



1/9/08

Hey everyone, this is Rob. 1st blog for Fig! Anyway we are doing the documentary on the Robotics team, a full length film. It is quite an adventure already. Crunch time for the team just started this week, and we already have several HOURS of film consisting of preparation and the kickoff event last Saturday. Editing is going to be a rough time, but until then we'll just focus on the shots. I literally just interviewed Mr. Scott for an hour, and I think it's gonna come out fantastic; the lighting, the dialogue, the scenery, all great. This film is gonna be quite a ride. It will involve a lot of time, I can tell, because the 6 week intensity has literally just begun...



1/28/08

Well this is quite an absurd amount of footage we're importing, but I have faith that it'll all be worth it. Tensions are starting to mount as we near the halfway point of production. Everything seems to be built twice, the programmers are having difficulty with the autonomous driving system, a major drill malfunction pushed us back a few days, and Mr. Scott seems a bit upset. Yet amongst it all, most of the kids somehow manage to keep their cool and have fun anyway. Still looking for the main point of the story; what direction is this film going? Hopefully we can begin editing and all the pieces will fall together.



1/31/08

There is very little buzz surrounding this project because it has yet to define itself. Rob McCarthy has gathered hours of footage and is in the process of finding a story to mold into a compelling documentary for the festival. If there is a true dark-horse in the festival, it is this film. There has never been a straight documentary entered into the festival before, and no one knows how either the academy or the judges will react to it. I think, if nothing else, the audience will be blown away by the intensity of the robotics competition and impressed with the amount of work that goes into these meets.



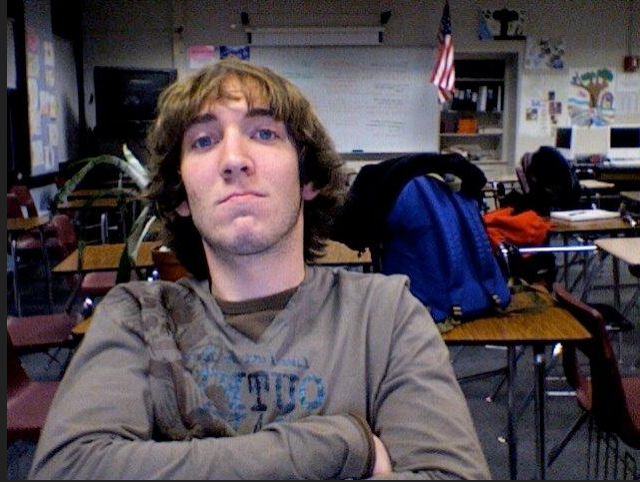
2/14/08

After going through 10+ hours of footage, we finally have enough to really get going. Aside from all of the serious robot building, there are plenty of not so serious moments and quotes that will be going in the movie (and plenty of Gaffey moments). My time is mostly spent going through all of the footage and trying to divide up all of the madness into organized and decent clips. Now that the sequences are starting to be constructed, it is starting to look cohesive...somewhat.



2/26/08

Most all of the footage is finally imported into the computer and divided up. The final sequences are roughly in place. The Robotics Team 1153 is off to the competition in Manchester soon, where the final footage will be shot (good luck, Walpole Robotics). After that's imported, it's crunch time. The documentary will be edited and finally put together into a finished piece, hopefully ending with a victory for Team 1153.



2/26/08

I'm really starting to get worried now. Yeah, the 6 week building period is over, but now it's up to me and a few editors to make it coherent and flowing. There's so much to look through; if there's one shot that I want, it's buried somewhere in one of our many tapes. Oh well, the Manchester trip is next week. It's been projected to be quite exciting. The goal is to accurately display the excitement which Mr. Alan raves about. Something to look forward to.



3/7/08

Gaffey here, representing the robotics team with an entry. We got back from Manchester, our first competition this season, at the beginning of this week and it was a blast! We were ranked 12th out of the 49 teams attending, and we made it to the quarter-finals, where we suffered a disappointing loss. All was not in vein though, as Rob and Kat got tons of great footage of our team and all the other teams in attendance. We also got some great design ideas and found out which items that need adjusting, but we'll have them all patched up for the Boston competition. Come visit us at Boston when we compete on March 28th and 29th. -- The Gaffinator





4/03/08

When thinking of this year one thing comes to mind, victory. We had a fantastic showing up at Boston, being ranked 5th out of the 51 teams there and then making it to the finals where we ultimately lost after fantastic playoff matches. Now in the last 3 competitions we have placed in the top places. Also we were chosen as one of the teams to be covered by The Boston Globe to be interviewed and featured in the newspaper, where Nuts and Bots has received its first recognition outside of the film festival. Speaking of which the film is finished. Rob and his team of dedicated editors worked countless hours to coup down the over 50 hours of footage into one epic movie within the 30 minute time limit. All of this done before the deadline of film entry. We all anxiously await the coming of the festival and hope to add another highlight on the team's record of success in recent years. Signing out -- The Gaffinator