The Twilight Zone is an American television anthology series created by Rod Serling. The iconic television show is a series of unrelated stories containing drama, psychological thrills, fantasy, science fiction, suspense, and horror, often concluding with a macabre or unexpected twist.

From November 20th-November 22nd, the Springfield High School Theater Department performed three episodes from The Twilight Zone television series: "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street," "The Shelter," and "To Serve Man."

"I’m excited for the play," said SHS Theater Director Rebecca Skrypeck before the performances. "Unlike performances in the past, this performance was originally in the format of a telescript instead of a play."

"I love Twilight Zone," said special education teacher Stephen Lawrence, who assisted with rehearsals and played the part of Rod Serling narrating the stories. "When I heard the theater department was going to be performing a few episodes from Twilight Zone I got really excited."

"Each episode has its own unique lesson," added Lawrence. "The moral message behind ‘Monsters are Due on Maple Street’ is that aliens are not our greatest enemies, humans are humanity’s greatest enemies."

"It questions humanity. Who are the monsters?" added Skrypeck, during a rehearsal interview. "‘The Shelter’ is a study of the human condition," said Lawrence. "The moral message is humans are not proactive, we are reactive."

"‘To Serve Man’ is a play on words," said Lawrence. “Rather than the episode being about how to be a butler, it is about how to prepare a human for consumption.”

There was much enthusiasm regarding these performances of Serling’s work. “I thought it would be really interesting to bring Twilight Zone to the theater,” said Skrypeck. “It [the TV show] questions humanity and the delirium of humankind.”

“My favorite episode is ‘The Monsters are Due on Maple Street,’” said Skrypeck before the November shows. “It’s the biggest set, the most involved, and the most complicated of the three episodes. It’s going to be fun.”

The actors were just as enthusiastic as Skrypeck. "I’m excited to see how three independent

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Thanks For Thanksgiving

by Jasmine Sanville

Thanksgiving is a time when family comes together to feast. Most families have a turkey for the main dinner course. Thus, Thanksgiving is also called Turkey Day in some states and households.

Thanksgiving is a time where family can talk and rejoice with each other.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a federal holiday since 1863, when, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of “thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens,” to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

Springfield High School Principal Bob Thibault spoke through an email about how he celebrates Thanksgiving. “I celebrate Thanksgiving very traditionally, once for my wife’s side of the family and once for my side of the family. We have turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and lots of apple crisp and pie for dessert.”

Thanksgiving, to Thibault, means being with family and appreciating how lucky he is to have his family by his side.

Occupational Development Program Secretary Mary Lebrun also spoke through an email on how she celebrates Thanksgiving. “I usually celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends,” she said. “We put the turkey in the oven the night before, watch the Macy’s parade with hot chocolate or coffee and possibly a cheese danish or donuts. After the parade, the females peel potatoes and get dinner on the table by 2 pm. During the cooking, the guys are putting up holiday decorations.

See Thanksgiving page 19
Springfield High School art teacher Anne Katomski has been participating in the Empty Bowl Dinner for seven years. She and former art teacher Lisa Murray helped to establish this fundraiser to foster deeper awareness of poverty and economic inequality. With Murray retiring last June, Katomski took the lead in organizing the 8th Empty Bowl Dinner at SHS with the help of new art teacher Meredith Pelton and music and choral teacher Jim Chelbak. This year’s Empty Bowl Dinner took place on November 10th from 5:00-8:30 pm, with a concert following the dinner at 7:00 pm. The Green Horn asked Katomski about this worthy humanitarian event.

Why is the Empty Bowl Dinner important to the school and the community?
I think the Empty Bowl Dinner is important to the school and community because it provides an opportunity for all to gather together and participate in a community event. [It’s] for a good cause.

What are some of the fond memories you have of the Empty Bowl Dinner?
I have fond memories of the Empty Bowl Dinner with my grandchildren dancing to the tunes of Susan Leader's (Leader is the local potter assisting in the dinner) daughter playing the fiddle and visiting with my friends I don't often get to talk to. It is also nice for me to see students with their families.

How are students directly involved with the Empty Bowl Dinner?
Students make pottery, paint pottery, help set up for the Empty Bowl Dinner, sell pottery and refreshments, serve drinks and generally help the whole show to go on.

Why do you do the Empty Bowl Dinner?
We do the Empty Bowl Dinner to help provide food and other donations within the community to help bolster the resources at hand at the various centers. This year we will be donating money to the Backpack program here at SHS.

How can we highlight the Empty Bowl Dinner’s importance within the school community?
This is a good question. I think word of mouth and more participation within the school community would help. I do have students who help year after year to make this event a success. I think they should be respected for their continued perseverance. Especially those who stay for clean up!

What is different about the Empty Bowl Dinner now that Mrs. Murray is gone?
Mrs. Murray took care of a lot of the details in the past.

What are some things you’ve had to do differently this year from previous years?
I mostly just worked on decorating and glazing the pottery. Mr. Chelbak has taken over the media aspects and the public service announcements. Mrs. Murray had a gift for event planning and was excellent at it. We have had to scale down the pottery production and use more of our resources here at SHS.

What were some things you did to prepare for the Empty Bowl Dinner this year?
We tried to secure donations from different vendors in the community. Black River Produce was very generous and we had donations from Peebles, as well.
School Schedules Not Aligned
Conflicts Harm Students

by Brooke Goodwin

Springfield High School and River Valley Technical Center are having a difficult time aligning their schedules this year. They have never quite matched up because SHS classes are different lengths than the two-hour tech programs. This year, however, the high school advisory block has been extended by ten minutes and passing periods have been shortened by five minutes. This has resulted in greater disconnect between the two schools’ schedules.

Tech classes have two different levels. Students usually take the morning class first (Level 1) and the afternoon class the following year (Level 2). Their classes are two hours long. Their morning classes go from 7:45-9:45 am. Their afternoon classes go from 11:40-1:40 pm. These times do not match up with the SHS block schedule which includes four 80-minute periods. However, tech center officials must accommodate five different schools, and it is SHS officials’ responsibility to match up with the tech schedule, not the other way around.

The SHS advisory block was relocated between first and second block three years ago to match up better with the tech schedule. That way, morning tech students would only miss the equivalent of one class block instead of two. Their schedule could fit more classes. However, this year, with all the small changes that SHS made, the schedules are even more unaligned than before.

Springfield High School’s schedule starts at 7:45 am with four blocks, advisory, and lunch. Advisory runs from 9:05-9:50 am most days with the second block starting at 9:55 or 10:00. However, students that have morning tech are required to skip advisory to stay in tech. They end up roaming the halls for the ten extra minutes before second block starts. This causes issues with things such as not knowing where students are, or the students getting in trouble for not being in a class even though they don’t have one at that time since their tech block gets over at 9:45. Students simply don’t seem to know where to go because of this schedule conflict between the high school and the tech center.

SHS first lunch, which all afternoon tech students must have since second lunch occurs in the middle of their tech class, goes from 11:20-11:45 am. This gives students 25 minutes to wait in line to get lunch and eat it. However, tech students from SHS must leave lunch about ten minutes early to get to their classes on time. That means these students only have about 15 minutes for lunch. For some students, it takes that long just to wait in line to acquire their food.

This year, tech students are forced to come up with ways to give themselves a few extra minutes. These may include eating in the atrium and bringing a paper plate so they can throw them away in the atrium instead of having to go back to the lunchroom. Students have even had to leave second block a few minutes early to get in the lunch line before the crowd.

Since tech classes are required to be two hours long, the afternoon class ends at 1:40 pm. The last SHS class runs from 1:15-2:35 pm, which is the end of the high school day. Afternoon tech students miss the equivalent of two SHS class blocks for their tech class, and then have about an hour of free time after tech and before the end of school. Students may leave after their afternoon tech class is over, but if they must have a high school class afterwards, they miss the first 40 minutes of it. If the student has to take a bus home they have to wait until 2:35. Some students wait in the library, the atrium, the lobby, or outdoors.

River Valley Technical Center officials were not informed about the schedule changes Springfield High School made this year until three weeks into the school year, when students started talking with RVTC Director Scott Farr and other tech center officials about their scheduling complaints. RVTC administrators could not do anything about it, since not only did they learn about schedule conflicts too late, but also if they changed their schedule it would conflict with the other four sending schools: Bellows Falls Union High School, Green Mountain Union High School, Fall Mountain Regional High School, and Black River High School. They all have different schedules they must coordinate with the tech center. Therefore, the only sending school which could change their schedule is Springfield High School.

Currently, there is no plan to align high school and tech center schedules, though SHS officials are considering changes they could make with advisory. The SHS Student Governance Board distributed a survey to the students online in early November about their thoughts on advisory in the hopes of making the system more efficient and aligned for everyone involved.
Opinion

Stripping Down Tradition
Stepping Out of Green and White
by Kelsey Gould

Senior year is, by far, one of the most stressful, yet exciting and rewarding, experiences for teens. With all the scrambling to maintain that three-point-something GPA, college applications, studying for the SATs and ACTs, and worrying about the infamous FAFSA form, seniors will fill out come January. For these kids, it is comforting to think about the end goal: graduation.

Unfortunately for this year’s senior class, graduation is generating its own stress. Graduation robes, which are a staple of the commencement, may soon change.

For over 30 years, Springfield High School senior boys have climbed the steps to the stage on graduation day clad in green, while girls have received their diplomas while wearing white. The Class of 2016 may be the first to break this tradition.

Last year SHS Principal Bob Thibault spoke with representatives from Jostens, the company that provides SHS with graduation robes, about color trends at other schools. He discovered that many schools were moving toward single color options, as opposed to male and female specific robes. This single color movement was proposed to SHS students, staff, and administrators this past autumn.

After rumors flew around the halls and classrooms of SHS, it was announced that seniors would have the opportunity to write essays in favor of one of two options: either stick with the traditional green and white robes, or make changes that would not take student gender into account.

The easiest way to eliminate gender as a factor in robe color is to turn the senior class into a sea of either green or white—not both. This conformity ensures that anyone struggling with gender identity is not singled out or made uncomfortable. Students who are transgender or genderqueer (agender, bigender, pangender, or androgynous) would not have to proclaim their gender as either male or female on their graduation day. This provides an opportunity for discretion to students who do not wish to share their gender identity.

However, while the preservation of safety and mental health for all students is a justified reason to limit graduates to one color choice in terms of graduation robes, this is not the only reason students have been given for the change. In fact, for many, the first argument heard was that green and white robes are sexist.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, sexism is defined as “prejudice or discrimination based on sex; especially discrimination against women” or “behavior, conditions, or attitudes that foster stereotypes of social roles based on sex.” Based on this definition, students should be left wondering, “How do green and white robes perpetuate sexism?”

The answer is simple. Students have been told that green and white represent stereotypical social roles instead of their true meaning: the school’s colors. In order to shy away from these social roles, males should no longer wear green, as green could represent masculinity, and masculinity should not be forced upon those who do not want it. Meanwhile, females should no longer wear white, as in the Christian belief, white represents virgin purity, and that could be a criticism of some girls’ lifestyle.

This argument is invalid. Both male and female athletes wear both green and white during sporting events. Therefore, their uniforms, following the robe argument, represent both of these “perpetuated stereotypes.” Green no more represents masculinity than orange stands for femininity, and white does not represent purity to the layperson. Sexism on graduation day is not present in the form of robes. In fact, it’s created by those who feel it is. Would it make sense to change the color of team uniforms so that neither gender is subjected to these “social roles?” Of course not, because green and white are the colors of the Cosmos, and everyone is a part of the Cosmos community.

While gender identity is a growing issue, and schools must remain politically correct, Springfield High School is, and always will be, represented by green and white on and off the field as has been proclaimed for years by alumni, staff, and students alike in the venerable school song: “We wear the green and white and that’s enough!”
Graduation Robes
Sewing Threads to Blossom

by Kauhner Hunter

This whole argument about graduation robes is “gay” and “retarded.” From a majority standpoint, these words roll off the tongue without hesitation or regard for the minority groups affected. The same lack of hesitation or consideration for others is being used in the war of the robes.

While these words may only affect a minority of people, society has suggested that we substitute these derogatory terms for homosexuals and special needs students, words that have a more suitable, humane definition. The same suggestion should be made about the graduation robes worn by Springfield High School seniors each July.

For years, SHS parents had help finding their sons and daughters among the sea of gowns on graduation day: boys all sported hunter green, while girls wore pristine white.

But this year, SHS Principal Bob Thibault offered a proposal that would make the 2016 graduation different: end the 2-color, gender-based robe tradition, which alienated some students, and implement a new idea for gowns. Around the region, longstanding customs of assigning graduation colors by sex has given way to new realities, driven by transgender student activists and enlightened educators and classmates.

The change reflects a growing awareness that simple categories of male and female do not fit every teenager. Some consider themselves transgender but are unprepared for a public declaration of their identity. Some people are sorting out their gender identity, and others feel they are not strictly male or female, but somewhere in between.

While a male or female may identify as the opposite gender, just like identifying as a homosexual, it may be hard for a transsexual to reveal themselves to the public. As a result, by forcing a transsexual to choose between their biological gender-oriented colors, or their true colors, graduation is creating a lose-lose situation for many individuals.

If a transsexual chooses their biological color, then while the public may be happy, the individual will feel as if they are lying about their identity. Forced into their biological-color robe, the individual may feel uncomfortable and unhappy. If a transsexual student chooses their true-gender color, then while the individual is true to themselves, public critics may not be happy, and lash out at the individual, blaming them for the change. As a result, while the individual may feel as though they have done the right thing, the backlash from the public might make them revert back to their gender deception.

This conflict suggests that separating the Class of 2016 into green (male) and white (female) robes should not be an option.

And, while the robe color is an important topic, education of new trends in society may be more important. Social progress like race integration and the legalization of homosexual marriage reveal the moral connection between society and the individual. While history is studied to prevent evil from repeating, when progress is made in these circumstances, society must be sensitive and understanding of new social behaviors and codes. Consequently, Springfield High School is in a unique position as it takes up the question of the green-and-white robes. Clearly, this question and decision is larger than just the color of the robes. It is the question and decision on how inclusive and compassionate the high school will become.

Another possible idea is to have uniformed color robes with a green cap and white tassel. In theory, this would protect those unsure of their gender from harassment.

Forced into their biological-color robe, the individual could be subject to verbal abuse, along with lack of knowledge of transsexuality, may be an goal of graduation, as well as public education, any unusual differences that can be used as ammunition for verbal abuse creates a bad school climate. This abuse, along with lack of knowledge of transsexuality, would be encouraged by letting individuals choose their own colors.

Therefore, two solutions could positively alter the matter: choose one color for graduation robes, or use a white graduation robe, tie-dye it green colors, and keep traditional colors, which would protect this new minority, and bring a quality of individuality to graduation.

Another option for graduation robes is simply to let the seniors choose their color. However, while at face value this sounds like a legitimate option, since the gender identity of graduation has been deeply engraved in tradition as green for boys, and white for boys, if a transsexual was to choose their true-gender color, the individual could be subject to verbal abuse for their bravery at defining who they really are. In addition, some individuals are unsure of their gender identity entirely.

The problem between tradition and change isn’t that traditionalists are angry, mean, and indecent people. The problem is this: transsexualism is such a new topic for society that understanding the scope of its ideology will take some time. As a result, some people aren’t being cruel when they resist a single-color robe, they are just unaware of this newly-recognized group of people.

As a result, while promoting individuality may be an goal of graduation, as well as public education, any unusual differences that can be used as ammunition for verbal abuse creates a bad school climate. This abuse, along with lack of knowledge of transsexuality, would be encouraged by letting individuals choose their own colors.

Humans tend to maintain the status quo. People tend to go with what they know rather than choose a new, unknown option. People feel safer with the established order in the face of potential change. This is understandable.

While a single-color role option is more un-
Slaughterhouse-Five is a satiric telegraphic schizophrenic Tralfamadorian war story written by Kurt Vonnegut, a veteran of World War II. Vonnegut encourages readers to think about the meaning of war and the sacrifice of men and women who have gone to war for the United States of America.

In the interview, Kurt Vonnegut: Still Speaking To The War Weary, re-broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR) in 2011, Vonnegut said, "...civilization ended in World War I, and we're still trying to recover from that... artists have [been] creating to glorify war, which as we all know, is nonsense, and a good deal worse than that — romantic pictures of battle, and of the dead and men in uniform and all that. And I did not want to have that story told again...When I went to war in World War II, we had two fears. One was we would be killed. The other was that we might have to kill somebody. And now killing is whoopee! It does not seem much anymore. To my generation, it still seemed like an extraordinary thing to do, to kill."

To make readers consider the finality of death in Slaughterhouse-5, Vonnegut employs the refrain "So it goes" when death, dying, and mortality occur, as a narrative transition to another subject, as a reflection about mortality, as a statement of comic relief, and as a way to explain the unexplainable: death. The line "so it goes" appears 106 times in Slaughterhouse-Five.

Second, in Slaughterhouse-5, Vonnegut underscores the fact that most soldiers who go to war are practically babies. As he states in the novel: "We had been foolish virgins in the war, right at the end of childhood." (18). In a memorable metaphor from the book, he describes adult wartime violence reverting to childhood innocence: "American planes, full of holes and wounded men and corpses, took off backwards from an airfield in England... The minerals were then shipped to specialists in remote areas. It was their business to put them into the ground, to hide them cleverly, so they would never hurt anybody ever again... Everybody turned into a baby." (93-95).

Third, Vonnegut examines the concept of time from the viewpoint of those gentle aliens, the Tralfamadorians: "When a Tralfamadorian sees a corpse, all he thinks is that the dead person is in bad condition in that particular moment, but that the same person is just fine in plenty of other moments. Now, when I myself hear that somebody is dead, I simply shrug and say what the Tralfamadorians say about dead people, which is 'So it goes.' " (34).

Also concerned about the impact of war on humanity, Sebastian Junger, who wrote the best-seller The Perfect Storm, filed "Veterans Need to Share The Moral Burden of War," for The Washington Post in 2013. Junger echoes Vonnegut as he discusses the meaning of war and the sacrifices made by soldiers.

Although Junger does not write in a telegraphic schizophrenic Tralfamadorian style, he highlights the youthfulness of American troops: "The soldiers are mostly in their teens, I pointed out. Why would we expect them to evaluate U.S. foreign policy?"

Junger then focuses on the most common mistake people make about war: "The host had made the classic error of thinking that war belongs to the soldiers who fight it." This leads Junger to examine what Veterans Day is, as opposed to what it should be.

Junger believes that war belongs to everyone, soldiers and civilians, involved in the conflict: "The sense that war belongs exclusively to the soldiers and generals may be one of the most destructive expressions of this gap. Both sides are to blame... If a soldier inadvertently kills a civilian in Baghdad, we all helped kill that civilian. If a soldier loses his arm in Afghanistan, we all lost something. I know many soldiers who don’t want to be called heroes—a grotesquely misused word—or told that they did their duty; some don’t want to be thanked. Soldiers know all too well how much killing—mostly of civilians—goes on in war."

Junger sees people desensitized by war, especially those at home who have never known what it is to kill. Junger states that change is not always a good thing in the aftermath of war: "Typically, warriors were welcomed home by their entire community and underwent rituals to spiritually cleanse them of the effect of killing. Otherwise, they were considered too polluted to be around women and children... every person in the community knew that their lives depended on these young men."

Junger believes this ritual is no longer followed: "Perhaps war is so obscene that even the people who supported it don’t want to hear the details or acknowledge their role. Soldiers face myriad challenges when they return home, but one of the most destructive is the sense that their country doesn’t quite realize that it—and not just the soldiers—went to war. Civilians tend to do things that make them, not the veterans, feel better."

He understands that America is unable to perform tribal rituals designed to reduce combat trauma. However, he believes there is a way to reduce combat trauma: "The therapeutic power of storytelling, for example, could give combat veterans an emotional outlet and allow civilians to demonstrate their personal involvement."

Junger believes Veterans Day should be a day where the Veterans are the ones doing the speaking: "We would hear [from veterans] a lot of anger and pain. We would also hear a lot of pride. Some of what would be said would make you uncomfortable, whether you are liberal or conservative, military or nonmilitary, young or old. But there is no point in having a conversation about war that is not completely honest."

Junger agrees with Vonnegut’s point of view about war as stated in Slaughterhouse-Five and in his NPR interview. The point of war is not to send men overseas to fight and come back as if everything is normal. Much less, blame for war should not be laid on them. They were only pawns. Veterans Day should be a day to allow veterans—like Vonnegut—to tell their stories about war. As Junger concludes: “In addition to getting our veterans back, we might get our nation back as well.”
Prepare, Compare, Beware
Competitive Shopping on Black Friday

Once Thanksgiving comes, Black Friday deals appear on the horizon. Black Friday shopping is early shopping, which occurs on the day after Thanksgiving. People get up early—as early as the dawn—to go shopping on this specific day.

Despite its obvious allure, Black Friday doesn’t appeal to all people. “I don’t have the time to go Black Friday shopping,” said Springfield High School junior Lillian Holden.

Some big brand name stores, like Walmart or Target, started Black Friday sales earlier this year. As early as the 1st of November (before Thanksgiving, instead of paper advertisements) Black Friday ads could be found online. For this reason, Black Friday shopping might be less crowded, since some shoppers may choose to complete their purchases online.

Black Friday is also notorious for its problems with shoppers fighting over sales concerning early Christmas gifts. Over the past few years, actual fights have occurred in stores with shoppers ironically and pathetically tussling for Christmas gifts. According to a Huffington Post article, in 2011 a violent incident occurred in a California Walmart store when a woman used pepper spray to cut a path for herself to move to the front of the shopping line. Twenty people were injured in this incident, referred to as “competitive shopping” by consumer critics.

These incidents of Black Friday violence bother people. “It’s deadly,” SHS junior Erin Demerchant said, “[with] a lot of people wanting presents.”

Some merchants are downplaying Black Friday. REI, an outdoor equipment franchise, closed all of its stores on Black Friday. These store closures occurred because REI wanted people to be outside enjoying nature, instead of being inside shopping.

According to an article on WBAY.com, shoppers should follow these simple tips if they participate in Black Friday: 1. Don’t leave your purse available for people to grab; 2. Avoid confrontation because there will always be another sale; 3. When shopping with children agree on a meeting place; 4. Avoid arranging for a meeting place which is busy.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
School Officials Note Larger Attendance

Springfield High School faculty members have offered one-on-one Parent-Teacher Conferences for six years. These conversations help teachers and parents communicate about student learning.

SHS Principal Bob Thibault believes these conferences promote learning. “[They] facilitate communication between teachers and parents,” Thibault said in an email. “[They help us] understand home supports and challenges better.”

This year’s parent-teacher conferences took place on Thursday, November 5th, from 1:00-8:00 pm in the SHS Cafeteria. A turnout of over 65 families -- for a total of 130 parents and students -- came this year to talk with teachers. Teachers were in place in the cafeteria for the duration of the conferences to allow parents to locate them easier.

“I enjoyed talking to the parents that came,” said 1st-year SHS math teacher Lila Gilbreath. “It’s a good way to make sure parents are on board and know what is going on in the classroom.”

“I think they [conferences] went well,” added math teacher Sean Sullivan. “We are always looking for ways to improve attendance [at the conferences]. I saw a lot of great conversations going on between parents and teachers.”

“Overall, I think they went well this year,” said SHS Assistant Principal Jade Costello. “I believe some great connections were made as well. I always want to have a good conversation with parents. I saw at least 17 parents of students. All conversations were good. Everyone is on the same side. All we want is to have students be successful.”
Deafheaven have been the subject of many bold proclamations, to the point where merely having any opinion about them is draining. Here is one take you may have overlooked: Deafheaven is rightfully a metal band. They are not subverting metal or making a mockery of it; they are part of the paradigm for metal in this age. Metal has always imbued its electric fury into other genres to create some amazing hybrids.

Think of how thrash’s exemplars gave hardcore’s boundless rage structure and progressive rock vitality. Deafheaven were not the first to connect the dots between black metal, shoegaze, and post-hardcore, but their 2013 breakout, Sunbather, never used any of those as a crutch, and suggested a new direction entirely. New Bermuda both expands their range and sees them coming further into their own.

The opening on Deafheaven’s new album New Bermuda ends with the line, “A multiverse of fuchsia and violet surrenders to blackness now.” This lyrical conclusion diminishes any suspicion that the San Francisco post-metal group would come out of the bright pink haze of 2013’s wildly-successful Sunbather attempting to do the same thing twice. To be fair, many bands would choose the familiar artistic path. After the critically-acCLAIMed success of Sunbather, Deafheaven found themselves running an international victory lap that only seemed to end this summer with the lead-up to their third album.

The fame and success seemed to be all that Sunbather’s longing, poetic lyrics strove for: a lavish, carefree lifestyle. Yet with new surroundings came new fears, and consequently an encompassing and nearly comforting black void of uncertainty and blind acceptance of that which you can’t control. If you swim in Sunbather’s warmth, you’ll sink to where sunlight can’t reach you in New Bermuda.

On “Luna,” the new album’s second track, frontman George Clarke wearily rebukes the lifestyle, which he dreamed about while gripping the steering wheel in Sunbather’s title track, finding himself “sitting quietly in scorching reimagined suburbia,” as if looking out a window of a beautiful home and seeing rough edges within and without.

That disillusionment makes way for an exploration of a much harsher style than what the band has been famous for. Clarke’s vocals are fierce and distinguished, and despite the romantic imagery of his lyrics, he’s honed his howls and screeches to be demanding, and overpowering. Meanwhile, guitarists Kerry McCoy and Shiv Mehra opt for a sound rooted in the mid-80s Bay Area thrash that would nurture their evident and passionate love of metal.

Favoring experimentation (rather than settling into the fusion of black metal and shoegaze known as “blackgaze” sound) works well for Deafheaven, especially since it was their critics that essentially coined the term “blackgaze.” New Bermuda thrives on variety. For the first time on a Deafheaven album, staccato triplet riffs make a welcome appearance, as does McCoy’s fantastically melodic, Kirk Hammett-esque solo on “Baby Blue.” Meanwhile, drummer Dan Tracy becomes the album’s highlight, and he is given the opportunity to play more than just blast beats.

Closer “Gifts for the Earth,” the point at which the album’s genre-bending is at its clearest and most surprising, would clumsily see itself out and trip over the door jamb if not for the sort of singular, unified vision that powers Deafheaven as a five-piece band.

That vision also transforms what once may have been dreamy, shoegaze instrumentals into self-reflective, affirming songs centered on an “endless truth of instability and futility” (as emphasized in “Come Back”). Where some might have connected Sunbather’s post-rock influences to bands like Explosions in the Sky and Russian Circles, New Bermuda finds the band paying homage to Godspeed You! Black Emperor in a melancholy moment at the end of “Baby Blue,” when a recorded voice provides commuter information for the George Washington Bridge.

It all feels poignantly familiar to the Arco AM/PM recording on “Storm,” from Godspeed’s masterpiece Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven. Even the brief instrumental that begins “Come Back” feels like Godspeed. With the album’s general acceptance of disillusionment, coupled with urban and blacktop imagery, the echo is fitting.

Barely two years after Sunbather, it’s remarkable that Deafheaven could turn on a dime and produce an album like New Bermuda. Its audacity and stylistic shifts may have resulted in an album that’s not quite as much like coming home as Sunbather, but it shows a genuine and fascinating maturation in a band that deserves to remain in the spotlight.

New Bermuda, and Deafheaven’s entire oeuvre, should not be considered “metal for people who don’t like metal.” It’s a lazy crutch to not only dismiss Deafheaven’s undeniable crossover appeal, but also deny the ever-expanding power of metal itself. Are you into intense emotional displays? Instrumentation so forceful yet never overbearing? And, most important, riffs that take over your livelihood? Stop sitting on the fence — you like metal, and New Bermuda is ace metal.
Choice Spirit
Lost in the Patterns of Youth

After releasing one of heavy metal’s most polarizing and celebrated albums in years with 2013’s Sunbather, Deafheaven faced a question familiar to those bands who’ve managed to capture that rarest kind of success: What happens now?

Maintaining the creative trajectory that won them adulation from critics and listeners presented enough of a challenge by itself. Combine it with the fact that the San Francisco-based black metal hybrid group presents an aesthetic challenge to a genre where high value is ironically placed on conformity, and the tension that could have easily crippled the group before writing even the first note of its third album, New Bermuda, instead worked to tremendous effect.

At just over 45 minutes, New Bermuda is a thematic reality check on its predecessor’s starry-eyed daydream. The hopeful aspirations and desperate grasps for the seemingly unreachable threaded throughout Sunbather are grounded with quick and unforgiving intensity within the first few minutes of New Bermuda’s opening track, “Brought to the Water.” But just as Sunbather at once infuriated and captivated the gaping maw of heavy metal traditionalists with its so-called “bastardization” of black metal, shoegaze and post-rock, New Bermuda further explores those uninhibited musical constructs, resulting in a kind of cynical vulnerability much darker than anything else the band has created so far.

On New Bermuda, George Clarke screams his disenchantment rage against the backdrop of guitarist Kerry McCoy’s Godspeed You! Black Emperor–meets-Johnny Marr guitar playing. Contrasting Clarke and McCoy’s tandem agonized melodic digressions, Daniel Tracy (drums), Stephen Clark (bass) and Shiv Mehra (guitar) roar with an unhinged dissonant furor. As difficult a task as it can be to drown out the hypercritical noise that naturally follows when traditions are overturned, New Bermuda answers potential challenges with a conviction far more engaging than the reactionary skepticism it has received.

However, challenges are nothing new to the members of Deafheaven.

Before becoming the founding members of Deafheaven, Clarke and McCoy had to deal with life’s everyday struggles. After moving to San Francisco, the founding members of Deafheaven were in the middle of a crazy, drug-induced, dead-end-job life.

“It was just sort of right around the time that we were living in this house that was just kind of crazy,” said Clarke via email. “There were a lot of people living in it. It was just ridiculous. We had parties every night. Everyone was doing every drug. It was a really crazy party environment that left me exhausted. We were working at these terrible jobs, and just scraping by and stealing food, just being shitheads.”

Bored with the repetitive partying and dead-end jobs, the two started the band as a project. In their spare time, Clarke and McCoy wrote and recorded the demo for a project called Deafheaven. “We were just sort of bored with what we were doing,” said Clarke. “It was more like a hobby until it started getting picked up on, and then we decided to be serious about it.”

Following up with their 2011 effort Roads to Judah, Clarke and McCoy were offered their first label by Deathwish Records. Continuing to show off their awareness for black metal, the label offer was eye-opening news. However, at this point Deafheaven wasn’t a band. It was a two-man project, with no on-stage experience.

“Before the label offer, we were asked by a local promoter to play a show,” said Clarke, “and it wasn’t really something that we had thought too much about before. We had a couple months to sort of pull a band together, so we got a couple extra players and started slowly doing shows. After our fifth show, Deathwish contacted us about releasing the record.”

This record deal made Clarke and McCoy realize that music could be a lifestyle for them. However, in the two years following Roads to Judah, the band’s extra players and members split apart due to personal conflicts, while others could not make the full-time commitment. As a result, Clarke and McCoy were stuck recording another album by themselves.

“In the time between the two records we had just lost all of our additional players, and no one could really fulfill the commitment anymore,” said Clarke. “There were personal relationship issues, and for one reason or another we were going through different members. Meeting and wanting to do our new record, we just sort of decided that we would do it ourselves.”

Over the next two years, Clarke and McCoy would write and continue their frantic lifestyle. However, that all changed in June 2013 with the release of Sunbather.

Somewhere between the decaying sounds of “Windows” and the sonic hell of “The Pecan Tree,” Sunbather becomes believable. The transition lacks subtlety; as dark foreboding leads into harsh eruption of shrill screeches and exploding percussion. Unexpected, but such is life, as Deafheaven so deftly describe in the album’s 60-minute runtime. Conceptually, it encompasses the jovial, yet painful and ultimately fruitless search for perfection; a personal journey for beauty and grace mired in the depths of failure and disappointment.

It is a personal struggle that Clarke and McCoy know all too well.

Fed up with their life’s struggle, the tandem decided to confront it through an album that carries emotions that overreach all of humanity: the struggle to be perfect and content.

“It’s [the album’s theme is about] just kind of living excessively and getting nowhere,” said Clarke. “It’s like wanting a year in a blacked-out, drugged-out, exhausted state of mind. It involves looking at people, and examining people…and people appear normal and carefree for the most part. But it’s about figuring out why maybe our life is not that way.”

See Choice Spirit page 18
Column

Where Did the Logic Go?
Is Gun Control the Solution, Or Just One?

In the past 1,057 days (as of November 24th) there have been 994 mass shootings. This begs the debate on gun control. While every political pundit agrees that something needs to be done, no one can agree on what exactly needs to change. Liberals call for increased background checks and waiting periods, extreme liberals call for the ban on guns altogether. Conservatives call for no change at all, extreme conservatives call for refuting gun control (which includes arming teachers to prevent school shootings, a crazy idea). Scientists and doctors call for mental health care for all.

So what is the answer? What is the solution that will save lives? From a logical perspective, the answer is all of the above.

Before we can choose the possible solutions to gun crime, we first need to determine if the problem actually is gun violence. This is an incredibly inflammatory statement, I know, but the question remains - is it the problem that guns are being used to kill people or is it the problem that people want to kill others in the first place? Will stopping people from committing mass-shootings stop them from committing mass-murders? From a logical standpoint, our society should want to take away the drive to kill rather than the weapon most commonly used.

There are many fallacies in the pro-gun argument, but there are even more in the anti-gun argument. While I hate to agree with the National Rifle Association, the saying that “guns don’t kill people, people kill people” is accurate. If you put 100 people who hate each other and one gun in a room, the only way someone will die is if one of those 100 people picks up the gun and pulls the trigger. Do we blame the car for killing somebody or do we blame the drunk driver? Better yet, do we blame the alcohol he drank or do we blame his lack of self-control? If someone really wants to kill others, taking away guns won’t stop them from doing so. Axes and knives are also very effective killing tools. They were used for that purpose for centuries before gunpowder was invented, and there has never been a call to ban knives and axes, even though all three are used to provide food and heat homes for millions of Americans. Should guns be on trial or should murderers?

The first major fallacy in the pro-gun rhetoric is the fact that the Constitution doesn’t necessarily provide the right for private ownership of guns. The framers of the Constitution -- who had no idea how advanced weaponry would become over 200 years after the document was written, or how many people would live in urban areas where gun violence dominates -- wrote that a well-regulated militia had the right to maintain guns. The issue of whether or not this right applies to the citizens in general is where the debate stems from, and is the largest chink in the armor of the pro-gun argument.

The second major fallacy perpetuated by gun-lovers is the types of guns and the size of magazines allowed. Now, no matter your opinion on the topic, I’m pretty sure that most people can agree that the average citizen doesn’t need automatic weapons capable of firing ten rounds per second, military grade weapons such as bazookas or .50 caliber machine guns, or magazines that hold 30 rounds (although, I don’t see the problem with the number of bullets a magazine can hold).

The first, most dominant fallacy of anti-gun rhetoric is that those who oppose gun ownership presume that the people committing mass-shootings are law-abiding gun owners who obtained their weapons legally. If you look at the Sandy Hook shooting, which sparked the most recent major debate on gun control, the clinically insane man who massacred those children stole his mother’s guns after he killed her. According to www.gunfacts.info, roughly 39% of all guns in the United States are bought illegally. Additionally, according to the Department of Justice and the Pew Research Center via Forbes Magazine, 77% of convicted criminals who commit gun crimes obtained their weapons illegally.

The second fallacy about gun
An interesting lineup of leaders who have urged banning guns. History suggests that too much regulation increases violence.

An average death in a shooting rampage when stopped by police: 14.3
An average death in a shooting rampage when stopped by civilians: 2.3


Gun Violence by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gun homicides in 2011, a drop of 39% from 1993</td>
<td>11,101</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual number of homicides at schools in the 2000s*, down from 29 in the 1990s</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfatal gun crimes in 2011, a drop of 69% from 1993</td>
<td>467,300</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculation did not include the Newtown massacre

Data: Bureau of Justice Statistics

The evidence supports that the more guns people own, the lower the crime rate becomes. There is no evidence that gun crimes are going up, quite the contrary. There is no evidence that assault rifles -- machine guns -- are in the hands of the American people, they’re talking about as, first of all, you can’t buy an assault rifle and second, people are getting the definition of “assault rifle” confused with their agendas.

So, what do we do?
The evidence supports that the more guns people own, the lower the crime rate becomes. There is no evidence that gun crimes are going up, quite the contrary. There is no evidence that assault rifles -- machine guns -- are in the hands of the American people, they’re talking about as, first of all, you can’t buy an assault rifle and second, people are getting the definition of “assault rifle” confused with their agendas.

See Gun Control page 19
Voting in America is one of the most important rights and responsibilities that we possess, through which our decisions and our complacency are passed to future generations. The choices we make today will ensure that our children will either have an easy life or an unnecessarily complicated one. Despite this, millennials, those born between 1985-1997, though one of the most publicly-aware groups in American history, are inactive in politics.

However, what is interesting about the 2016 Presidential Campaign is that there are candidates who are attracting young, potential voters. Bernie Sanders has caught the attention of the majority of young Democrats in the United States, as he focuses on real issues that affect America’s future. On the other side, Donald Trump is an uncommon Republican, one who is surprisingly appealing to millennials. Millennials, are more than twice as likely to vote for Sanders than Clinton, leading her 54% to 26%, a NBC News-Survey Monkey poll revealed.

Bernard “Bernie” Sanders, a two-time Vermont Senator, represented the state for 16 years in the United States House of Representatives. Sanders also served as the mayor of Burlington, Vermont, for eight years. He is now one of three candidates running for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. Sanders is the longest-serving Independent in the history of the United States Congress.

Currently, Sanders is in a heated battle with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. With only 31% of the Democratic vote, Sanders needs to take about 13 points away from Clinton to win the nomination. But the key words in that sentence is vote. This Huffington Post poll, and most other polls across the nation, do not take unregistered and future voters -- primarily millennials -- into account. This presently undefined group could propel Sanders to the top, beating even the indestructible Hillary Clinton.

Donald John Trump, Chairman and President of The Trump Organization, is a Republican candidate running for president in the last 25 years who is not only pulling youth support, but also averaging over 25% of the general Republican vote. In the past six months, he has been catching the attention of people of all ages, and even some base conservative Fox News anchors like Megyn Kelly, by appealing to the anti-government sentiment, and capitalizing on the public’s frustration about what government is, and isn’t, doing.

Young Americans, at least conservative youth, are fed up with “big government” and, in terms of illegal immigration, want undocumented aliens to be deported so “we can get our jobs back,” a constant worry on the minds of many American youth.

Other critics point out that illegal immigrants aren’t taking American jobs, though Trump is saying things that really make the young people think about the future and where the United States is heading. Trump’s legitimacy is built on erecting a wall on the Mexican border, part of this theme of “Making America Great Again.” Trump might get the nomination for the Republican party but if Bernie and Trump come head to head, it will be millennials who do the choosing.

Young Americans around the country are very enthusiastic about this voting season because of Sanders and Trump. They realize they have the ability to vote for someone who could change the course of American history.

Thus, in this 2016 race, young people have the potential to turn the tide. And if millennials continue
The novel *The Darkest Part of the Forest*, by Holly Black, is a fantasy published almost a year ago.

The narrator introduces the main character early in the tale: “Once, there was a girl who vowed she would save everyone in the world, but forgot herself.” Hazel Evans is that girl. Hazel and her older brother Ben live in a town called Fairfold. In Fairfold, humans and fae (a term for any magical creature) exist together. Though their boundaries are easily broken, they manage to keep the peace. For the most part.

Rhymes are sung in the story to remind children that fae folk are dangerous: “There’s a monster in our wood. She’ll get you if you’re not good. Drag you under leaves and sticks. Punish you for all your tricks. A nest of hair and gnawed bone. You are never, ever coming... home.”

In modern times, it is easy to forget just how cruel the fae can be. There is one fae in Fairfold, though, who intrigues any passerby, especially Hazel and Ben, the pretend knights of Fairfold: “Down a path worn into the woods, past a stream and a hollowed-out log full of pill bugs and termites, was a glass coffin. It rested right on the ground, and in it slept a boy with horns on his head and ears as pointed as knives.”

The beginning of *The Darkest Part of the Forest* narrates this imagery of a fae prince in a glass coffin. Hazel and Ben grow up fighting fae in secret and lying on the glass coffin to spill their hearts to the fae within who they both love. But nobody can awaken this fae. They can’t shatter the glass. And they can’t stop trying, even though this magic creature has been in that coffin seemingly forever.

However, just a short way into *The Darkest Part of the Forest*, the fae in the coffin awakens: “It wasn’t like he was real. It wasn’t like he could love them back. It wasn’t like he’d ever have to choose. Except now he’d woken. That changed everything.”

Hazel, Ben, Jack (a friend) and others now must get involved with the suddenly-awakened faerie prince. They must choose their fate and reveal long-kept secrets as *The Darkest Part of the Forest* reaches its conclusion.

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**Movie Review**

**Zombies, Werewolves, Gnomes**

**Goosebumps Will Give You Goosebumps**

by Olivia Hoag

Grab a soda and some popcorn. Let’s start. Don’t be scared, though. “Viewers beware, you’re in for a scare” when it comes to the recent film release *Goosebumps.*

*Goosebumps* takes place in Madison, Delaware. A mother and her son, Zach, move into a new home. They hope moving to Madison will be a fresh start for them, since Zach’s father died the previous year. Also, Zach’s mother starts her new job as vice principal at Zach’s new high school.

The creepy neighbor, R.L. Stine, and his daughter, Hannah, live next door. Zach thinks that Hannah has been locked away from the outside world by her father. Later, Zach and his new best friend, Champ, try to save Hannah.

*Goosebumps* is entertaining and thrilling. Imagine being attacked by zombies, a werewolf, an abominable snowman, and other monsters? Such attacks occur in this movie. All of R.L. Stine’s stories come to life in this film and the movie becomes a compilation of Stine’s book series *Goosebumps.* The movie has a tone as being both funny and scary, with Stine making jokes that refer to the books. In *Goosebumps*, gnomes attack Hannah, Champ, Stine and Zach. In one interesting moment in the film, there is a reference to the book, *Revenge of the Lawn Gnome*: “I hope they are friendly gnomes.”

A nice feature of *Goosebumps* is Jack Black playing R.L. Stine. His creepy performance shows viewers what great skill Stine has as a writer. Stine (Black) is threatening to Zach, and sneaky about the human sounds emanating from his house.

R.L. (Robert Lawrence) Stine has sold over 350 million books throughout the world. He has also written an autobiography, *It Came From Ohio*, and a celebrated opinion piece for *The New York Times* in 2010.

Additionally, *Eye Candy* is an adult thriller novel written by R.L. Stine. *Eye Candy* is an MTV series, based on his book.

R.L. Stine’s recent books include *The Lost Girl*, and *Goosebumps Most Wanted Night Of The Puppet People.*
Tom Brady. A great? A hack? Both have been used to describe Brady and his beloved Patriots. But this season there can be no argument: Tom Brady and the Patriots are unstoppable.

As fans and critics alike will recall, the summer for all of us was a hard one as it concerned the NFL. Continuous coverage of Deflategate, when Brady played with partially-deflated footballs against the Colts in the AFC Championship game last season, tarnished a championship team. Commissioner Roger Goodell slandered the reputation of what is arguably the best quarterback of our time, if not all time.

But deflategate didn’t hurt the Patriots like the rest of the league hoped it would. After Goodell decreed a four-game suspension against Brady in May, Federal Judge Richard M. Berman overturned the decision and ruled in favor of Brady, citing an unfair appeal process. Goodell and his lawyers have since appealed the decision, an appeal process that is set to begin in early March, about a month after Super Bowl 50. Brady has failed to be hurt by any of the controversy. Needless to say, his performance has been splendid this season.

Week 1 saw the Patriots face off against the Pittsburgh Steelers at home. Though the first quarter was slow, the Super Bowl Champions were not ones to disappoint and came back in the second quarter to score 14 to Pittsburgh’s 3. The Super Bowl MVP also gave fans a show, completing 25 out of 32 attempts for a total of 288 yards. The rest of the game was all Patriots as they went on to win 28-21, securing their first victory and launching an incredible season.

Week 2 continued the domination with the Patriots on the road against some all-too-familiar rivals, the Buffalo Bills. New head coach Rex Ryan, fresh from the New York Jets, was ready to show the Patriots just how tough his team was. Brady, however, came prepared, and with three touchdowns and 466 passing yards, the second most of his career to date, he saw his team to victory with a 40-32 score. Now 2-0, and with Rex Ryan and the Bills suddenly quiet, the Pats moved on to the Jacksonville Jaguars for week three.

Back at home now, Brady was ready to give his fans another show. At halftime the Pats were up 20-3, and from there it was just too much for Jacksonville as Brady and his team cruised to an easy 51-17 win. The game was not without its highlights as Brady threw two touchdowns, including his 400th, making him the fourth quarterback in NFL history to complete 400 touchdowns. Rob Gronkowski, tight end and one of Brady’s leading men on the field, caught four passes for a total of 101 yards. Wide Receiver Julian Edelman picked up 85 yards himself with a total of eight passes, while running back LeGarrette Blount ran for 78 yards. Kicker Stephen Gostkowski had a great day too, running his streak of extra points to an NFL record of 425.

Headed into an early bye week at 3-0, the Pats rested and
prepared for their next conquest, the Dallas Cowboys.

Week 4, another win, as Brady and company rolled past the injured Cowboys to win 30-6 on the road. Missing quarterback Tony Romo due to an injured left clavicle, the Cowboys were no match for Brady’s 277 passing yards. Edelman himself gobbled up 120 receiving yards. Though Brady was sacked five times in the first half, he still threw two touchdowns and ran one himself from the one-yard line. Now at 4-0, the Pats were living large as they headed out on the road for their revenge match against the Indianapolis Colts.

Coming out of the gate quickly, Brady was on fire and ready to unleash his anger on the team that had taken up so much of his summer. Before the game, there was a lot of controversy as both sides debated who would win, with Brady’s father even getting into it as he bet his son would have 60 points by game’s end. Though not reaching that mark, Brady still showed the Colts who was in charge as he completed 23-37 passes with a total of 312 yards and led his team to another win, 34-27. Brady, his three touchdowns, and the stellar Pats however were not the lead story that night, as it was the Colts’ fake punt that pulled headlines the next day. Indy set most of its offensive line to the right side on the trick play, letting the Pats have a clear opening as they moved in for the tackle of safety Colt Anderson, acting as a quarterback, before taking over the ball on the Colts 35. Six plays later they scored again, by then too much for Indy as they watched last years champs steam-roll them. Feeling good and ready for more, Brady was excited to return home and face the New York Jets.

Week 7 was a rough start for the Pats, as Brady was incomplete on a majority of his passes. Not one to give up, though, Brady continued to play hard and fans soon saw a turnaround coming as the Pats came back to win the game 30-23. The day also saw some records, as tight end Rob Gronkowski had 11 catches for 108 yards, including a touchdown, a career high for him. Wide receiver Danny Amendola had 86 yards, including a touchdown as well. Brady himself became the the fifth NFL player in history to reach 55,000 passing yards, and was also the team's leading rusher with 15 yards, throwing the ball for all but nine plays, tying an NFL record of fewest rushes in a win. Thanks to the renewed energy from the home fans and another defeat handed to a division rival, Brady was ready to face another division foe in week eight, the Miami Dolphins.

After winning two games with interim head coach Dan Campbell, the Dolphins were looking to make it three in a row. But Brady would have none of it. The Pats allowed only one Miami score on their way to another win, 36-7. Throwing for 356 yards, including four touchdowns, Brady again set a record, this time with his 19th game with four touchdowns and no picks. A division rival now demolished, and the Pats 7-0, a first for the team since 2007 and only the second time in franchise history, the team looked forward to a weekend break before facing the Washington Redskins on November 8th.

Ready to face his next opponent, Brady showed no mercy to the Washington Redskins as he again performed in front of a home crowd. Just ten minutes into the game, Brady showed Washington he wasn’t joking as the Pats scored 14 points in the first quarter, a lead that led them to victory, 27-10. Completing 26 of 39 passes for a total of 299 yards, along with two touchdowns, Brady showed the league that even with two weeks to prepare, no team could beat the mighty Pats. Along with tying an NFL record of scoring in 31 straight quarters, the Pats showed that even with multiple injuries to its offensive line, the team was able to readjust and play the same level of football as before. Now three games ahead of anyone else in the AFC East, Brady prepared to face the New York Giants in New York on November 15th, a game that was sure to be exciting.

With their unparalleled performance this season, the Patriots are undeniably a major part of the National Football League. Even though, in late November, they were tied for best record with the Carolina Panthers, at 10-0, no team had shown as much fire as...
Sports
Lawrence's Prediction Comes to Fruition
Cross Country Goes to States
by Ryan Cooney

They stand on the line, waiting, knowing the moment is near.
A lone figure moves to the center 100 yards away.
The pack stops and focuses on him and becomes silent.
He raises his hand, a single shot fires, and the silent pack becomes a ravaging mob as they take to the woods.
And the 2015 Vermont State Cross Country meet, held every year at Thetford in late October, begins.

Andy Freeman and Stephen Lawrence are proud of the cross-country team.

Post-Season Honors
Recognizing Exceptional Athletes
by Kelsey Gould

Every year, student-athletes work all season to improve their skills. Whether this involves soccer players scissoring past defenders, field hockey girls flicking shots on goal, cross-country runners improving personal records, or the football team refining plays, Springfield High School athletes develop their finesse every day. Select athletes, however, dedicate themselves even further; practicing sooner and longer, playing harder, and encouraging other players, as well as pushing themselves to greater individual achievements. At the end of the fall season, eleven of these athletes were recognized for their excellence.

"It is nice for the students to be recognized by other coaches," said SHS Athletic Director Tim MacDonnell in an e-mail. "Athletes who are recognized typically standout from their teammates as the hardest workers. This is obviously not always the case, but players who receive post-season accolades are often the ones working on their skills constantly. The extra work then pays off from a statistical standpoint, which in return helps them be recognized by other coaches."

SHS girls and boys soccer, field hockey, and cross-country teams belong to the Marble Valley League, which chooses all-star teams for each season. In order for athletes to make an MVL team, their skill and sportsmanship must be noticed by both their coaches and other coaches. This year, the Cosmos girls soccer team captain Jade Twombly was selected for first-team MVL. Lina Geyer, Jeremy Morvan, and captain Lizzie Mackenzie were chosen for second-team MVL. Junior Andrew Towne represented the Cosmos boys soccer on first-team MVL, while senior Ian Mattson and junior Eli LaFleur secured places on second-team MVL.