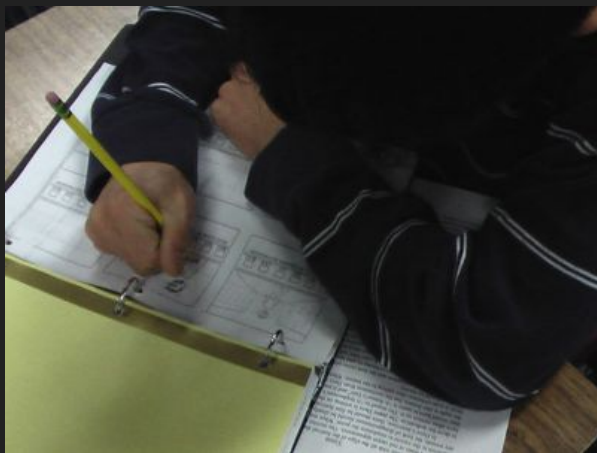


12/8/2009

Well everyone almost died driving to school today, so it must be December, which means that film festival season has officially begun. As you may have noticed, we are once again Cranberry, and I'm pretty sure we're the first crew to be the same fruit for three years in a row. Dave, Connor, and I (see picture on main page) have all returned, and we'll be joined by Phill, Lauren, George, and Dan, which means that someone from each of the 2008 sophomore independents will be represented. Connor and Dan are not in class so we will be doing most of our filming after school, but that shouldn't be a problem since we filmed everything after school last year and still finished before most of the studio films (yeah I said it). Now that we're older, wiser and slightly more mature we're looking to make our best movie yet. We like to think that our movies have gone against the grain a bit. In *A Sophomore's Tale*, the boy gets rejected by everyone, and in *Dropouts*, the slackers win in the end without winning anything. And for this year we felt that there was only one thing left to do: Turn the joke back on the film festival itself. This is going to be fun.



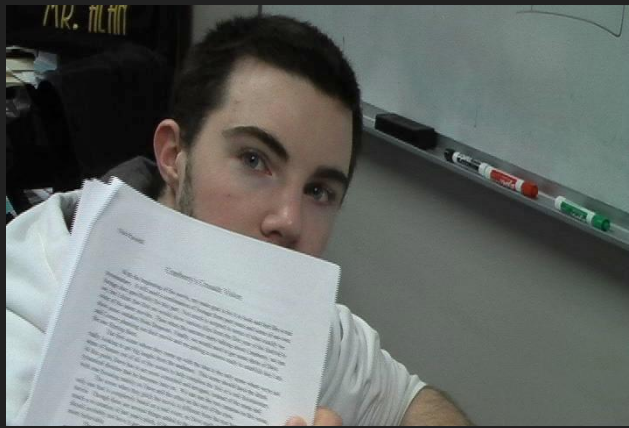
12/18/2009

Hi, Dave tried to break the record for the hole-punch; he lost; and it was an embarrassment for the whole group. It's okay though because he is a sexy beast. Ewe. Anywho, we've been water boarding (that's what people in the business call story boarding) and writing visions and such. Nick Pick and I have been on task doing work and Dave and George are just hanging out looking good. TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF MUSIC TRIVS. Cranberry is going to OWN. It is the first time our group will come together as a whole to show our talents as a crew. I am pretty confident in our abilities. Right now Christina is filming me, and it's hard not to act awkward about it because it needs to seem like I am busy. We had a music meeting on Wednesday and that went pretty well considering we only need two songs really. And today we have an art direction meeting with Ms. Padis. I am personally pretty excited about the knight suit we need. Overall, we are pretty excited to get started filming. We're either going to start during vacation or first thing when we get back. Things are looking prettttttty good! Oh no, after hole-punching Dave put the pages in the wrong order. ugh. Bye!



1/7/2010

Yesterday was our first day filming and like any first day, we ran into several problems. Even though this is our third year, we still learn new things, and we learned an important lesson: Do not film in the English office. First, Mr. Alan came in and pointed out that the heater and the copy machine were making too much noise, so we decided to move to the teacher's lounge. However, Dave disappeared on the way down. After a few minutes we found him talking to Mr. Scott in his room, and we will never leave him on his own again. So then we get to the teacher's lounge, and it is even louder so we went back to the English room. I don't want to mention names, but let's just say that some teachers weren't too happy that we were there. Despite all of the problems, the shot actually came out pretty good in the end, and we won't have to redo it, which is a first for Cranberry. Today we will be filming our first scene with the entire cast, so stay tuned for more updates.



1/13/2010

Somehow I have ended up having to blog again. This is my second one and not everyone has even gone once yet! Anyway, things have been going well. We have filmed a few of Dave's interviews, and last Friday we filmed our first big scene. Newman, Tobin, Phill, and Dan Meyers had to come up with an idea for a movie to make for the film festival. This being my first time filming with all of the boys, I enjoyed myself. They love to just break out in song in the middle of the scene, but they always get right back on task. We filmed mostly from one angle to give the movie the documentary feel. We have some cutaways to break up the scene, such as interviews and close-ups. Newman told me that it would not take a long time, but we were there until almost 5. I was planning to go get my nails done, but I had to move that appointment until Saturday because it got too late. It's tough keeping up my girly exterior when I'm constantly surrounded by boys. However, Newman decided to play diva today, and he didn't come to school. He says he's sick, but I don't know how true that is. I texted him, called him, and left him a message asking where he was, but he didn't answer. 30 seconds later, Nick tries calling him, and he answered right away. We were supposed to film with Ferrara after school, but since Newman didn't show up, we're editing and sub-clipping. It's not as exciting, but it still has to get done. If Dave lives through his illness, we will probably film during midterms, and they will have to go on without me since I will be in Florida until Wednesday. We're hoping he'll get better soon because there are only good things to come!



1/22/2010

So we're a few weeks into filming and Cranberry is starting to hit its stride. When we last blogged, Dave was out sick, but he returned the next day and we were able to resume filming. Our producer from last year, Matt Ferrara, came back to play the role of the producer. Specifically, he's an Australian movie producer named Laroy Whinn. Why Matt wanted to do it with an accent, I have no idea, but it's pretty funny. Some of you might already know about this scene, as all of the noise we were making caused the track team and other people walking by to look into the computer lab to see what was going on. We also did our first scene using two cameras to get cross coverage. I used one camera to film half the actors, while Lauren used a second camera to film the other two actors from a different angle (except I had to put in the tape for her because she's afraid to for some reason). All of the actors fit their characters perfectly, and they have been giving great performances. Over all, we've been adjusting to the move from an independent crew to a studio film, as we now have to have an actual schedule. Also, our computer is no longer in the hole (pub room), so I've been adapting to the increased space/human interaction of Mr. Alan's room. I think we've been filming at a pretty good pace, but we still have a lot left to do. We're waiting for our art direction crew to put together a knight costume, so once we have that we'll be all set. P.S. Is anyone from Oregon is reading this?



1/29/2010

So me, Connor, his lover Kim, and Nick went on an epic journey back to Bird Middle school, where we all graduated from years ago, to find a knight costume. As we pulled into the school blasting LL Cool J, we got a lot of attention from the children. The first person we saw was Mr. Raine who refers to me as David (Fat Head)Newman. If you don't know, he is the Vice Principal of Bird and the English teacher of Nick, Connor and myself from sixth grade. During our brief convo, he mentioned that it was Medieval day so we were in the right place at the right time. For the record we never had Medieval day. Since we are seniors we thought it would be fun to see the rest of our old teachers. We saw Mr. Murphy, and I asked him if he remembered us and he said "No"and kept walking. I have a very unforgettable face so that stung a little bit. We found our woman, Ms. Rounds, and she said she could get us chainmail for our knight suit. After that we went to see our favorite teacher Ms. Richards. We stayed and chatted with her for about an hour and learned all the secrets of Bird. Our trip concluded with a visit to Taco Bell. You see I panic when I have to order large amounts of food for my passengers. I tend to forget what they told me to order and get them the wrong thing so as you can imagine I was quite worried ordering for three people. In the process of ordering for everyone I forgot to order for myself. Oh and by the way we filmed some stuff. We finished all of the shots we could get in class and after we get the Knight suit we will work on the filming the scenes.





2/5/2010

After school we went to Colin's house to film a scene we had the pleasure of meeting Colin's cat Tess, who also got to be in the movie, Tess kept looking at the camera, which made it lot more fun to shoot, anyway the movie is coming along great. We had an art direction meeting for costumes, Newman stopped by Mr. Kim's class to chat and to search for beret during all of it Newman carried a toy sword swinging it around trying to hit everybody, mostly Lauren. All and all it was a fun day. We had a meeting with the design team for the movie poster, Isaac is designing ours he came up with some sick ideas, we're almost there, no problems, so far, hopefully will finish filming by the end of February, I think you'll enjoy the movie. Cranberry ROX, DON'T FORGET IT.

-George



2/12/17

We're at about the halfway point of the crusade, so we decided to do something different from our usual posts this week and bring you a special edition Cranberry blog. (Buddha's Hand can tell you how our footage looks so far if you really want to know). Anyway, here is the list of the top ten things you should know before making a movie for the Walpole Film Festival: A tripod, camera bag, or random crew member will end up in the background of at least one your shots and no one will notice until after the scene is edited. Whenever you film with someone who has never been in a movie before, they are always surprised when you ask them to do something again. You would think it would be common knowledge that you need to do more than one take for a scene, but apparently not. Hallways are always empty after school, until the day you need to film there when an endless parade of people walk through. The day you need to film outside is always twenty degrees below zero. No one can ever agree on what music to use. Even if your crew gets along and works well together, music will end up in an argument eventually. About 70% of the time editing is spent watching footage backwards, in slow motion, or a combination of both. 25% is spent sub-clipping, while the remaining time is spent actually editing the movie. By around March, you will begin to hate your movie with a passion as you watch it for the 8 billionth time. The only thing you'll hate more is the movie that is on the computer next to you. Anyone who says that they "just need to get a quick shot" or that "this scene will only take ten minutes" is lying. Because they can be in multiple movies every year, teachers are becoming more and more and more like Hollywood stars. Don't be surprised when you find out they only read their parts of the script or that they'll only act under certain conditions. You will schedule everything in advance, stay organized, work on the movie every day...and still scramble to finish it before the deadline. There are only three things your movie needs in order to win best picture. Unfortunately, I have no idea what they are. There you have it. Those probably won't help you much, but at least you'll have a better idea as to what to expect. Anyone who has anything else they think should be on the list is welcome to post them in the comments section. We plan on filming a lot over vacation, so we'll return with updates on our movie next week.





3/1/2010

It's been a little while since we last blogged, so I'll try to get everything caught up. We came in for a few days over vacation, and though we did not get quite as much done as I hoped, we still made some good progress. We filmed a couple scenes and then got Mr. Erker to record his voice-overs as the narrator. (he narrated Sleepy Hallway a few years ago). We would have done more, but we're still trying to put together a knight costume, and Dan refused to come in on the last day because he was being a typical difficult actor. A couple days ago, we filmed with Mr. Whittenhall, who was a professional as always and nailed his scene. So far, making a mockumentary has had both its advantages and disadvantages. For most of our scenes, we don't have to worry about getting different shots or different angles, and some scenes barely even have to be edited because they are only one shot. The toughest part of this movie has been deciding what take to use, because we can't take the best parts of different takes and put them together. Also, we don't have to worry about music for the majority for the movie, and it's actually ok if the actors look at the camera. We're hoping to finish filming in the next three weeks, so we should be pretty busy as we approach the home stretch. P.S. It's getting kind of scary how many things that happen in our movie are actually happening to the other crews.



3/5/2010

Okay, if you're a film festie, then this is the movie for you. If not, you may miss the joke. But Nick Pick doesn't care. There are two things that Nick Pick cares about: making movies and going on secret missions for the Black Ops. Since we are not at liberty to discuss the latter, let me tell you that Nick is crushing this movie. Every scene shot so far is pitch perfect. The movie, about making a movie for the film festival, will resonate with everyone who has gone through the process. Another force behind this film is what I am sure will be an unforgettable lead performance by three-time lead actor Dave Newman. Dave is once again teamed with his partner in crime Conor Tobin. These two, along with the young upstart Dan Meyers, are gold in front of the camera. The only problem for Nick is to decide which take to go with, as all are equally funny and outrageous. Despite all the hilarity that happens on and off camera, this crew is very serious about making this film. Lauren Glynn brings two years of experience to the crew and also brings the ability to rein in Newman's antics when they run awry. And there are some people in the film class who swear that George is the real brains behind this whole project. This is the movie that most of my current film students are most excited to see; it is also the movie that most students outside of film have never heard of.

Buzz Analysis: Grande Black Iced Coffee



4/27/2010

Good news and bad news. The good news is that we are officially done with the movie (we finished first - what else is new?). The bad news is that the original cut was way too long at about 37 minutes, so we had to cut it down to 26 minutes. The movie's better for it, but it was still hard to see some things go. I guess it's better to cut scenes because the movie is too long than to cut scenes because the footage is too bad, which was the case with us two years ago. Also, we plan on putting the extended director's cut on a dvd so all is not lost. I think we're all happy with the way it came out, and it's my favorite of the three movies we've done. That being said, I have no idea how people will react to it. Mr. Alan mentioned in the buzz that people outside the festival might miss the joke, and though I'm sure the festies will appreciate it more, I think we did a good job of explaining things and avoiding inside jokes so hopefully that won't matter. Even though we are done, we will still be busy helping out the other crews and working on various secret projects (all I'll say is that you want to go to awards night). When I wrote the script I thought I was exaggerating the film festival, but now after all the chaos of the last month I just hope we can do it justice.



5/25/2010

It's hard to believe, but this is the final blog for me and Cranberry. I'll be honest, I've been thinking about this blog for a while, and I'm not really sure where to start. I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I went to that first meeting three years ago, as the film festival soon took over my life, as it has done to many people. It felt like I lived in Mr. Alan's room this past year, and during one of the late nights he said I would miss it when it's gone, and he could not be any more right. I consider myself really lucky to be at Walpole High these past four years, because I think these were the years the film festival really took off. The film festival was without question the best experience of my high school career, and one of the best of my life. I have no idea what I would have done without it. Now, seeing as it was an important part of this year's movie, I feel like I should talk about the awards. I'd be lying if I said I wouldn't have liked to see us win something (especially the actors), but as Mr. Alan said, this was the storybook ending for us, and there was always a part of me that felt the same way. Besides, I still got to go up for Mathlete, and there have been many film festival legends who never got a chance to go up, so it is not something I will take for granted. Speaking of which, I would like to give a special thanks to our assistant director, George, who I forgot to mention in my speech. The movie actually got a much better reaction than I expected (where was that crowd during Dropouts?), and for everyone who said it was their favorite, it means a lot to me. I'd also like to give one last thanks to Mr. Alan, not just for all the help he's given us and our movies, but for the film festival in general. I think people sometimes forget just how special a program this is, as there's nothing even remotely like it anywhere else. There's a reason why so many alumni come back to visit and help out, and there's a reason why other schools are starting to take notice. Finally, I would like to address anyone reading this who is thinking about making a movie. I think the only and best advice I can give to anyone who wants to get involved is just to go for it. I could go on and on with other advice, but I think it's better to learn that on your own. I didn't know the first thing about making a movie when I started (which is pretty clear if you've seen A Sophomore's Tale), but we learned from our mistakes and got better each year. If there's anything you can learn from this year's movie is that you can't take yourself or your movie too seriously, because it goes by extremely fast and it will be over before you know it. So get involved, make the movie you want to make, and enjoy every minute of it. I know I did.- Nick Pick