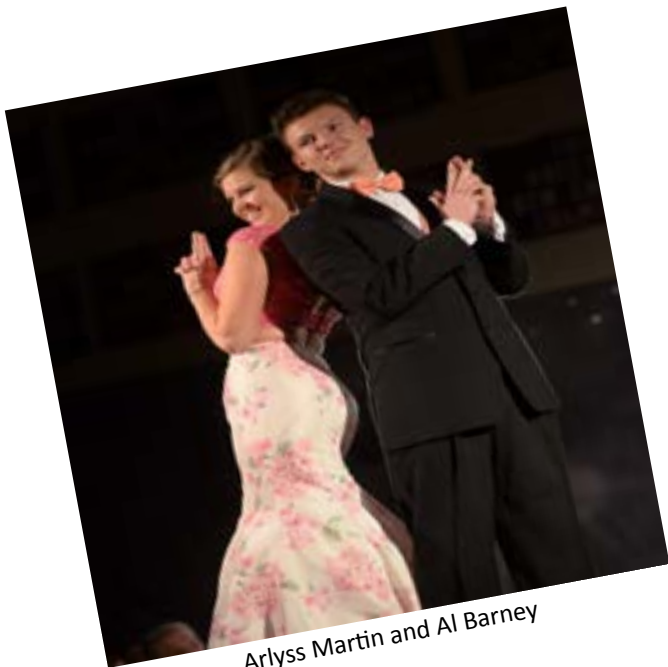




## Project Hope 2016

### 7th Annual Strut for a Cure

#### Fashion Show



Arlyss Martin and Al Barney



Vivian Lukas and Lily Ashford



Riley McGurn, Dylan Swillum, and Delaney Ripley



This year's speaker was Shanna Clarke Pinet, who has fought against her own breast cancer diagnosis for the last 10 years and works to empower and support others battling cancer.



Brooklyn Marcotte and MK Livingston



Justin Maguire

Pinet grew up in Plaistow and graduated from Timberlane in 1996. She was featured in a Huffington Post viral video about living with cancer and is currently being chronicled by The New York Times for her book "Fighting Fabulously." She now resides in Atkinson with her husband David and their 11-year-old daughter Mackenzie. Her motto is, "Cancer is what I have, NOT who I am."

Students in Project Hope have worked since September running various fund-raisers and awareness events, including the Stand Up Against Cancer Night with the TRHS Football Boosters. Last year's fund-raisers yielded a total of \$17,000 and this year they achieved their goal by raising more than \$15,000.



Katie Tarr

All pictures on this page are courtesy of Geskus Photography and the photographers Susan Ober and Jenny Sinclair.

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#### Staff for this edition:

Liam Kimball, Jon Breed, Sarah Fowler, Meg McGonagle, Greg Moore, Nils Ericsson, David Joshua Platon, Tori Swillum, Maddy Kennedy, Elise Renahan, Tyler Pelletier, Ashley Cooper, Ashley Martin, Kendall Broadhurst, Joe Margareci, Sean Crowley, Meghan Tarr, Jon Dolan, Shyanne Silva, Cassie Monteiro, John McGrath, Kaitlin Drislane, Spencer Damphousse, Tommy McClure, Kyle Faucher, Jared Burke, Brian Mickalay, Nick Michaud.



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British Parliament to Debate Banning Trump

By Liam Kimball



More than half a million people in the United Kingdom have signed an online petition to ban Donald Trump admission into the UK. A petition in the UK does carry some weight because in 2011 the government took a pledge to debate any issues that got more than 100,000 signatures. In the past, petitions were a big deal due to the effort involved in going door to door collecting supporter’s signatures. In this modern internet age, people can sign online petitions while sitting on their couch eating popcorn and checking their twitter feed.

The British Parliament spent three hours in session debating the topic. Some critics believe that it was a complete idiotic waste of time but it is the public’s right to have an influence. It is not believe that Parliament will take any action against Trump.

Although it may seem ridiculous to ban somebody from a country just for saying something, the United Kingdom has in fact previously banned entry of people for hate speech. The UK government did release a statement that their Home Secretary does have the power to ban any non-Economic European personnel. In this statement there was no specification that this power would be enforced on Trump.

The United Kingdom addresses visitations to their country as a privilege and not a right to anyone. The secretary believes that they need to keep those out of the country who wish to harm society, in reference to Trump’s harsh and hateful views on immigrants.

Suzanne Kelly from Aberdeen campaigned against Trump’s plan to build “the greatest golf course in the world” on the Menie Estate in 2013 on various environmental grounds. In a statement Kelly said, “The signatories believe Donald J Trump should be banned from UK entry for his continued, unrepentant hate speech and unacceptable behavior. His unacceptable behavior is well documented, and we feel it foments racial, religious and nationalistic intolerance which should not be welcome in the UK. The UK has banned entry to many individuals for hate speech. This same principle should apply to Donald J Trump. We cannot see how the United Kingdom can condone his entry to the country when many people have been barred for less.”

Trump has several investments in the United Kingdom including a golf course in Scotland and several planned investments for the future. If the government did take action against Trump, he would be forced to withdraw all current and future investments.

The United Kingdom does, like the United States, believe in free speech. Therefore they will be proceeding cautiously with the Trump issue so that they do not send a message to the world of opposing free speech.

You can’t spell “Chipotle” without “E.Coli”

By Jon Breed

Chipotle had an outbreak of E. Coli at many locations of the company. The Wall Street Journal reports that the entire food restaurant will close all locations on February 8th. They will be addressing the E. Coli breakout they had sickening many people throughout the country.



As the illnesses linked to Chipotle increased, the company’s sales dropped 30 percent, and its stock plummeted almost 40 percent. Chipotle’s label of being one of the best burrito shops around the country has lost its fame. With their stocks plummeting and thousands getting sick, people may never trust this restaurant chain again.

California leading to 234 documented cases of the illness between customers and employees. Chipotle is now under fire after a new lawsuit was filed alleging that the California store tried to “conceal all evidence” of the norovirus outbreak before contacting public health officials.

The chain suffered four national outbreaks in California twice, and twice in Minnesota the safety of food is not a mistake, it’s a problem. As the chain claims that their safety regulations and food handling with be taken care of, it’s the real question on how they’re changing this. Will the public announcement to solving the problem really happen?

The restaurant hid all traces of the norovirus outbreak by “disposing of all food items, bleaching all cooking and food handling surfaces and replacing its sick employees with replacement employees from other restaurants,” the lawsuit claims.

On February 8th nationwide the company will shut down to February 11th. At a companywide meeting one of their main focuses will be addressing the food-safety efforts throughout the whole entire chain. A future plan of a new marketing strategy to win back the ex-loyal customers they lost, will hopefully increase profits for the company.

Chipotle hopes to have a successful comeback from the allegations and outbreaks they’ve experienced over the past year. Only time will tell, if they can abolish the negative publicity and go back to being the well-known “healthy” burrito shop throughout America.

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Yikes! Zika!

By Meg McGonagle

Twenty- one countries, one disease. The Zika virus is striking fast, striking hard, and coming for America.

What is the Zika virus?

The Zika virus is an infection spreading throughout Africa, Southern America, and Northern America. This virus is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquitos, which is found on every continent or region except for Canada and Chile. A person will get bit by the mosquito and may show symptoms of a mild fever, conjunctivitis, and a head-ache, if any symptoms are shown at all. About 80% of infected people do not show any symptoms. These minor symptoms may not seem like much, but if a pregnant mother is bitten it could change the life of her baby. The Zika virus can cause Microcephaly or babies being born with extremely tiny brains.



The Effects of Microcephaly



Microcephaly, by definition, is an abnormal smallness of the head, a congenital condition associated with incomplete brain development. This means that the brains of babies in the womb are not being formed properly. This is usually caught at birth, but is almost always very noticeable. The newborn’s head will be abnormally small compared to the head of a normal newborn. The brain continues to grow abnormally for the rest of their life and other developmental issues will be very relevant. There is absolutely no treatment for microcephaly. The only thing a parent can do to help their child is make sure their quality of life is good.

Why is this Relevant?

The Aedes mosquito lives in every region except for Canada and Chile. It first started to be recognized in Africa in 1947. The people living there noticed it in monkeys and later on short outbreaks have happened in Asia and some of the Pacific Islands. However, it is now spreading from small outbreaks to countries all around the world, especially in the Americas. It was first detected in Brazil in 2015 and was started to be recognized all over the continent. It has gotten so bad in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Jamaica that all women have been advised to hold off on their pregnancies. WHO, the World Health Organization, has said that it is likely to spread to North America. The Pan American Health Organization, or PAHO, said that "PAHO anticipates that Zika virus will continue to spread and will likely reach all countries and territories of the region where Aedes mosquitoes are found."



So far there are no treatments or vaccines for Zika virus. In many of the countries it is difficult to stay safe because the water is not clean and it is easy for the mosquitos to breed. Maria Conceicao Queiroz, from Rio, said "Everyone is at risk, we're all scared of getting Zika." She then added, "We're surrounded with dirty water, polluted water, but what can we do but put repellent on, to try to keep the mosquitoes away."

What do the Scientists Say?

Prof Laura Rodrigues, who studied at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and who works for the Brazilian Academy of Science, said that one-in-fifty babies is born with Microcephaly or another birth defect in Pernambuco state in Brazil. She said, "Until November we knew nothing, this has caught us by surprise and we're trying to learn as fast as we can." And also said "Wherever there is Zika, there are mosquitos, then it will spread and not just in the Americas, but I think there is a very real chance it will spread in Asia."



PAHO is suggesting that all containers be washed thoroughly and dried immediately. The only way that people can protect themselves is to keep windows shut and bug spray on. This outbreak, according to WHO, has become “very worrisome.”

Hopefully, this outbreak will just be a scare and not turn into a worldwide problem like the infamously known virus, Ebola.

The Dangers in Lipstick

By: Sarah Fowler

Many chemical compounds are used in beauty products that we use to enhance our appearance. Lipstick, which contains many harmful chemicals including metals such as lead, is a very commonly used product. Metals and dyes make the use of lipstick potentially dangerous. When using some harmful lipsticks, your risk of becoming sick from the ingredients in lipsticks could become very harmful with continuous use over time.

Waxes are very important in the composition of lipsticks. Waxes are used in lipstick to keep the shape in the tubes. The most common waxes used in lipstick are Beeswax, Candelilla, and Carnauba wax. Beeswax binds the oils, and gives a lust look to the lips. Candelilla wax, is a hard wax that gives a matte look and a smooth and glossy appearance. Carnauba wax can be mixed with Beeswax, and can also be acidic, and also increases the hardness of the lipstick.

In many recent studies, including experiments at the University of California, there have been many findings of heavy metals in lipsticks, including levels of chromium, cadmium, aluminum, and manganese. Another metal that is found in lipsticks is lead, although many companies do not list lead as an ingredient in their products because the amount is small. Lead can still be absorbed into the skin, and there are no safe levels of lead that should enter the bloodstream. The University of California has performed many tests on the metals contained in lipsticks. Their studies show that women who apply lipstick two to fourteen times a day, could be absorbing around 87 milligrams and women who apply it every day multiple times, are increasing their exposure to these heavy metals and could affect their health overtime.

Another dangerous ingredient in lipsticks are the coal-tar dyes. Coal tar colors are formed from carbon and hydrogen and they contain compounds called aromatic hydrocarbon. The FDA requires safety testing for all the batches produced, because many of the compounds that are tested, caused cancer in many lab animals. After the compounds are tested, they are given one of two names. FD&C which stands for Food, Drugs & Cosmetic, means that the color is safe for internal and external use. Or it is given the name D&C or Ext. D&C means the compound is safe for external use only.

Even though lipstick has been used for centuries, new ingredients have made the use of this cosmetic product harmful to your health. When buying any cosmetic product, always make sure to look at the ingredients carefully, so you know what you are applying and remember beauty isn't always worth the harm, and know what is in your makeup.





*The New Boston: General Electric*

By Greg Moore

With Boston setting its sights on becoming a renewed and modern city, it only makes sense for a large company like General Electric to move its headquarters there.

General Electric who employs 305,000 employees worldwide and brought in an annual revenue of \$148.6 billion in 2014, will be moving its headquarters from Fairfield, Connecticut, which has been its home since 1974, to the more thriving Seaport District of Boston. GE had many cities on their list of potential homes for their headquarters, however Boston’s vision for a technology enriched city drew General Electric to the city.

“We want to be at the center of an ecosystem that shares our aspirations,” said General Electric CEO, Jeffrey Immelt.

GE has also said that they are bringing their headquarters to Boston because it serves in their best interest, due to the recent tax increases in Connecticut. In June, Governor Dannel Malloy announced an astronomical increase in taxes including a \$500 million surge in taxes on businesses and a 20% surcharge on income earned between 2012 and 2015.

The state of Massachusetts will give up to \$120 million in grants and other incentives and the city of Boston will provide property tax savings up to \$25 million. The funds however must be spent on public infrastructure, including site preparations, and building acquisition costs and road and building improvements according to General Electric.

GE is eligible for \$1 million in workforce training grants, and up to \$5 million to instill relations between the company, research firms, and universities. Governor Malloy released a statement after GE’s decision in which he said “Taken as a whole, there is no denying that Connecticut has had more good days than days like today.” However, since Malloy’s governorship began he has seen few good days.

General Electric recently leased a temporary headquarters at 33-41 Farnsworth St. in Boston. This will be the home to GE worldwide headquarters until the company finds a full time home. The company has set their projected official move in date for 2018.

The company has promised to bring 800 jobs to Boston along with a tremendous amount of tax revenue to the city.



General Electric CEO, Jeffrey Immelt

*2016’s Most Explosive Product*

By Nils Ericsson

Walking. The most painstakingly difficult task a person has to endure over the course of everyday. So how are people expected to have the time or energy to perform this simple human skill? Well worry no more people of Earth, the hoverboard is here.



Even though it’s no more than a motorized sideways skateboard and in no way does it hover, hoverboards have become one of the most explosive items on the market. Explosive in sales and in their ability to self-destruct into flames setting fire to homes and small children.

Earlier this week a family in the UK lost their home in a devastating fire caused by a hoverboard. Their thirteen year old boy had to drag his two younger siblings out of the flames and away from the diabolic death machine. The family later spoke out to the public, “It’s hard to believe [a toy] could do that much damage.”

In the US over 40 hoverboard fires had been recorded before January and the number is continuing to steadily rise.

The board’s lithium ion battery is thought to be the source of the recent fires. If the thin sheet of plastic separating the two sides of the battery is to rupture the highly flammable liquid would ignite. Companies responsible for creating hoverboards suggest users do not over charge the device. Simply keep a close eye on it until it appears fully charged and then immediately disconnect it from the charger.

If you’re interested in purchasing a ‘fireball on wheels’ you’ll need to know the style sacrifices you may need to make. The hoverboard is a handle-less version of its predecessor, the Segway, a non-explosive personal transporter. Without the handle, riders are more likely to fall off, leading the US Consumer Product Safety Commission to suggest all hoverboard riders wear full body armor such as helmets, elbow pads, shin pads, and gloves. The US CPSC has also recently suggested users ride with a fire extinguisher.

Recently the NFL’s Carolina Panthers banned the product in an attempt to avoid injuries to their players and locker room fires. There was something about the players racing down the halls on potential bombs that made the Panther’s management uneasy.

Several colleges including the University of New Hampshire have also banned the boards for similar reasons.

Planning on sending a hoverboard across the country as a gift? Or planning on taking it with you on your vacation? Think again, the US Postal Service and several passenger airlines have banned taking these wheeling bombs to the skies on board their planes. However no one will be stopping you if you’d like to hover on down to your vacation spot or wheel across the country on the latest and greatest personal transporter. Just remember to wear your protective gear and bring a fire extinguisher or two.

Now people of Earth must ask themselves a question. Is the risk of dying an explosive death or burning your home down worth avoiding expending energy on the long walk to the mailbox? Clearly the answer is yes. Go out and get yourself a hoverboard.

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*Free Speech or Offensive Language?*

By David Joshua Platon

Everyone is offended nowadays. Where is the line drawn between free speech and offensive material?

There are many shows on TV that utilize their first amendment right, and there are also many that really use their first amendment right. With so many sensitive viewers these days, what are people to do when it comes to bad language and other controversial material?

One solution is to simply censor the bad words, which already happens. But should there be certain things completely not allowed on television and other forms of media? Should people in general not be allowed to say certain things? This has happened before in history, and is starting to happen now all across the United States.

In one case, the University of New Hampshire has posted a “Bias Free Language Guide” on their website (which has since been removed), labeling certain words offensive for their lack of neutrality and/or “spicy” nature. The guide has good intentions, but some of the words that it deems “offensive” has had people, including me, scratching their head.

The following table shows some of the words included in the guide with their alternative representations:

Offensive Word:	Mothering/Fathering	Disabled Person	Homosexual	Obese/Over-weight	Poor	Caucasian
Replacement:	Parenting, Nurturing	Person who is wheel-chair-mobile	Gay, Lesbian, Same Gender Loving	People of size	Person who lacks advantages that others have	European-American Individuals

Let me just say that, first of all, these replacement phrases and words are a mouthful. Many of them I wouldn’t even consider offensive or needing replacement at all. In fact, it’s quite asinine.

Colleges and universities across America have bought into the theme of political correctness and “language guides” such as this are the result. It even went as far to say that the word “American” is offensive, as it suggests that the word “assumes the U.S. is the only country inside [the continents of North and South America].” That statement in itself is offensive, wouldn’t you say?

The language guide was taken down from the UNH website on July 30, 2015. It has been stressed by UNH president Mark Huddleston that the guide does not represent or reflect UNH policy, and “It is ironic that what was probably a well-meaning effort to be ‘sensitive’ proves offensive to many people, myself included.” UNH released a statement the same day saying:

“The associate vice president for community, equity and diversity removed the webpage this morning after a meeting with President Huddleston. The president fully supports efforts to encourage inclusivity and diversity on our campuses. He does not believe the guide was in any way helpful in achieving those goals. Speech guides or codes have no place at any American university.



UNH President Huddleston

“President Huddleston has ordered a review of UNH’s web posting policies in the weeks ahead. He was surprised and unhappy to learn that the university does not have practices that make clear which web pages include UNH policies and which pages include content that reflects the opinions of some members of our community.

“The university has more than 1 million web pages on its site; university administration was not aware of the ‘language guide’ until this week.”

UNH is only one example of the current zeitgeist of academia across the United States. Washington State University has also come under fire this past August for banning the use of words such as “illegal alien,” “male,” and “female” in college courses. In fact, students risk losing credit and failure of the semester for using such words.

In Professor Selena Lester Breikks’ Women and Popular Culture course, the syllabus clearly states that “Gross generalizations, stereotypes, and derogatory/oppressive language are not acceptable. Use of racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, classist, or generally offensive language in class or submission of such material will not be tolerated.” This includes the words, but is not limited to, “Tranny,” “Colored People,” “Male,” “Female,” “Illegal Alien,” “Illegals,” and “The Man.” Now, some of these words are banned for obvious reasons— but why “male” and “female?” How are those words offensive? How about the words “american,” “obese,” and “homosexual” from the UNH language guide? Those aren’t offensive words, so why do people want to keep them from being used? I have no idea.



What I do know, however, is that censorship is starting to get out of hand. Especially in these cases. Should this continue, words may suffer damnatio memoriae, Latin for the punishment, “condemnation of memory.” It literally means to be forgotten. Wiped from history, much like the Soviets did during the rule of Stalin.

Now obviously this isn’t the Soviet Union. But we should still be careful about how much is being censored in the media. The freedom of the press and the freedom of speech are valued highly in American society. Censorship— you never know how far something can go.



## Technology Hinders Teenage Lives

by Tori Swillum

In today’s society technology consumes the minds of people, handicapping them from social interactions. The main skills that humans should develop are people skills. Not everyone is good at talking to other people or interacting, some may have social disabilities. Technology is not helping these disabilities.

Over the summer I had tickets to a Red Sox game, my first red sox game. On my way to the game my friend and I stopped at Cumberland Farms to get some snacks and I went to the bathroom. I left my phone in the bathroom and I only realized it less than 5 minutes after. When I went back it was gone, checking the cameras they saw a women come out covering her face, at that moment I knew it was stolen.

I was really upset that someone thought it was okay to take my phone away from me and I realize now that it was a good thing that I didn’t have my phone with me. I was able to learn more about the game and I could focus on the game and the person I was with instead of posting snap chats.

A couple weeks after a group of sorority girls were caught taking selfies at a Diamondbacks game. This wasn’t just one selfie to keep the memory it was during the entire game. These girls went viral and were shamed by the MLB announcers.

I think that everyone needs to understand that they have so much more to offer the world then they give themselves credit for. This year at my dance studio we are doing a dance to a remix of “The Dog Days are Over”. The dance has two groups within it, the ‘reality’ group and the ‘technology’ group.

Throughout the dance the group of reality tries to teach the technology group how to be social. They also learn how much more enjoyable life is when your face isn’t shoved in your phone.

Most people that have access to technology would rather use technology then hang out with friends. Often the people who use technology more often feel more alone. I feel as though not a lot of people understand the negative effects of technology especially handheld and laptop devices.



## Dress Code: Violation of Free Speech?

by: Maddy Kennedy

The ban on certain types of dress in school and other public places is not always a violation to the right of free speech as written in the first amendment. In certain venues, it is sometimes necessary to mandate what is appropriate for that environment. For example, while at school, if a student is wearing a shirt that portrays violence, another student may feel threatened. Similarly, if a student or faculty member were to wear clothing glamorizing illegal drug use, that would be supporting breaking the law. It is necessary to maintain a certain level of professionalism in dress in a business or school environment.

The banning of certain types of clothing in school or certain public buildings is not a violation of free speech. A message on a shirt is not necessarily someone’s opinion, therefore banning someone from wearing that is not violating their free speech, it’s simply stating that the shirt or article of clothing they’re wearing is not appropriate for that particular setting. One type of clothing that may be banned are t-shirts with obscene slogans or language. Obscenity is a type of speech not protected by the first amendment. Other types of speech that are not covered by the first amendment include fighting words, child pornography, true threats, and the incitement to imminent lawless action. Putting a ban of types of clothing like these is not an inappropriate action to take.

In contrast, wearing hats, unless they have inappropriate slogans or sayings, is something that should not be banned. Hats are simply another article of clothing and should not be banned inside schools or other public buildings.

It should be up to the individual school district, employer, or government building to set the rules and expectations of what is appropriate dress in their facilities. Since the first amendment does not protect all manners of speech, clothing that depicts inappropriate messages or causes others to feel threatened should not be allowed in all venues. What people choose to wear in their private lives is their business and not for others to control, but schools and places of employment should have the right to set the rules for their environments.

## Kids These Days

By Nils Ericsson

Today’s youth sports come with too many trophies and too many awards. Praising success is in fact a valuable technique in the growth of a child. However, giving the kid who plays the best and wins the most the same trophy and praise as the kid who picks his nose in left field is totally absurd.



Praising and rewarded kids for minimal work sends them the wrong message. A Stanford Professor, Carol Dweck, found that children who are overly praised are more likely to quit at the first sign of difficulty. Children she tested even said they’d be more likely to cheat the next time around to prove they were worth the praise. So, by telling the kids who could use the most coaching that they are as good as everyone else they are lead to becoming a quitter and cheater.

Those in favor of handing trophies out left and right say that they give their child a sense of commitment and being a teammate. But what’s wrong with celebrating the season with a couple pizzas and sodas with their friends? That builds a better sense of being a teammate than gawking at there “thanks for signing up” trophy ever would.

Pro football player James Harrison is a strong advocate for eliminating unwarranted trophies. He posted on social media a photo of the participation trophies he would not let his 8 and 9 year old sons keep. Along with the photo was an explanation, saying that he wouldn’t let his feel the satisfaction of a trophy until they had done something to earn it. Harrison didn’t get handouts in his childhood, he worked to prove himself and look at him now.

People may still insist on loading their kids with trophies to boost their self-esteem. However a study was done showing that the population of incarcerated people have greater self-esteem than any population outside the slammer. I am not an inmate myself, but have never heard of trophies or even praise given to prisoners. Yet these people have a

higher self-esteem than the very kids many people want to load praise onto.

As a child athlete myself there was no better feeling than winning the championship trophy or the MVP award. It was a huge motivation to keep competing, but if everyone gets the same trophy and nobody really wins what is the motivation for those with natural talent. Top child athletes aren’t getting the praise they have earned while little Johnny Football who is running around with his helmet on backwards is getting a pat on the back and a “great job”.

But just as winning is motivation, losing is a learning point. Nobody will go through life without losing so why is it okay to teach kids there is no such thing as losing?

Parents need to realize a few tears shed after a big loss or and missing out on championship trophies is a necessity in a kid’s growth. These same parents would probably rather have that than a teenager who thinks he’s entitled to something because of his trophy display overflowing with participation awards. Or even worse the child who’s constantly rewarded and praised to finally hear that he isn’t as good as the others when he gets cut from his first high school team.

The world does not need any more babied kids. Let losers lose and winners win.

## Does Class Size Matter?

By Elise Renahan

America should strive to give its students the best possible education at any cost. One factor of education that has been debated over its importance time and time again is class size. Many people argue that smaller classes are not worth the increase in price, but students should really be able to have the opportunity to receive the benefits that small class sizes can have on their education.

Smaller class sizes result in more tailored attention to each student. With less students in each class, the student to teacher ratio is lowered, and students are able to receive the help that they need. Students in larger class sizes do not receive these benefits because there is simply not enough time in every class to get around to each student if there are upwards of 60 students in each class.

Another way that smaller class sizes affects the students is the reduction of disruptive behavior. With less people in each class comes less people that the teacher needs to focus on. Kids often like to hide behind other students in order to cause trouble and fool around, but when there are less students in a class the almost completely eliminates that opportunity, lowering the rates of distractions. With less distractions and more kids paying attention comes higher grades.

In a study done in Tennessee, the effects of class size were clearly shown when students from smaller class sizes outperformed students from larger class sizes. Project STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Ratio) was a test conducted for four straight years that involved more than 1,200 teachers and almost 12,000 students. Project STAR was so successful because teachers and students were randomly assigned to classes of different sizes, eliminating other factors that could alter the effects of the results.

The students coming from smaller class sizes had significantly higher rates of both academic achievement and test scores. The lasting benefits were shown when students who had been in small class sizes for one year retained an academic achievement advantage over peers in large classes for the following four years. Students who spent three years in small classes, were on average 5.4 months ahead of their peers.



## Can Videogames Be a Work of Art?

By Tyler Pelletier

Video games are a growing industry and the room for innovation and creativity is still so large in 2016. Despite how much work goes into creating a video game, some people doubt the artistic value of games that are being produced. Many would argue that videogames are an amazing platform to show creativity, bring ideas to life, and really show artistic talent.

Despite how artistic some believe games are, it’s truly difficult to measure it in any fathomable way. Games have the ability to have unlimited amounts of variety because anything can be true in the worlds they create.

However, the way a game is created is not the only thing that shapes the art that is a game. Sometimes the community of a certain game is what really pushes a game to its limits and breathes life into it after so many years.

This is extremely evident in Esports especially. Esports is a growing trend of taking competitive games and making a platform where high level players can perform against other professionals for money while also providing entertainment to millions of people.

This in itself shows how much of an art video games truly are. It’s a showcase of a video game that’s there solely for the entertainment of interested viewers. It’s comparable to a museum, a concert, a movie showing, or a dance performance.

“Video games use images, actions, and player participation to tell stories and engage their audiences. In the same way as film, animation, and performance, they can be considered a compelling and influential form of narrative art.” – Smithsonian American Art Museum



All of the inner workings of games and creativity contribute much to the artistic value of a game but the visuals of games are where the true art stands out. Graphics in games have evolved to a realistic level of visuals where characters can look and move just like a human can.

This advancement in graphics is amazing and shows how far art in games can really be taken. However, something just as beautiful has taken place in the gaming scene. Games that have primitive graphics like an 8 bit style can be just as artistic, creative, and innovative in 2016.

“Video games are meaningful – not just as sociological or economic or cultural evidence, but in their own right, as cultural expressions worthy of scholarly attention.” – Steven E. Jones, author of “The Meaning of Video Games”

Yacht Club, an indie game company, released one of the most popular games of 2015 called Shovel Knight, a game that completely supports the idea that lower resolution graphics can be of great artistic value.

To put this into perspective, a painting by Jackson Pollock can be considered to be just as artistic as a painting by Leonardo Da Vinci. Two different styles, one simple and one painstakingly detailed are both examples of sincere expression and style.

This artistic creativity and capacity for so many different styles and ideas to shine through in video games as much as it does in the other arts, really demonstrates the art that lies behind a games first impression.

A game is a work of art if you look past the initial stigma associated with it. There is so much that contributes to a game’s artistic value, like its visuals, its community, the growth and life of the game and its entertainment value.





Say Yes to the Dress

By Ashley Cooper

Stress, hours to days of contemplation, and finally the decision. These are all parts of the process when picking out the perfect prom dress.

Although Timberlane’s prom is months away, most of the senior girls have started the search for their dress now. Following tradition, the Facebook prom page called “Prom 2016” was created and multiple girls have already posted pictures of the dress they purchased. The page’s purpose is to let everyone else know the dress they bought and to make sure that nobody else gets the same one.

The most popular store for buying these prom dresses has been The Ultimate in Peabody, MA. This spacious area is basically set up like a warehouse. Each long rack is assorted by size and it’s up to the customer to look through them and find what they’re looking for.

The Ultimate carries dresses from a variety of different designers. These include Sherri Hill, B-Dazzle, Jovani, Tiffany Designs, and so many more.

Many describe the experience there as overwhelming, but each person who’s gone there has been able to leave with the perfect prom dress for them.

When Kendall Broadhurst was asked about her experience at The Ultimate, she responded, “There were so many different styles of dresses to choose from. All of the dresses I tried on were really expensive and I couldn’t believe how much money I was about to spend. It’s crazy that girls will spend so much for one event”.

Another popular boutique of choice is “Derailed” in Newton, NH. Although this shop doesn’t have the designer variety that “The Ultimate” does, some say it’s a better experience due to how it’s a lot less overwhelming.

Meghan McGonagle, a senior, said great things about the boutique. When I asked her of the experience overall, she answered, “The woman who works there is really nice and definitely knows what she’s talking about when it comes to fit and styles.”

With the days to prom getting smaller and smaller, the girls feel pressured to find the assurance they need with their dream dress.

Many girls go crazy over ensuring they find their prom dress; and quickly so that nobody gets it before them. However, boys have a completely different view on this prom dress fiasco.

When I asked Nicholas Michaud, another Timberlane senior, on his thoughts about how early girls get their prom dresses, he replied, “It’s different for boys. We don’t really feel rushed to find a tux early we just kind of get one when we need to”.

If only it was as easy for girls to get a dress as it is for boys to get a tux!

Prom is a special occasion and to many, things must go perfectly. The first step starts with purchasing the dress and having only three months to do so, that’s exactly what all these girls are doing. Hopefully this year’s prom turns out as fabulous as all the dresses!



Prom, Prom, Prom

By: Ashley Martin

It’s that time of year again, ladies! Just after the New Year, towards the end of January senior girls prepare for their favorite season, prom season! For months all girls have done is screenshot and save dresses from Pinterest, Facebook and big websites like Promgirl.

This year prom is on May 20th and will be at the Atkinson Country club, just like every year. The whole senior class is invited to this event and a few underclassmen brought as dates. Although some think prom is overrated and not worth the money, the majority of the school enjoys watching and taking part of the prom hustle. Anyone can be involved even if they aren’t attending the dance, you can help someone get ready, take pictures with friends, or go to the prom walk.

But now it is the time you go out and start trying on dresses to figure out what really flatter you the most.. Finding the perfect prom dress is a very long and self-doubting process. Once the big decision is made, the anonymous Facebook page is made. It’s an exclusive page that your class made to post pictures of prom dresses. The purpose is to avoid awkward twining on the big day, but mostly to show off how beautiful your dress is.



Timberlane senior Tori Swillum mentions “Prom is an exciting time of year for me, I have already gotten my dress so that is one thing that’s off my shoulders. I think every girl waits their four years of high school dreaming of what they will look like at prom.”

The Facebook page is made to relieve people from drama but believe it or not the only thing that comes out of it is drama. During math class when you’re “using the calculator” really means googling cute ideas for your prom hair, nails, and pretty much anything else prom related

Pre prom jitters are normal but here are six quick Do’s and Dont’s passed down from those who have been there done that.

- 1. DO: GLAM IT UP. Prom is the one night other than your wedding night to look absolutely amazing. Your make up should be on point, your dress should be stunning, and above all you should look flawless. Be confident in your look!
- 2. DO: Buy your dress WAY in advance. Buying your dress in advance is the best thing you can do. You will totally have enough time for any alterations, changing your mind and you’ll know for sure NO ONE will have your dress.
- 3. DO: Take a TON of pictures. Prom is hopefully one night you will never forget, so hey why not take a bunch of pictures because you know you’re camera ready! You really want to make sure you memories of prom last forever.
- 4. DONT: Dont over do it. Keep the makeup and hair to a minimum glam, you don’t want to be too crazy. You want to look classy, so stick to one or two trends that really work for you, and don’t go overboard.
- 5. DONT: Dont try anything new the day before prom. This includes tanning, facials, haircuts or colors, anything that is permanent or could cause a reaction on your skin. Do a trial run at least a couple days before prom in case something goes wrong or you don’t like the way anything turns out.
- 6. DONT: Dont stress out! Just remember, prom is supposed to be fun! Don’t freak about your date, your dress, or your plans. Just make sure you get everything in advance in order to ensure it’s a great night!

Will You Go to Prom With Me?

Promposal Advice and Ideas

By Kendall Broadhurst

Holding up signs with the letters P R O M at his/her sporting event, a pizza with pepperoni spelling “Prom?”, cars painted in the school parking lot with the four letters you already know, Flower petals and candles spread out on the floor, arranging letters in your alphabet soup, footprints spelling out the letters in the snow, a poem, a locker full of balloons, a reference to your favorite book or TV show-the possibilities are endless, but the same question remains: will you go to prom with me?

The rise of the Promposal has put a lot of pressure on the nerve wracking question, as if it wasn’t already enough. A Lot of expectations have been put on promposals; in fact a new survey shows that the average cost of a promposal has topped out at \$324! Fortunately, not all promposals have to be extravagant to get the answer you’ve been hoping for: yes!

Let’s take a look at the good, the bad, and the cheesiest of all!

Food

If you’re lost and confused at where to start, using food is always a great idea. It’s easy to create quirky phrases without putting a hole in your wallet. Plus who doesn’t love food? A way to a man’s heart is through his stomach, and now the way to “Yes”, is through the stomach too!



Of all the promposals there’s the good, the bad and the cheesiest. This one may be the cheesiest of all. Try buying a box of pizza with the phrase, “I know this is CHEESY, but will you go to prom with me?” If that special someone loves pizza, there’s no way they’ll say no.



Another fun promposal idea is a box of cannoli’s saying, “I cannoli ask one person so... prom?” Maybe your aspiring prom date has a favorite food, don’t be scared to get creative! Even if the phrase is a little stretched, it’s the thought that counts-and the food of course. BTW- if the person says no, you can keep the food, so it’s a win either way!

Music

Maybe food is not your forte, but music is! Try using song lyrics to their favorite song, or put a cool twist on an album. This promposal is totally killing it, using Drake’s album If You’re Reading This It’s Too Late, and adding “You’re Going to Prom with Me”.



Books

For all the bookworms out there, your promposal just got easier! Try using a phrase from their favorite book. If your lucky promposal candidate loves The Fault In Our Stars by John Green, put a twist on the Famous phrase by switching out the words okay with prom! It doesn’t get much cuter than *this!*



Sports

If the person you’re asking plays a sport, try to incorporate it into a promposal. Making a sign that says “Let’s cause a racquet at prom” accompanied by tennis balls spelling out the word “yes?” is a creative idea.

Maybe you’re asking someone who plays football or loves the sport. An easy idea is to add stickers to a football saying, “Wanna tackle prom with me?” This is also a good option because there’s not a lot of setting up to do, and a football is small and portable.



There are so many creative ideas, if you’re still lost try searching the web. There are so many great promposal out there! You can always go your own route as well, and think of a unique individual way of asking. When choosing a promposal, pick something the both of you love. Now it’s your time to start planning, remember to be yourself and have fun! Hopefully these ideas will help you with the words, “will you go to prom with me?”





## A Furry Tradition

By Joe Margareci and Sean Crowley

When some people hear the word “groundhog” they think of a furry mammal that lives in a hole, when really a groundhog is a prognosticating fortune teller. Punxsutawney Phil is the famous groundhog who is able to tell when spring will arrive, either there will be 6 more weeks of winter or an early spring. He is viewed as one of the most iconic figures of February.

It all began in Morgantown, Pennsylvania when a diary entry was found from February 4, 1841. The diary entry was about the events that occurred the day before on Candle-mas day. A day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate. This diary entry is now known as the first known reference to Groundhog Day in America.

Modern customs of the holiday consist of people gathering in early morning celebrations to watch the groundhog come out of his hole. The groundhog isn’t just any groundhog though, it is an old groundhog from 1886, fans of the celebration say, named Punxsutawney Phil. Phil was named after the town in which he lives, Punx-sutawney, Pennsylvania. He is taken care of by a select group called, The Inner Circle. Mem-bers of The Inner Circle can be spotted wearing tuxedos and top hats while they tend to Phil year round.



Although some skeptics say Phil is changed out with a new groundhog every few years, members of The Inner Circle and fans of Phil will tell you that any groundhog besides Phil is an imposter. This makes Phil an unbelievably ancient groundhog at 127 years old. The tale of Phil says that ev-ery year he takes a magical elixir before hibernating which allows him to live forever.

Unlike most groundhogs, Phil is much larger in size. The average groundhog weighs about 12-15 pounds, while Phil weighs 20. Some say he weighs so much because of all that sleeping he does, when really it’s because he never stops eating. Bill Deeley, one of Phil’s handlers for over 16 years says, “He’s like an eating machine from April till September 15<sup>th</sup>.”

Even though Phil spends most of his days eating, sleeping, and hanging out with his wife Phillis, when February 2nd comes along Phil will be ready. Not everyone will agree with Phil’s prediction, but his friends in The Inner Circle state that Phil has been spot on with his prognostications for years.

## Old Dog Learns New Tricks

By Joe Margareci

With a vertical drop of 1000 feet, 2 triple chairlifts, only 8 trails, and a single 2 story ski lodge, The Balsams Ski Resort in Dixville Notch was overlooked by many. Even though the resort was home to the Balsams Grand Resort, a large vacation complex that could hold 400 guests, the entire resort was forced to close in 2011 after just over 116 years.

It all started in 1895, when long time Dix House guest Henry Hale purchased the house and its property and renamed it The Balsams. Over the next few decades, the resort grew into a sizable resort and had a capacity of 400 guests by 1918.

Later in 1954, latex balloon inventor Neil Tillotson of Tillotson Rubber Company became part owner of the Bal-sams. He then helped out by holding voting poles at the resort, which made the Balsams in Dixville Notch nation-ally known.

Although the Balsams were known as a summer vacation resort, its winter potential remained untouched heading into the 1960s. Opening on December 26, 1966, the Balsams ski resort featured a 3,210 foot double chairlift and a 750 foot T-Bar rope pull. The mountain consisted of 8 trails and a vertical drop of 1,000 feet.

In March of 2011, the Tillotson Corporation announced that it would be selling the Balsams to Ocean Properties Ltd. Hotels and Resorts. Sadly, due to issues with subdivisions, renovations, and landfills relating to the former Tillotson rubber factory, the resort closed in September of 2011.

As time goes on the Balsams continue to sit still, but due to new ownership and revolutionary technology, the Balsams have just begun a \$143 million Phase 1 out of 2 reopening project. This project will make the old and for-gotten vacation hot spot the largest ski resort in New Hampshire, along with pushing aside almost all competition in New England.

The expansion is made up of 4 separate parts, and 2 phases. The first phase consist of Cascade Basin Expansion, and East Peak Expansion, and the second phase consist of The South Village Expansion, Dixville Peak Expansion. Phase one will begin in 2016, and will be done by 2017, but phase two will start once the South Village Expansion is passed. The projects will add an additional 2,000 acres of skiable area to the resort, and a 500 acre Balsam Glade in Hodge Valley. This will all be placed in the 3,800 acres of land the Balsams now own.

The Cascade Basin Expansion would include 3 lifts and 2 lodges. The first Lodge will be placed at 2,350 feet in elevation. This mid Mountain Lodge would be placed in the upper terminals of the village and connect to a gondola, the lower Cascade Basin chairlift, and the bottom terminal of the upper Cascade Basin chairlift. The second lodge would be placed in the bottom terminal and connect to all three of the lifts as well.

The East Peak project will include a 1,400 vertical feet chairlift that will take skis and snowboarders to The East Peak. From there, skiers and snowboarders will be able to ski down 4 different trails. At the end of this expansion an additional 2,000 vertical feet of skiable trials will be added to the already growing mountain.

Phase 2 of the Balsams expansion will start with the Dixville Peak Expansion. It is not yet know when phase 2 will start, but when it does it will begin with adding a 3,300 vertical feet chairlift taking skiers and snowboarders from the already existing base to the newest peak. At the top, skiers and snowboarders will be able to take in the wonderful views that the peak has to offer, and ski some 1,500 vertical feet of new trails leading to the existing base.

With the Balsams ski resort expansion already underway, be sure to check out what opens up first and be the first skiers or snowboarders to try it out. Once the expansion is complete, the old forgotten resort will be transformed into a world class resort.

## Fun Winter Things to Do in North Con-way

By Meghan Tarr

Are you looking for something fun to do this winter? If yes, then keep reading! North Conway is a great vacation spot and it’s not too expensive. You are bound to have some fun, there are many attractions and places to see.



There are many things to do such as taking The Conway Railroad down-town, this is a very scenic route. It is very relaxing and it is nice bonding time with your family and friends. It is a nice little trip that is enjoyable. There are also so many stores in the North Conway Outlets. You’ll be bound to get some nice deals. Shop-ping always passes time and it’s a fun thing to do when up north. There’s so many stores that you could shop all weekend!

There are a lot of stores down town also. My family’s favorite downtown shop is Zeb’s it’s a candy shop and it has so much candy it’s amazing. If you love candy, this will be perfect for you!

There are many restaurants in North Conway too. Whatever you desire you will be able to go. My family’s favorite restaurant in North Conway is called ‘Horsefeathers’. The food and atmosphere is awesome. It’s a really happening place during the winter and the summer. It is in the center of North Conway. Another cool restaurant in North Conway is called ‘Vito Marcello’s Italian Bistro’. This is a very Italian yummy restaurant and it has a lot of food to choose from, their sauce is the best! My family stays in The “Great Eastern Slopes Inn” all the time so it is convenient for us to go to that restaurant across the street. There are so many hotels and motels in North Conway, some even have water slides like the Red Jacket Hotel and the Hamp-ton Inn. Another really fun hotel to go to with your family and friends is the ‘Adven-ture Suites.’ This is a themed hotel for all ages. You can choose what theme you want whether if it’s little kid or romantic. These are awesome hotels and they are a whole lot of fun.

As far as Ski Mountains in North Conway, they are awesome too. Cranmore is in the center of North Conway and the slopes are great. They also have snow tubing at Mount Cranmore in case someone doesn’t want to ski. Tubing is a lot of fun too. I recommend going to Cranmore Mountain, it’s an awesome place to be. Other mountains near North Conway are Attitash and Wildcat Mountains, these mountains are really good also. They are 15 minutes outside of North Conway. There’s so much to do on these mountains you can cross country ski, snowshoe, ski, and tube! North Conway is lots of fun! Personally my favorite part about it is the winter time be-cause there is so much to do! It’s a great getaway vacation. I recommend going as long as you like shopping and the outdoors. Book your trip now :)



## February Vacation in New England

By Jon Dolan

Are you staying in New Hampshire for your school vacation and have nothing planned? Well New Hampshire is actually one of the best places to be at this time of year. The most popular outdoor activity is skiing and snowboarding in the White Mountains. There are also other great activities such as Ice skating, Bowling, Rock Climbing, etc.

If skiing caught your attention then you should look into going to Cannon Mountain. Cannon Mountain Ski Area is located in Franconia. Cannon has 10 lifts and it costs \$62 for students to go for a full day and \$49 for half a day. And if it’s your first time skiing and you are interested in lessons they also have those for \$39 a day with



rentals included in that cost so if you aren’t sure if you are going to enjoy it this is a great way to find out. But sched-ule in advance because spots for these lessons are limited.

If skiing isn’t for you, you could try ice skating if you hav-en’t already. Next you have to decide if you want to skate on a pond or a lake or pay to go to an ice skating rink. Some places you could look to go ice skating are the Salem Ice center where you can ice skate for \$6. And if you don’t have your own pair of skates you can rent some for another \$6. You could also go to Exeter rinks which charges \$6 to get in and \$4 for skate rentals. This would be more enjoyable if you got a group of people together and all went ice skating.

If outdoor activities aren’t for you there are tons of options. One option is Sky zone in Manchester. For \$22 you will get to spend an hour and a half in the indoor trampoline park and will get a pair of socks to use while there and then to reuse in the future if you decide to go back. This is a great activity to do with a group of friends because there is games of dodge ball

going on that are great for groups and even individuals to join.

Another possible indoor activity is to go indoor rock climbing. This can be done at Rock Spot Climbing in Boston. It will cost \$16 for a day pass and if you need to rent gear it will be \$25. This is a great option to go and try something new.

Also going bowling would be a great way to go and spend a day. A good local place to go is Park Place Bowling lanes in Windham. This is a great place to go and spend the day, they have arcade games and even food.

If you’re looking for more of a laid back day you could go to Taza Chocolates and take a tour to see how they make their chocolate. This is located in Boston and costs \$6 for the tour. With \$1 of every admission going to The Museum of Science to help with educational outreach. While on this tour you will learn how they make their chocolate and even get to try samples of the chocolate throughout the process. This is a great way to spend a day because you get to try chocolate and see that your money is going to help with education in Boston.

## The Appalachian Trail

By Liam Kimball

Every year thousands set out on the four month journey that is hiking the Appalachian Trail. Only about one in every four of these hikers will actually complete the 2,200 mile hike in a single season. The Appalachian Trail conservancy claims the trail is the longest hiking-only trail in the world making it famous nationally and putting itself on many peo-ple’s bucket lists. The memories and experiences gained by those who make the 5 to 7 month hike are ones that last a lifetime. Despite the fun of trip there are many dangers to be wary of while on the trail such as nature, people, and traps.

The complete 2,200 mile trail extends from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine along to Appalachian Mountain range along the eastern coast of the United States. The trail has five different sections. Each bring different challenges in weather, terrain, wildlife, and people that the hikers needs to be aware off. Some hikers have reported booby traps set up along the trail, suspected to be set by locals who don’t take kindly to hikers passing through their woods.

In efforts to preserve the trail, the government seized land which, naturally, upset some locals. Bad situations with locals are more commonly heard in the southern portions of the trail in areas such as Tennessee and Virginia. A common trap set is fish hooks hanging from trees right at eye level. Traps like these add an extra challenge for hikers out on the trail. The locals in the southern portion of the trail in populated areas are known for having troubles with traps that have included physical assaults and even deaths.

On September 8th, 1990 a couple (Molly LaRue, 25, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and her boyfriend, Geoffrey Hood, 26, of Signal Mountain, Tenn) hiking the trail became victims of one of the most horrifying stories of the AT. Hood was shot in the head, the back and the side with a .22 caliber revolver. LaRue was bound, raped and stabbed eight times in the neck and upper back. She had also been tortured: A boot mark was found on her left elbow, and a nylon rope had been strung around her neck.

This was among the scariest of horrors stories of the trail and to this day strikes fear into the heart of many hikers. Any hikers can get caught in the presence of the wrong person at the wrong time. Hikers have to take caution of the powers of nature but it has become just as necessary to take caution of other hikers on the trail.

To generate a more enjoyable and reasonable experience on the trail, along the way there are many shelters set up to provide cover from the elements during the dark hours of the night.

Many hikers also will take trips into towns they are passing close to the trail. These towns provide hikers the opportunity hikers to clean themselves and resupply on food and water. Many also use this time to contact home or send postcards home to their friends.

Local Timberlane High School literature teacher, Brian Deveney, has experience on the AT. He through hiked the entire AT northbound after graduating college in 1998. It is highly recommended that nobody hikes the trail alone so Mr. Deveney set out on the months long journey with two friends from high school, Chad and Nathan.

By studying the trail, Nathan was able to estimate where they would be at certain dates to plan care packag-es at post offices along the way. This ensured that they would be properly supplied throughout most of their journey.

Mr. Deveney gained strong memories from the trail because it was the adventure of a lifetime. “The people were my favorite part. Meeting the people and being involved in the trail community was the best part of it in all. It was such a kind and welcoming community be-cause everyone was just out there doing the same thing and it was great talking to and meeting so many new people. Not many people in the world get to share the experience of through hiking the AT so it’s not hard to believe everyone gets along so well out there. The trip is almost about a three month stretch of living in the woods away from civiliza-tion so any conversation is good conversation.”

While Mr. Deveney was on the trail he experienced some scares of his own because a fugitive was on the run on the AT during Mr. Deveney’s time on the AT. Fugitive Eric Rudolph was being hunted by the FBI for domestic bombings. Mr. Deveney’s recalls the hunt during his time on the trail. “While I was out on the trail in 1998, there was a fugitive on the trail as well. I never encountered the fugitive but I remember talking to FBI agents while out on the trail and always seeing agents searching along the trail.”

Kassandra Rice hiked the trial in 2014 and sums up the feelings of many AT hikers: “I’m more able to appreciate the very moment I’m in, for whatever it’s worth without expec-tation or impatience. Also I appreciate silence so much more, and actively enjoy it at times.”





## More for the Wizarding World

By Shyanne Silva and Sarah Fowler

After 5 years of silence, the wizarding world is back. With a prequel and a new installment of Harry Potter’s life, it seems like everyone is buzzing with excitement.

If you haven’t heard about the new prequel, “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” by J.K Rowling, it’s time to come out of that rock you’re living under.

On November 4th, 2015, Entertainment Weekly provided many pictures from the upcoming movie that will premiere November 18th, 2016. It was just a taste of what’s to come.

The new spin-off takes place in 1920’s New York where the protagonist, Newt Scamander, embeds himself in the city’s secret community of witches and wizards. His work is frequently used in the Harry Potter series seeming as he wrote the book “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” that all Hogwarts students are required to have available to them.

Eddie Redmayne, mostly known for his role as Marius in Les Miserables, stars as Newt and is supported by Katherine Waterston, Collin Farrel, and Allison Sudol.

Most Potterhead’s can’t contain themselves for the new bonus story that took place 70 years before Harry stepped foot in Hogwarts. It gives them an insight of the world they lived in through either book or movie.



After all the years, the hype is still strong for the Harry Potter fandom and the support Rowling is receiving for her new work is outstanding. Not only is this prequel getting added to the Harry Potter collection, but fans get to see how Harry is doing with being a father, a husband, and an overworked employee at the ministry of magic.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is the eighth story of the Harry Potter series. This story is coming to life, July 30th, 2016 at the Palace Theatre in London, as the first time Harry, Ron and Hermione step onto the stages spotlight and bring you back to the wizarding world once again.

This play follows families Hermione and Ron Weasley and Harry and Ginny Potter, 5 years later dealing with their own personal highs and lows but knowing their power of love and family is an unbreakable force.

“It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn’t much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband and father of three school-age children.

While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places.” - Pottermore

The cast for this play is different than the original movie cast as Jamie Parker, Noma Dumezweni and Paul Thornley will lead the amazing trio as Harry, Hermione and Ron.

There has been a lot of criticism and controversy for the African American actress portraying Hermione Granger since Dumezweni is black and Emma Watson (who played Granger in the films) is white, the distinction has caused an outrage on the Internet.



“Not saying it’s bad, but why is Hermione black?” — Jonathan Moreno  
“Wait. Black Hermione? Are you kidding? Makes no sense.” — Olao  
“This isn’t a race issue, it’s a continuity issue. Hermione can’t just change race, it doesn’t seem right! Not happy.” — Antonia  
Author J.K. Rowling came out in defense of Dumezweni’s casting, noting that she never specified the character’s ethnicity in the books. Hermione in the books was described as “brown eyes, frizzy hair and very clever.”

Rowling loves the actress chosen to play Hermione, as she tweeted “Canon: brown eyes, frizzy hair and very clever. White skin was never specified. Rowling loves black Hermione.”

”No matter who acts in the play, Harry Potter And The Cursed Child is a play that should be seen by all and high hopes that this amazing performance will make its way to us, across the pond and as JK Rowling said “Whether you come back by page or by the big screen, Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home.”

## Golden Globes 2016: Highlights

By Cassie Monteiro

The 2016 Golden Globes kicked off on January 10th, 2016. The 73rd Golden Globes were hosted by Ricky Gervais, the British actor who was hosting for the first time in four years. The first thing he said was “Shut up, you disgusting pill-popping sexual-deviant scum. I want to go to do this monologue and go into hiding, okay?” So you could say the award show definitely started off in a very “different” way. Things just got crazier and crazier from there as celebrities mingled, and drank the night away.

There are many controversies on whether or not some of the jokes Gervais said that night went too far. In one joke he mentions Caitlyn Jenner saying, “I’ve changed,” he promised. “Not as much as Bruce Jenner, now Caitlyn Jenner, of course,” he talks about Bruce Jenner’s change into Caitlyn then saying “She didn’t do a lot for women drivers, though.” This joke refers to the accident Caitlyn got into in February. He then went on to take jabs at Jennifer Lawrence. “How the hell can a 25-year-old live on \$52 million?” he said referring to her speaking out about pay inequality. Clearly Ricky Gervais had a lot to say about many celebrities that night.



On to the awards which was the main reason for this celebrity get together. There were many big awards given out that night such as Best Actor, Drama which was awarded to Leonardo DiCaprio for his role in the movie *The Revenant*, while his *Titanic* cast mate Kate Winslet won the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role for *Steve Jobs*.

In her acceptance speech Kate mentions how the past few years have been a great time for women in films. She reflects on her past roles and past cast mates. She even mentions Leo and thanks him for being amazing, DiCaprio blows her a kiss and this touches the hearts of many *Titanic* fans worldwide.

The show continued with even more amazing words to give out. It was very interesting how online shows are taking the world by storm and are now being included in awards shows. Amazon’s *Mozart in the Jungle* took people by surprise when it won Best Television Series Musical or Comedy. The internet really is taking over the world!



## Grease Live: This Play is Greased Lightning

By Cassie Monteiro

Grease Live was a live musical that premiered on Fox, Sunday January 31st. It was a recreation of the classic 70’s hit Grease. Grease was first a musical in 1971, and was turned into the classic movie starring Olivia Newton John and John Travolta in 1978. Grease Live reintroduced the memorable moments, and music from this love story that will never get old.

The live musical starred Julianne Hough as Sandy, the new girl at Rydell High, who ends up falling in love with Danny Zuko, the bad boy who was played by Aaron Tveit. These two both have experience with musicals and plays, and their experience really shined through with this performance. Their singing was really good, especially for being live. Hough and Tveit definitely had a great connection which also showed throughout their performances.

Their co-stars were also amazing in their roles. Some of the pink ladies included Keke Palmer as the sassy Marty and Vanessa Hudgens who played bad girl Rizzo. Kenickie who is Danny’s tough best friend was played by Carlos PenaVega. Rizzo and Kenickie also end up falling in love and Vanessa and Carlos also had a great chemistry. Vanessa’s dad passed away a few hours before her performance, and even though this traumatic event took place she still performed well and I have a lot of respect for her as an actress.

Though they did leave out some scenes and added a few weird parts, most of it was genuine and true to the original. They added some solo’s for Marty and Frenchy that were not in the original and though both Keke Palmer and Carly Rae Jepsen sang well, I thought the addition of these parts were unnecessary. The scene that was a total miss was the race at Thunder Road. It looked so fake, but I can see why since it was a live stage musical there’s not really a way to do a car race.

Grease Live was produced by Paramount Television. Marc Platt executive produced, along with Thomas Kail as the director of stage direction and Alex Rudzinski as the live television director. The writers were Robert Cary and Jonathan Tolins, who formerly wrote for Broadway.

Though I believe that it is nearly impossible to recreate the iconic Grease movie, Grease Live was a great attempt. There will probably never be a remake that will be as good as the movie was, but I give props to the cast and crew of Grease Live for modernizing this classic love story.



## Is the New Star Wars Too Much Like the Old?

By John McGrath



Warning this review may contain spoilers,

It is two months after the release of J.J. Abrams Star Wars the Force Awakens and it quickly became one of the most popular openings in cinema history. It took a measly 12 days for it to break the record of reaching billion dollar status, and that becoming the highest growing Star Wars film ever. The Force Awakens has received many high ratings from fans and critics, but the one universal complaints has been the actually journey throughout the film. People argue that the film follows almost the same path as the original Star Wars A New Hope. This (being the main complaint) restricted it from a higher rating.

My main rebuttal against these claims is the “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” approach. The original Star Wars set records of its own for its time. It surpassed Jaws as the highest-earning film in 6 months of its release. Obviously the film achieved great success, and everyone fell in the love with being a nerd and watching men in tights soar through the galaxy fighting bad guys with lightsabers. A New Hope was intriguing at the time because it took a different approach from so many different films.

Star Wars the Force Awakens does follow the same path as the original, but it does it to perfection. J.J. Abram did not recreate the Star Wars universe in a lazy way, as you may think if he “copied” the originals. For example, there is an abandoned force sensitive person on a desert planet that goes on a journey to save the galaxy and discover their past. It is a genius plot that Star Wars attacks so well, it leaves you on the edge of your seat and wanting more when the credits roll. There’s so much awesome nostalgia in this film, from Han and Chewie reclaiming the Millennium Falcon, to returning to the rebel base and seeing Princess Leia. Humor is incredible

especially in the return to another “Cantina”, with humorous creatures and a band playing strange music.

The movie recreates things so well adding new story elements and characters. The film’s path may relate to the originals but it does it in it’s own original way. With this being the main complaint on the film, I believe that the amazing score it has already has should be even higher. J.J. Abrams had a tough task of creating a compelling story while keeping the Star Wars fans happy and not let down. He took the safe approach and it paid off well. In my eyes, the film is a perfect score of 10/10 and I highly recommend the film.

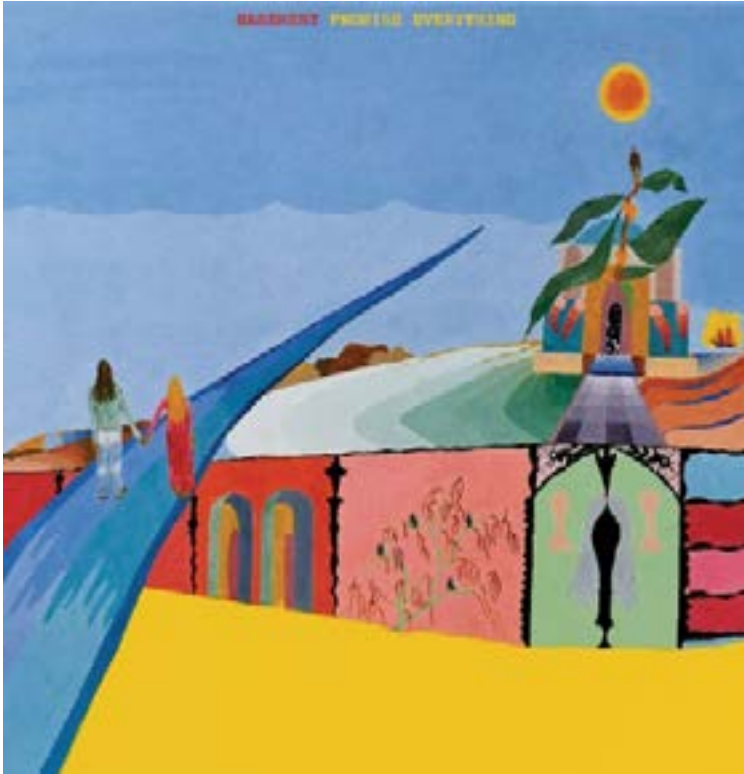
## Super Rad Bands: Basement

By Kaitlin Drislane

Basement is a five piece pop punk / melodic hardcore band from Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom. The band formed in 2009. Their first album is just a demo with four songs on it. They released two more albums in 2010 and one more in 2011 which were not very popular albums. Their next album, Colourmeinkindness, was released in 2012, and is their biggest album that has been released. This band got more popular in 2012 when this album was released. Many of these first albums have been compared sounding like Title Fight, Balance and Composure, and Tigers Jaw. All of these bands are from the same record company, Run For Cover Records. The record label released a free CD with a song from each of their bands and gave them away at Warped Tour in 2012. Basement’s song that was featured on this album was Covenant.

In 2012, the band broke up. They played their last show November 17th, 2012. The reason why the band broke up was because the main guitarist was going to move to the United States to work for Run For Cover Records. Everyone was furious and sad that the band was breaking up. A few people even got tattoos dedicated to the band and their break up. On January 29th, 2014, the band tweeted “Hi” on their old Twitter account that had not been used since the band broke up. Later on, they announced that they would be going on a summer tour together. Basement also released a really short album called Further Sky, which only has three songs. This is when the band’s sound started to change a lot.

Late in 2015, Basement released a few songs from their album, Promise Everything, that was released January 29th, 2016. The band started to work on the album in late 2014. Something interesting about this album is that all of the band members recorded these songs in different places. Since one member lives in the United States, and the rest in the United Kingdom, the band had to mesh songs together. The album sounds surprisingly cohesive given the circumstances. The first three songs released on the album were Aquasun, Oversized, and Promise Everything. The most popular of those songs is Oversized. All of these song’s on the album are honestly awesome and are super catchy. They are all very different from each other and sound unique compared to one another. I would recommend that everyone listens to this album. Even if you aren’t into this type of music, give it a shot!









## Rebuilding the O-Line

By: John McGrath

The Patriots were just recently eliminated from the 2016 Post-Season in a depressing fashion. New England fans across the nation were devastated by the outcome. A main cause for the Patriots not returning to the grandest stage of them all is the terrible offensive line play. Former offensive line star for the Patriots Matt Light, commented on the AFC Championship game “It was tough, tough for everybody to watch”

If you want to win championships you need tough men up front, that not just know what they are doing but put the the effort in to make holes and protect your quarterback. A stat was released about the recent AFC championship game regarding Tom Brady and the amount of hits he sustained. The most times Brady has ever got knocked down in a game was 12, in the last game he was hit 23 times. That is an incredible amount of times to be drilled by an All-star pass rush in Demarcus Ware and Von Miller. Yet they still managed to get within 2 points and overtime would have been possible if Stephen Gostkowski didn’t miss a PAT. This shows you if they had a healthy and well managed offensive line the Patriots could be even better than their already dominant selves.



The New England off-season is already here and have already made changes to the coaching staff. Dave DeGuglielmo (offensive line coach) and Harold Nash (Strength and Conditioning Coach) were just recently released by the organization. It is tough to put all the blame on the coaching because of the talent they are given but something had to be changed. Injuries plagued the Patriots 2015 season on both sides of the ball. On the line names such as Sebastian Vollmer, Josh Kline, Tre Jackson, and even Bryan Stork were just some of the injuries. This made it extremely difficult to put a talented offensive line in front of Tom Brady. New England are not big buyers in free agency but they might want to rethink their strategy. On the market there are a plethora of young talented lineman, and the main one being left tackle Russell Okung. Okung will be testing free agency alone with no agent, this is highly uncommon. If the Patriots can get one of these lineman locked into a deal it would help tremendously. With their first round pick taken away they are almost forced to take this approach.

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## Brady vs. Manning: The Final Chapter

By Brian Mickalay

In the mile high city of Denvver Colorado, a game to decide the fates of future legendary quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Tom Brady took place. It decided who was going to Superbowl 50. On Sunday January 24th, at 3:05 p.m., the Denver Broncos kicked off against the New England Patriots in the American Football Conference (AFC) Championship game. This game was also known as “Brady vs. Manning: Chapter 17”. Both are certainly going to be first-ballot Hall of Famers in Canton, Ohio after they retire from the NFL. Most predictions of the outcome of the game were the Patriots and quarterback Tom Brady beating the Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos.

The Patriots are famous for winning coin tosses and when they do, they almost always elect to receive the football in the second half. That did not occur this time. The Patriots elected to receive the football in the first half instead of deferring. Nobody knows why Belichick decided to do this. In the two other times the Patriots have done this, the Patriots lost in overtime and lost after Brady tore his ACL. This trend of losing sadly continued this Sunday as the Patriots elected to receive in the first half.

The Denver Broncos came out firing in the first quarter, scoring on their first drive as Peyton Manning threw a 21 yard touchdown to tight end Owen Daniels. Then the Patriots scored on their third offensive drive as veteran running back Steven Jackson plowed his way into the endzone for a one yard touchdown run. Then Gostkowski missed the extra point making the score 7 to 6 Denver after the first quarter ended. He hadn’t missed an extra point since his rookie season in 2006.



The Denver Broncos dominated quarter two of the AFC championship game. Quarterback Peyton Manning threw a second touchdown to the corner of the endzone to tight end Owen Daniels . The score was fourteen to six and then Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski kicked a forty six yard field goal to make the score fourteen to nine. The next drive, Broncos kicker Brandon McManus kicked in a fifty two yard field goal to make the score seventeen to nine at the end of the first half.

After halftime, the Patriots came out more flat than they did in the first half by only scoring a thirty eight yard field goal by kicker Stephen Gostkowski. Then the fourth quarter came and it got very interesting. The Denver Broncos scored a thirty one yard field goal by Brandon McManus. Then, with twelve seconds left in the game, Tom Brady threw a four yard touchdown pass to tight end Rob Gronkowski to make the score eighteen to twenty. The Patriots decided to go for the two point conversion and did not convert. Thus, Denver took over on downs and kneed the ball and won the game by two.

After the game, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning told Patriots head coach Bill Belichick that at thirty nine years old, this Super Bowl run might be his “last rodeo”. Only time will tell, as the Denver Broncos are set to face off against the Carolina Panthers and their stingy defense in Santa Clara California, in Super Bowl 50.

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## Big Air at Fenway

By Nick Michaud

Although there isn’t any snow in the forecast, mountains are still open and making snow when the temperature drops below freezing, but everybody is still out there on the mountains. Even Boston is making a “mountain”. In Boston, they are construction a Big Air competition. This February, a 140-foot-tall snow Big Air ramp will take over the field at Fenway Park, towering above the Green Monster at more than three times the size.

From February 11<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, Fenway will transform into a winter wonderland for the ski and snowboard competition, “Polartec Big Air at Fenway”. Tickets will range from \$20-\$200 and the whole stadium will be utilized with all seating available.

Polartec is a local company established in 1906 with the name Malden Mills. They knit wool outfits for our soldiers through two World Wars. The name change from Malden Mills after a fire happened. The manufacturing plants are located in Lawrence Massachusetts, and Hudson New Hampshire.

“Polartec Big Air at Fenway is going to be a colossal event for the region, the sport and the ballpark providing New England sports fans with the best possible sports and entertainment experience,” said Fenway Sports Management Managing Director Mark Lev.



“‘Big Air at Fenway’ is the latest in our efforts to bring dynamic and exciting events into Fenway Park for our fans and community all year round,” FSM President Sam Kennedy said Tuesday, “This type of event is a first-of-its-kind for the ballpark and provides will appeal to a younger and broader audience at Fenway Park.” Boston is very well known city and to have a new event like this come to Boston will bring a different audience to the city that may not normally go. This event will bring money to Fenway when normally there would be anything going on during the winter.

The event will air live on NBC Sports Network, so if you either want to go to the stadium or stay home you should check it out either way. If you are a skier or snowboarder this is definitely something that you don’t want to miss. Boston is only an hour away, which is a lot closer than most mountains. If you want more information you can go to [redsox.com/bigair](http://redsox.com/bigair).