

The High School View

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Gossip goes to semifinals

By Warren Gowell and EmmaJean Holley

“Chaos broke loose when our name was called. We had yelling and screaming and crying,” said the school play’s assistant director Betsey Hauck after judges selected the students’ production of Gossip to move on to the semifinals of the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival March 10 at Framingham High School.

The celebration erupted last Saturday night in the Attleboro High School theater at the utterance of just the first syllable of our school’s name, according to freshman Kayla Goldman. “We heard the judge announce, ‘Mar,’ and that’s when everyone just blew up,” she said. “My throat still hurts from all the yelling.”

“It was really surprising that we were the first ones called,” said theater teacher and play director Kate Murray. “The teams are called in no particular order, but we were

expecting a suspenseful wait. I felt we were on an equal plane with some of the other teams and the decision came down to a lot of minute details falling into place. So it was a very happy feeling to hear our name right off the bat.”

The theater department last qualified for this distinction three years ago.

“The feeling is amazing. It’s a really full circle experience for me and I’m excited to be able to showcase our production again,” said senior Jake Sudarsky.

“It was a moving experience. I remember the whole cast and crew just stood up and screamed and a few started crying. I can’t wait to do it all again next weekend,” said junior Sarah Gruner.

In addition to moving on, judges awarded several individual honors to members of the cast and crew. Among these recipients was senior



PHOTO BY DAN SHARVOVITZ

(L - R) Sarah Parece, Bradley Carrol, and Sam Permar, seconds after hearing their show, Gossip, was selected as a semifinalist at the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival at Attleboro high school auditorium.

Haley Hewson, who received an all-star acting award.

“The judges said I got the award for being a really good narrator

where she has been practicing her Arabic and gaining travel experience. This helps prepare her for a future in international relations.

Though busy with her internship, Sarah still has time to go to plays and concerts, make friends with a diverse and interesting crowd from around the world, take lessons in the Egyptian dialect of Arabic, and attend lectures and discussions.

“The five and a half months since I arrived in Cairo have been a blur of sights, sounds, and experiences,” said Sarah. “My first night, after traveling for 24 hours, I went to a rock concert, and life hasn’t slowed down since.”

and being a character that you care about as well as an informational character that moves the story on,” said Haley. “I didn’t ex-

pect to win anything. I didn’t even think it was possible, but it felt really cool and it confirms that all the hard work everyone put in was worth it. It was great knowing that people enjoyed our show.”

Ninth grader Katherine Reid and Taylor McNeely also received acting awards. Tenth grader Emelia Cappelli and junior Sammi Chaves won awards for costume design. Junior Caleb Enos and senior Chris Pitt received awards for technical design.

“I’m so proud of all the kids,” said Kate. “We help them and we guide them, but from there we’re very hands-off. I’ve seen all the hard work that’s gone into this production. This is their win.”

Alumna enters revolution

By Alyssa Adler

Not all years have gaps in them. But Sarah Johnson, co-valedictorian of the class of 2011, is currently creating one in Cairo, Egypt. Admitted to Stanford University last spring, Sarah has taken a gap year to fulfill an internship with a non-governmental organization called Tadamon, an Egyptian Multicultural Refugee Council that works to provide service and support for refugees adjusting to Egypt and helping them to build ties with the surrounding community.

Cairo has one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world, with most residing in deprived areas. Tadamon works with refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan, whose lives have been directly affected by the revolution and war.

“Egyptians living in the poorer Cairo communities can sometimes be hostile toward the refugees, since both groups are competing for limited resources,” said Sarah. “Building lines of communication between these groups has become all the more crucial after the revolution last year, and is one of Tadamon’s main missions. We work toward this by holding events such as dialogue nights and by allowing Egyptians to share in the

services provided by the community centers.”

“My main roles at Tadamon usually include monitoring the community centers and our micro-grant program, developing and implementing a youth program, and writing proposals and reports for donors,” said Sarah. “My learning curve about politics and current events has been incredibly steep. It is an exhilarating feeling to be witnessing firsthand the events unfolding in Egypt. Never before have I followed the news so closely, or felt such a personal stake in it.”

According to Sarah, she and one of her co-workers have recently been granted permission to make a documentary on the roles and opinions of foreigners living in Cairo on the revolution, and whether or not they feel included in everything that has happened.

Sarah has travelled to a number of places in Egypt, including Luxor, Abu Simbal, Dahab, and Sohka,

Irish history trip

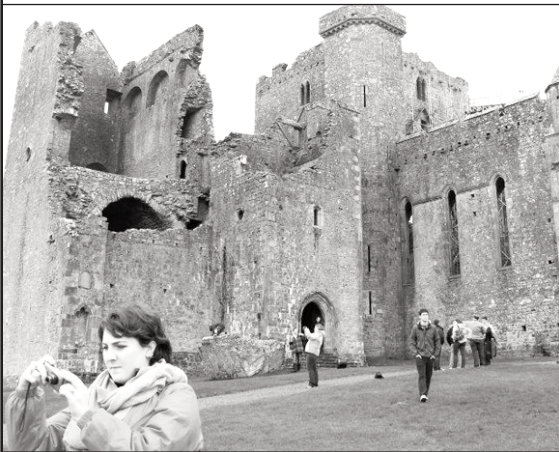


PHOTO BY MEGAN MENDENHALL

Junior Alice Greene visits the Rock of Cashel with her Irish history class on a trip during vacation.

Seniors skip school

By Caitlin Serpa

During this semester, eleven students will be missing from their usual classroom seats for at least three of their eight class periods. For those who have chosen the option, senior project has begun.

The high school offers seniors the opportunity to design and fulfill a senior project, tailor fit to their interests or career intentions. “The projects range from working at the Farm Institute in Katama to looking at organic Island-grown foods to nutrition to writing children’s books to music,” said assistant principal Mr. Malowski. “There’s a wide range of projects going on this year.”

The senior project requires students to work with two mentors—one in school, and one outside of school. Working closely with their mentors, students follow a carefully planned schedule in preparation for the final product – a 10-page paper and presentation of their work to community members. Senior project leaves everything up to the student. They can do more independent work, such as personal research, or work with an organization that serves as a makeshift internship.

Many students use the senior project to advance in musical and artistic interests, whereas others use it as a test-run for their intended career. “It gives you a

sneak peek,” said senior Eva Balboni, who is doing a project on nutrition, her anticipated college major. “You get a real-life experience and it helps you to decide if that’s what you really want.”

Senior Tony Lima seemed to have the same intention. For his senior project, he is working with local South Mountain Company. He is doing waste research and development and focusing especially on recycling job-site waste. “I decided to do a senior project so that I could start early and get ahead in my future field of work,” said Tony. “Because I will be attending college for environmental engineering, the project will be a prelude to what I will be doing in my field of work. Working with out-of-school organizations will also provide me with needed experience in public relations and communication.”

The senior project is an opportunity to do individual work but also has un-anticipated effects. With no tight school schedule and discipline consequences for being late or absent, it is up to the students to organize their time and self-motivate. “It definitely adds a certain amount of responsibility,” said Eva.

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