



In this issue... politics, sports and more!

Coach King Scores 200th Win

By Justin Lamoureux and Samantha Goode
Redcoat Review Writers

In an unprecedented victory for both the Lady Redcoats Basketball Team and Berlin Athletics at large, Coach Sheila King reached an impressive milestone in December when she scored her 200th victory as girls' basketball coach.

This incredible accomplishment comes during Coach King's 15th season as head coach for the Lady Redcoats. The *Redcoat Review* recently interviewed her regarding her career as coach and some of the accomplishments that she and the team have experienced.

During her tenure as a coach, Coach King has enjoyed an extensive support network, including several individuals who have given her considerable inspiration. Her brother, who was a coach and athletic director, was a great mentor for her. Coach King was also inspired by her coach from UConn and Coach Al Pelligrinelli at BHS. Additionally, George Hall, Berlin High School's Athletic Director for 23 years, gave Coach King her first opportunity to coach the Lady Redcoats; he is still scouting for the team today.

Above all, Coach King credits their success to the chemistry of the team itself. "The girls are working very hard and are a very positive group of ladies that work hard athletically as well as academically," says Coach King. She acknowledges their many strengths, which include a strong leadership on the part of captains Lyzi Litwinko, a junior, and Angela Perrelli, a senior, as well as a strong bond between team members. They also share a competitive edge, which has played a pivotal role in the team's recent advancement.

When asked who she has to thank for the 200th win, Coach King said: "A lot [of people]. First, I have the best assistant in Ken Skoglund. We've worked hard for 12 years sharing ups and downs. John McNair is a tremendous new asset, joining the coaching staff last year. [I've also appreciated] the support from family and the many athletes that have been committed to the program for the past 15 years."

Overall, the arduous work has paid off for the Lady Redcoats so far. With Coach King's leadership, an ardent



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

Coach Sheila King is in her 15th season with the Lady Redcoats.

sense of teamwork, and above all, a desire to succeed, the team is poised for one of their best seasons yet.

The Berlin community will continue to cheer them on throughout the state tournament, and everyone at the *Redcoat Review* wishes them luck as they continue this significant endeavor.

Redcoats Reach Class M State Final

By Jake Holmes
Redcoat Review Writer

The 2018 Berlin High School football season was one for the history books, and there is no refuting that. Some people, even in this very school, believe that this Redcoat team was overrated, faced no competition, or just got lucky due to their schedule, but the film never lies. The Redcoats were a top 8 team in the state that made it to the Class M State Championship game. With stars across both sides of the ball, the Redcoats were a juggernaut that was hard to beat.

There were so many moments that demonstrate the team's pride, sense of family, and dedication in all. So follow me down this journey of a season as I take you back to a few moments where the Redcoats made the town of Berlin proud.

Berlin 21, Northwest Catholic 13 September 22, 2018

The Redcoats traveled to West Hartford to battle the Northwest Catholic Lions at their muddy, grassy home field on an early Saturday morning. The night before, there was a huge thunderstorm that left the Lions' field torn up, which affected Berlin. In a game that should have been a blowout, Berlin found themselves in a close game which could



Photo Courtesy of Berlin High School

The football team celebrates their bid to the Class M State Championship game.

have altered their season significantly.

Historically, the Redcoats have played terribly on away games against Northwest and usually fold in close matches. However, this game really sticks out due to the fact that after a few turnovers by Berlin, bad penalties, and a trick play from Northwest Catholic, the Redcoats were able to regroup and come out victorious.

Game MVP: Zach Hrubiec: 1 Sack, 5 TFLs, 14 Tackles,

Berlin 49, Plainville 0 September 28, 2018

The Redcoats have dominated Plainville in almost every sport for the past couple of decades. However, each year Plainville comes back and talks and talks about their team, and it is the same result every year. Except this year, this Plainville team was good. Yes, they had their holes, but they showed that they were explosive and stout.

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State Turns Page as Lamont Takes Office

By Justin Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

The State of Connecticut recently began a new chapter in its political history when Governor Ned Lamont took office.

Governor Lamont was inaugurated at the Hartford State Armory on January 9, two months after he narrowly defeated Republican Bob Stefanowski in the gubernatorial election. Also taking office were Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General William Tong, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, and Treasurer Shawn Wooden -- all Democrats.

Immediately following his swearing-in, Lamont delivered a brief address in which he expressed gratitude for those in attendance and outlined his administration's plans for the state.

"As your governor, I will work tirelessly to ensure that all of our kids have the greatest opportunities to thrive, succeed, and create a life of their own, right here in Connecticut," he said. The

speech was largely praised by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, primarily for its nonpartisan tone.

The inauguration itself was followed by a parade down the streets of Hartford and an inaugural ball which was held at the Hartford Convention Center. Additionally, he visited the State Capitol later that night where he delivered the annual "State of the State" address to the General Assembly.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, Lamont favors introducing paid family and medical leave and raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour -- policies that are becoming increasingly popular with the Democratic Party at large. Additionally, his platform includes an "all-digital" government and an economy "that works for everyone."

Lamont also plans to invest money in making improvements to the state's infrastructure. This plan would include a "30/30/30 promise," which is a commuter rail system that allows for

30-minute rides from Hartford to New Haven, New Haven to Stamford, and Stamford to Manhattan. Believe it or not, the town of Berlin would benefit from this system as it would likely pass through the town's train station, connecting Berlin to cities throughout the state.

The last eight years have certainly been tough for Connecticut; the economy has experienced a considerable decline, taxes have increased significantly, and deficits in the state's budget have become commonplace. However, a new administration represents something we have needed desperately for some time: a fresh start.

With considerable business experience and seasoned advisors, Governor Ned Lamont may well have what it takes to move the state in the right direction. He understands what the people of Connecticut need and has an ambitious set of plans rivaled by few others. After all, Connecticut is one of the wealthiest and most prosperous states in the union -- it's time we started acting like it.

Model UN 2018: Mid-Year Recap

By: Jack Carroll
Redcoat Review Writer

On Thursday, October 25, 2018 Berlin High School's chapter of Model United Nations spent a full day in New York City for the full UN experience.

Immediately after getting off the coach bus, we rushed to our meeting with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador, Abdullah al-Mouallimi. At the United Nations office for Saudi Arabia, we were given the opportunity to discuss various political issues that Saudi Arabia faces with the Ambassador, himself, as well as several representatives who are active and well-educated in the history and current state of Saudi Arabia. Following the meeting, we were led by our advisor, Mr. Cronk, to the United Nations HQ where we received a full tour of the facility. Once inside, we were able to view and sit in the actual auditorium where the General Assembly is annually held.

What is Model UN?

Model United Nations is a simulation of the intergovernmental organization, United Nations. The United Nations developed after the ruthless and barbaric conflict between the Axis and Allied Powers, otherwise known as World War II, a 6 year period of international turmoil that was responsible for wiping out four percent of the world's population.

The international council was built upon the "Four Freedoms," a series of humanitarian principles originally drafted by former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941. These universal freedoms include the freedom of speech, religion, want (ability to have food,



Photo Credit: Mr. Cronk

Members of the Berlin High School Model UN stand outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on October 25, 2018.

clothing, housing, medical care, etc.), and the freedom from fear.

In addition to the "Four Freedoms," the United Nations also functions under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document and committee created by Eleanor Roosevelt and the Economic and Social Council in June 1946. The UDHR serves as the United Nations' very own "Constitution," composed of beliefs that seek to protect the well-being of individuals from all walks of life.

Though the document does not have any legal-binding impact, it serves as a constant reminder for all countries to continue to strive for global peace and tranquility.

Today, 193 countries are part of the United Nations and annually meet to discuss, debate, and come up with solutions to modern-day issues each country faces.

Model United Nations is a program

that is run all throughout the country for students in elementary, middle, and high school, and continues to run at the college level. Every year students are given the opportunity to represent a new country, taking on the interests, beliefs, history, and issues their assigned country faces. It is very easy to grow accustomed to believing one's country's or culture's perspective is paragon, especially when one is not engaged in or been exposed to global politics in their daily life.

Joining Model UN can play a crucial role in breaking our train of daily bias and normalizing opposing perspectives that one's country or community may have once been dismissive of.

In addition to growing an appreciation and understanding of foreign countries, Model UN can help in developing teamwork, and debate and communication skills while making new friends in the process.

What Four Years Teaches You

OPINION PIECE

By Connor Recck
Redcoat Review Writer

High school is supposed to be the best four years of our lives, filled with pep rallies, homecoming, prom, clubs, and friends.

Of course, high school is not going to be easy. High school in many ways is just a microcosm of the rest of the world. Everyone should go into their first day of freshman year excited for the memories they will make, yet also diligently aware of the late nights, endless homework and setbacks.

Freshman year. A new school, a new environment, some familiar faces but many new ones too. Your first homecoming, first pep rally, this is the year of “firsts.” Making new friends and juggling the new responsibilities as a high schooler gets difficult, but you push through. You may join a sport, a few clubs, do the musical. Freshman year is truly a year to experiment with your likes and dislikes. Here is where you can begin to pursue your passion and highlight your talents to make a mark on the BHS community.

Sophomore year. “The forgotten grade.” Your second year back at BHS feels like a period of limbo in this four year stretch. No longer the new kids, yet still not upperclassmen. Your workload begins to expand; sophomore year is when you can test APs, and life, quite honestly, is going to get harder. If you thought Advanced Chemistry was hard, just wait for AP Biology! You soon begin to realize how much simpler times were freshman year, yet you push through. You have established yourself as a high schooler and continue to enjoy the time you have with your friends and benefit from all the clubs, activities, and sports to keep you occupied.



Junior year. Upperclassmen, finally. You and your friends begin driving and it’s exciting. No longer having to rely on your family for rides, you can do more with your friends and continue to make those sought after “high school memories.” However, junior year is always meant to sound scary. “This is the most important year in your high school career.” These are the words that will come out of your family’s, friends’, teachers’, and school counselors’ mouths. This is when you’re supposed to shine and load your schedule with every AP and advanced class possible to make you appealing to colleges. I, and most of my friends, had this mentality. Junior year is hard. It’s not supposed to be a cake walk; you’re rightfully encouraged to challenge yourself, yet it most certainly makes life more hectic. You’ll start hearing these lines: “Start thinking about college!” “Have you toured any schools yet?” “Do you have a list of colleges you are interested in?” Every waking breath of junior year can feel like hell, but only if you let it. If you put your focus on what you’re passionate about, and if you decompress with your friends, junior year can truly be an amazing year.

Senior year. The year of “lasts.” As a senior, I am experiencing this in real time. I have been through the bittersweet experiences of my last homecoming, color wars, and football game. Senior year life gets real as college and the adult world is becoming the new reality. Those that say senior year is easy are, well, wrong. You must juggle dozens of responsibilities, from being a team captain and president of different clubs to college applications, and oh yeah, school work. People also have jobs while still finding time to spend with family and friends. Senior year, I have come to understand how little time I have left, and although I have a plethora of responsibilities on my hands, I still push to spend quality time with the people I will soon see less and less. For me, I still have prom to look forward to. I get to enjoy this countdown with my closest friends. I begin to reflect on it all, truly stressed that high school is coming to an end, but knowing that a much bigger chapter of my life awaits me. Graduation

is now an imminent event, not just a future experience. It’s scary, yet still very exciting.

If high school teaches one thing, it’s that time is precious, and life is short, so make the most of it. You won’t realize it early on; I still haven’t fully grasped my reality yet, and it may not come till senior prom, or even graduation.

Pushing through the obstacles will make you a stronger person, and it will help you grow into the person you will be outside of these walls. Most importantly, it will teach you to appreciate every moment you have and how important the people closest to you are. Utilize your time effectively, and understand there are times to work, and there are times to enjoy life to its fullest potential.

Write that English essay, finish that problem set; it will benefit you in the long run. Yet, go out with your friends, spend time with family, laugh, and enjoy yourself. As a freshman, I didn’t realize the impact this school would have on me, but now, everything makes sense. A quote by C.S. Lewis truly captures it all: “Isn’t it funny how day by day nothing changes, but when you look back everything is different?”

You may read this article, and reject what I say, but reflect at the end of your four years, and you may come to find that the person you were freshman year is a stranger to you now. At the end of the day, life must go on, and it’s your decision on how your life is spent.

WRITING CENTER

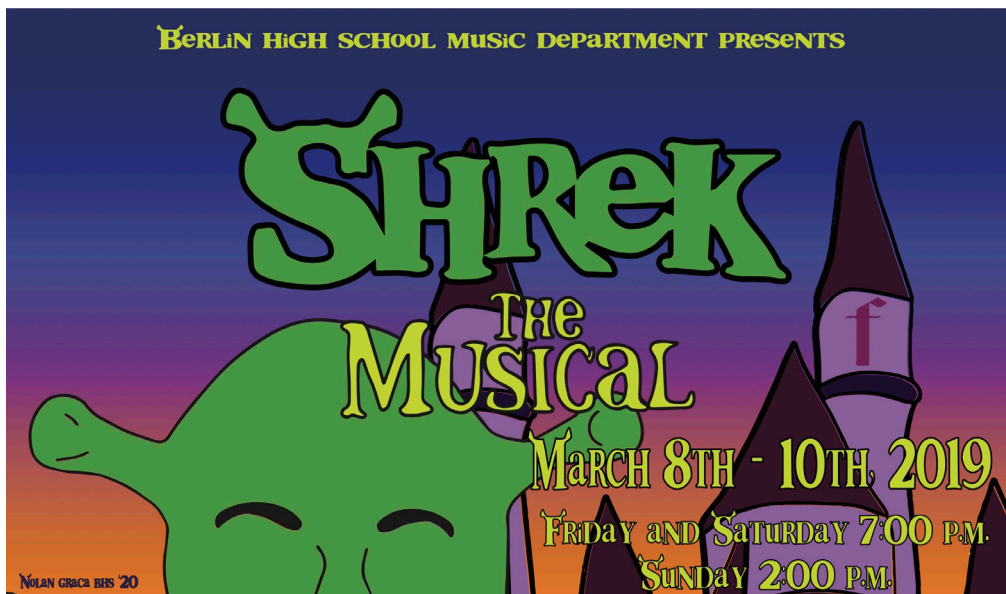
As the year progresses, students may find that they need a bit of assistance with the writing assignments for some of their classes. Luckily, the Berlin High School Writing Center is here to help.

Located in room 1500 in the English wing, the Writing Center is willing to help students with writing-oriented assignments from any subject. Students who attend sessions at the Writing Center will receive one-on-one help from a trained student tutor who is prepared to work with material from a variety of classes. Tutors are fully dedicated to providing tutees with a beneficial tutoring experience where they help writers build skills that can extend beyond just one assignment. Students may attend a Writing Center session at any stage in the writing process.

Students should come prepared to sessions with hard copies of their assignments, if they’d like, their chromebook, and any other materials related to the assignment. Tutors will ask students what their goal is for the session and will focus on addressing the writer’s needs.

The Writing Center will be flooded with an influx of new tutors after February break, so now is a wonderful time to set up an appointment! Please visit the Writing Center page on the BHS website to make an appointment.

Submitted by Sam Turgeon
Redcoat Review Writer





Redcoats Among Best in the State

Continued from page 1

Ultimately, Berlin ran all over the Blue Devils and held their explosive offense that was putting up numbers in the previous weeks to zero points. The Greek Freak (Alex Halkias) had himself a day by running through the defense to two touchdowns and 86 yards. Dunn dominated as did St. Pierre with two receiving touchdowns. The defense had an outstanding game by showing the state that they were a team to be scared of.

Players being able to take a different role for the team and allowing other players to make plays. I, myself, along with Tyler Tralli, are perfect examples of this by forcing the Blue Devils QB into serious pressure. It was the perfect definition of a "Great Team Win."

Game MVP: Kevin Dunn: 10/14, 157 yards passing, 3 TDs, No INTs.

Berlin 37, Bloomfield 0 November 2, 2018

A rematch of last year's spectacle, two undefeated teams were set for battle. Even with a Berlin win last year, four previous shutouts, and an average of 41 points a game to that point, this was a game Berlin "couldn't win due to the star power of Bloomfield." The media and the town of Bloomfield showed no respect for Berlin; but Berlin was not fazed by this. The Redcoats used it as fuel and stayed quiet, just waiting for that 6:30 kickoff.

When the whistle blew, Berlin let it all out with the offense firing on all cylinders and the defense annihilating the so-called "best QB in the State" Daron Bryden. Now congrats goes to Bloomfield for winning a Class S State Championship, but that just shows how good this Berlin team was.

The Redcoats scored almost every drive, spoiling the Warhawks' senior



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Berlin High School

Berlin Redcoats race toward the state championship, falling short to St. Joseph.

night with a shutout. It was another regular night for The Freak and the rest of the Redcoat backfield. Main props must be given to the Berlin defense and coaching staff for coming up with a scheme to stop the Warhawks' offense.

Game MVP: Alex Halkias: 7 Tackles, 19 carries for 150 yards, 2 TDs.

Berlin 34, Sheehan 22 December 2, 2018

Smoke arises, lights dim, music begins playing, and the Sheehan football team storms their homefield to take on the Number 3 ranked Redcoats in the Class M State Semifinal. The Titans had no respect for Berlin's defense or offense, and it showed as several players were talking and "flexing" on Redcoat players in the early stages of the game. However, Berlin once again played phenomenal and manhandled the Titans throughout the whole game.

The story going into the game was that Berlin should be frightened by the speed and elusiveness of running back Terrance Bogan. Bogan dominated the regular season and blew past every team he faced, until he saw the vaunted defense of the Redcoats. Bogan rushed for

146 yards and 1 TD, with 60 of those yards and that last touchdown coming in the final drive of the game. This game left the Redcoats with joy and pride as they were going back to the State Championship. A group that had a bond that could never be broken had one more task; they had to go win a State Championship for their town.

Game MVP: Alex Halkias: 5 REC for 111 yards, 21 carries for 74 yards, 2 TDs, 7 Tackles, 2 Pass deflections, 1 INT.

St. Joseph 70, Berlin 18 December 5, 2018

70-18: a score that will haunt the players and coaches of the 2018 Berlin Redcoats.

In a game that was decided after the first drive, the Redcoats were stomped by St. Joseph. Berlin tipped their cap as St. Joe's was the better team and had too good of an air attack to be stopped. Half of their team was from New York and New Jersey, and they are also a private Catholic school that has funding for their program. In addition, a few of the players are already committed to Pittsburgh University, Notre Dame University, and Syracuse University to name a few.

Berlin went into the game with confidence that they would not be frightened by any team, which showed throughout the gauntlet of a game. There was no quit from anyone on the Berlin sideline. Even when Jesse Bike (WR for St. Joe's) was blowing past cornerbacks, or when David Summers (St. Joseph QB, committed to Syracuse University) was throwing darts over the heads of every defensive player, Berlin stayed strong and played with pride. At the end of the day, yes it was a slaughter fest, but Berlin took it on the chin. There were tears, laughs, hugs, and a long walk to the bus.

Berlin did not complete the goal of bringing a championship back to Berlin and Sage Park, but they came in as a team and left as one.

Game MVP: David Summers: 17/24 for 367 yards passing, 6 TDs, 0 INT.

Now it is time to get back to work. The incoming seniors need to bring this team right back to that same spot, just with a different outcome. Whether they find themselves in Class M or L in the 2019 season, the first game cannot come soon enough.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MODEL UN CLUB

Thoughts and Opinions of Model UN from active members at Berlin High:

Luke Impelluso & Jacob Lindsay (Grade 10):

Model UN is a great choice for a club if you have an interest in world politics, or even if you just want to try something new and step out of your comfort zone. The conferences we attend are an opportunity to participate in what a real United Nations conference would be like and receive wonderful leadership experience. It takes something to go up in front of your committee and speak for a couple minutes. You can propose, create, or even delete bills from other countries in order to craft a resolution. Going to these conferences has taught me to overcome my occasional fear of speaking in front of people because you have the opportunity to go up to the front and propose your ideas to the other

countries. While not required, you get more out of the experience through participation. Overall, Model UN is a great choice for anyone who wants to express their interest in politics or government or step outside their comfort zone and travel with us to these very exciting events and conferences.

A message from Advisor Mr. Cronk:

This is the third year of the club, and we continue to learn the various ways we can further develop and promote the club. We have formed a strong relationship with the World Affairs Council in Hartford; we are looking to capitalize more on this outlet with attending out of state conferences, and even creating our own Model UN conference that we can host here at BHS.

We are always looking to expand membership and are open to suggestions. The club's commitment is flexible. We typically meet every Thursday after school in Room 1106.

Unified Theater Growing Stronger at BHS

By Monica Padykula and Alina Whiteside
Special to the Redcoat Review

Berlin High School's Unified Theater program is proud to announce their upcoming production, "Channel Surfing," which will be performed on Friday, March 29. The performers will be recreating famous shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and video games like Mario Kart.

Unified Theater is led by co-directors Gabriella Pattavina, Alina Whiteside, Julia Daddario, Olivia Biscoglio, Rachel Fitzsimons and Monica Padykula who each have a role such as producer, props manager, or choreographer. All co-directors have been involved with Unified Theater since its inception at BHS in 2016.

Unified Theater dissolves typical barriers between youth through transformative, school-based performing arts programming. Young people of all backgrounds, with and without disabilities, come together as equals to put on a production entirely organized, written and directed by the students themselves. The concept is simple: empower youth to lead, let creativity rule, and put the spotlight on ability.

Last year's production was entitled "Time Traveling." Students traveled back in time through the dinosaur era, the 1980s and even into the future to find their lost friends.

Mrs. Cormier has taken the lead as this year's staff advisor after



Photo credit: Monica Padykula

Members of the Unified Theater group pose during a recent club meeting.

Mrs. Gallagher and Marissa Pettinelli, who first organized the club, left at the end of last school year.

"Last year I was a part of Unified Theater to support a student," Cormier notes. "However, I ended up loving the experience and knew that I would want to be the facilitator when Mrs. Gallagher retired from BHS. What I love about the club the most are the connections and friendships that I see develop due to the feeling of community that is fostered during rehearsals. Seeing that ALL

students have a chance to write and develop the story based on their passions or interests is amazing to me."

The club's goal is to incorporate as many people as possible into the production in order to increase the love and support for Unified Theater.

If you are interested in becoming a part of Unified Theater, please join us at our meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays after school in the video amp; no theater experience is needed. We hope to see you there!

Madame Speaker: Pelosi Reclaims Speakership as Nation Begins Historically Diverse Congress

By Justin Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

In a moment symbolic not only of the Democratic Party but of the nation as a whole, members of the House of Representatives ushered in a new era of American politics when they elected Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to one of the most influential positions in Congress.

Mrs. Pelosi, 78, first earned her place in history twelve years ago when she became the first woman ever elected Speaker of the House. She would serve in that capacity for the next several years before losing the esteemed position in 2011 after Republicans took control of the House. However, she would retain her role as one of the most prominent Democrats in the legislative body, serving as Minority Leader under Speakers John Boehner, and later, Paul Ryan (both Republicans).

According to CNN, Pelosi earned 220 votes in her bid for Speaker- a slim majority of the House's 435 members. She defeated Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who will replace her as House Minority Leader. Pelosi's ascension to the Speakership marks the beginning of the most racially diverse Congress in America's political history.

November's midterm elections saw a

record number of women and minorities elected to Congress. According to the *Huffington Post*, not only will the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses be welcoming historically large constituencies, but there are also more Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders serving in Congress than ever before. Likewise, the 116th Congress will be the first to include Muslim and Native American women as members.

Newly-elected members of Congress have come to represent more than just a "blue wave." They reflect a wave of diversity and hope, brought about by a changing country, and a new generation of leaders eager to "take charge" and make lasting contributions to society. From the moment they were sworn in, it was obvious that they intended to bring about great reform in Washington.

The new Congress is faced with tremendous adversity: a federal government that is emerging from a partial shutdown- the largest in our country's history- which occurred because President Trump vetoed legislation for a budget that did not include \$5 billion for his long-promised border wall, a White House fraught with

scandal, and unprecedented turnover in key members of the President's cabinet. But above all, dark rhetoric threatens to consume our politics, and ultimately, the American people.

In spite of the challenges faced by our nation, Americans have every reason to be optimistic. Every day, we shatter glass ceilings and defy expectations by standing up to elements of the status quo that threaten to undermine the values for which we stand. To that end, we have every reason to believe that our future remains bright.

Though the jury is out with regard to what the next two years will bring, one thing goes unquestioned: they are poised to be some of the most interesting in American history.

Meet Our Staff

The following students contributed to this issue: Sophomores Nick Spinali, Samuel Turgeon, Samantha Goode, Tyler Rice and Mason DiMauro; Juniors Justin Lamoureux, Jake Holmes and Jack Carroll.

We welcome new contributors. If you would like more information on the *Redcoat Review*, please contact Mrs. Rice or Mrs. Glass.