

# THE HUGUENOT HERALD

January 2018

New Rochelle High School's Award Winning Newspaper

Issue 3

## NRHS Music Students Shine At Annual Winterfest Concert

By Seth Carlson

Holiday cheer and the spirit of long winter nights were in the air on Wednesday and Thursday Nights December 20 and 21, as all 3 of the school's musical groups performed in a two night concert extravaganza in the Whitney Young Auditorium. Showcasing the best of musical talent with the strumming of violins, the banging of drums and the sweet sound of choral music, the high school musicians did not fail to impress.

The first night featured an all-instrumental assortment of the two orchestras and two bands, playing both holiday tunes and recognizable classical melodies. Prominent songs included "African Bell Carol", "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik", "Silent Night" and "Sleigh Ride". It was a successful night overall for the non-vocalists, who had put in a vigorous effort both in class and out thanks to the help of music teachers Mark Cooper, band director and Suzanne Morello, or-

chestra teacher. After the concert, I spoke with Mr. Cooper, who had nothing but praise for the whole event, "I'm really proud of the whole band and all the musical groups, you all sounded great. Everything was in tune, good watching of the conductor to stay in tempo and

high expectation level. At the end of the day, though, one learns a lot about music, their instrument, and concert performance, so it's hard work worth doing. I'm sure those in orchestra and chorus can attest. What's the plan for the band after the concert? According to Mr. Cooper, more of the same:



Winterfest Concert - Photo provided by Ananya Pavuluri

rhythm, but most of all, I hope you all enjoyed the experience as much as I do every year." Being a clarinetist in the band, I can say from personal knowledge that it is a quite tedious and a hard knocks culture in Mr. Cooper's band, considering the

"We'll ease back into things after the vacation but we can't 'ease' for too long, we do have a concert in April, after all." The second night of Winterfest was an all-vocal concert put together by Derrick James, David Jutt, and the NRHS chorale, who

performed a stunning rendition of the English composer Handel's "Messiah" (you know, the piece with all the Hallelujahs?). The chorus was accompanied by the String Orchestra and select members of the Symphonic Band. Meriting an encore the day after the concert, you might have heard their second rendition live in the house 2 stacks during 5th period (it was just as breathtaking). Choraleers (9th grade) and Renaissance (Special smaller chorus) performed songs like "Jingle Bells" and "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." The concert was very successful, seeing a high turnout from the school community which packed the seats of the auditorium that evening.

The Springfest concert will occur in late April, which is the next opportunity for you to catch our incredibly talented music students! Congratulations to all the students in the music program and hope to see you in April!

## Society and Change: The #MeToo Movement

By Maura Kelly-Yuoh

In 2006, Tarana Burke, a social activist and the Senior Director at Girls for Gender Equality, created the "Me Too" slogan. She did so to bring awareness to sexual assault and abuse that is present in our society, especially when pertaining to women, people with disabilities, and the LGBT community. Burke also wanted survivors of sexual abuse to communicate with one another and to share empathy. On October 15, 2017, following the sexual harassment accusations against Harvey Weinstein, Alyssa Milano, using the social networking website Twitter, tweeted, "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet." By doing so, Milano effectively created the

hashtag "#MeToo," not only on Twitter, but across social media including Facebook and Instagram. Within hours, the hashtag was trending on multiple platforms and it encouraged women and men who are victims of sexual harassment and assault to tweet or post "#MeToo," or to actually share their own stories.

There is definitely safety in numbers, so when people came forward en masse, all telling their story and exposing their attacker, it helped to validate the accusations against the main person in power. For Hollywood, it began in early October, when the New York Times published an article citing decades of allegations against Harvey Weinstein, the powerful film producer and co-founder of Miramax. These accusations came from several

actresses who Weinstein had worked with over the course of his career. Today, more than 80 women have claimed that Weinstein had sexually harassed or assaulted them. Weinstein has been fired from The Weinstein Company and expelled from the board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Following the perceived justice that was served to Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, an Oscar-winning and Emmy-nominated actor was accused of sexual misconduct in late October. Reportedly, Spacey had made sexual advances against Anthony Rapp, a 14 year old at the time, who was working alongside Spacey on Broadway. Since Rapp has told his story, more than a dozen other men have spoken out against Spacey, accusing him of sexual harass-

ment, assault, and/or rape attempt. As a result of the allegations, Spacey has been removed from the top billing of popular Netflix show, "House of Cards," and his role in the upcoming movie "All The Money In The World" has been replaced by Christopher Plummer, just six weeks before it was to be released. Spacey has also been denied the 2017 International Emmy Founders Award. In early November, The New York Times published yet another article in which 5 women accused Louis C.K., who is a comedian, writer, and producer, of sexual misconduct. Soon after the article was released, Louis C.K. confirmed the stories of the women, which led many TV streaming programs to cut all ties

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# Society and Change: The #METOO Movement

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with the comedian, including FX Networks, Netflix, HBO, and TBS. The premiere and distribution of Louis C.K.'s new film, "I Love You, Daddy", was also cancelled.

These three men and their inexcusable actions are only a handful of those who have been accused of sexual harassment and assault. Other big names in the industry who have been accused of the same include: Matt Lauer, the former, longtime host of *The Today Show*, Dustin Hoffman, a two-time Oscar-winning actor in the films *Rain Man* and *Kramer vs. Kramer*, John Lasseter, the chief creative officer of Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Animations, as well as the director of several Pixar Animation films, and Roy Price, the head of Amazon Studios.

The names and allegations of celebrities goes on, and this does not include the people of power outside of Hollywood who take advantage of their victims daily either in the workplace, during family gatherings, or even in plain sight of others.

Hollywood is certainly not the

only place with sexual violence, and people in communities have to start to rethink the power factor to completely eradicate sexual violence from their lives. In a surprising move, the "Silence Breakers" of the #MeToo movement were named as TIME Magazine Person of the Year. Shown on the cover are the faces of 5 women: Ashley Judd, one of the first women to speak out against Harvey Weinstein, Taylor Swift, who won a civil case against a man who she said had groped her butt, Adama Iwu, a lobbyist from California who is a victim of sexual abuse, Susan Fowler, a former engineer for Uber who made accusations of sexual harassment in the workplace, and Isabel Pascual, a strawberry picker who is a victim of stalking. There is an arm in the corner of the cover as well, anonymous and unknown, but represents the thousands of victims who have not told of their experiences with sexual harassment and abuse.

Burke is hopeful for further action against sexual harassment in 2018. For example, at the 2018 Golden Globes in January, the majority of the actors wore all

black to stand in solidarity against harassment in Hollywood. Oprah Winfrey spoke eloquently about the need for change. With 2017 behind us, let's hope that the Silence Breakers and the #MeToo movement will galvanize us to reject the old school thinking and eliminate sexual harassment from society once and for all.

*The Huguenot Herald staff would like to dedicate this issue to the memory of Valaree Megan Schwab.*

*Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her family and friends.*

## A Year After Trump's Election Altered National Politics, Mo(o)re Change Coming

By Nicole Weiss

On December 12th, 2017, an entire nation came to an anxious standstill as it scrupulously watched a neck-to-neck election unfold. The United States of America was not observing a presidential election, yet somehow, the results of the transpiring event seemed to hold an equal importance. On that fateful evening, the state of Alabama voted a democrat into their Senate seat over a republican: a feat which hadn't occurred since 1992, some twenty-five years ago. Democrat Doug Jones beat republican candidate Roy Moore in an unbelievably close outcome of 50.0% to 48.3% after the votes were counted. But what does this blue victory in a red state mean, and what was the deep fault in Moore's campaign?

Roy Moore was born in Gadsden, Alabama in 1947. He attended West Point Military Academy in New York, and after graduating in 1969,

served in the Vietnam War. Once he returned from fighting, he began his political career by graduating from law school and almost immediately finding work as an assistant district attorney. It was in this position, however, that the first troubles and allegations arose against him. Moore, who was in his thirties at the time, was blamed by three women for sexually assaulting them when they were just fourteen, sixteen, and twenty-eight years old. Beverly Young Nelson, one of the accusers, even claims that after she was able to fight Moore off at age sixteen, he told her, "You're just a child. I'm the district attorney of Etowah county and if you tell anyone about this no one will ever believe you." However, since those initial three accusations, there have been six more, resulting in a total of nine women coming forward. A common theme mentioned by the women in their claims was Moore's pursuit in attempting

to date them, despite their young ages. Two women in particular, Debbie Wesson Gibson and Gloria Thacker Deason, both made claims that Moore had made advances when they were as young as seventeen years old, alleging that the fifteen to twenty year age gap seemed not to phase the district attorney. Somehow, even more chillingly, Moore at first wouldn't even completely deny a relationship with the women, claiming that he couldn't remember specific events "because [it's] been forty years." Only months later did Moore truly deny those allegations.

Moreover, other controversies have surrounded Moore throughout his career besides the infamous sexual accusations during his time as district attorney. In 1992, he began working as a circuit judge which was initially just a fill in job; however, at the end of the term, he was given a full time into that position. Later, in

2001, he was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama. However, Moore's quick success was cut short in 2003 when he was taken out of his position due to stubborn refusal to remove a marble monument of the Ten Commandments, a feature which he had installed in the Alabama Judicial Building. Many argued it violated separation of church and state, an unofficial but widely accepted practice in US government. Some thirteen years later, after he had been re-elected into the position of Chief Justice, he was suspended again for forcing judges to continue to enforce a ban on same-sex marriage, despite the U.S. Supreme Court ruling this to be unconstitutional. Other controversies, however, have occurred as well. In 2011, Moore said getting rid of all the Constitutional amendments after the Tenth would solve many problems. Yet, it is quite well

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## A Year After Trump's Election Altered National Politics, Mo(o)re Change Coming

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known that the thirteenth amendment abolished slavery, and the nineteenth granted women's suffrage. Another prominent scandal he endured came after his attack on Darwin's modern theory of evolution. In 2010, Moore ran attack ads against an opponent, questioning his morals based on the fact that he supported evolution. Moore also claimed in a 1997 speech that teaching evolution in school led to an increase in shootings.

Thus when Moore lost the senate election, it's quite impossible to pinpoint just one thing that caused the demise of his run. Perhaps it was the people of Alabama refusing to support a man accused of sexual

harassment. Maybe his far-right views were just a bit too conservative for the majority of the state. Moore himself has even made comments claiming voter fraud to be the primary reason he lost, after a reluctance to even admit his defeat initially. At the end of the day, it's not him in that ordinarily red seat - it's his blue opponent, and the importance of Moore's loss may be more significant than many think. Now, passing President Trump's agenda has become more difficult with the loss of a guaranteed yes vote. Republicans in the senate still do have an edge over democrats, however it is now only a slight one - a 51 to 49 advantage. While they do have Vice President Pence available to be the tie breaker

(who is a safe republican on any day), more republicans have been voting no to the President's agenda than expected. Another major result of this election is an increased worry amongst right-wingers that perhaps supporters with even the strongest sense of partisan can be outnumbered or, somehow worse, swayed to vote blue. This also leads to the quick-growing idea that conservative views are dissipating rapidly with the newer and younger generations finally being able to vote and make a true difference in the outcome of these democratic elections. Finally, many people point to Moore's loss as the people's defiance to President Trump, who made himself known as a strong advocate for Moore dur-

ing his senate run, especially after his initial endorsement of Luther Strange, a fellow Republican that lost a state primary to Moore. With Trump's approval rating at a historic low and a strong desire by the American people to prove their anger, a stunning loss of a red seat may have been just the beginning.

On December 12th, 2017, Roy Moore lost the Alabama Senate Election. The cause of his unlikely downfall in what was supposed to be a "safe-zone" can never be exactly determined, but it is no surprise that the current political situation will be deeply affected by the surprising outcome of a single state's senate election.

## Your Heroes and You

By Christian Weckesser

A few years ago, in Scarsdale, I missed a train by seconds. It was late afternoon on a hot summer's day. A taxi cab suddenly pulled up beside me, and the driver hopped out and began speaking to a man who looked like Santa Claus behind a ticket counter adjacent to me. It was a surreal image.

"What are you going to do with your life?" the taxi driver suddenly said, revealing a thick Spanish accent like the actor Javier Bardem. I heard the question but did not answer, figuring it was not directed to me. I looked up, and the man's sunglasses met my eyes.

"How old are you, man?" the guy asked seriously.

"Sixteen," I said insecurely, having been fifteen but would be sixteen in two months.

"Sixteen, damn. You are only sixteen once, you know? You know what you should do? Film, like filmmaking," he said, laughing and patting me on the shoulder. He was genuine. I know many people who would not have been kind to this random man.

I sort of began to let loose, smiling and relaxing. In this moment of pure coincidence, he had figured me out and won me over. I told him that that was my exact passion, and it was where I was going. I had to catch a train that day to meet up with friends in a town far from me to shoot a short film. We had a very short conversation about movies and the summertime, with his colorful language and enthusiasm

making me laugh. The man all of the sudden stood up and hopped back in his cab suddenly, shouting "you are only sixteen once!" He drove away before I could process anything. In retrospect, he was a bit of a goofball, but I still think that he was somebody who could have been my friend. It is so strange how from then until now, film has been my whole life. I would like to think that he was also some sort of guardian angel. Not only did he predict my life, but our small conversation truly made me value the fact that sometimes you just have to be kind. Since then, it has been an immediate desire of mine to connect with others, for just a little while. Whether it be amongst friends or on a date, it has been a goal of mine to be as kind as that cab driver was to me that day. There are so many moments ingrained in my mind since, all with that theme. There was the girl I met at a college, whose name I do not remember and who I never saw again. There was the girl at a fundraiser for a movie theater, where she and I talked for hours about movies, with her asking me what college I was going to. I was just a high school freshman...I did not see her for the rest of the night. To form a bond with a person you are randomly paired with is much like the job of a filmmaker. I have said to my film teacher that making a film is a lot like a great conversation, or telling a great story in front of others. It is your job to keep the interest of the viewer, and create a connec-

tion on an emotional level. When you lose a person, it is a terrible feeling. I like people, movement, and relationships. I think my urge to connect has propelled my interest in filmmaking, writing, and comedy over the years and into college. I admire real storytellers just as much.

My initial exposure to Louis CK was through a low-quality YouTube video. The series of jokes told by him were unlike anything I had ever seen before. He told the story of being on an airplane, and how nobody values amazing technological achievements. Ideas so simple, mundane, and dumb presented by him would morph into deep philosophical ideas, worded so magnificently. This was my introduction to Louis CK and observations that would turn into relevant and impressive statements about the way the world functions. These ideas often presented by him I would take and expand upon in my own writing and in my life. His opinions became endlessly valuable to me. At this same time in my life, I became more acquainted with contained, well-written films, gravitating towards more inherently adult films as opposed to any popular action/superhero movie of the day. I knew my passion, and began to make my own work.



Marc Maron and Christian

One day at lunch, I saw my friend looking at his phone with earphones in. He was red in the face, laughing the hardest I have ever seen him laugh. Day after day, clip after clip, it was me and him watching this insane show, Louie, edited, written and directed by the comedian I had always loved. On the show, Louis CK managed to address real issues, that ranged from obesity and homosexuality, to gender and race stereotypes. He approached these issues with care and a strange tenderness that would reveal itself in moments after the show's very funny observations and some playful, surreal aspects that all furthered a very conscious and social commentary on just about everything. There is a noticeable

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# Your Heroes and You

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shift in tone as the series goes on, dipping into drama. Louis CK was not afraid to risk his comedic persona for more personal storytelling, discussing life as a father, relationships, and loneliness all through his art. Louie paints a portrait of a relatable guy trying to do the right thing. Louis CK's creative mind was so aware of the world and its problems. I knew that that was the kind of work I wanted to create: funny but moving pieces that suck the viewer in, and address issues that the audience can relate to in some way. Louis CK, in many ways, taught me that comedy is good, but good drama makes the comedy all the more effective. After all, that is what real life is. It shaped me as a writer of comedy, but more so of drama. I never would have thought that this recommendation from my friend would result in the comedian that I had liked becoming my personal role model and hero. Above all things in his art, he seemed like a genuinely kind person that I looked up to as a writer and creator.

When disturbing rumors came out, I did not believe them, because of what I thought I knew of Louis CK the person. However, I was troubled by the fact that they existed. When the New York Times piece was published, my heart sank below the floor. Most of my inspiration stems from this person, as a filmmaker and writer but mostly just as a human being. He was, in my eyes, the pinnacle of what a fa-

mous person can be: honest and courageous. It is a betrayal from someone that I admired, of all the values he once preached. It is a betrayal to millions of fans throughout the world. To say that it is a betrayal to me, a 17-year old aspiring filmmaker is somewhat significant but miniscule in the grand scale of the damage done. When people asked me about my inspirations, he was who I would go to...until now. Some people would say "that guy? Really? Him?" I would defend him until the very end, because of how talented and...good he was at what he did. Many of my friends say that you can separate someone's personal issues from their art, but it will be very hard to now. The impact Louis CK has had on my writing and filmmaking is significant, but the way he inspired me to carry myself and state my thoughts will not be replicated by anyone else.

Another person I have admired over the years is Marc Maron, a notable stand-up comedian and host of the popular WTF Podcast. He lived with Louis CK for a time, with the both of them starting as young comedians together in Boston, Massachusetts. Marc Maron talked to Louis CK in an episode, patching up their lost friendship and discussing their lives very frankly. However informal the conversation was, it was established that these two guys felt like brothers, once separated because of fame. The conversation was so emotionally resonant while also very funny, and showed to me how the both

of them are very similar to me. As a frequent listener of Maron's long-running podcast, I wondered as to how he would address the immense controversy surrounding CK. Immediately, Maron referred to CK's acts as horrible and gave a backstory about the rumors. But, instead of denouncing their relationship, he said that he will continue to be a friend of Louis CK's and that they will always be friends. It is hard to put in to words, but the sadness expressed in Maron's words mirrored how I felt and continue to feel about the whole situation. You could hear in his voice that it was difficult for him to speak about CK in such a way, just as it was hard for me in that first week to express to others how my idol was finished. Nevertheless, Maron spoke so perfectly, commenting on not just CK, but exposed issues of sexual assault and abuse in Hollywood. He presented a raw, unkempt emotion, unlike anything I've heard on his platform before, speaking his mind with such truth and courage on a subject so personal to me. This repugnant moment in time was summed up so brilliantly by him, but I admire him because of the way he expressed his thoughts when it came to a close friend, someone who I found to be close to me in a completely different way, too. I am not sympathetic towards Louis CK, but I am towards Marc Maron. His words should be praised. In a strange series of events, I met Marc Maron in New York City. Despite his rough exterior,

he was very thoughtful, and we talked for a little while about his comedy. It was just a small exchange, but in my time with him, he was as kind as he could have been. He acted just the way the cab driver did that strange day, and just the way I always try to, with a surprising kindness and an urge to connect with me. In that moment, Marc Maron was everything I aspire to be and hope that I currently am. Instantaneously, I had found a new person to look up to.

Louis CK is being removed from the spotlight, and I will never look up to him in the way I once did. Having said that, his work will always be on my mind in some way as a true reflection of what I would like to do. I, myself am not at any sort of crossroads in terms of what I believe to be morally right. Louis CK's actions were reprehensible. But, I am divided as to if I can still love this person's creative mind as much as I once did. I will take this, and it will not change me and my aspirations. I will learn and let go of my heroes who have made poor choices. I will continue to aspire to make thoughtful pieces of work in various mediums. But, overwhelmingly, I will continue to have compassion, and will enjoy small exchanges with others, and in those brief moments give all I can to them. I will continue to be kind, always.

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## Trigger Warning: We Don't All React the Same Way

By:Anonymous

Matt Lauer. Harvey Weinstein. Kevin Spacey. Ben Affleck. Josh Besh.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. The perpetrator is usually assumed to be a hardened criminal, not the face of our morning news, a film producer, one of your favourite actors, or a celebrity chef. Yet here we are, and fortunately the American public is acknowledging the issue.

While publicly condemning these examples is a step in the right direction toward preventing sexual assault and harassment in society, many do not realize the impact of constant ex-

posure to these types of stories in the media. It is especially impactful to survivors of sexual assault.

As a survivor who turned to writing as an escape, I once aspired to be a journalist myself - wearing sky high heels, hair tied up with a red pen, the word "editor" on my office nameplate. I expected nothing but heroics from my favourite news anchor, Matt Lauer. That all changed on November 29th, when my hero, my familiar news face, became one of them.

I felt as if I couldn't breathe and suddenly the room seemed so much smaller and I wanted to cry, but all I could do is grit my teeth.

A wave of anger and sadness washed over me, a sense of mal-

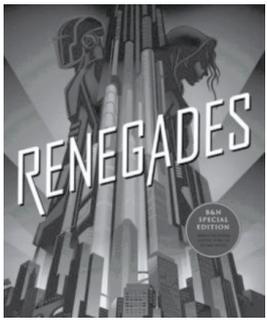
content. As a person it was justified that I felt such things, but as an aspiring journalist, I thought I should keep composed. I was supposed to be able to keep my emotions in check and deal with my surroundings. One of my closer and wiser mentors told me I was only fifteen, fifteen-still practically a kid. However what happens to adult survivors when they're drinking their morning coffee and watching the news and they hear such things? When it's being discussed at the water cooler? When their coworkers brush it off and it's killing them on the inside? What happens to ~~them~~ us? People who endure the horrors of abuse and the pangs and pains of recovery (which isn't all avocados, green tea, and medita-

tion). What happens after hours- relapse?

There is a desperate need for a trigger warning, something to salvage the survivor. There is no need for them to be subjected to situations they are not ready for, especially based on their stage of recovery. Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are not a casual conversation topic; it can be triggering.

Five men among what seems like countless allegations. Fearless women came forward and spoke their truth. Now I am doing the same. I am writing my way to a future where "boys will be boys and men will be men" is not an excuse for not being accountable for our future, and for our daughters and sons.

# Book Review: Science Fiction Novel Packs a Punch



By Gianna Cocovinis

It isn't often that I pick up a science fiction book, but while browsing my local bookstore in search of a new book, I decided to give the genre a try. *Renegades*, by Marissa Meyer is not only new to me in the sense that it's science fiction, but it also develops a storyline based on something we typically only see from Marvel and DC Comics: Superheroes.

Main character Nova McClain grows up in Galton City, a part of the largest gang of Anti-heroes known to all of society, equipped with her own unique power to send a person into a deep slumber. Adrian Everheart, also a key character and an artist capable of bringing his work to life, is the son of the two most influential and powerful Superheroes ever to grace the earth, also known as the Renegades. Society is made up of two types of people: those with advanced abilities and those who rely on the heroes to fight their battles. Proteges, as they are called, have the choice of becoming a Renegade through trials, or can live out their lives on the side of anarchy and chaos as the Anti-heroes, or Anarchists, would see it fit. There's nothing Nova wouldn't do to bring an end to the entire "Renegade" pact, being an Anarchist herself. When certain opportunities present themselves throughout the novel, they seem to give Nova a chance to accomplish her goals. Things aren't always black and white for Nova,

though, as she soon realizes the system she once despised so violently, is discovered to potentially have flaws, but also fair redeeming qualities.

Throughout the entire novel, I found myself enjoying the way the plot went against your average superhero gimmick and invented new ways to heighten the intensity of these characters' storylines and attract the reader's attention. There aren't too many novels that venture into the perspective of the anti-hero, which can teach us there are two sides to every story and that not everyone is all bad or all good. Sometimes, as this novel teaches, we have a little bit of both in us. I found myself making guesstimates and expectations of what would happen down the road. In the end, the book proved to be more unpredictable than ever imagined and often times, I didn't know what to expect. This attribute of great novels is definitely harder to find these days, and I especially admired that when reading this one.

The mood you are plunged into when reading this thriller is something entirely too compelling to understand and engrossing that the reader gets sucked in. Galton City and its hub of proteges, both Renegades and under the radar villain gangs are constantly at war with one another and providing endless action and storyline. The Renegades fought hard to keep the Anarchists and the lesser gangs at bay, oppressing them so much as to create a hostile environment for those villains who want nothing more than society to crumble and the power to be equal once again. Such a mood creates a contradicting sense of both justice and turmoil that the

city runs on, thus forcing sides to clash and emotions to run high as each side has something to fight for and everything to lose.

What really rounded out this book for me was the characters and their internal qualities. The abilities these characters have, ranging from morphing into an individual's deepest fears, to being able to use one's crystallized blood into weapons, showed there was clearly a lot of consideration put into the inner workings of the characters. It wasn't just the imaginative capabilities that drew me in, but also the motivation of the characters and their personalities really made this novel a new favorite of mine. Nova isn't the properly raised and nurtured young girl waiting for a change in her life, she goes out and takes charge for things to work out in her favor. Adrian isn't the perfect, confident, entirely self-assured male most authors make their leads out to be. Both characters have their strengths and their weaknesses that make them relatable. This novel stands out from the rest in this way.

Many of my fellow peers agreed that the book sounded like something eye-catching and intriguing, especially with all the Superhero movies being released recently that are getting so much attention. Gianni Martinez, an NRHS sophomore, read the description of the novel and asked where he could pick up a copy, "If it's as good as it sounds, then I'm definitely going to try it out. I'll let you know when I get one."

NRHS junior Sarah Levine enthusiastically agreed with Gianni, "The plot sounds really fascinating, I'd definitely give it a shot." Several other peers have given the

novel a chance and agree that it is something they would pick up and read.

As far as writing style goes, author Marissa Meyer has always had a new and refreshing way to craft a story. Other novels by her in the realm of science fiction and fantasy have such fluid and breathy wording that makes the reader fall as if under a spell. Throughout *Renegades*, I saw such a writing style often, with the way details were described and scenarios erected. However, the dialogue between characters left me a little disappointed. There were fantastic opportunities for snarky, witty lines but the mark was missed on more than one occasion, resulting in more basic lines and less drama than probably needed for certain sections. Overall, the novel appears to have the makings of a quality best-seller. If you're looking to ease into the world of science fiction and fantasy, this is definitely the book I recommend you start with. There is an interesting blend of lighthearted and intricately woven plot twists that add a refreshing dimension into the young adult genre. The elements of science fiction are easy to comprehend and yet still have an intrinsic aspect that keeps your attention rapt until the very last page. I'm grateful I took the chance on a genre I don't normally gravitate toward; it has definitely opened my eyes to a new type of story and with that, a different section of the bookstore to explore.

## Feature: During This Time: A New York City Serenade

By: Silvio Baricevic

Being born and raised in a town where, even at the city limits, the closest of the five boroughs is no more than twenty-five minutes away (and yet many people still have the audacity to refer to it as upstate), I see the wondrous metropolis that is New York City in a very special light. Often, I take for granted what "the City" has to offer, whether that refers to the constant advancement of art and music; the world-renowned culinary scene; or the sports teams that always seem to electrify the region regardless of if they are seven games below .500 or winning the pennant. However, what stands out and excites me about the boroughs is the people that comprise this unmistakable

essence of New York. Specifically, I am excited by the way that New Yorkers come together and share small, human moments with one another that may not seem like much at face value but in reality go a long way.

I know that this is the cliché that politicians and radio talk show hosts love to throw out as they talk about what makes New York so strong, but its orthodoxy does not make it any less true. True New Yorkers are immeasurably different than the picture that Hollywood paints of the city's citizens. "NYC" is not a rude and polluted cesspool where the only other noise besides car horns is some gruff voice in the crowd that shouts, "hey, I'm walking here," elongating the "A" and dropping the "G" in "walking."

New Yorkers are amongst some of the most genuine, hardworking, and helpful people that one can have the pleasure of crossing paths with. Even in all of the constant movement of people, transportation, and information, residents of the Big Apple still remember to be courteous of their fellow man as everyone in the city is just trying their best to plow ahead in life and go about their day-to-day business.

I challenge any non-believer in New York's kindness to see how often the average New Yorker will hold a door for the person behind him/her when walking into Tino's Delicatessen in the Bronx; or to see whether or not a New Yorker will stop to tell you the directions to the closest parking garage when going to see the Nets play in the Barclay's Center; or if a New

York subway rider is willing to give a homeless man the very shirt off of his back so that he can stay warm during a snowstorm; or whether or not New Yorkers will look around, lock eyes and grin to one another in the dark when seeing a spectacular show in Radio City Music Hall; because those are all examples of New York's kindness that is so gripping and exciting. In an age where violence and disasters become increasingly prevalent and advanced and people dwell on the negatives of life, it is both exciting and comforting to see that New York's kindness remains steadfast and resilient.

# Feature: What it's Like to Host Christmas Day

By Elizabeth Ricker

Most people, especially kids, wake up on Christmas morning and feel excited. Some people, however, wake up and feel anxious. This is the anxiety that comes along with hosting the holidays.

For those of us who celebrate Christmas, it may be a tradition to run downstairs in pajamas and rip open presents. Of course, for my family, the hosting family, that still happens, but it can be pretty short lived. With the pressure of providing the perfect Christmas experience, crunch time kicks in! "Hit the showers boys!", is probably what you'd expect to hear in a gym locker room coming from a coach, but not so fast. You would hear this from one of my family members, either my dad, mom, or brother. The usual case being my mom. This is code for "let's get this show on the road!", and yes, to actually get in the shower, get dressed, and finish any lasting preparations

before guests arrive. "I always trust that both my kids can get themselves together before people start to arrive because they know that I'm worrying about everything else", said Mary Ricker A.K.A. my mother, an expert when it comes to hosting holidays.

When guests start to arrive, that's cue for smiles to go on faces, and for everyone to be on their best behavior. All hands are on deck in order to get the food onto the adults' and kids' tables. "When we start bringing the food to the tables, I always pray that no one drops anything, and that everyone's hard work actually makes it to the table," Mary Ricker explained. Even when all cleaning and food preparation is done, there is no time for relaxing while eating. One way I make sure all is going well, is to make sure all guests are satisfied with their meals, and that there is a flow of conversation at each table. My parents usually ask our guests about 20 times if they need any-

thing before they sit down, and finally take "no" for an answer.

As the meals come to a close, it's time to start the clean up process. The sinks are on non-stop, and don't turn off until every last dish is cleaned and put back in its rightful place. The whole family is running amuck throughout the kitchen, opening and closing cabinets/drawers, trying to find out where everything goes. Occasionally, this makes my parents cringe due to the fact that all guests are tearing through their personally organized kitchen.

After the clean up is finished, it is time to open presents with the extended family. This can either go smoothly, or be complete chaos depending on the number of people attending. Once everyone gets his or her assigned gifts, the opening commences, and presents another mess. Wrapping paper, bows, gift bags, and boxes cover the floor! At times there is so much of this stuff that it looks like everyone

is sitting in a giant recycling bin. This is when the stress levels start to rise again, at least for my brother and me. Everyone is fumbling around trying to make sure they thank all the people that gave them gifts at the same time as trying to keep track of where they left their gifts in the recycling pit. The noise level also gets out of control. This is when my dad, Gary, jumps up and calls clean up, which really means everyone better get a garbage bag and throw all of the mess they made away. In this point in time, when all is cleaned up, my family and I can finally take a deep breath and help our guests retrieve their coats. As forms of gratitude are exchanged, a sense of relief sets in.

To conclude, even though hosting the holidays, especially Christmas Day, can be quite stressful, it is well worth it when we see the smiling faces of our guests as they are full and satisfied, or maybe even entering a food coma.

## Editorial:

# Why Block Scheduling Should be Introduced at NRHS

By Susanna Procaro-Foley

Block scheduling refers to a system in which class periods last longer, but each class only meets a few times a week. In a school with block periods, a typical class period would last an hour and a half, and it would meet two or three times per week. This means that a student would only have about three core classes a day. High schools that adopt block scheduling attempt to mirror the type of school day that one would experience in college.

Students at NRHS would greatly benefit from block scheduling.

Consider this: you sit in math class staring at the Smart Board, desperately trying to figure out how to divide polynomials. But then before you know it, the teacher has already gone over three more slides on the PowerPoint! You still have no idea how polynomials work, and now you have missed more of the lesson. This means you will have to spend lots of time going over the notes at home, just to understand how to do your homework. This, in addition to homework in all of your other classes, means that you are in for yet another sleepless night!

Block scheduling provides numerous solutions to this problem. For one, if students struggle to understand the material covered in class, they do not have to stress about learning it all that night because under block scheduling, they will not have that same class the next day. Also, because students would have fewer classes per day, they would have fewer classes to worry about on any given night, allowing them more time to figure out that math problem. In addition, longer class periods give teachers the means to teach differently, increasing the chances that students actually understand what is going on the first time around.

Time management is an issue with which many high school students struggle. Of course, some of us are just procrastinators. But often, students complete work last minute because when they return home from a long day of five hard classes, they have a stack of work a mile high that must be done that night. Personally, I hate handing in work that I am not proud of because I had to scribble something down five minutes before class. But sometimes, that is unavoidable. Block scheduling helps students to manage their

time and prioritize. They can spread work out over the course of a few nights, allotting a certain amount of time to each task. They can start studying for tests in advance. They can work hard and be proud of every assignment. Finally, they can scrape in a semi-reasonable amount of sleep.

Here is one math equation that we can all understand: time management + more sleep = less stress!

Another benefit briefly aforementioned is the idea that in a ninety minute period, teachers are able to teach more effectively. The total amount of class time that one class meets per year remains roughly the same under a conventional eight period schedule and a block schedule. In addition, during a forty eight minute period, sometimes all a teacher can cover is the "Do Now," go over the previous night's homework, and assign homework for the coming evening. Then, of course, there are people walking in late, leaving class to use the bathroom, and knocking on the adjacent class' door to ask them to be quiet. Suddenly the bell rings, signaling the end of class. That day's lesson must be pushed to the following day. But most of

the time, this is not the teacher's fault. There is simply not enough time. Longer class periods allow for ten minutes of necessary preparation, and plenty of time for the actual lesson. When students are immersed in the learning process, there are fewer interruptions, and students can grasp concepts that would otherwise evade them.

Like all good things, there are a few cons to block scheduling. For example, many of us have trouble sitting through a forty eight minute period; our eyes dart to the clock every five minutes or so. So how would we be able to sit through ninety minutes?! Well, when we immerse ourselves in learning, those hands on the clock tend to move faster. Another concern would be making up work from absences. Block scheduling means that one would miss a lot of work for a particular class after missing one day of school. But on the other hand, the absentee will not be making up the work for five different classes; there would only be a few subjects to study.

Undoubtedly, block scheduling would be beneficial if it were adopted at NRHS. But would it be feasible? New Rochelle High

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# A Brief Look at Le Mans

By Horacio Garcia

The 24 hours of Le Mans is one of the world's oldest and lucrative endurance races that takes place every year in Le Mans, France. Before anything is discussed any further about the event, let's discuss the reasons and outcomes of an endurance race.

The purpose of an endurance race is to test the durability and endurance of not only the equipment, but also the participants. Most times, the goal is to complete as many laps or as much distance as possible in a set amount of time. Races can range from 4 hours to a mesmerizing 24 hours. Depending on the length of the race, the number of drivers can vary between 1-4. The multiple drivers take turns to continue their long journeys throughout the event.

The 24 hours of Le Mans has been a yearly tradition dating back to 1923. The race is held

every June, where it often rains and hot summer temperatures become a huge factor too, for the cars and the drivers. The hot temperatures affect the drivers due to the poor ventilation in the cars but it also affects the heat of the tires, causing them to wear down faster. When Grand Prix motor racing was dominant, Le Mans was created for a way to create a different challenge for car companies. Instead of having a focus in speed for the car, Le Mans forces car companies to create machines that are quick, fuel-efficient, and most importantly, reliable. Due to the nature of the track, the cars have to have great aerodynamics and stability for high speeds. Unlike other race tracks, Le Mans is a public track so it is not kept as well as a regular private track. Thus the cars need great reliability since the racetrack adds greater strain on the car parts.

The race has around 60 competitors driving at the same time

though there are different classes of cars. The different classes of cars fall under four different categories, LMP1, LMP2, GT Endurance Pro, and GT Endurance AM. Every single car manufactured is unique to and specifically made for the Le Mans race. LMP1 and LMP2 cars are the top two classes of the race, separated by weight, speed and power output. The LMP stands for Le Mans Prototype and they are usually the most powerful cars in the competition, with faster straight-line speed and best handling around the corners. GT Endurance Pro and GT endurance AM both fall under the LM GTE regulations and they are the lowest classes. These cars are usually standard cars that have been modified for the endurance race, with different engine and aerodynamic modifications. There are class winners and an overall winner and though the higher classes like LMP1 usually win, there

have been instances where lower classes have won due to their higher reliability.

The Le Mans race has always been a huge event in the motor racing community with its prestige, traditions, and other unique rules. Though the race falls under the World Sportscar Championship since its creation, it has different rules such as killing the engine (turning the car off) during pit stops. By doing so, it reduces a fire hazard but it also tests the reliability of the cars. The Le Mans race was also responsible of the famous Champagne spray by the race Champion where the winner is given a bottle of Champagne and he shakes it and sprays it on everyone instead of drinking it. The next race will occur next June in 2018, so for now all we can do is just sit back and wait until that time of year rolls by again for Le Mans.

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## Is 2018 Year of the NY Sports Teams? Resolutions For the Next Calendar Year

By Seth Carlson

At the end of 2017, many were dreaming of a white Christmas... and better sports teams next year (hopefully). Holiday spirit, new year vibes, resolutions, it's all part of the culture that comprises this jolly time of year. But maybe Santa decided to leave NY Sports teams on the naughty list this year.

They haven't been up to much good this year, albeit some bright spots along the way. Just for the record, a NY sports team hasn't brought home a major championship since the Giants won the Super Bowl in 2011. The Yankees came close to going back to the World Series, but the Astros were able to power through in a tough, well-played series. The Mets were an injury-riddled, mismanaged disaster that had high expectations coming into 2017 following back to back postseason appearances and that seemingly long ago World Series appearance in 2015.

In football, The Giants and Jets had a mostly disastrous 2017, as the Giants finished with a meager 3 wins for the first time since 1983 (they went 3-12 that season). Marred by injuries and bad football (I mean the Eli benching was just terrible PR), the Giants will have many areas to address in 2018. Maybe their new general manager will inspire a little more confidence... The Jets had a slightly better season, if you can even say that, managing 5 wins in a season many thought would be a tanking year. This was due in no small part thanks to the play of

some unexpected electric rookies and sometimes decent offensive stability (When Bryce Petty becomes your starter at quatr back, let's just say there will be some issues). Still, though, 5 wins? The Giants and Jets combined for 8 total wins this season. 8 TOTAL WINS. That's not even a winning record over the course of a 16 game NFL season (8-8). Unsurprisingly, both teams will draft in the top 10 in 2018. There could even be two new QBs in town, according to early speculation. Clearly, though, football at the Meadowlands was out of season in 2017.

Basketball, can you save us? Man, New York sports fans can't catch a break. The Brooklyn Nets and their shiny Barclays Center arena have produced a sputtering 15-23 record through the New Year (Don't even tell me what their record looks like now). They lost the intracity battle to the crosstown rival Knicks 111-104 in early December. Maybe Linsanity (Jeremy Lin) and D'Angelo Russell (point guard acquired from LA in the offseason) aren't quite the playmakers they probably should be. Not to mention, they won't have a first round pick to improve the core of the team through at least next year, thanks to a malicious trade after which they acquired Paul Pierce from Celtics a few seasons ago. Hey, is that the Knicks I'm hearing? Do I see an... 18-20 record? It could be worse but after a better than anticipated start to the season, I'm not quite sure how to assess this roster.... One thing's for sure, though: Kristaps Porzingis is an ab-

solute monster, averaging 24.3 ppg this year, and a major reason behind the renaissance of this team. Supporting role players like Enes Kanter, Tim Hardaway Jr., Courtney Lee, and Joakim Noah may also have something to do with the sudden revival. In a weak Eastern Conference, the Knicks might be able to sneak into the playoffs as a low seed... Don't get too excited though. Ok, so maybe basketball has a future... What about hockey? Whoa, the Islanders are 20-17... the Rangers 21-14... and the NJ Devils are 22-11. Could Hockey be the future of NY Sports? Sure seems like it. The Rangers are being led by a resurgent Henrik Lundqvist but are having some defensive woes and injuries have decimated the offense. The Islanders are keeping pace in a competitive Metropolitan Division thanks to John Tavares and a decent offense but have also been bitten by the injury bug. In a surprising twist, the Devils are the best team in the area. After having the first overall pick in the NHL Draft last year, the Devils have been riding their young talent on offense with players like Nico Hischier and good goaltending from Cory Schneider to the best season they have had since 2012.

So we have good hockey and the... Yankees. I guess that's something, but NY sports have some ways to go as a whole before we can say they're good again. Perhaps a list of resolutions can bring resolve to many of these teams' gaping holes from 2017.

MLB:

Yankees: Win the AL East in 2018,

make World Series Appearance in 2018 via the best record in MLB. If you haven't noticed, the Yankees have built a powerhouse of tremendous young talent and they just acquired reigning MVP and home run leader Giancarlo Stanton from the Marlins. Kid yourself not, the Yankees are now truly the Bronx Bombers.

Mets: Get the "Fab 5" (5 young, controllable starting pitchers) healthy and ready to dominate. Linger in Wild Card contention but ultimately miss out. The Mets hired a new manager and new coaching staff, but how it all comes together, combined with how many more players the Mets acquire to supplement the core of the roster will determine the extent to which the organization is successful.

NFL:

Giants: Pick a future star in the 2018 NFL Draft. There's nothing more important to the Giants right now than this. With so many questions up and down the roster following a bad season, needs will need to be filled early and often. A bad record in 2017 will all but secure a high draft pick and will give them a chance to reinfuse new life into an aging locker room. This organization needs a culture makeover, particularly after the Eli Manning benching debacle, among other controversies.

Jets: Build on an encouraging core. The team has seen multiple young players emerge this year, all of

*(continued on next page)*

## Is 2018 Year of the NY Sports Teams? Resolutions For the Next Calendar Year

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whom could be building blocks for future success. In particularly, safeties Jamal Adams and Marcus Maye, both drafted this past year, are among the reasons to have cautious optimism about defense going into 2018. However, there are so many holes across the roster still left to fill following an only mildly disappointing season, so work must get done quickly if the Jets want to contend next season.

NBA:

Knicks: The current NBA season extends into 2018. The Knicks are above .500 at the time of this article, they've also beaten the

Eastern Conference leading Celtics at the Garden. Behind strong play from KPorzee, the Knicks just need to continue playing at a high enough level to qualify for a playoff spot. Won't be easy, but the Eastern Conference is weak, so in the end, their play could be good enough.

Nets: Aim for a higher draft pick and finish the season out. The Nets don't have much to play for this season, knowing full well they were not supposed to be good anyway. Without a first round pick again next year, it could be another slow year in the rebuilding process, but the Nets just have to do what they need to. At this point, just show up because you have to.

NHL:

Rangers: At 22-15-5, it's safe to say they will be in good shape heading into 2018. The Metropolitan division is stacked, explaining their 4th place status despite the good record. If the Rangers play well enough the rest of the way, they should get into the playoffs no problem, but against higher level teams, it may be a question of how long they can stand.

Islanders: At 21-18-4, they need to break away from the other playoff contenders. The islanders are in just out of the playoffs despite the good record (tiebreakers and goals scored have something to do with that). John Tavares playing at a

high level should keep the Islanders well within range of a playoff spot and poised to make a run at the Stanley Cup.

Devils: At 22-11-8, they hold the second best record in the Metropolitan Division. Heading into 2018, their young core will lead them to great success and a legitimate run at the Stanley Cup Title.

Happy New Year and best wishes that each NY Sports team can fulfill my resolutions, even if only just a small part of one.

## 2017-2018 NFL Playoff Predictions

By: Carter Topol

Finally, after a regular season full of injuries and blowouts, the NFL playoffs are here. There are 12 teams vying for a Super Bowl championship but only one will achieve this goal. Below are my predictions for the Wild Card rounds and beyond:

(Disclaimer: Wild Card Weekend has already occurred since the publishing of this article, predictions may or may not be accurate, but see if I'm right!)

AFC Wild Card Round:

#6 Buffalo vs. #3 Jacksonville - The Buffalo Bills made the playoffs for the first time in this millennium!

However, the Bills offense is not skilled enough to overcome Jacksonville's stifling defense, while the Jacksonville offense will do just enough to pull off a victory. Pick: Jacksonville

#5 Tennessee vs. #4 Kansas City -

The Tennessee Titans snuck into the playoffs in an incredibly weak AFC and will be quickly escorted out by the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs have a better offense and defense and after regaining their early season form, they will overrun the Titans mediocre team. Pick: Kansas City

NFC Wild Card Round:

#6 Atlanta vs. #3 LA Rams - The Atlanta Falcons have returned to the playoffs after a historic collapse in the Super Bowl last year. Atlanta's offense has regressed significantly from 2016-17's dynamic output, while the Rams have a rising young quarterback in Jared Goff and NFL MVP candidate, running back Todd Gurley II, leading one of the league's best offenses. The Rams have better offense and defense overall and will overwhelm the Falcons' Matt Ryan, Julio Jones, and company in their first playoff victory since the early 2000s. Pick: LA Rams

#5 Carolina vs. #4 New Orleans - In what looks like the best wild card game, the Carolina Panthers face the

New Orleans Saints, who beat the Panthers twice already this year. The Panthers offense is inconsistent, led by dual threat QB and former MVP Cam Newton, while the Saints have one of the most balanced offenses in the NFL, led by future hall of famer quarterback Drew Brees and running backs Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram. Both teams have good defenses, but the Saints offense has shredded Carolina's lauded 'D' twice and will ultimately be too much for Carolina to handle, especially in the hostile environment of the Superdome, not so friendly to visitors. New Orleans wins a close game. Pick: New Orleans

Conference Championships and Super Bowl Predictions:

In the AFC, the New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers claimed home field advantage and a bye with the Patriots being the #1 seed and Pittsburgh #2. New England is once again the favorite to win the Super Bowl with a potent offense led by the legendary Tom Brady, and a surprisingly decent defense. The Steelers, meanwhile, are led by their big three of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, wide receiver Antonio Brown and running back Le'Veon Bell. The AFC is a top heavy conference with the top 2 teams being favorites to win the conference championship. The Patriots have a more complete team and have had the Steelers' number in the playoffs for a few years. My feeling is the Patriots will be AFC Champions for the second year in a row, but make no mistake, Pittsburgh is an improved team from last year.

The NFC is a much more competitive conference than the AFC after the season ending injury to the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz. The Eagles, prolific with their young star QB, may have the #1 seed thanks to an easier schedule and a fast start, but they are in trouble without their star quarterback. The Minnesota

Vikings are the #2 seed and have a balanced team with one of the league's best defenses and a surprisingly strong offense led by veteran journeyman Case Keenum. They match up nicely with the #4 Saints, whom the Vikings beat all the way back in Week 1, but the Saints have a better quarterback which is often the difference in the playoffs, where experience and balance matter. The LA Rams have one of the league's best offenses and a very good defense and round out the NFC's favorites. Overall, the 3 teams with the best chance to go to the Super Bowl are the Vikings, Saints and Rams. This is a toss up but I feel that the Saints have the most playoff experience of those three teams, and that will lead to an NFC championship for them. Keep in mind that the NFC South division (NO plays in that one) has crowned an NFC champion and represented the conference in a Super Bowl appearance the last two seasons (Carolina 2015 and Atlanta 2016). A case could be made for the other two teams as well, however. It will sure be exciting to watch.

Super Bowl Prediction: New Orleans Saints vs. New England Patriots

In a matchup of two well balanced teams, truly the best from each conference, the man with 5 Super Bowl titles (Tom Brady) under his belt will ultimately prevail, because nothing beats having been to 7 championship games, and winning most of them, in your NFL career. The Saints will make it competitive thanks to another HOF bound QB in Drew Brees and that great running game, but the Patriots have an edge that no other team can say they have (save for late game heroics like the end zone interception in Super Bowl XLIX in 2014 and the 28-3 comeback of last year). Pick: Patriots

## Editorial: Block Scheduling

(continued from page 6)

School is an extremely large school that offers a wide range of courses. While this is great, it makes figuring out a block schedule that would accommodate everyone's course preferences very hard. But many high schools across the county (Westlake High School in Mt. Pleasant and Fox Lane High School in Bedford, for example) have successfully switched to block scheduling. So the introduction of block scheduling to NRHS may not be so far-fetched of an idea.

Creative Writing:

Solstice:

-Anonymous  
Midnight's glowing solstice moon

From moonrise to moonset-

I feel magic

In that moment

Of sublime beauty .

That instant

when everything

equals

everything else

just before nothing

equals

anything else

Again.

The Earth turns

In its perpetual revolution

And the trees remember,

the flowers,

in imagination,

dare to hope

and blossom

If you would like your creative writing to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Huguenot

Herald, please send your work to NRHERALD@gmail.com.

Look for details about an upcoming creative writing contest