pitcher's place-

ment. Senior Bob Rabaioli got a good piece of the ball in the first but it was caught in left field, stranding Ivatts and Smith – one of Walpole's best opportunities of the game.

"We were trying all day to put the ball in places that Brockton wasn't," said Rabaioli. "All game we couldn't find that big hit to get our offense going."

After Smith got out of a bases loaded jam in the third, Brockton opened the scoring with some small ball. After a walk, Brockton's sixth hitter stole one base, moved to third on a fielder's choice, and took home on a flawlessly executed bunt-steal play. Then, in the fifth, Brockton's second hitter took advantage of a passed ball strikeout to come all the way around to score after two stolen bases and a two-out single. Meanwhile, the Rebels could get nothing done offensively, with only one hit and three walks, and only Smith reached third base.

Smith was removed after getting into a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the sixth with the Rebels trying to keep the deficit at two. Senior Nick Cordopatri came in and immediately let up a single to bring in Brockton's third run, but he settled down and got out of the inning.

The Rebels managed to get two runners on in the bottom of the sixth but sophomore Nate Porack flew out to end the inning. Brockton added another insurance run in the top of the seventh to all but end any hope for a silent Walpole offense to stage a comeback; the loss was complete after a 1-2-3 inning that complet-



Senior Nick Cordopatri prepares to pitch.

ed the Brockton pitcher's shutout. "We had a tough time getting going," said sophomore SS Ian Fair. "I thought we would get the spark that we've needed all season long, but the bats dried up for us and we couldn't compete."

Although the Rebels were not able to get much going behind the plate, the same could be said for a Brockton team that relied on bunt singles, selective stolen bases, and defensive miscues to score all four of their runs. The Boxers capitalized on every mistake that the Rebels made while Walpole only managed to get runners in scoring position three times in the game.

"We needed to play a great game to beat such a fundamentally sound

team," said Porack. "We just did not do that against [Brockton]."

This is the second year in three years that the Rebels have suffered a loss in the first round to a significantly lower seed, the last time being Xavierian two years ago. The Rebels graduate an impressive pitching core, especially Smith, who will pitch next year at Roger Williams and a solid fielding crew that includes Rabaioli, who will also walk on for the Hawks.

However, with Fair, Porack, and juniors James Newman, Jack Donnelly, and Jack Lavanchy returning, Rebels baseball should be back on track to another state tournament berth next year. Maybe they'll find the bats by then.

NHS Induction Ceremony Welcomes Largest Class in Walpole's Chapter

Photos/ Max Simons



The National Honors society students proudly smile for a group picture.



Senior Elizabeth Ryan leads the procession of graduating National Honors Society students.

By Bailey Tudor
Class of 2014

Members of the National Honors Society gathered in the High School auditorium on Wednesday evening, May 14 to induct the incoming juniors and to bid farewell to the departing seniors. This year, the National Honors Society inducted 64 juniors as members — the largest induction class ever for the Walpole chapter.

Following tradition, the ceremony began with Senior members — donning their graduation robes — as they walked slowly down the aisles with lit candles. Once they processed to their seats on the auditorium stage, Ms. Laura Kay, the adviser for NHS, stood and spoke about the senior's community service accomplishments. Students then, one by one, walked to the podium and spoke about a special educator — a teacher, coach or adult who

enlightened the individual in some meaningful way. As the student spoke, the special educator walked to the front of the stage. Once the student finished, he or she gave a framed picture of the speech to the educator.

"Students could not have done it alone — the hard work and dedication of their administrators, teachers and coaches had a big role to play and it is important for them to express their gratitude in a public way as they prepare to move on to the next phase of their education," said Ms. Kay.

After all the teachers were recognized, the Induction Ceremony began. Each senior member stood and welcomed a junior

member onto the stage and handed them their NHS certificate and pin. Once invited by the senior member, the junior would take their place on stage, completing the process.

"The ceremony is a chance for the Juniors to begin to think of themselves as the leaders of the school as they begin their transition to being seniors," said Ms. Kay, "as they are also recognized for their academic, leadership and service-related accomplishments thus far."

For the NHS members, this induction recognizes all that they have accomplished in their academic careers and all that they have the potential to accomplish in their futures. However, the ceremony was not exclusive to only students. Towards the end of the night, Ms. Kay surprised everyone by inducting a member of the faculty: Mrs. Kathleen Milne, a math teacher at the high school.

Because Mrs. Milne never had a chapter of NHS in her hometown, she missed the opportunity that many of her peers and her students took for granted.

"It was nice that Ms. Kay surprised Mrs. Milne because she deserves the recognition," said NHS Inductee Abbey Smith.

After the ceremony, parents, students, and educators took pictures in the lobby. Although the ceremony consisted of the largest induction class in Walpole chapter history, the audience did not notice if the ceremony went longer.

"The ceremony was very well done and to be a part of something like that that highlights everything I have done was pretty cool," said senior member Kate Preston.

"I hope that the NHS Induction highlights how accomplished our students are here at WHS and all the wonderful things they do inside our school and town community," Ms. Kay said. "I hope it also reflects how much our students appreciate their educators and what these educators have meant to them."

Michael Falker retires after forty years

Continued from page 1

Although his primary instrument is the bass, he is able to play numerous instruments including the viola and violin.

When he came to Walpole High School, he was initially a strings only teacher, working in the music department with three other teachers. Years later, Mr. Falker eventually worked his way up to becoming the sole teacher in charge of orchestra, band, and chorus.

Outside of his responsibilities at the high school, Mr. Falker also maintained the Music Program in the Elementary and Middle Schools for the majority of his career. Although he started with 3rd grade beginners, he taught 4th grade beginners until about 9 years ago. This year, his last 4th grade class graduated from the high school.

A student of Mr. Falker since 4th grade, senior Andrew Hazerjian said, "Mr. Falker by far has had the biggest impact on me throughout my last nine years in the Walpole Public School System. My gratitude towards him is immeasurable."

Over the years, Mr. Falker has become known for his unique teaching style. Although many teachers have long lists of rules for students to follow, Mr. Falker has only two rules for class: Don't chew gum and no feet on the chairs. There is no written homework in the class, but Mr. Falker's signature command to students is "You

will practice." He asks his students to reach his or her full potential by practicing two hours a week. He loves to remind them of one of his favorite mantras: "Practice does not make perfect, but perfect practice makes perfect."

His unique personality motivates his students to not only practice, but also to perform at "Winter Concert," "Spring Concert," and "Pops Night."

"Mr. Falker has played a very important role in the school," Principal Stephen Imbusch said. "Students gravitate towards him, and he loves to be around kids. This is one of the fundamental traits of a good teacher, and it comes naturally to him."

However, his tenure at Walpole High was not without conflict. In the 1990's and in 2005, the town cut positions from the Music Department from 4 teachers eventually down to only 1. With each cut, Mr. Falker took on more responsibilities as he tried to maintain the prestigious reputation of the program.

"Mr. Falker has single-handedly kept the music program alive," said Principal Stephen Imbusch, "even though it has been reduced drastically due to budget cuts."

Although Mr. Falker is unsure of his plans after he retires from Walpole High School, there is no doubt about the substantial impact he has made within the school during his 40 years of teaching.

Diane Cokley says goodbye to Walpole High School

Continued from page 1

In 1997, she received her masters degree in guidance at Bridgewater State University while she was still teaching at the high school. Mrs. Cokely then rose to Guidance Department head in 2000, but stepped down in 2010. She said, "It was a very tough decision to make, but because I commute from Portsmouth, NH to Walpole every day, it was too big a responsibility and I wanted to do what was best for everyone in guidance."

Mr. Neubauer applauds the great deal of wisdom she shares with her students, as well as historical facts about the school and guidance department that she shares with her co-workers. "It is great going to work with someone every day who is positive, upbeat, and has a great deal of advice and wisdom that she is willing to share with her students," he said.

During the National Honors Society Ceremony, senior Anna Orfanidis chose Mrs. Cokely as her special educator. She said, "I picked Mrs. Cokely because she was a steady supporter of everything I wanted to do [...]. She has shown me how to live my life by taking opportunities and using them to better my own life and the lives of others."

As a guidance counselor, Mrs. Cokely has been described by her co-workers as positive, efficient, and caring. Mrs. Dolan said, "She is so great at what she

does because she loves her job. She has always been invested in her students."

As for next year, Mrs. Cokely hopes that after she leaves, the Guidance Department will continue to provide helpful advice to students, and that students will realize the services that Guidance can provide beyond helping with college. She wants to be remembered as a person who cared a great deal about the students she worked with and was passionate about her profession.

Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Doran will take her place to become full-time guidance counselors for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Cokely said, "I am pleased that my former students will have experienced guidance counselors who are already connected to the high school. It should be a very smooth transition." Although she is retiring from her job at Walpole High, she will continue her work at a job closer to home in New Hampshire. As for what she will miss the most about Walpole High, she explained that she will miss her students the most. She said, "My job revolves around the students every single day, and I will truly miss helping and watching them grow to reach their full potential." Even though Mrs. Cokely has mixed feelings about closing the door on Walpole High for the last time, she is excited about the opportunity impact other students' lives as she opens a new one.

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The Walpole High School Students and Class of the Month

APRIL

SOPHOMOREAMANI ALBADAWI

I am nominating Amani for Student of the Month based upon her scholarship and positive attitude. She is a student who is highly motivated to succeed and is always trying to do her best in class. Amani earned a 98 first term, a 95 second term, and a 96 third term, and currently has a 99 fourth term. She is conscientious and always prepared for class, works well in groups, and completes all homework assignments. She is quiet in class but is consistently on task and ready to answer any question she is asked. Her work is meticulous and shows attention to detail, showing all formulas and values used in a clear, concise method. Amani is a pleasure to teach. I highly recommend her for Student of the Month.

Mrs. Milligan

SOPHOMOREDILLON KNIGHT

In his pre-calculus class of twenty-eight students, Dillon is the only student who recieved a perfect score on each of our last two quizzes, which dealt with the concepts of exponential and logarithmic functions and equations, topics which many find challenging. His attention to detail and mastery of concepts is exceptional. As one of only three sophomores in a predominantly junior class, Dillon currently has the highest average in the class. When he knows that he will miss a class, he takes it upon himself to get the work in advance. Dillon is well mannered, polite, and respectful. He is always prepared for class, and he works well with others. Dillon is a pleasure to have in class.

Mrs. Kathleen Milne

FRESHMANNATASHA RODRIGUEZ

Natasha is a stand out student in my algebra class. She is always participating, she has never missed homework all year, and most importantly, she is always helping other students who need assistance. I have my class in groups, I usually put Natasha in a group of students who are struggling, and she always helps them. The students usually do well after they are in her group. I have put her with different students and she never complains or asks to be with her friends. She is very polite, extremely friendly and very hard working. If there is a difficult problem to do in class or for homework, I can count on Natasha to put the question on the board and show the work. If she does not understand a concept, she will also ask how to solve it. She is a pleasure to have in class and very deserving of this award.

Mr. St. Martin

ACTIVITY AWARD

SPEECH TEAMJUNIOR SAMANTHA CORCORAN

Ms. Emily Loflin

CLASS OF THE MONTH

PERIOD 6 HEALTH

This class has been with me for the entire school year, which is a rare in the Health/ PE department. Most of the students in this health class were members of the Freshman PE class during semester I. They were an excellent PE class showcasing effort, positive energy, and a desire to learn about important exercise principles. This class has brought the same energy into the classroom this semester and they are making great strides in mastering health concepts. Three upperclassman also joined the class this semester including two seniors. They have not isolated themselves from their younger peers, but instead jumped right into the group work with these students and have displayed tremendous collaborative leadership abilities. I can always count on this class to participate in discussions, put thier best effort into group projects and bring positive energy into the classroom. A strong mix of freshman and upperclassman, this class has the drive to be successful at both a PE and a Health class and they should be considered for Class of the Month at Walpole High School.

Mr. Kampper

MAY

FRESHMANKAITLYN FRANK

I would like to nominate Kaitlyn Frank for Student of the Month for Freshman Foundations of Art. Though Kaitlyn is a very talented artist that is not the reason, I am nominating her. Kaitlyn earned this nomination through hard work and genuine dedication. Kaitlyn’s enthusiasm for the subject is apparent in all of her work, and she brings thoughtfulness and an attention to detail to each of her projects. Kaitlyn is also willing to take a step back and look at her own work with a critical eye, a skill that can be challenging for many students. However, perhaps most importantly, she does not give up, even when things do not go as planned. Kaitlyn is a creative thinker who takes risks, and she sees her ideas through from beginning to end with true commitment.

Ms. Pace

FRESHMANJOSEPH SULLIVAN

Joe has been a good student all year, but this past term he has really come into his own. He has turned in every assignment on time, and each assignment has shown a lot of effort. Joe works hard in class and brings positive energy to the lessons and activities we do. I am especially impressed with Joe’s ability to self-advocate and to know his own weaknesses. Instead of letting his weaknesses get the best of him, he acknowledges them and tries to find ways to conquer them. It has been a pleasure to have Joe in class this year, and I would like to acknowledge all his hard work he has put into our class.

Ms. Gould

CLASS OF THE MONTH

PERIOD 4 SPANISH II HONORS

It has truly been a pleasure teaching my period 4, Spanish II Honors class, a group of talented, motivated young men and women. I am impressed every day with the level of enthusiasm and camaraderie that this group brings to all facets of the class; to a person, they realize that hard work and effort are the keys to success, and they do so with aplomb. This class has consistently pulled together throughout the year. This group shows unity, loves Spanish language and culture, and takes pride in putting forth its best effort all the time. I have enjoyed watching these mostly freshman students develop linguistically and find their places and identities in the Walpole High School community. I am honored to have had this group of students in my class this year, and endorse them as the June Class of the Month

Mr. Sturges

PERIOD 4 GEOMETRY CP1

Period 4 Geometry CP1 is filled with many candidates for student of the month. I would have a difficult time picking one student out of the bunch to nominate, so I thought it was most appropriate to nominate the entire class. Every student in this class is polite, respectful, and hard working. I would be lucky to have any one of them in any class. Together, however, they are even better. They are kind to one another (One student picks up the books for every student in his group. No one has asked him to, he just does, and he has all year). They help each other understand the material. During group work, they are checking each other’s papers and correcting mistakes or asking questions. Just today, one student helped another student who had been absent the day before. We were working on something that they needed to use the calculator for, and the two students had the same type of calculator. The student who had been present offered up her expertise while the student who had been absent was grateful for the help. When I came over, they did not stop what they were doing so that I could explain. They respected and trusted each other. They persevere when the material gets difficult and they involve themselves in the conversation about the topic instead of shying away because it is outside their comfort zone. The dynamic in this class is one of the best I have had in my years of teaching. I hope you will consider them for class of the month, as they are very deserving.

Mrs. Caitlin Sullivan

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Doug Stewart to star in Circus Smirkus Summer Spectacle

By Hannah McLaughlin
Class of 2014

Ask a group of 10-year-olds what they want to be when they grow up, and the results will certainly vary. Some may shout “firefighter” while others proudly proclaim “policeman.” A few predict “pro football player” while others believe “ballerina.” Unfortunately, most of these childhood dreams fade with time, replaced by more realistic—yet arguably less-fulfilling—occupations like law and accounting. However, one recent Walpole High School graduate Doug Stewart can say that, unlike those of his fellow WHS alums, his childhood dreams are already becoming a reality.

This summer, Doug and 29 other carefully-selected performers ages 10 to 18 will be participating in this year’s Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour.

Established in 1987 by Founding Director Rob Mermin, Circus Smirkus is a Vermont-based traveling youth circus that is comprised of young performers who hail from countries across the globe. A non-profit youth organization, Circus Smirkus travels to major cities across New England to showcase its themed “story” shows.

Smirkus has featured swash-buckling pirates on the high seas, crime-fighting superheroes, and characters straight from the whimsical world of Alice in Wonderland. The 2014 show promises to deliver a hilarious ocean adventure as the troupe sets sail for their lat-

est show entitled, “ANCHORS AWAY FOR ATLANTIS.”

Stewart’s passion for circus began at a young age after he attended his first acrobatic class— an influential lesson that would have an incredible impact on the rest of his life. In regards to his circus training, Stewart said, “I started when I was 10. Soon after I was brought to observe a class, I realized I had a natural talent for circus— I fell in love with it.”

The next few years were devoted entirely to perfecting the skills that would aid Stewart in pursuing a career related to his newfound hobby. Stewart developed gymnastics skills at Paradise Gymnastics in Walpole before training throughout his high school career at Aircraft Aerial Arts in Somerville, Trapeze School Beantown, and the New England Center for Circus Arts in Brattleboro, Vermont. With the aid of his coaches and trainers, Stewart has become a versatile performer— his deftness as an aerialist, acrobat, and juggler have identified him as a qualified troupe member.

Stewart’s teenage years have been influenced immensely by Circus Smirkus and the many opportunities the organization has presented to him. From 2009 to 2012, Doug attended the Circus Smirkus summer camp, until he worked for two years as a counselor for the same summer program.

In the fall of 2013, Stewart submitted an audition tape to the Smirkus headquarters in Greensboro, Vermont in the hopes of being chosen as a

performer in the 2014 Big Top Tour. Stewart was then called for a live audition in January where he impressed the judges and secured his spot for the summer’s 70-show tour.

Though he thoroughly enjoys the jovial atmosphere and creation of strong bonds among the troupe members, Stewart’s favorite aspect of circus life is undoubtedly the performance. He said, “I love showing the true potential of the human body. Most people tell us performers that they can’t even do a cartwheel, and they can’t imagine doing any of the stunts that we do.” Regarding the audience, Stewart said, “I love the shock and surprise on people’s faces when they see me in the air. I also love hearing the crowd gasp and clap after a dangerous trick.”

After the tour, Stewart will continue to attend the New England Center for Circus Arts where he will perfect his skills and pursue his love of circus full-time. Stewart’s ultimate goal is to one day join the famous Cirque du Soleil Troupe.

Stewart attributes his success not only to his talent and seemingly endless hours of training, but also to those who have supported him in his efforts throughout the years. He said, “My parents and fellow circus performers always kept me going. They always had my back and pushed me to keep going.”

As a performer in Circus Smirkus, Doug will be one of the main bases for pyramid stunts, as he is able to balance as many as five people on him at one time. He will



WHS alumnus Doug Stewart performs on a ring as part of his act in the circus.

also be performing aerial and cradle stunts, for he specializes in the two areas. He will travel to 15 venues throughout the Northeast, including Cape Cod and Waltham in July.

Despite the constant flow of support from his family and friends regarding his unconventional post-high school plans, Stewart is no stranger to criticism. In reference to those who question his plans for the future, Stewart said, “There will always be people judging you, and there will always be people who don’t understand. Every time I tell adults what I’m doing, they either laugh or think I’m joking. Often times, I get the typical question: ‘Can you make money doing that?’ My advice would

be do what makes you happy and don’t worry about what others say because at the end of the day it doesn’t matter.”

Though his dreams seemed to be going as planned, Stewart’s perseverance has been tested multiple times. However, Stewart claims that these challenges have made him stronger. He said, “The most important lesson I learned was to never give up. I auditioned for Circus Smirkus four times before I got accepted. Each year I got closer and closer, and each year I watched my dreams slip away from me. It gave me determination to keep trying and to work hard. Now that I have been accepted to Smirkus, I know I can do anything I sent my mind to.”

Rebellion receives prominent awards at NESPA Conference

By Julie Moser
Class of 2015

Whether it is a minor story or a school wide controversy, the members of the *Rebellion* staff strive to keep the Walpole community informed of current news. Along with their five print papers published over the course of the school year, students from Journalism I, II, and III collaborate to keep their online website up and running with the most newsworthy topics that concern the town of Walpole. On May 2, 2014, the *Rebellion* Staff traveled to the New England Scholastic Press Association Conference where they listened to various presentations. After the presentations concluded, the Director of NESPA Helen Smith announced the awards for scholastic publishing, editing, advertising, and others. For the 2013-2014 school year, the *Rebellion* received six special achievement awards, and for the second year in a row, the staff received first place in the All New England Class 1 print/ online category.

“This year we had a very talented group of editors and their commitment throughout the school year truly helped elevate our publication. I am very proud of the hard work of every *Rebellion* Staff member, and the award only further proves how dedicated the students have been this year,” said Mr. Conor Cashman, adviser for the *Rebellion*.

Due to the size of Walpole High School (more than 1,000 students) the *Rebellion* was placed into the Class I category. Having received a Highest Achievement rating in Scholastic Publishing and Editing, the *Rebellion* was eligible to earn first, second and third place All New England Certificates. The New England Scholastic Press Association honored the

staff of the *Rebellion* for their outstanding efforts in school media by giving them one of the most prestigious awards: First Place in all of New England.

Judges from the Boston University College of Communication assess entries from schools all over the New England Area. For the 2013-2014 school year, seven Walpole journalism students were distinguished by NESPA for their individual work in school media. For Special Achievement Awards, senior Editor-in-Chief Hannah McLaughlin was recognized for excellence in two articles written this year: “Parents vs. Programmers of GTA V” and “Spike Jonze Awes Audiences With Offbeat Film ‘Her’.” In her editorial regarding the video game, *Grand Theft Auto V*, McLaughlin criticizes parents who complain about the violent and controversial game, yet are the ones who continue to purchase it for their children. Emphasizing her stance on the issue, she aims to highlight how society has led to adolescents’ corruption—not the video game. Additionally, in her impressive review of Spike Jonze’s film, her, McLaughlin argues that despite a bizarre plot and unusual aura, the movie is simply fantastic.

Along with McLaughlin, senior Editor-in-Chief, Pete Hoegler was honored for his sports article, “Boys Soccer Makes Improbable State Championship Run,” in which he takes readers on the boys’ soccer team’s journey to the state championship this past fall. Senior Mackenzie Wilson’s “Cross Country Newcomer Allie Morris Breaks School Course Record,” an article detailing the accomplishments of junior Allie Morris in Cross Country, also earned a special achievement award—Wilson’s first award from NESPA in her journalism career.

Additionally, senior Editor-in-Chief Matt Brown-

sword’s sports article, “Porkers Take First State Championship since 2006” received a special achievement award. Illustrating the dramatic State Championship victory for the field hockey team this season, Brownsword thoroughly captivates readers through his enticing writing.

“Although I’m honored to receive the award, I could not have done this without the help of Cashman, my fellow staff writers, and any other English teachers I’ve had throughout the years. And also the field hockey girls for winning the state championship. That helped,” said Brownsword.

After countless hours—both in and out of school—perfecting the *Rebellion*’s online home page, junior Annie Gallivan, freshman Rory Mulligan and junior Bryan Kelleher were honored with the Best Home Page Award at the conference. This year, they focused on entirely redesigning the website, so that viewers have the ability to see Twitter and Instagram updates, as well as previews for the most recent articles and blogs.

“It took a lot of time and effort to create the homepage we were looking for. Earning the award was very satisfying: it guaranteed that all of our hard work finally paid off,” said junior Annie Gallivan.

With the *Rebellion*’s number of online viewers and followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram increasing this year, their publication gains more prominence in the Walpole community. “We can say confidently that we accomplished big things this year because not only did we receive a lot of special achievement awards,” said Hoegler. “But also first place in the All New England Class 1 print/online category— all objectives we aim to reach every year.”

Entertainment

“The New Classic” Bolsters Iggy Azalea’s Rap Renown



By Emily Massarelli
Class of 2015

In a world teeming with could-have-been rappers and a generation obsessed with gaining their time in the limelight, gaining renown as an up and coming artist is difficult. Iggy Azalea, Amethyst Amelia Kelly, has the personality, looks, and talent that it takes to climb the charts as a top artist.

Releasing her first solo album, *The New Classic*, Iggy built her U.S fan-base with her sultry and aggressive raps. Throughout the album’s various tracks, Iggy tells the story of her growth as an artist from the young age of sixteen. An Australian native, teenage Iggy moved to Miami, Florida in hopes of beginning her career. The independent attitude she earned as a result of this life experience is conveyed songs such as “Work” and “F***k Love”. Her rapping throughout “Work” narrates the story of her evolution as an artist and how people “don’t know sh*t bout where [she] was made, or how many floors [she] had to scrub just to make it past where [she] is from.”

Similar to other prominent female rap artists, Iggy reeks of independence and girl power. She preaches “I’m already in love with myself...You can’t break my heart. You can’t take my pride.” Although not necessarily lady-like, Iggy’s demeanor serves as admirable for girls who have not yet learned self-sufficiency.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Iggy broaches the redundant themes of other rappers in tracks “100” and “Fancy.” Repeatedly she raps about her wealth and how’s she’s “deluxe, classic, expensive, you don’t get to touch.” The cliché of immense wealth and status within the rap genre is predictable, but can be overlooked due to Iggy’s style and the commercial appeal of her music.

With all her swagger and talent aside, it is unmistakable that Iggy’s physical allure is a substantial factor in her climb to notoriety. Some may argue that Iggy’s work has no substance, and she is merely another pretty-faced celebrity that is over-marketed due to her admirable appearance. Even so, her appearance may be pleasing to the eyes, but that does not mean her music cannot be pleasing to the ears. Her emanating beauty very well may have gained her renown, but her current popularity in the music realm owes its occurrence to the substance of her character and music.

“The Fault in Our Stars” triumphs as insightful romance

By Rachel Spang
Class of 2015

With the sheer amount of Nicholas Sparks film adaptations and unrealistically dramatic love stories that infiltrate modern Hollywood, the genre of teenage romance has become completely exhausted in recent years. Though hackneyed love films have the ability to lure audiences with their idealistic plots and attractive actors, every film seems to follow the same nonsensical story that teenage infatuation leads to eternal love. People will always throw money towards the box offices for a two hour experience of the ideal relationship; however, popular teen romance films do not have to continue their clichéd pattern without exception. The film adaptation of John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars* offers a beautiful, heartbreaking love story without sacrificing reality in the process.

The Fault in Our Stars tells the poignant and insightful story of Hazel Grace Lancaster (Shailene Woodley), a sixteen-year-old girl diagnosed with lung cancer when she was thirteen. Despite her stable condition due to a “miracle” medication, Hazel’s cancer remains Stage 4 and terminal. Woodley’s phenomenal performance as the sympathetic yet likeable Hazel Grace can draw both tears and laughter from the audience, as the script has no trouble in displaying the hardships of a cancer patient while not forfeiting the character’s sarcastic humor. Even though she has a terminal illness, Hazel Grace remains a genuine and relatable character for teenage girls. Laura Dern, who plays Hazel’s mother, also executes her important, albeit small, role



The Fault in Our Stars tells the tragic love story of Hazel Grace and Augustus Waters

fantastically. The struggle of Hazel’s mother to remain optimistic through her child’s illness and imminent death is an underrated and fundamental facet of the story, and Dern portrays her tragic trials with unparalleled dexterity.

Hazel’s life takes a dramatic turn when she meets Augustus Waters (Ansel Elgort) at a cancer support group. Augustus, an osteosarcoma survivor, quickly becomes infatuated with Hazel after she shares her astute opinions during support group. The two begin a close friendship while Augustus continues to romantically pursue Hazel. Although Elgort’s performance as the slightly pretentious and charming Augustus does not reach the level of Woodley’s, he manages to make the character charismatic and appealing enough to make every teenage girl swoon at all of his romantic gestures and monologues.

The script of *The Fault in Our Stars* stays consistently faithful with the novel, as it only cedes characters and scenes that are nominal and not

fundamental to John Green’s main messages and themes. Similarly to the book, the dialogue strikes an entertaining balance between dry, dark humor and philosophical commentary. Hazel offers her insightful view through voice over, as she discloses the realities of living with cancer. The film rejects any idealistic views of cancer patients; instead of focusing on the strength and optimism of the characters, Hazel reveals the loss of humor and perseverance that comes with terminal illness. Unapologetically truthful and heartbreaking, *The Fault in Our Stars* boldly refuses to console the audience with any romantic falsehoods that accompany illness.

In the enormous scope of sap-py teenage romance films, *The Fault in Our Stars* is a truly unique, shining outlier within the disappointing and repetitive genre. The film’s outstanding performances, intelligent dialogue, and touching plot truly sets a new bar for future romance movies to meet.

Soundtrack of “The Fault in Our Stars” heightens film’s emotional tone

By Jamie Ferguson
Class of 2015

Soundtracks have the ability to make or break a film, and music can transform an average moment into a piece of movie magic. Movies such as *The Breakfast Club*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and *Pulp Fiction* are impossible to separate from their iconic soundtracks, and the music used in films has influence even decades after the films’ releases. Although classical scores have the unparalleled ability to enhance a movie, the use of regular songs add a fresh, memorable twist on a particular scene. The soundtrack to the highly anticipated adaptation of John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars* is no exception, and the use of tender indie tracks to tell the story of the relationship between two cancer patients compliments the emotional tone of the movie.

The first song on the album is Ed Sheeran’s closing credits song called “All of the Stars.” The track is an emotional but uplifting number that encompasses the theme of the entire film: even though life can be painful and messy, one must appreciate every moment he or she has before it’s too late. The gentleness of Sheeran’s voice combined with the bittersweet lyrics allows viewers to decompress after the film’s emotional end reminds viewers that no matter how sad life can be, hope will always follow. The second credits song is Birdy’s “Tee Shirt,” which is a sweet and simple ode to young love with an interesting combination of hope and despair.

Although the movie is undoubtedly emotional, the film’s overall message is to live life to the fullest in the time that one has. The album accurately represents that in its tracklist: there are songs that are happy, sad, fun, emotional, and every emotion in between. The diversity in the music highlights the range of emotions throughout

the film, which makes the story honest rather than typical and mawkishly tear-jerking. Young singer/songwriter Jack Bugg’s “Simple As This” is a sweet acoustic-driven number that complements the film’s slightly offbeat tone (playing during the humorous scene where Hazel is waiting for Gus to call her), while Grouplove’s “Let Me In” is an electronic and fun song that perfectly reflects the emotions that Shailene Woodley displays on screen when Hazel finds out she is going to Amsterdam.

Some of the best uses of music throughout the movie are on complete opposite sides of the emotional spectrum, which reinforces the idea that one must accept the bad parts of life along with the good. “Boom Clap” by Charlie XCX is an infectious pop number that plays over Hazel and Gus’ arrival in Amsterdam. The combination of the sweeping landscape shots and the irresistible beat of the song make the scene one of the strongest in the film. Additionally, “All I Want” by Kodaline is played at a moment in the movie that could have been accompanied by a bright pop song, but the sensitivity of the song gives the scene (in which Isaac, Hazel, and Gus egg Isaac’s ex-girlfriend’s car) a level of depth and emotion. Furthermore, “Not About Angels” by Birdy is one of the most shining examples of the power of music, as the haunting piano ballad plays at perhaps the most heart-wrenching scenes in the entire film, and the song compliments the harrowing feeling of the scene without ever overpowering it.

The Fault in Our Stars’ story is one of the most unique young adult tales in years, and it handles an often glamorized subject with honesty and sensitivity. Like the movie, the soundtrack never tries to make the film something it is not, and never tries to push emotions that are not shown onscreen. The film’s music is as raw and heartfelt as the story it helps to tell, and the movie as a whole is a breath of fresh air in an industry that tries and fails to be sentimental.

ABC's new show "Black Box" lacks original plot

By Hiromi Kondo
Class of 2016

A black box is the most important part of a plane crash investigation. It is a device that holds the answer to the cause of plane crashes by recording what happens during the flight. On the new television series *Black Box* on ABC that premiered on April 24, the black box is the part of the brain that holds the answer to the cause of one's mental illness. Dr. Catherine Black stands out from the rest as she searches for a diagnosis for her patients in their "black boxes," but she is not the first character in the medical field on an ABC show. Although the show is riveting at times, the plot lacks originality.

The obscure diseases of the brain and their absurd treatments are the most interesting part of the show. In "Sweet Little Lies," a girl has what is called exploding head syndrome, in which she constantly dreams that her own head is blowing up. However, the writers add a creative twist and mix this rare illness with narcolepsy which causes her to fall asleep at any moment and consequentially dream of her head exploding. Unfortunately, *House* on FOX, which ended two years ago, also dealt with unique neurological illnesses, so even the best *Black Box* plot-twist feels somewhat like a *House* rerun.

Also, similar to the doctor from *House*, Dr. Black deals with medical complications beyond the realm of her patients. Black suffers from bipolar disorder and

has her own psychiatrist, Dr. Hatrtamph, who helps her cope with her own troubles. While she can tell Dr. Hatrtamph everything, she still has to keep her illness a secret at work in order to save her career. Only the viewers, Black, and her close family are aware of her ailment. The aspect of secrecy adds elements of suspense and dramatic irony and gives the show an edge that is evident in certain short scenes where Black is concerned that her coworkers know about her secret.

In addition to its medical aspect, the show also has a romantic story that parallels the lives of the medical patients. Dr. Black works alongside Dr. Bickman, a neurosurgeon. Outside of the office, Catherine Black is engaged to Will Bickman. Her personal life becomes far more hectic than her work when she finally tells Will about her disorder, which causes romantic conflict for both characters.

But her romantic life is not where the complexity of Black's life ends. Her relationship with her niece Esme produces immense familial drama which further extends to her own childhood. Black's mother struggled with the same disorder and eventually committed suicide. Therefore, Black's worst fear is becoming like her mother, but she fights through this to be loyal and loving to her family. The relationships in Black's life are a well-constructed aspect of *Black Box* as a result of the show's dynamic characters.

Despite its emotional appeal, the history of Black's mother is a little too similar to that of Meredith Grey's mother in *Grey's Anatomy*. Ellis Grey, Meredith's



mother, was an excellent doctor who was hindered by an illness—Alzheimer's disease. The combination of her work and illness created a less than ideal childhood for Meredith that she fears she will create for her kids. The childhood of Black is nearly identical to that of Meredith's, and the similarity is hard to ignore. Hopefully, the show will create other unique aspects in Black's life and medical cases that will help distinguish *Black Box* from other shows.

Despite the show's many downfalls, Kelly Reilly does an excellent job playing Catherine Black, recreating the symptoms of bipolar disorder, and expressing Black's internal fear. Her reactions to certain events reveal deeper aspects of Black's characterization.

Thus far, *Black Box* has created a complicated but unoriginal plot that will hopefully evolve and become as successful as *Grey's Anatomy* or *House*, rather than as similar as them. The next *Black Box* airs Thursday nights on ABC at 8pm.

"Maleficent" provides appealing alternative to "Sleeping Beauty"

By Emily Luong
Class of 2016

For many decades, the iconic Disney Princess films have inspired people of all ages to believe in the morality of good and reprehensible nature of evil. In most of these movies, the innocent princess is unfairly treated by a villain who is characterized as only evil and cruel. Movie-watchers are not expected to care much about him or her but rather feel happiness when the prince rescues the princess and kills the villain once and for all. Since these villains seem to be encased in demoting stereotypes, what happens when Disney—the powerhouse behind dreams, magic, and righteousness—makes the decision to finally show fans a different perspective in the life of the most classic villains?

On May 30, Walt Disney Pictures released *Maleficent*, a live action remake of the well known tale of *Sleeping Beauty* but from the villain Maleficent's point of view. *Maleficent* offers a refreshing twist on the classic film and brings out the more humane side of a character most fans loved to hate for years.

The film follows the eponymous character Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) and illustrates her path to becoming the heartless, vicious person she is infamous for. Previously a kind and compassionate fairy from the Moors—a magical forest kingdom—she is betrayed by a human boy named Stefan (Sharlto Copley) with whom she falls in love with as a young girl. From that point on, she is set on a place of vengeance. Maleficent realizes a vengeful opportunity when her confidant and companion Diaval (Sam Riley)—a raven shapeshifter— informs her of a christening ceremony for the Stefan's newborn daughter Aurora (Elle Fanning). Arriving at the ceremony uninvited, Maleficent places a curse: on her sixteenth birthday Aurora will prick her finger on a spinning needle and fall into a death-like sleep in which only a true love's kiss can awake her. Following the incident, Maleficent watches the princess grow up into a beautiful young lady from afar and begins to realize the cruelty of her curse.

One of the film's notable achievements is its ability to reveal Maleficent's softer side through its portrayal of her as a

compassionate being whose feelings of revenge misguided her. Jolie's performance on screen greatly bolsters Maleficent's character and elicits empathy from movie-goers as she endures waves of betrayal, pain, and anger. When she meets Stefan for the first time, her innocence and naivety of mankind's cruelty makes Stefan's selfish motives of merely wanting to be king extremely despicable, rather than herself. In addition, Maleficent's suffering and heartbreak continues when she discovers that Stefan has moved on and has a child with someone else. The movie's presentation of the iconic Disney villain as a victim of human immorality strives to eliminate common stereotypes about static, one-dimensional antagonists.

The writers of *Maleficent* tackled the difficult task of remaking the beloved tale *Sleeping Beauty*. Their pursuit of straying from Disney cliches could be seen as a stroke of creativity. On the other hand, their efforts to warp the decades old image of the classic villain could be perceived adversely by fans worldwide. Nonetheless, the risks the creators of *Maleficent* took resulted in



indisputable success. Audience members cannot help but root for Maleficent as she struggles in an internal battle between vengeance and morality. Experience *Sleeping Beauty* from the antagonist's perspective for yourself by watching *Maleficent* in theaters.

Christina Perri's "Head or Heart" a halfhearted attempt

By Natalie Luongo
Class of 2016

Christina Perri first hit charts in 2011 with sweet love songs like "A Thousand Years" and "Arms". Her first release, *Lovestrong*, introduced her to the pop music scene due to her powerful voice and singer/songwriter vulnerability. She returns with a more powerful tracklist on *Head or Heart*, a sophomore release that highlights the strengths of her voice and provides hints of the versatile artist she could be if she were to develop her sound further.

The album does not have as much of an impact as it could, but is strong in the songs in which Perri strays from cookie-cutter pop music to explore new sounds. *Head or Heart* is powerful at some points. Opener "I Believe", an ode to optimism and being true to who you are, plays off of the strength of Perri's voice as she belts out high notes during the chorus, backed by dynamic strings and emotional piano music. "This is not the end of me," sings Perri, "This is the beginning." One can only hope that she is right. "I Believe" is a taste of what Perri is capable of and what she could be in the future.

"Lonely Child" is somewhat a standout due to its almost Spanish-sounding rhythm. It is different in

a good way—a break from the repetitive pop ballads Perri's two albums are full of. The track offers a new sound, one that she has not explored yet, and four minutes of the refreshingly jazzy beat and vocals is not enough. Another highlight is "Sea of Lovers", a dynamic ballad with an indie influence. Perri marries the sounds of artists like airy rock band Coldplay and indie-pop singer-songwriter Ingrid Michaelson as she sings, "Will you let me follow you/Wherever you go?/Bring me home".

The best song on the album is, by far, "Be My Forever", in which Ed Sheeran joins Perri for a sweet love song, with heartwarming lyrics and flawless harmonies. It is the rare happy Christina Perri song—different from what Perri does on the rest of the album—and one can only hope that she records more like it.

The first single from the album, "Human", is a slow and soaring anthem about making mistakes. The best part comes near the end, a two-line phrase in which Perri sings quietly to almost silent music, "I can take so much/'Til I've had enough". Her best moments are when she connects with the listener through an emotional lyric or a quiet phrase; however, these moments are few and far between.

Perri's album is a decent shot at a sophomore hit. In some ways, it differs from her first album,

Lovestrong, which is a good thing: *Head or Heart* stands out against its previously-released counterpart because it does have some variety. Her first release was full of made-for-radio tracks like "Arms" and "Jar of Hearts". The second album is a somewhat halfway attempt at a new style, with some songs successful and some songs sounding like *Lovestrong* outtakes. But *Head or Heart* is still a missed opportunity; it should have been full of edgy tracks like "Lonely Child". *Head or Heart* is Perri's first release since 2012, but it was not fully worth the wait.

Christina Perri is a chart-topping artist and her second album still supports that image, with "Human" on nearly every radio station. However, Perri is still an artist to watch, full of unfulfilled potential. Her songwriting skills and piano work separate her from many mainstream pop stars, but the album fails to display her true talents.

One can only hope that she realizes her strengths and that her third album takes inspiration from some of her best tracks, such as "I Believe," "Lonely Child," and "Be My Forever." Unfortunately, Perri failed to live up to the strength of her debut release, *Lovestrong*. But for now, however, *Head or Heart* partially satisfies listeners with few strong highlights, and gives fans a small taste of Christina Perri's full potential.