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School Rushes to Contain Lice Outbreak

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

Amidst rapidly spreading head lice among students, professionals from the Lice Treatment Center of Connecticut (LTC) came to campus to perform lice screenings and treat those with the bugs. Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, said that this outbreak is “comparable in terms of presence on campus” to the lice outbreak experienced in January of 2015.

We were very careful to consult with the Health Center and assess any risks.

Mr. James Stanley
Dean of Students

Lice may have arrived on campus earlier this school year in a less public eye, speculates Ms. Rebecca Abbate, French teacher and Head of Nichols House, where many residents got lice. She noted that there were a few cases of lice right before the Thanksgiving break, and parents were notified via email. Because lice cannot survive without a host for more than 24 hours, the dorms would essentially be “cleansing themselves” by having no one in them over break. “It’s quite possible that someone didn’t know that they had it and brought it back after break,” she said.

The School took care of the lice-related concerns swiftly, affirmed Mr. Stanley.

Days after the first couple cases were discovered, Choate hosted an inter-school SAC dance. The SAC was completely cleaned, and Choate notified the other schools of the lice situation so that the schools could make an informed decision about whether

er or not to attend the dance. One school had just gotten over a lice outbreak of its own, and opted not to come. However, all the other schools invited chose to attend. Choate students with lice had already been treated beforehand. “We talked with the Health Center, and they felt there was no reason to worry about lice spreading,” said Mr. Stanley.

The swim team also had a home meet against Deerfield that same day. Deerfield was notified of the lice situation, and had no problem proceeding with the meet. Campus services cleaned the locker rooms, and all fabrics in the locker rooms were collected and cleaned at the Athletic Center, killing any lice. “There seem to be people who have a misconception about the risk,” expressed Mr. Stanley. “We were very careful to consult with the Health Center and assess any risks. There was no reason to call off the meet.”

Such situations garnered a myriad of reactions from the student body. Tippa Chan '19 shared some peer reactions she experienced: “People are definitely overreacting. I would say, ‘I have lice,’ and people would literally jump five feet away from me and scream, ‘stay away from me!’” Calla Chan '17 said, “I think some people are being extremely cautious.”

Mr. Stanley cautioned that blaming certain groups of people can be a serious issue: “While curiosity may lead some to theorize about how lice came to campus, there is no way to know and such speculation is not helpful. The cases are widespread enough between dorms and social groups that there is no way to identify the origin. Just because an individual or a team was the first to notice the lice, that does not

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ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST NICHOLAS KRISTOF SHARES HIS EXPERIENCES



Photo by Helena Yang / The Choate News

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Mr. Nicholas Kristof answers questions from Amira Nazar '17 and Bryce Wachtell '17 ranging from politics to privilege.

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**
Associate Editor

On Tuesday night, students and faculty gathered for a special program featuring Mr. Nicholas Kristof — a journalist, author, and op-ed columnist for the *New York Times*, and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner.

He was invited to speak as part of the Thalheimer Educator in Residence Program, a biennial program founded in 2006 by the Thalheimer family. Mr. Kristof was the ninth Thalheimer speaker; other notable lecturers included Bob Woodward, Foad Ajami, David Brooks, and Seymour Hersh. HPRSS teacher Mr. Joel Backon is responsible for the Thalheimer Educator in

Residence Program. Mr. Backon noted, “The Thalheimer Educator in Residence Program brings esteemed public figures to Choate Rosemary Hall to provide insights and observations on very broadly defined issues of the day.”

We were looking for somebody who had a broad range of interests and expertise.

Mr. Joel Backon
HPRSS Teacher

Mr. Backon said, “We were looking for somebody who had a broad range of interests and expertise.” He continued, “Particularly in an election year, we didn’t want to bring in a journalist who could only talk

about the election. He’s an expert in so many different areas. He’s a passionate fighter for women’s rights. He’s also an expert on China, and he’s been following the refugee crisis very closely. We thought that his interests would appeal to a wide range of students.”

Mr. Kristof spent all of Tuesday at Choate, meeting with various classes as he was stationed in the Humanities rotunda fielding questions from different students. Teachers were able to bring their entire classes. Mr. Backon elaborated, “We found the rotunda to be better than having the speaker go to a classroom and try to squeeze people into that classroom.”

During the special program, Mr. Kristof spoke for 20 minutes and was then interviewed by two students, Amira Nazar '17 and Bryce Wachtell '17, for about 45 minutes, leaving 25 minutes for Q&A at the end.

Mr. Backon predicted that the student interviewers would “represent to some degree the kinds of things the student body is interested in, which Mr. Kristof might not know. I feel more confident having two representatives of our student body coming up with the questions.”

The students chosen as interviewers are usually selected from *The Choate News* masthead on the journalism course. Both stu-

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SPIRITUAL LIFE OPEN HOUSE ENCOURAGES STUDENT REFLECTION

By **Nina Hastings '18**
Associate Editor

From January 22 to January 29, various religious and spiritual activities and opportunities were extended to everyone on campus, marking this year’s Spiritual Life Open House.

Reverend Ally Brundige, Director of Spiritual Life, explained, “Our spiritual life team of chaplains, advisers and student leaders designed our “Open House for All Peoples Week” in order to take a week to celebrate one another’s traditions and provide the opportunity to share in hope, peace, justice, and joy.”

The week’s offerings included a Cook ‘n Chat on community building, a discussion on Christianity and protest, Walking Meditation, a film screening and related discussion on moral witness, an Open Mic on justice, and Challah bread making, plus the chance all week to make peace cranes and write letters to local government in the dining hall — all of which students and faculty alike attended.

Rev. Brundige said, “Buddhist Meditation, Christian Fellowship, Catholic students, Hillel, the Muslim Students Association, and our Spiritual Life students, chaplains, and advisers hosted a fun array of events and discussions. We hope all who took part had the chance to reflect a little bit deeply about their own spiritual tradition or the perspective of another.”

Roshni Surpur '20 commented, “I’ve liked this week in general because there was such a large variety of things that were available, and it was great getting a lot of different opinions from different people. I went to the Walking Meditation on Wednesday with Mr. Davidson and the Cook ‘n Chat with Ms. Kornegay on Sunday. In the Cook ‘n Chat we talked about community and what it means to us. Only four people went, so it was a really good group because there was a lot of flow of communication — we got to hear everyone’s perspective.”

Daniel Ward '18 said, “I was only a part of the Christian Fel-

lowship meetings, but we had a few extra members this week just coming to check it out, which was really cool.”

The opportunity in the dining hall throughout the week to fold paper peace cranes was particularly popular due to its convenience and accessibility. “Our Peace Crane initiative in the dining hall was especially fun and meaningful as many students, faculty, and staff stopped by to make one — or dozens! — of cranes to celebrate the peace tradition started in Japan by Sadako Sasaki,” Rev. Brundige said. She added, “These cranes will hang in the dining hall and the Seymour St. John Chapel and will be taken by our student and faculty representatives to Japan as part of our continued work with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Students, staff, and faculty also wrote letters to their congressional representatives about issues that they cared about.”

Mpilo Norris '18 commented, “I’m really glad that

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Community Voices Solidarity for Those Affected by Immigration Ban

By **Truelien Lee '17**
News Editor

Choate students and faculty are anxiously monitoring further developments in the chaos after President Trump’s P ‘00 executive order restricting immigration from predominantly Muslim countries last Friday. It is hard to predict what the repercussions of President Trump’s executive order will be on Choate’s administration.

“Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States” bars immigration from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya, and Yemen for 90 days, suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days, and bans all Syrian refugees indefinitely. The order has provoked widespread confusion, and government officials have offered contrasting interpretations of various clauses. There have also been numerous protests and court challenges in response to the ban.

According to Director of Admission Mr. Amin Gonzalez, it is

not entirely clear how the executive order will affect the admissions process this year.

Director of Residential Life Mr. Will Morris said, “What’s hard to know for sure is what’s going to happen, and between now and the end of the 90 days, there’s not a lot we can do except for monitor the situation closely. It doesn’t directly affect very many of our students at this point. We’ve confirmed, for instance, that none of the students that are involved plan to leave the country in the next 90 days.”

Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Keith Hinderlie said, “The School is committed to continuing to be a school that attracts students from all over the world and creating and continuing a diverse and inclusive community.” He added, “As challenges appear, we’ll have to deal with them as they come, but there has been nothing that has caused the School to make dramatic changes.”

Choate, like many other institutions, has provided support and guidance to the students di-

rectly affected by the executive order. Mr. Morris elaborated, “It’s going to have to be handled on a school-by-school, case-by-case basis.”

Students affected by the ban have found that their visions for their future have suddenly changed. Muna Salad '17, who is from Somaliland, said, “Even though I got into a college through Early Decision and a full scholarship, I am not sure if I will be going now. Should I apply to other schools in Europe and other countries? What am I supposed to do?”

As of right now, Salad has no plans of traveling outside the country during this school year. She is also considering not returning to Somaliland to see her family over the summer as an added precaution.

At the same time, her family is encouraging her to return back home to be safe. She said, “My mom saw the news on the Somali cable, and she told me, ‘you have to come back.’ And

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Thawing the New Cold War
Nicole Weinrauch '20 analyzes the icy dynamics between Russia and the U.S.
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Juggling Jobs and Classes
A look at the few Choate students with extracurriculars that pay.
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The Phenomenon of Student Directed Scenes
Gelb Theater, once again, sells out with an enthusiastic crowd.
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Chilling with the Zamboni Drivers
Meet the three men who regularly drive on thin ice.
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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Choate Rosemary Hall, Drawing Images, Lisa Trotto, IndieWire, and Andrew Garver

KRISTOF SPEAKS ON CURRENT POLITICS

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students are enrolled in journalism, and Wachtell is Editor-in-Chief of the 110th masthead. Mr. Mike Peed, Mr. Nick Molnar, and Mr. Backon worked with Nazar and Wachtell to help develop the questions they asked. Mr. Kristof did not have access to the questions ahead of time, although he noted, "I don't really need the questions ahead of time, people ask me questions all the time."

Mr. Kristof's talk mixed his own stories and experience with advice and takeaways for the audience. After telling a humorous anecdote about a miscommunication in Indonesia, Mr. Kristof said, "I would like to see all of you struggle a bit. That is when you are building new muscles and learning about the world in an experience that may be overwhelming but is memorable and will shape you."

Mr. Kristof covered topics ranging from climate change to human trafficking. The conversation also turned to President Donald Trump '00 and U.S. politics at times. "I've covered lots of national politicians, but I've never covered a national politician who is so ill informed about policy or so evasive," said Mr. Kristof.

He also talked about the problems with echo chambers on high school and college campuses and why ideological diversity is necessary. "Part of an education is to be exposed to ideas that are different from the ones you know." Mr. Kristof continued, "The problem

is that it becomes really easy to demonize people who we are not familiar with. If we liberals are champions of inclusiveness, it has to be inclusiveness also to people who don't think at all like us."

On interviewing Mr. Kristof, Nazar said, "His talk was very insightful. He answered the questions well, and he did a very good job at staying on the topic and not rambling." She continued, "He had a very important message to share in that you can do something, and it can have an impact on other people. His talk was about making effective change and being an active citizen and active thinker."

Though Chris Overmeer '17 liked Mr. Kristof's talk itself, he commented on the open mic Q & A afterwards, "I didn't like the questions people asked because it would have been more important for us to ask questions about his personal experiences as opposed to politics."

Mr. Kristof closed his talk by turning the focus back to the audience: "The fact that we are all in this room right now means that we have won the lottery at birth. The question then becomes what is your obligation to give back to those who didn't win. That is the question that I hope you will think about, and take with you through your time at Choate, into college, and beyond to help address the inequity of those who didn't win the lottery at birth."

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HEAD LICE MAKE COMEBACK AFTER TWO YEARS

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mean they were the source. We risk unfair and inaccurate conclusions that turn an individual or a group into a scapegoat, which is not good for anyone in the community."

Regarding student reactions, Ms. Abbate said, "I think people try to find some way where it couldn't possibly happen to them. When something bad happens, they tell themselves, 'It can't happen to me.' That's why I think there's this stereotype around lice where they are more attracted to people with bad hygiene, though that's not at all the case."

Ms. Abbate continued, "It's important for people to be nice in the middle of this. People say things they don't necessarily mean to cause harm, but they can be very insensitive to others." She added, "One person went to the dance and was told, 'You shouldn't be here.' It can become a witch hunt, and if it does, it can potentially be very harmful."

Though a portion of student reactions may be concerning, most members of the community think Choate handled it to the best of its ability. "The School does a good job of trying to control the hysteria around it," said Ms. Abbate. She continued, "For the most part, students are pretty intelligent about it, are not stigmatizing students who've had it, and are generally trying to be smart about it." Tippa Chan agreed: "Overall, the School handled the lice situation well."



Photo by Lauren Cannan/The Choate News

After a spike in head lice cases, the Lice Treatment Center provided mandatory school-wide lice screenings.

This recent lice outbreak is not the first Choate has seen; in her thirteen years at Choate, Ms. Abbate has witnessed three separate cases. Every time, the School and faculty do their best to deal with the situation in a thorough and careful manner. The Lice Treatment Center is called in if the issue becomes school-wide. Mr. Stanley explained, "Last time around, we changed the daily schedule." He added that this time, the School gave students a little bit more flexibility about when they get checked.

Ms. Abbate added, "The School is careful first and foremost for the privacy of whoever it is. They do everything they can to protect the privacy of that person while making sure that person

is being treated and is following all the precautions to keep from spreading it."

The idea of a thorough, school-wide check is appealing to many. "What I would love to see happen is for us to just stop everything and test everyone on one day. Just do it. I think it would be good to just kind of calm the hysteria, to just eradicate it and move on with our lives," expressed Ms. Abbate. Tippa Chan agreed, saying, "I've learned that lice are never going to go away unless we do a whole school check-up."

Lice are considered a common problem among boarding schools. "I know that we are not the only school that experiences this," stated Mr. Stanley. "I know

that, as we're bringing in people from the LTC, one of their challenges is that they were already scheduled to do head checks at other schools in Connecticut. So it's not unique to us."

Tippa Chan believes that "Lice are lice. It is what it is, and people have to stop making such a big deal out of it." She continued, "Having lice is actually harmless. I was told that in some countries, lice aren't even a problem – some people just live with lice. It may be a little gross, but people can and do deal with that." Mr. Stanley expressed a similar sentiment: "It's a nuisance, but it is manageable."

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New Doors Increase Safety and Accessibility

By Lizzie Quinn '20
Reporter

With the introduction of new doors in the Carl C. Icahn Science Center and the side of the Andrew Mellon Library, students traveling from class to class can do so in the swiftest manner possible.

Mr. Steven Lazarus, Architecture teacher and the chief architect for the Science Center Door Replacement Project, selected new doors that had an "offset fulcrum (pivot) point." While the doors facing the Great Lawn have been changed according to the Science Center Door Replacement Project, the doors on the Science Center bridge are set to be changed as well in the near future.

These new doors, made of painted aluminum, are called "balanced doors" and are less affected by wind pressure. They require a substantially smaller amount of force to open than the older doors.

The doors that previously took the place of these new bal-



Photo by Audrey Powell/The Choate News

The new doors to the Science Center now meet handicapped egress requirements.

anced doors were too narrow to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for wheelchair access, and the bottom edges rubbed on the brick pavers beneath. Mr. Lazarus and other facilities operators, such as Director of Facilities Mr. Jeffrey Miller, changed the configuration of all of the outside doorways of the Science

Center to allow for wider doors that now meet handicapped egress requirements.

While Mr. Lazarus was the project architect for the replacement of the Science Center doors, an outside contractor replaced the old doors. They were the original doors of the Science Center, making them 25 years old.

Mr. Lazarus, Mr. Miller, and other facilities operators began this project design roughly one and a half years ago. Mr. Lazarus says that the reason this design took as long as it did was because of the "significant lead time for custom fabricated or painted items." He added, "The door installation needed to be scheduled for a time the Science Center was not in use."

Mr. Lazarus himself did not design or replace the new doors of the library – Mr. Miller was in charge of the Library Door Replacement Project, which is still ongoing. Glass panels were added to the doors of the library to improve visibility and safety.

While the outside doors of the Science Center and the side doors of the library have already been changed, plans are still scheduled for the electric door opener on the Science Center bridge to be replaced at the same time as the door itself.

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Skinner's School Model UN Exchange Continues

By Anjali Mangla '20
Reporter

Twenty-eight juniors from The Skinner's School, an all-boys school in Kent, England, visited campus on Tuesday, January 24. They were Model United Nations (Model UN) members heading to the Harvard University Model United Nations Conference held from January 26-29. Choate was a stop along the way, as well as sightseeing in New York City before attending the conference. Students who are a part of Choate's Model UN team hosted the visitors and guided them through daily Choate life, giving them a feel for an American boarding school environment.

Each volunteer from the Choate Model UN team was paired with one or two Skinner's students, who shadowed the volunteer. The Assistant Headmaster of The Skinner's School, Mr. James Coltella, contacted the Director of Global Programs Ms. Sara Boisvert to arrange this exchange program. "The planning for this event is fairly straightforward, and I just send out an e-mail asking who would like to host, making sure that Model UN students going to the Harvard conference could meet with Skinner students, since that is where they are going as well. It was different this year since the sophomore World History field trip fell on the same day. It was a little hard to find kids at Choate who were going to the Harvard conference, since sophomores who were going could not be paired up with Skinner students," Ms. Boisvert said.

Despite the extra amount of coordination required this year, both Choate and Skinner's students seemed to enjoy the shadowing program. Rings of laughter pierced through the dining hall, and talk of the difference between a British accent and an American accent seemed to captivate almost every lunch table. "Choate is a lot nicer than Skinner's, it's a lot bigger, just in terms of space,

and it was a very impressive and pleasant stay. It was nice to meet new people," said Harry Regan, a Skinner's student who was assigned to represent Russia at the Harvard conference. He continued, "I look forward to competing with these Choate students at Harvard. I'm very sure the Model UN program here is top-notch." James Gardner, another visiting Skinner's student, said, "The food here is pretty nice, and I like the ambiance of the dining hall."

This is the fourth year for this annual Model UN exchange. When the students visit, Choate hosts a large social gathering for the two teams. The exchange allowed the Harvard conference attendees to meet and connect with students they would be competing against beforehand; it was a merger between the two Model UN programs.

The exchange also provided a learning opportunity for members of both teams. While the British structure of Model UN is very different from the American structure, The Skinner's School tried to adopt the American structure used at Choate since they attend conferences in the U.S., distinguishing it from many other schools in the U.K.

"Our Model UN program can be a little intense sometimes. I am going to be talking about the terrorism issue. I quite like public speaking, and I think adopting a role of something that you're not, the diplomacy, is pretty fun," said Ben Brannan, a Skinner's visitor.

Arin Kaye '17, President of Choate Model UN, described Model UN as "competitive socializing," describing working with strangers at conferences. She continued, "Inevitably, this trip is kind of like a refresher for what is going to happen at the conference. Both students have to socialize and get to know each other, strangers that just met. It is helping them improve their social and speaking skills."

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Student Religious Groups Open Doors to Newcomers as Part of Spiritual Open House Week

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the Spiritual Life Team is opening its doors not just to religious folk, but pretty much anyone who wants the time to decompress, find answers, or find a way to cope with something that may be challenging for them. That's why I'm really appreciative of the peace crane folding activity we've been having and the letters to senators and government leaders that they had in the dining hall."

Other students, however, considered certain parts of the Spiritual Life Week less successful. Katie Lee '18 explained, "I went to the Christian Fellowship Open House, but we didn't really get any new people to come. I'm not going

to say that I was surprised, but I'm still a little disappointed."

The Spiritual Life Open House Week came to a close with a combined interfaith celebration. Rev. Brundige said, "The Open House for All Peoples Interfaith New Year's Celebration drew upon many traditions, music, poetry, and music to honor the Lunar New Year." She further explained, "This gathering, which hoped to provide opportunity to reflect, celebrate and set intentions to continue to share and spread joy, hope, peace, and justice, followed a moving vigil hosted by on the Chapel steps. About 50 Administrators, faculty, their families, and students gathered outside in candlelight in order to stand together against discrimination of all forms and those among us and

those in the world experiencing fear, hate or displacement – especially Muslims, immigrants and refugees." Lee commented, "I thought it was really nice that each different spiritual group was doing something and also having a mix of different groups of people coming together as a good end to the week."

Norris said, "I feel that it's very important that Choate has a Spiritual Life Team on campus because for those who consider themselves religious, religion is actually a very huge part of one's personal identity. The Spiritual Life Team is integral in providing that support network that may now be absent for many students since they're so far away from home. I think it's really cool that the School can provide opportunities for students to have that

spiritual fulfillment even amidst the complicatedness of Choate; the School does a great job of allowing students to not only sustain that part of their identities but also allow it to grow."

Mr. Jim Davidson, Adviser to Buddhist Students, said, "This week has been a chance to reacquaint students with what the Spiritual Life offerings are so that they have a chance to explore a different aspect of their lives." Rev. Brundige concluded, "We hope that our theme, 'An Open House for All Peoples,' continues to inspire us individually and as a community at large to seek justice and peace, love kindness, do justice, and come together in hope and joy."

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BODY PROJECT WORKSHOPS PROMOTE SELF-ESTEEM

By **Kate Spencer '20**
Staff Reporter

The Body Project, a student organization dedicated to recognizing and addressing body ideals on campus and in the media, has introduced a workshop intended to illuminate body image issues within communities through a discussion based forum. The first part of the workshop was held on January 24.

Choate alum Katie Taylor designed the workshop, which encourages healthy living and moving away from the thin ideal. Students brought the workshop to campus about six years ago, explained Body Project leader Zara Harding '18. She continued, "We have our cabinet meetings with Ms. Charlotte Davidson, who is one of the counselors in the health center, and she knew about the program, and she has basically been running it with the Body Project and cabinet members for six years. She presented it to us and then asked us if we wanted to participate, which of course we did."

The workshop is formatted to stretch over a four-week period in which participants work to appreciate their bodies and recognize unrealistic and unhealthy ideals, with the help of student facilitators. Harding stated, "We are planning to do it again next year."

The Body Project's meeting topics range from eating disorders to the thin ideal. Harding elaborated, "The workshops are



Photo courtesy of Calla Chan

Students gather at the first Body Project workshop.

a series of activities, and future workshops will cover what to do when confronted with fat talk or when someone makes a certain comment to you, and learning how to deal with these issues as they come up in daily life."

Roshni Surpur '20 appreciates that the facilitators of the session are very welcoming. She said, "The Body Project is such a great workshop. It is another opportunity at Choate to hear others' opinions about a very controversial topic: body image. In addition to hearing others' opinions, it helps to know that you are not the only one questioning body image and to know that you have a community of people that feel the same way." She continued, "The exercises we have done are eye-opening and something new for me."

"I really liked how open everybody was and how I felt that it

was a good community in which I could say anything. I thought that everyone was really supportive, and we all had a common understanding of how we wanted to overcome the thin ideal," said Body Project newcomer Lily Ding '20. "I'm looking forward to the next three sessions and sharing what I learned with the rest of the Choate community."

Harding, a project leader, added, "The workshop is a way for the people in our community to challenge the way that they have been thinking about body image and the way that we are taught to think about body image. We also discuss the features and the social norms that we are almost forced to conform to. It is a method to take ourselves out of that mindset and to start to love ourselves."

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Writing Center Remains an Underutilized Resource



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

Jacob Meyers '17 (second from left) works with a student as another tutor waits for someone to help.

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Copy Editor

The Writing Center opened last February as a new support system to help students with compositions. Students can visit during any stage of writing process, from brainstorming to finalizing. But a year since it has opened, there remains a disconnect between its offerings and students.

According to Emma Griffith '17, a tutor, on a busy week, the Writing Center helps ten to more than 20 students, while on a slow week, the Writing Center attends to around five to ten.

Griffith continued, "Some people are repeat visitors to the Writing Center. When students come in — often those who are assigned to do so by their teachers — they often say something along the lines of 'Wow, this is such a cool thing we have going on here. I wish I knew more about this before.' We're still in our early stages of developing the Choate Writing Center, so some of our focuses going forward are how we can be accessible as possible to the student body and how we can get more repeat visitors in to see us."

Griffith highlighted that because it is an academic support system, the misconception that only students who perform below expectations need help and the stigma of doing so may hinder students from frequenting the Writing Center. In addition, a simple

unawareness of its existence could contribute to its underuse.

Ali Chatani '18, a student who visits the Writing Center, said, "It wasn't that helpful because they told me that everything in my essay was good, but I would go back. I think people know about the Writing Center but choose not to use it. I don't really know why."

I think people know about the Writing Center but choose not to use it. I don't really know why.

Ali Chatani '18

Other departments, such as the Science department or the Math department, had implemented a tutoring system to assist students, but the History, Philosophy, Religion, and Social Sciences (HPRSS) and English departments did not have a similar program until several years ago. Ms. Ellen Devine, Head of the English Department, recognized that the two departments needed a similar peer tutoring system and spearheaded the movement to bring this idea to life. This school year, new English teacher Dr. Stephen Siperstein is her co-advisor to the Writing Center.

"Many universities have a writing center as a resource for all students, graduate students, and undergraduate students. While I was in graduate school, I was par-

ticularly interested in how writing centers were functioning and studied that as part of my degree work. I also worked in a writing center when I was an undergraduate. So, as department head, I was eager to bring a student-run writing center to Choate," said Ms. Devine.

According to Ms. Devine, Choate also previously had a writing center, though it operated differently. She said, "It was run by a faculty member who was available to read student work and talk through papers with anyone who wanted to come, but it was really hard to keep that going because it required a faculty member who had the time and inclination to be in a room every night during study hours, and most people, between duty and coaching and things like that, couldn't do that. So when I became department head, one of my goals was to try and have a student-run writing center at school so that it could be a resource for students at any time during the year."

Tutor Weston Miller '17 added, "I think it is an underutilized resource. If it's not at the end of term, it can get pretty lonely. I know a lot of people at Choate don't feel like their work is finalized enough before the deadline to ask for feedback. You don't have to come in with a finished project. You can come in even before you start just to talk about the prompt."

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COMMUNITY REACTS TO TRUMP IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

Continued from Page 1

I was just like, 'I cannot just leave my education.' I'm on a really great scholarship at a really great school, and I'm going to a great college — there's no way I'm going to drop everything and just go back. And I have to explain that to her every day and remind her, since she doesn't understand completely the situation in the U.S., because all she's heard is from the Somali cables." She added, "I'm just hoping to continue my education. I'm not here to do any harm to anyone. The fact that people from my country cannot come to this country to get education because it is a Muslim country is heartbreaking."

Salad appreciates the guidance she has received from the School. "I received so many messages of support, people telling me that they were there for me. Since there isn't much anyone can do right now, what the school did was talk to me and let me know that no matter what happens, they will try their best to help me. And that's all anyone can do now, to be honest. There's nothing else that the School can do except see how things go and let me know that I have their support. And that's all I need now. I know it's not easy."

She reflected, "I would like to think that things will work out for the best. I enjoyed being in the U.S. and I enjoyed being at Choate, and I would have never dreamed about coming to U.S. and going to a school like the Choate when I was younger. So I have so much appreciation for what I have gotten so far, and for that to be taken away — I'm worried. But I'm also hopeful. But I'm worried, to be honest."

In contrast, Mustafé Dahir '19 resolved not to wallow in the somber news. He plans to visit his family in Somaliland this summer. "Personally, I don't

like to worry about the future. I know it's weird, but if you spend more time worrying about the future, you will forget about the present," he said.

Dahir commented on the sheer amount of hard work students from Somaliland have to put in to study in the U.S. "There's only one school, Abaaso School, that really sends students to good boarding schools and colleges in the U.S., and getting into that school is so hard. You have to be so smart, and you have to work so hard. And now the U.S. government is trying to stop everything you've worked so hard for, and it's not right." He added, "People can see their future — getting an opportunity to study in the U.S. — but now they can't grasp it."

I'm just hoping to continue my education. I'm not here to do any harm to anyone.

Muna Salad '17
Somaliland Citizen

Students who are not from the affected countries are also anxious. Abdulla Husain '17, from Bahrain, said, "The ban does not directly affect me, but it definitely increases my anxiety about leaving the country and traveling back in. I also don't know if Bahrain is going to be on the list in the future, and that's one of my biggest worries. Will this eventually include all Muslim countries?"

In the wake of President Trump's executive order and other recent actions of the administration, the School has also created a Current Events Resource Group to help answer questions, listen to concerns, and coordinate resources to support members of the community. Dr. Curtis announced this group during school meeting this Wednesday, encouraging students in an all-school

email afterwards to bring to the group any concerns about how policy changes may impact peers and faculty.

Choate is not the only boarding school closely monitoring further developments of the ban. Among boarding schools nationwide, students affected by this executive order are a small but significant minority. The schools in the National Association of Boarding School (TABS) enroll around 30 students from the affected seven countries (Salad and Dahir represent two of those students.) The organization does not collect data on faculty members, but it believes that some are affected by the executive order as well.

In a letter to boarding school administrators sent this Monday, TABS Executive Director Mr. Pete Upham wrote, "TABS will continue to monitor legal developments. For now, schools may want to advise students and staff with either citizenship or residency in one of the designated countries to forgo travel outside the United States." He continued, "In addition, schools should be in touch with admission applicants or reenrolling families from the affected countries to alert them to the uncertain visa environment for the 2017-18 academic year."

As Mr. Upham concluded, "Effective visa screening is no doubt important to preserving homeland security. So, too, is our national tradition of welcoming talented students and educators of every culture, region, race, and religion. International students, families, and faculty members have enriched our schools, our colleges, and our country immeasurably. TABS schools are proud to stand in the vanguard of that tradition."

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English Department to Add More Variety to Senior Course Offerings

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**
Staff Reporter

The English Department will restructure the sixth form English curriculum for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Next year, Choate will allow seniors to choose between taking a year-long course, or 3 one-term classes. The year-long courses are Classical Tradition, The Humanities Course (formerly Humanities Sequence), Voices of Empire: Post-Colonial Literature, and Journalism and Nonfiction Storytelling. The one term courses offered are Reading and Writing Poetry; Staging the World: Shakespeare and the Renaissance; A World Apart: Contemporary World Fiction; Reality Meets Absurdity: Modern and Contemporary Drama; Reading and Writing Short Fiction; A Novel Idea: Big Books; Narrative Power and the Self: American Political Identities in Literature; From Swift to South Park: Satire — Literature of Protest and Change; and Pandora's Box: Humanity and Machines.

The changes add more variety. This year's seniors chose from three fall and winter English courses to fulfill their two terms of diploma requirements: British Literature, Comparative Literature, or The Classical Tradition. Seniors also had the option of selecting one of the 13 single term electives for the spring. Other members of the class of 2017 opted to enroll in two year-long courses: Romanticism, post modernism and the Journalism and Non-fiction story telling course.

Many of the new single term

courses were inspired by pre-existing single term courses, but were broadened to incorporate more topics. Head of English Department Ms. Ellen Devine said, "The original names of the existing courses may have changed, and some have been replaced with things that are similar by spirit and content."

Choate is currently undergoing a curriculum review in order to empower teachers and give students the ability to select courses they are interested in. English teacher Ms. Aguirre-Kelly said, "I feel like Choate has students always feeling that they are running out of time to take courses they are interested in because there are plenty of courses that you just need to take."

She added, "We want to give students a little more power to chart their own academic course. I think in the vein of what the whole school is committing to, the English department wanted to get ahead of that and just give more options for students."

Ms. Devine said, "The English department has opted to give students a greater variety of choices to choose from, so that students can be studying in an area of literature that they are most excited about."

Ms. Aguirre commented, "I think what's really nice about the change is that if students wanted to explore several different topics that aren't linked in that way, they could do that." She continued, "It gives kids a little more chance to play with their strengths, do something they like, or do something totally different. To test it out and to have a better sense of the English cur-

riculum before college."

Mpillo Norris '18 "The change is a step in the right direction. One of the issues we have now with our course options is a lack of opportunities to take many electives. This helps with that."

Senior English teacher Mr. David Loeb said, "We are imagining that some people would like to take full year courses, and some will take single term courses. But we are not sure whether one of them will be much more popular than another. It's a mystery to us because we have never done it before."

The English department was charged with the task of redesigning the curriculum. Ms. Aguirre spent last summer developing the single term elective Narrative Power and the Self: American Political Identities in Literature. Ms. Aguirre said, "A bunch of my colleagues spent the summer coming up with the different courses, so we have a bunch of really good, fresh material." The English Department wants to construct a course that is in tune with college expectations and what Choate students want.

Ms. Devine said, "We want students to have the opportunity to choose the type of literature they are interested in studying, rather than being given a very limited set of choices. We are trying to expand that so that students can study and discover the thing they are most interested in."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Some readers have asked why we've taken to appending "poo" to our new president's name. While many on campus appear eager to flush President Donald Trump's administration down the toilet, P '00, in fact, refers to the graduation year of his daughter, Ms. Ivanka Trump '00. (Mr. Trump, then, is a parent of the Class of 2000.)

As we do for any parent of a current student or alum, upon first reference of President Trump in any given article, we will give the abbreviated graduation year of his child.

THE (UN)HIDDEN DANGER OF INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

By **Anselm Kizza-Besigye '17**
Opinions Staff Writer

Throughout the age of Twitter, our beliefs and allegiances have come to label us more more visibly than in any other time. Anyone with an internet connection and a political bent must wade through a bog of ideological identifiers and reductive hashtags to formulate a descriptive persona. Will you share that #BlackLivesMatter post? Will you "angry react" to that Breitbart.com article your uncle posted? The sum of these ostensibly insignificant decisions becomes a public record of one's beliefs, a sort of political branding.

The tolerance of every differing opinion can corrupt a community.

In such a culture, our differences seem stark and unavoidable; they create friction and preclude peaceful indifference. In last week's issue of *The Choate News*, Joshua Gonzalez '17 eloquently suggested that we ought to embrace intellectual diversity as a solution to our increasingly visible disparities of thought. Gonzalez lamented that the Choate community and minority communities have "[rejected] freedom of thought" by silencing conservative voices, like Gonzalez's.

In several of my previous articles, I've articulated my dis-

dain for the kinds of personal attacks Gonzalez mentions and my disbelief in the widespread repression some believe to occurring at Choate. However, I'd now like to extend my analysis of this phenomenon by arguing against the primacy some have placed on diversity of thought.

I reject the sanctification of so-called intellectual diversity on two grounds. First, I don't believe that diversity of thought creates the "trust" and "unity" for which some hope. And, second, I think that diversity of thought can create deleterious effects in certain communities. Both of these critiques are rooted in the reality that many disadvantaged individuals experience differences of opinion as differences of power.

A community can only achieve unity when each of its members are equally enfranchised and empowered. Such a community would not be compromised if its constituents failed to reach consensus on whether the Iran deal sufficiently neutralized the Iranian nuclear program. However, such a community could not coexist with contention over whether black lives matter or over whether every woman should have full reproductive autonomy. In both of these circumstances, community members with differing beliefs would contend with ideas starkly opposed to their own. However, in the latter circumstance only, marginalized individuals would have to combat ideas that support systems and institutions designed to disadvantage them. This condition amounts to constantly justify-

ing one's existence and constantly grappling with one's oppression. All of this is to say that the tolerance of every differing opinion can corrupt a community by disenfranchising some of its constituents.

Not all opinions work to benefit the spaces in which they reverberate.

Beyond its disuniting quality, diversity of opinion can be caustic and destructive in certain communities, particularly minority communities. This assertion clashes directly with those criticisms of the black and brown community for stifling conservative opinions. In his article, Gonzalez lauds people of color like Zoe Saldana and Thomas Sowell who, he asserts, are "brave enough to (step) out of the norm" by voicing conservative opinions. These opinions, however, hurt minorities by calling into question the basic principles around which marginalized people organized. Zoe Saldana, for example, once asserted that "there is no such thing as people of color." This kind of heresy creates discord and undermines people of color who, unlike Saldana, spend their lives fighting for social justice. The predominant strategy of oppressors, from slave masters to segregators, has been to exploit divisions like these within the black and brown community to inhibit coalition

building and organized resistance. Thomas Sowell, the other example offered last week, described the Glass Ceiling as "the fable of the emperor's new clothes, but a fable for adults." Similar to Saldana's comment, this counterfactual argument, supported by perverted evidence, propagates the sexism that has divided the black and brown community in their efforts to achieve equity.

Without doubt, diversity of thought is an admirable ideal that often succeeds in practice. Somewhat ironically, writing this article is a small act of thanks for the diversity of opinion that allowed me to respond to Joshua Gonzalez's article. However, not all opinions work to benefit the spaces in which they reverberate. Some opinions attack human dignity, disband united progress, or enable functioning systems of oppression. However, not everyone experiences these opinions the same way. As Yale lecturer Briallen Hopper asserts, "it is a privilege to be able to view all political issues in indistinguishable shades of gray." Those who are blessed with this privilege ought not to demonize those who reject or seek protection from destructive, malignant beliefs. Rather, those who are fortunate enough not to experience politics as an exercise in survival disavow their fantasies of complete intellectual diversity and focus on dismantling opinions that exacerbate the world's injustice.

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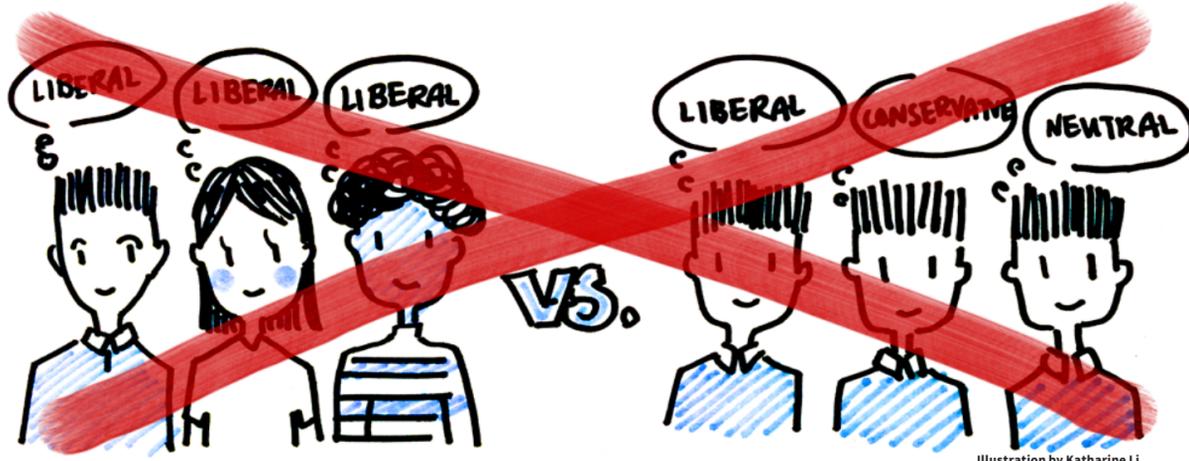


Illustration by Katharine Li

The Detriments of Dining Hall Duty

Two freshmen assess the necessity (or lack, thereof) of the infamous student chore

By **Sonali Singh '20** and **Alexandra Alkhayer '20**
Opinions Writers

Just about every freshman dreads the day when they confront the requirement that will soon interfere with their weekly schedule. "Dining hall duty," "dining hall aid" — call it whatever, but the anguish associated with it almost never changes. It's not uncommon to enter Hill House and be met with the sight of a few dejected individuals, solemnly roaming the dining hall without a purpose. Though they have been summoned to assist with the upkeep of the dining hall, they often feel no sense of duty at all.

Instead, to them, dining hall duty is a meaningless hassle, during which they could have been accomplishing other tasks, mainly ones associated with being a busy Choate student.

We believe strongly that dining hall duty is in need of drastic revision, or even eradication. Two interviewees who are either currently participating in dining hall aid or have done it in the past echoes this sentiment. When asked if dining hall aid was a worthwhile experience, one explained, "As a person who gets easily disgusted by looking at other people's leftover food stuck on a table, dining hall duty is something I dread every week." Many consider the task of cleaning the dining hall awful. Students consistently refer to it as "disgusting, annoying, unnecessary, boring." These are harsh terms, but they are

reasonably true nonetheless, and almost every freshman we have talked to knows this.

We understand that there are certain justifications for dining hall duty. The same student from above brought up a point about maintaining the cleanliness of the dining hall.

A contributor to the dislike of dining hall aid is the fact that so many students are inconsiderate of the state of their surroundings once finished with their meals. It's typical to see spilled drinks staining the wooden tables, dirty napkins on the floor, and abandoned plates still piled with food. This is one of the main reasons why dining hall duty is detested by the freshman population.

Though dining hall duty is a freshman misfortune, it remains the "duty" per se of all students to, frankly, avoid leaving disgusting trails in dining hall. Having some underclassmen clean up after them will not help students develop the habit of cleaning up after themselves and being a polite diner.

Despite the loathing that so many have for dining hall duty, many believe that the unpleasant task does teach some important lessons. One student interviewee, contemplating the advantages of dining hall aid, admitted cynically that "because I was forced to do it, I learned that we don't always get to choose what we want in life." Another student believed that the significance of holding others in high esteem was illustrated to him as

well: "I think that it helps give students a bit more respect for those who clean up after them, and this will affect how they act in the future." For a special few, dining hall duty can be beneficial if one approaches it with an open mind and a willingness to learn. This may seem to be a slight over-dramatization of such a mindless task, but the basic undertones of this job express these possible benefits.

Overwhelmingly, dining hall duty only serves to breed resentment.

Students have various ideas as to how to improve dining hall duty; we believe that the administration would be wise to listen to some of these suggestions. One student explained that he grew restless on the job, there being no need for his duties within the area for the majority of his time. He suggested that if dining hall aid is to stay, it should be shortened. This way, boredom would be prevented, and students would be more likely to execute their jobs effectively.

Students also often feel awkward approaching students to clean their tables while they are eating. It is often difficult for students to find tables to clean, as the majority are usually occupied by other members of the Choate com-

munity during lunch blocks. One student said: "I find myself standing there awkwardly in my apron, wiping the same table 109,338 times because we have to do something for the entirety of the 45 minutes."

Thus, some students argue for shortening dining hall duty to just the end of the lunch blocks, after all the tables become unoccupied.

Many Choate freshmen agree with us in that dining hall aid is in need of revision. As it stands, it is one of the most awkward experiences of many new Choate students. Clearly, scrubbing down the same table over and over again while attempting to avoid the glances and stares of upperclassmen is not the ideal experience for a freshman. If the School's goal is to teach kids to be grateful for the ones who clean up after them and become more aware of their dining hall habits, they have failed. Overwhelmingly, dining hall duty only serves to breed resentment.

The next time you glimpse a student on duty, sporting those dreaded aprons and gloves, acknowledge the likelihood that though they may be absorbing some life lessons, it's pretty unlikely. Let's face it: those kids are most definitely not having the time of their lives.

Sonali Singh and Alexandra Alkhayer are third formers from Farmington, Conn., and South Windsor, Conn., respectively. They may be reached at ssingh20@choate.edu or aalkhayer20@choate.edu

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THAWING THE NEW COLD WAR

By **Nicole Weinrauch '20**
Opinions Staff Writer

Vladimir Putin is no angel, no democrat, no moderate, and no sophisticate. Action shots of the shirtless sixty-five-year-old, intended to inspire admiration for a gallant man by ordinary Russians, don't inspire me. His repression of political opposition, his anti-LGBT crusade, and other effects of his revival of Russian Orthodoxy easily disturb any Westerner steeped in liberal democracy. Would an updated version of Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, be better? Sure. But there is a reason somebody like that — a leader looking to soften things up, to loosen controls — no longer sits in the Kremlin. It's not what most Russians want, at least not now.

As an American, I know that this is their affair, not mine. The issue in this country is that we need Russia to get on board with what we want accomplished internationally, like eradicating ISIS. We need Russia to be our partner. And yet we Republicans — every bit as much as the Democrats — treat the country only as an adversary. Why not strive for both ally and adversary?

A new sport of “Russia-baiting” — well, one that has lay dormant for 25 years — has taken over our discussion of this crucial relationship. To be honest, the spat comes more from Washington than Moscow these days. Russia has become a whip used by American politicians to hit each other. All we hear about these days is how to prevent any win for Russia. The “us versus them” narrative of the nuclear era has come back into fashion. Meanwhile, Moscow is off on its own getting things done. If President Trump's P '00 less bearish tone on Russia signals a desire for a mutually beneficial partnership, hitting a reset button which former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton talked about but never actualized, I'm all for it.

Putin used his air force in Syria to help the dictator Bashar al-Assad turn the tide against the rebels. After ignoring his self established “red lines,” Barack Obama essentially withdrew from the situation and left it in the hands of Putin, who, whatever you think of him, doesn't easily get queasy.

Certainly, there could have been another way to handle this Syrian conflict. Instead of forming unnecessary rivalries in Syria and elsewhere, America had the

opportunity to hold our nose and cooperate. Russia's invasion of the Crimea after Ukrainians deposed Viktor Yanukovich contributed greatly to America's current anti-Russia sentiment.

However, the picture is more complicated than this. Ukraine is located in Russia's backyard, just as Mexico is in ours. But unlike our relationship with Mexico, Ukraine was once a part of Russia, and its eastern section still considers Russian its primary language. Russia, who fought against Nazi Germany in World War II, was understandably sensitive to the role of Ukrainian ultra-nationalists. In the long term, Moscow saw opposition to it as part of a broader expansion of NATO, which was drawing closer and closer to its border. Was America's support of western Ukraine really more important and beneficial than building a global collaboration?

Putin is not simply a revival of Soviet repression both at home and abroad. He is the leader of a former empire, then superpower, and then bankrupt oligarchy which is now trying to relive its glory days. He leads a country that is still troubled economically and has only ever known authoritarianism. From Moscow's perspective, it is the U.S. and

Western Europe who are undermining relations and interfering in its internal affairs. To the Russians, a relationship with Ukraine is not about strategy — it is about the continued existence of Mother Russia. It is a red line that they choose not to back away from.

Tensions between Russia and U.S. certainly exist to a higher degree now than when I and my fellow students were born. Unbeknownst to many, during the Cold War, both sides knew each other well and danced around each other carefully. It was a high stakes game of chess between two nuclear powers. There's less certainty in the new Cold War. But let's at least try to acknowledge Moscow's standpoint.

Take ISIS and the broader issue of jihadism. It sits like a lid on top of a boiling Middle East and central Asia, where terror attacks are far from infrequent. Moscow considers itself to be on the frontline of the fight against ISIS and at the epicenter of the undercurrents of violence against sectarianism in the region. Admittedly, Russia has not been very helpful against ISIS, but in its eyes, supporting the brutal Syrian dictator is the only effective way to clamp down on jihadism. Maybe, with a theoretical partnership

between Washington and Russia, things would be different.

An adversarial relationship between the U.S. and Russia is avoidable and tackling problems together is possible. Think of Ronald Reagan's evolution from cold warrior to settler of the Cold War. He met Gorbachev halfway and said, “I can work with this man.” This partnership would proceed to change the world. Partnership. That's a word businessmen use, even not very good ones. They look for deals, not friends. They want collaborators they can work with for mutual gain. They know how to hold their nose and get something tangible while allowing the other side to claim a win. They instinctively understand Reagan's mantra: “Trust but verify.” That's leadership. That's what an effective foreign policy should be all about. Maybe that's what we're about to witness. A phone call between Trump and Putin will be criticized from the left and the right. But to stop the new cold war, to get to a more productive place, it would be a good start regardless of whether either man is holding his nose.

Nicole Weinrauch is a third former from Singapore. She may be reached at nweinrauch20@choate.edu



First 100 Days, in Tweets



If the ban were announced with a one week notice, the “bad” would rush into our country during that week. A lot of bad “dudes” out there!



.@POTUS more people voted to ban you from the UK in the last 12 hours, than turned up to your #Inauguration. Let that sink in. #TrumpBan.



The #MuslimBan must be reversed — now. 1. It will not make us safer 2. It was poorly constructed & executed 3. It is contrary to our values



I stand with the people gathered across the country tonight defending our values & our Constitution. This is not who we are.



Imagine a hooligan pouring sugar into the gas tank of an expensive and well-maintained car. Trump is that hooligan. America is that car.



.@VP and I en route to address #MarchForLife. VP Pence makes history by showing up, speaking out. #ProLife



Trump supporters launch #TrumpCup as a protest against Starbucks



Our country needs strong borders and extreme vetting, NOW. Look what is happening all over Europe and, indeed, the world - a horrible mess!



Given Trump's dangerous and unconstitutional actions, the Democratic Party can no longer do politics “as usual.”



.@POTUS has named Dana Boente, US Attorney for the Eastern District of VA as Acting Attorney General. Sally Yates has been relieved.

SPICER SETS PRECEDENT OF DISHONESTY

By **Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18**
Associate Editor

Only two weeks into its first term in the White House, and the Trump administration is already swamped in controversy and criticism. Aside from the President himself, no other employee has attracted more scrutiny over the past 14 days than Sean Spicer. A former communications director and chief strategist of the Republican National Committee, Spicer was

named Press Secretary last December. From his first day in office, Spicer came under fire from many members of the media for propagating false claims about the size of Trump's inauguration audience. Although the issue of how many people attended the inauguration is ultimately insignificant, the fact that the Press Secretary blatantly lied about it is not. The American people rely on the government to provide them with accurate information, and if officials like Spicer no longer

do so, then the United States is headed toward a dangerous post-truth society.

Spicer's dishonest streak began at the first press conference of the Trump administration on January 21. While speaking to the press about the recent inauguration, Spicer claimed that the attendance was “the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration — period — both in person and around the globe.” To supplement his assertion, Spicer also added that floor coverings protecting the grass on the National Mall (which, according to him, had never been set up at an inauguration before) drew attention to areas where no one was standing in photographs, a phenomenon that he claimed had not occurred before.

Additionally, he alleged that all of the space from the inauguration platform to 4th Street, the media tent, and the Washington Monument was full to capacity (720,000 people) while Trump was sworn in. Finally, Spicer stated that 420,000 people rode on D.C. public transit on Trump's inauguration day, while only 317,000 did on Obama's last. All of these statements are completely and egregiously false. First, floor coverings were, in fact, used in 2012, for Obama's

second inauguration. Second, by no means did Trump's inauguration attract 720,000 people — crowd scientists reported to *The New York Times* that the event only attracted a meager 160,000. Third, according to the Washington Metro, 571,000 people used the D.C. metro on Trump's inauguration, while 783,000 used it for Obama's. All of these claims are easily proven false with a quick fact check, demonstrating Spicer's utter disregard for the truth.

Facts, by their very definition, offer no room for interpretation.

The responses of other officials in the Trump administration to their colleague's blatant dishonesty have been predictably cowardly and absurd. Most notably, Counselor to the President and former campaign manager Kellyanne Conway appeared on NBC's *Meet the Press* and told host Chuck Todd that Spicer's lies were “alternative facts.” There's a reason why George Orwell's dystopian novel “1984” sold out on Amazon after Con-

way's interview: as the novel has it, “War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.”

Facts, by their very definition, offer no room for interpretation. Pieces of information are either true or false; there is no “alternative” in between. The counterexamples to Spicer's claims are all backed up by concrete evidence, such as photos and data. However, Spicer's comments themselves are not supported by any evidence at all. This does not make them alternative — it makes them wrong. As Todd responded indignantly to Conway, “Look, alternative facts aren't facts. They're falsehoods.” If White House officials continue to invoke such euphemisms in order to excuse their lies, American citizens will be ultimately left unable to trust their own government — an Orwellian dynamic, indeed.

Unless there is a dramatic ethical shift within the Trump administration, Spicer's inauguration falsehoods will likely be the first of many. This is an incredibly distressing sign for the future of our republic, and should be taken very seriously.

Liza Mackeen-Shapiro is a fifth former from New York, N.Y. She may be reached at lmackeen Shapiro18@choate.edu



Photo courtesy of Kevin Lamarque/REUTERS

Sean Spicer waves papers as he addresses the press from the White House newsroom.

TRUMP AND MUSK: AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP

By **Andrew Kim '17**
Opinions Staff Writer

Donald J. Trump P '00: a name that symbolizes racism, misogyny, and the White House. However, while his name undoubtedly resonates negatively with millions of Americans, Trump is also now the most powerful person in the world. Known for both his political ignorance and outrageous promises, Trump has become a sought-after commodity for business sharks of various industries. The President's most recent financier and adviser is quite an unlikely one — Elon Musk, a strong advocate for climate change and social progressiveness. But politics and personal opinions aside, this relationship with Trump is an extremely strategic business move for Musk and the future of his companies. Investors and financiers would be wise to side with Trump quickly, as he could aid them enormously.

Born in South Africa, Musk immigrated to the United States in the nineties. Soon after college, Musk helped co-found PayPal, which was later sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion. Musk would eventually use the \$165 million he received from the deal to initiate a handful of other risky startups, including now big name companies such as Tesla, Solar City, and SpaceX. Despite being the foremost pioneer in renewable energy in a world of fossil fuels, Musk has lately outspokenly supported the nomination of Rex Tillerson, former chairman and C.E.O. of energy giant ExxonMobil, for public office.

“This may sound surprising from me, but I agree with *The*



Photo courtesy of Shannon Stapleton/REUTERS

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk speaks to President Donald Trump during a meeting with technology leaders at Trump Tower on December 14, 2016.

Economist. Rex Tillerson has the potential to be an excellent Secretary of State,” Musk recently tweeted.

Even more surprisingly was Musk's move to stand behind the President, especially as Trump has called several executive orders to revive the highly controversial Keystone pipeline. Musk has, on record, stated his disapproval of Trump during the election. For example, Musk told CNBC that Trump, “doesn't seem to have the sort of character that reflects well on the United States.” So why did Musk, a left-wing advocate for clean energy and global warming, completely change his beliefs and ethical views? The answer is simple: the finance and numbers.

Following Trump's win in December, Tesla stocks demolished analysts' 12-month price targets by trading at a massive \$254 a share. According to Bloomberg, Tesla has skyrocketed over 40 percent since the end of last year, breaking its yearly high. To put a cherry on top of Musk's constant winnings from Trump's success, the billionaire has finally been able to merge the exponentially growing Tesla with his other high-rolling energy company, Solar City. Musk is simply tagging along on the Trump train in order to further his own interests. While this is ethically dubious, it's a wise decision financially.

On January 6, Musk headed to New York to meet with Trump's administrative team,

further ingratiating himself with the White House. Musk stepped in depth with people like Steve Bannon, the president's chief strategist, and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law who has been given a top role in the administration. At Trump Tower, the meeting covered a range of issues, mainly revolving around job creation. Musk openly stated that he wishes to be a leader for the nation when it comes to dealing with new transportation and energy resources, a powerful (arguably too powerful) position to be in when considering his ownership of one of the largest renewable energy companies.

Aware of Musk's close relationship with the Trump administration, investors have

been decidedly bullish with his companies. And they have every right to be scrambling over each other for a piece of Tesla or Solar City. With the finished construction of Tesla's new Gigafactory outside Sparks, Nev., an estimated 1,000 additional workers are on track to join the already 800-strong working force. While the Gigafactory will help with the creation of quality grade lithium-ion batteries for the new Model 3, it is the “made in America” hardware that is clicking with both Trump and keen investors. This is largely due to Trump's use of American workers, which falls in line with Trump's stern commitment towards ensuring the security and forthcoming of providing American jobs. This bullish reaction to Musk's support of Trump shows that other companies would be wise to cooperate with Trump and the G.O.P., despite Trump's populist statements.

Ultimately, bona-fide analysts and investors will agree that Tesla will see more surges in the coming months. In addition to securing a personal connection to the White House, Musk's companies are assuredly going to profit from the Trump's new manufacturing policies.

His sudden change in political and worldly views is not Musk being a sleazebag; it is Musk being a sleazy businessman in order to survive in the financial world.

Andrew Kim is a sixth former from Seoul, South Korea. He may be reached at akim17@choate.edu

Keeping Up With the Editors of the Past

Checking in with previous Editors-in-Chief of Choate's 110-year-old student newspaper

By **Kristen Altman '18**
Associate Editor

Environmental activist. CEO. Journalist. These are just a sample of the professions occupied by former Editors-in-Chief of *The Choate News*. They have continued the tenets of analytical thinking and professionalism shaped by their time at Choate — though not always in journalism.

During Mr. Jim Altschul's '78 time at Choate, the position of Editor-in-Chief did not exist. Instead, when Mr. Altschul was a senior, he was "President" of the newspaper, then called *The News* (the newspaper's name was changed in 2015). He described, "Being the President of *The News* was one of my most important experiences, both in my time at Choate and afterwards. It was my first management experience, and it also gave me an opportunity to be innovative and creative."

Mr. Altschul currently owns Aviation Advisor Service, a New York-based company focusing on the development of aviation real estate. Despite the differences between his current profession and his former position on *The News*, Mr. Altschul cited the common ground between both endeavors. Mr. Altschul recalled, "When I first got into professional management, I could look back on some of my experiences as a manager and learn from the tactics I had already put in place when I was leading *The News*."

Mr. Chip Lebovitz '10, Editor-in-Chief during the 2009-2010 school year, expressed similar sentiments. "The way I ended up working in my current role was my interest in journalism," explained Mr. Lebovitz, who is an associate at FS Investments, a business development company based in Philadelphia.

After his time at Choate, Mr. Lebovitz attended Brown University, where he wrote for *The Brown Daily Herald* and majored in economics. He explained, "At Brown, I was interested in economics and journalism, so I did an internship for Fortune over the summer. That experience convinced me that I wanted to pursue a career in business."

Although Mr. John Dos Passos '11 was also an Editor-in-Chief, his career with *The News* occurred much earlier — graduating from The Choate School in 1911. Deeply interested in stories and short fiction, Mr. Dos Passos used his position on *The News* to negotiate for a new literary publication on Choate campus, the *New Fiction Supplement*, where he published his first short story, "The City of Burnished Copper."

Mr. Dos Passos continued to develop an interest in creative writing while at Harvard University, by writing stories in the *Harvard Monthly*. A published author and political activist, Mr. Dos Passos is best known for the U.S.A. trilogy, which explores the American political consciousness during the twentieth century. In



Photo courtesy of A Nobel Theme
Mr. John Dos Passos '11 was an Editor-in-Chief of *The News* at The Choate School in 1911. He used his position to start the *New Fiction Supplement*, a literary publication.



Photo courtesy of LinkedIn
Mr. Jim Altschul '78 recalls his time as President of *The News* as "one of my most important experiences, both in my time at Choate and afterwards."



Photo courtesy of LinkedIn
Ms. Robin Sparkman '87 served as a reporter for *Newsweek* and an editor for MSNBC.com after her time as Editor-in-Chief of *The News*.

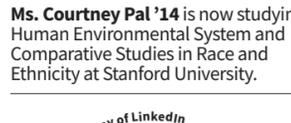


Photo courtesy of LinkedIn
Ms. Courtney Pal '14 is now studying Human Environmental System and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University.



Photo courtesy of Power Shift Network
Mr. Chip Lebovitz '10 is now an associate at FS Investments, a business development company based in Philadelphia.



Photo courtesy of LinkedIn
Mr. Thomas Kaplan '06 is now a reporter for *The New York Times*. He recalls his time as Editor-in-Chief of *The News* as "a really formative experience."



Photo courtesy of LinkedIn

addition to receiving the Alumni Seal Prize in 1965, Mr. Dos Passos also has a literary prize dedicated to his name — the John Dos Passos Prize awarded by Longwood University, which celebrates experimental literary works depicting the American experience.

Ms. Courtney Pal '14 described her role as Editor-in-Chief as foundational. A junior at Stanford University, Ms. Pal related many of the skills from *The News* to her current studies in Human Environmental Systems and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. "I think that being on *The News* has prepared me for a lot of the advocacy work that I do now," explained Ms. Pal, who works for environmental justice at Stanford and throughout the Bay Area, which faces a housing crisis.

She continued, "I learned how to present my story more effectively to reporters. It's made me more

engaged and aware of the power of the media because I understand how the media cycle works."

Looking forward, Ms. Pal commented, "My hope one day in the future is to do public interest work, specifically in regards to environmental justice, but that's very far down the road."

Drawing from advocacy and storytelling, Ms. Robin Sparkman '87 was also inspired by her time as Editor-in-Chief. After her time on *The News*, Ms. Sparkman served as a reporter for *Newsweek*, an editor for MSNBC.com, and Editor-in-Chief of *The American Lawyer*. Currently, Ms. Sparkman is the inaugural C.E.O. of StoryCorps, a nonprofit storytelling initiative supported by NPR.

She explained, "At *The News*, it was all about how you worked with a bureaucracy and how you motivated the people who were working for you. That still applies in my job at StoryCorps. Navigat-

ing so many different interests requires courage and humility."

At StoryCorps, Ms. Sparkman works to collect and share oral stories submitted by willing participants. Conversations between two interested parties are recorded in one of StoryCorps's story-booths, collected by the organization, and stored at the Library of Congress. Since its launch in 2003, StoryCorps has done over 72,000 recordings. It has also turned about three dozen of the recordings into animations, in addition to publishing five books of edited and archived conversations.

The stories shared are sometimes organized thematically, such as with the September 11th Initiative, which is dedicated to honoring each life lost during the attacks, and the Justice Project, which seeks to share the experiences of people directly affected by mass incarceration.

Mr. Tom Kaplan '06 is now a reporter for *The New York Times*, formerly a writer for *The Yale Daily News*. He related his time as Editor-in-Chief of *The News* to his current career in journalism, explaining, "I was lucky to learn from Mr. Zachary Goodyear, both in his classes and when he was the adviser to *The News*. It was a really formative experience and made me want to keep pursuing journalism as a career."

Mr. Kaplan elaborated on the transition between writing for *The News* and working for a professional newspaper. "I remember writing stories about the administration that Headmaster Shanahan might not have been too pleased about, and it's the same idea when you report on politicians and cover their administration," Mr. Kaplan said. In both, writers are often "trying to write what people in positions of power are doing and letting the community be informed."

Mr. Kaplan continued, "That's at the center of people trying to cover politics and government: to cut through the noise and help people understand what their elected leaders are saying and doing, and also hold those leaders to account when their words are not tethered to fact." At *The Times*, Mr. Kaplan covers current events with a focus on politics and has recently done pieces on the fate of the Affordable Care Act and President Trump's cabinet appointments.

Although the former Editors-in-Chief of *The Choate News* engage in separate careers and interests, they are all unified by their time at Choate. Mr. Kaplan, emphasizing the impact of his Choate experience, stated, "Students at Choate are lucky to have a high school paper that, in many ways, resembles what you might find on a college campus. It's a great way to get an early education in journalism and to learn what it's like as a reporter."

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FULL-TIME STUDENTS' PART-TIME JOBS

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**
Staff Reporter

Choate life is, without a doubt, busy and chaotic — students juggle schoolwork, sports, clubs, social lives and (if they're lucky) sleep. However, some brave souls at Choate have added on an extra layer to the equation: part time jobs.

Cammi Chester '17 currently works at the take-out counter of Vespucci's Restaurant in Cheshire. She works year-long, about 25 to 30 hours each week. She leaves for work directly after school, and some nights, even school nights, she does not leave until as late as 11:00 p.m.

Vespucci's is an Italian family-owned restaurant. According to Chester, "Every day brings a new adventure, from trying to hurdle the language barrier between myself and the other workers to trying to appease angry costumers who weren't given enough dressing or asked for five slices of cucumbers instead of the four they got — which actually happened."

But this job experience has also given her a new appreciation for every dollar. She explained, "Being at Choate, surrounded by a lot of people who are pretty well off, it is easy to forget the value of your money. Now I am much more conscious of my spending."

Chester said she has always loved to keep busy, so she doesn't mind the extra work. In fact, this is her third job during her time at Choate. She chose to get a part-time job so she could start a college fund for herself and become independent from her parents. Of course, this process has not always been easy. "It can be difficult coming home after a long shift to only then start my homework," said Chester.

Despite these difficulties, however, Chester feels she has "learned so much more from working and the people I meet there than lessons from books."

Earlier this year, starting in June, Sofia Esquibies '17 worked as a receptionist at a music store, named, aptly, "The Music Store," in Rocky Hill. At this job, Esquibies took care of the customers and dealt with the cashier, took phone calls, and scheduled lessons. She worked primarily on Saturday, for eight hours, although she also did an additional few hours during the school week.

Esquibies recounted, "The craziest thing that happened to me on the job was that a man collecting garbage would regularly enter the store, ask for the most beat up instrument, and try to pay with whatever change he had in his pockets."

Ultimately, the 30-minute commute between her job and Choate proved too big of

a burden, and she decided to take a break from the long hours of driving.

From last June to earlier this month, Rachel Hird '17 worked as a counter associate at a Bruegger's Bagels in Hamden. Her responsibilities included making sandwiches, cleaning, and stocking inventory. Unlike Esquibies, Hird had the advantage of living nearby: the Bruegger's location she worked at was a mere five-minute drive from her house.

Being at Choate, surrounded by a lot of people who are pretty well off, it is easy to forget the value of your money.

Cammi Chester '17

At the beginning of the school year, Hird worked up to 14 hours a week: seven hours on Saturday and seven hours on Sunday. However, when the college process started, she could only work one day a week, for six hours.

Hird originally started working to save up for car insurance but continued working to earn some extra spending money. During her time at Choate, Hird has found that it is sometimes hard to keep up monetarily with other students' lifestyles. She explained, "If friends want to go out to eat or go to town, it's hard to do if you don't have spending money."

Hird learned that drinking coffee on the job can be a surprisingly dangerous activity, demonstrated by an unfortunate incident she experienced. One day, she began getting very light headed and started smelling chemicals. It turns out the reason she was growing ill was because she was drinking from a pot of Bruegger's coffee in which an employee had left chemical cleaning pouches. Rachel, other employees, and customers had been drinking contaminated coffee for the entire day.

Working at a part-time job while being a full-time student can be equal parts taxing and rewarding, but it seems that these students have managed to strike a balance. For other students interested in working, Chester recommended, "Let your boss know that school comes first; work at a restaurant because that's where the money is; and no matter what the job is, whether it is scrubbing dishes or cleaning bathrooms, be the best at it, and you will be noticed."

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TRUTH TO POWER: VENERABLE ACTIVIST

DIANE NASH SPEAKS AT YALE

By **Jessica Shi '17**
Features Editor

On Wednesday, January 25, Yale University welcomed Ms. Diane Nash as the keynote speaker of its Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program, which was open to the public. Two recent Choate alumni, Uzo Biosah '16 and Esul Burton '16, who are now Yale students; two Choate faculty, Ms. Libby Peard and Mr. Jim Yanelli; and one retired Choate faculty member, Mr. Trevor Peard, attended the lecture.

Ms. Nash's address, titled "Courage, Conflict, and Creative Maladjustment: Speaking Truth to Power Across Generation," focused on how to apply the methods of non-violent resistance characteristic of the 1960s civil rights movement to today's social crusades. "We know it works," she said during her talk, "We have a better way to wage war."

Biosah paraphrased Ms. Nash's statement, "When people who are being oppressed pull out of the oppressive system, the system falls."

A prominent activist and leader, Ms. Nash participated in and spearheaded many important efforts during the Civil Rights Movement, from a campaign to integrate lunch counters in Nashville, the first successful one of the movement, to

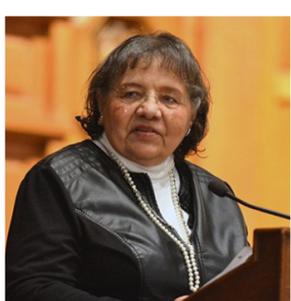


Photo courtesy of The Yale Daily News
Ms. Nash addresses non-violent resistance in the modern world.

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which she co-founded.

Mr. Yanelli described Ms. Nash as a "civil rights legend." Having frequently heard her name when he was younger, he saw the talk as "an opportunity to revisit history and catch up with the life of a person who had been so vital in the Civil Rights Movement and hear about her life since the sixties."

Mr. Yanelli, as well as Ms. Peard and Mr. Peard, heard about the event through Biosah. (Burton found out through flyers posted in her dormitory.) Biosah was the Freshman Liaison and representative of the Black Student Alliance on the Planning Committee, and her responsibilities centered on publicizing the event through

social media and other means, including inviting former Choate teachers and classmates.

While at Choate, Biosah was also awarded the Princeton Prize in Race Relations for her work as part of the Choate Diversity Student Association, Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance, and Choate's Diversity Day planning committee.

According to the *Yale Daily News*, during her talk, Ms. Nash outlined the six phases of nonviolent social action: investigation, education, negotiation, demonstration, resistance, and ensuring the problem cannot repeat itself.

"In sharing her story, she managed to give those committed to activism a blueprint for advancing a movement and also reason to believe that each of us can make a difference," Ms. Peard said, "It is especially impressive how much she accomplished while a college undergraduate, an important message for students everywhere."

With recent demonstrations, such as the Women's March on Washington and protests at airports across the country against President Trump's Executive Order restricting immigration from seven Muslim nations, Ms. Nash's teachings seem especially relevant.

Burton compared these actions to the civil rights move-

ment, "The ways we do things now are less organized — the messaging is less clear, less structured — and that could potentially hurt our success."

Burton continued, "We see a lot of these historical figures as extraordinary, when in reality, some of these social movements happen because of all the ordinary people. That's something to keep in mind in the next year or four years, the fact that everyone has the potential to affect their communities and the communities beyond them."

Although no Choate students answered Biosah's invitation to attend this event, Mr. Yanelli, the Director of the Student Activities Center, explained that he would have arranged transportation for students to attend the event.

Biosah concluded, "Protest and nonviolent action happens on a variety of scales, but I think it is really important to remain hopeful and know that there are communities that are there for you to support you. There are people who want to stand with you to move forward."

The lecture, Mr. Peard said, reminded him of the urgency "to support the good and stand against the not so good."

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Annual Student Directed Scenes, An Instant Sell Out



Students in SDS perform in Graysen Airth's '18 *Foreplay or The Art of Fugue* (left), Camryn Chester's '17 *Bringing Up Lester* (top right), and Kate Moore's '17 *It's a Small World*.

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter

Like past winter terms, Student Directed Scenes (SDS) returned once again for the annual performance in the Gelb Theater. The event was held on Friday, January 27, and Saturday, January 28, beginning at 7 p.m. However, unlike previous years, it ran for the rare length of two hours and 30 minutes. SDS is a highly anticipated theatrical event — tickets for the event sold out within minutes, several hours before the performance. Crowds formed lines two hours before the sale began in hopes of seeing the long-awaited performance.

SDS is the culmination of two consecutive terms of work. Under the guidance of acting and directing teacher Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, a group of eleven students tried their hand in directing, taking on plays with sometimes sexual, sometimes comedic undertones. The performance is the final assessment of Ms. Ginder-Delventhal's Honors Directing class.

This year, SDS featured the work of directors Maya Birney '17 with *The Some of All Parts*; Kate Newhouse '18 with *The Divine Fallacy*; Elle Rinaldi '17 with *Burning Mime*; Camryn Chester '17 with *Bringing Up Lester*; Kate Moore '17 with *It's a Small World*; Kristen Andonie '17 with *The Cask of Amontillado*; Graysen Airth '18 with *Foreplay, or the Art of the Fugue*; William Raccio '18 with *In the Beginning*; Mia Rubin-

stein '18 with *Brain Sucking*; Rebecca Lilenbaum '17 with *Buyer's Market*; and Max Fine '17 with *Throwing Smoke*.

The performance opened with Birney's take on *The Some of All Parts*, originally written by Miralini Kamath. The performance was comical, exciting, and dotted with sexual themes. When asked about her directing experience Birney said, "It was such a fun process. I laughed so hard every time we rehearsed. My actors did an amazing job keeping the joke going." She added, "The hardest part of being a director is getting together actors that are able to work cohesively and blocking the scene in my head and on paper. I wanted it to be as organized as possible. It was exciting to see the entire play come together."

I definitely cannot call it my show. It was a collaborative process that was equally developed by each member of the team.

Will Raccio '18

Newhouse, who directed *The Divine Fallacy*, written by Tina Howe, stated, "The entire process was so exciting. I chose a play that had comedy but also carried an important message. But aside from directing, I thought the most memorable part was watching the first full run-through of Student Directed Scenes. I was genuinely im-



Left photo courtesy of Graysen Airth; right photos courtesy of Kristen Andonie

pressed with what all the directors came up with."

The third performance, *Burning Mime*, was originally written by Stephen Bittrich. Directed by Rinaldi, it left a lasting impression on the audience. The play was perplexing and spoke to individuals on many different levels. Rinaldi said, "I remember my cast backstage before their first performance. We just held each other. All of them were so nervous. One of them held my hand to her beating heart. I kissed each of their cheeks and I just loved them because they were my show; no sounds, lights, or laughs from the audience could represent my piece more truly than each of them. At the end of the show, all I was able to say was, 'You did it. Thank you. I love you.'"

Jeanne Malle '19, who starred as the Mime, added, "I watched SDS last year and wanted to be a part of it so badly. I remember how awesome the stage was, and did not even question whether I should audition or not. I think that the best part of the process was creating and interpreting my character and being able to build relationships with my fellow actors through someone that wasn't myself." She added jokingly, "Sometimes, Elle would show up with homemade cookies and candy. That was amazing!"

Raccio brought the play *In the Beginning*, originally by Bruce Kane, to life on the Choate stage. He recounted, "Surprisingly the hardest part of being a director was not the

directing, but being able to get my cast to focus!" He added, "It was amazing watching the play come to life. Seeing it develop from words on a piece of paper to a real-life stage was awesome." He stated, "I definitely cannot call it my show. It was a collaborative piece that was equally developed by each member of the team. It would not be right to refer to it as mine."

Lilenbaum, who directed *Buyer's Market*, originally by L.B. Hamilton, said, "One of my cast-mates could not make it to tech, so I had to substitute for him and do things like he normally would. I was so stressed! But it helped me live through the scene, really feeling it come to life."

SDS was well received by the audience. Mint Sethbhakdi '18 exclaimed, "It was really good — definitely worth the two hour wait in line." Chloe Choi '19 added, "I was so amazed at the talented student body we have. I wanted to get their autographs before I left. It was an eye-opening experience."

SDS brought the Choate community together. Held in the intimate setting of the Gelb Theatre, the play touched audience members and was the perfect way to display the talents and culmination of the eleven directors. If you missed it, be sure to check out Student Directed Scenes next year on the Gelb stage.

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AT JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE! WITH CARLIN DACEY '08

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter



Generally, Choate takes pride in producing multifaceted students — global citizens that embody the values set by the School. Students carry a sense of comedy throughout their four years at Choate, using humor during exams and rough culmination weeks.

One comedy-centered show is *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, a late-night talk show broadcasted five times a week on ABC. The host, Jimmy Kimmel, is an Emmy-winning comic who artfully blends comedy and celebrity together; he has hosted many other fellow comics, as well as celebrities, musicians, and athletes.

Though Jimmy Kimmel is not a Choate alum, Carlin Dacey '08 is a key figure in the operation and networking of the show. Dacey, a comedian herself, is currently an assistant on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* Influenced by shows such as *The Office* and *Arrested Development*, both of which she came to know through her friends at Choate, Dacey took inspiration from stand-up comedians such as Eddie Izzard. Dacey said in an email interview, "I can't say I was very involved in the arts at Choate, but I certainly developed my love of comedy while in high school. My friends introduced me to shows, as well as my Nichols adviser; she opened me up to comedy. All of the people who I met at Choate helped shape my taste in humor and got me interested in my work."

I realized comedy was the kind of TV I wanted to produce: the kind that just relieves stress and makes people laugh.

Carlin Dacey '08

She added, "I wanted to start working in TV when I was in college. I was an athlete, diving, while at Choate, and that continued on to my college career. So I thought I would combine sports with my film major. However, I quickly realized after internships at the Big Ten Network that it was not for me. I interned at *Saturday Night Live* and it was a wonderful experience. I realized comedy was the kind of TV I wanted to produce, the kind that could relieve stress and makes people laugh."

Dacey's career launched when she worked at the Sec-

ond City in Chicago, the Mecca of comedy.

She recalled, "It was great training ground. The city has produced the funniest people you will ever meet. They are my idols: Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, and Stephen Colbert. It was in this city where it was evident that I was going to pursue a career in late-night TV." Her journey continued when she moved to Los Angeles, working at an agency that focused on comedy tours, then relocated to a reality TV production company, before she became an assistant at *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*

This year, Dacey will be assisting in the production of the Academy Awards. She stated her excitement: "I will be helping with a million moving parts. From setting up the event, to red carpet interviews, to the host's monologues, and to the winning speeches, it will be an incredible opportunity to learn. There are so many things that I need to practice and prepare for; otherwise, it will all go wrong on national TV. With all the camera and audio equipment being assembled, there is no corner that cannot be seen on the screen. There is a ton of work behind the scenes to ensure the live event goes smoothly."

Dacey has many goals for the future. She stated, "I am not sure how my future looks, but I will stay at *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, learn as much as possible, and meet as many people as I can. But my ultimate goal is to become a producer myself. I love where I work and the people I work with. I am incredibly fortunate for this opportunity."

Choate can look forward to seeing Dacey's work soon. She said, "I am going to work on my own projects and produce comedy sketches with my friends, and submit them to comedy festivals." In the next few years, we'll keep an eye out for Dacey's work on the big screen.

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Manchester by the Sea, Our Latest Must-Watch

By **Maya Birney '17**
Reporter

Kenneth Lonergan wrote and directed one of this year's critic-adored films, *Manchester by the Sea*, a movie that rightfully earned him two Academy Award nominations for "Best Achievement in Directing" and "Best Original Screenplay." The film received six nominations, which speaks volumes about the casting director, Douglas Aibel, as three of these nominations are for the authentic acting of the film's protagonists: Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, and Lucas Hedges.

I had a particular adoration for this movie because of the striking resemblance it had to my favorite movie, *Good Will Hunting*. Casey Affleck had a role in the 1997 box-office hit, and Matt Damon, who starred in *Good Will Hunting*, co-produced *Manchester by the Sea*.

Both movies were accentuated with Boston lingo and recognizable sites of the aesthetically pleasing state of Massachusetts. They demonstrated the importance of candid, heart-to-heart conversations and emphasized themes of love and loss incomparable to many other movies of their genre. There was even a similarity in the use of a janitor archetype, adopted by Affleck's 2016 character from Damon's 1997 character. Despite these obvious similarities, the two films have one large difference;

unlike *Good Will Hunting*, *Manchester by the Sea* will most likely never be deemed a modern classic.

If anything in *Manchester by the Sea* is worth praising, it is the performance of Hollywood newbie, Lucas Hedges. Hedges, who was younger than 19 at the beginning of filming, played minor roles in two former Oscar contending movies, *Moonrise Kingdom* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. However, his full acting potential had not been reached until now. As the son of an alcoholic mother and deceased father, Hedges' character displayed a wide range of emotions in this film. He showed the audience the complex thoughts of a male teenager through his experiences, including romantic endeavors with two girlfriends, relationships with estranged family members, and frequent panic attacks as a coping mechanism for his father's death. I would be pleased to see Hedges win "Best Supporting Actor," but as a Hollywood newbie, the odds are against him.

Although *Manchester by the Sea* may not go down in film history, there is no doubt that this movie has admirable qualities. Watch the emotionally charged performance at your local theatre, or watch it on DVD at your leisure after February 21, 2017.

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By **Jeanne Malle '19**
Staff Reporter

As a non-American student, I feel that a lot of Americans on campus tend to make assumptions about international students, particularly about their lack of ability to understand American culture, their socioeconomic statuses, and their consequent knowledge of fashion or lack thereof. More often than not, these international students take such stereotypes as an insult, and feel like there is no possible advantageous use for these assumptions. Defying this idea, Marta Garcia Ferreiro '18 knows her international identity is a good thing. She said, "Since I've moved to the U.S. I've come to the realization that since my style

is different to the American style, I can wear whatever I want and I'm not going to be judged. Ever since, I've been dressing a lot more freely, exploring outfits that I probably wouldn't have worn in the close-minded society of my town in Spain." Ferreiro, who comes from the Northwest region of Galicia, where the Spanish program visits every year, said her style "is pretty European and generally follows the high-fashion trends. After moving to the US, I still dislike Vineyard Vines, but other American trends are nice."

The United States, on the other hand, has a reputation for being the land of opportunity, or did, until Trump's order on Friday. Regarding fashion, especially in metropolises such as New York and Los Angeles, crazy street styles and rapid changes in trends amaze people from the outside. As Marta said, having a style so different from the American one permits her to experiment with her outfits without the fear of being judged. Maybe the idea of being able to move to a city like New York and seize opportunity is what makes the city so diverse and freeing. These same patterns exist on a smaller scale at the diverse campus of Choate. A lot of people here find freedom in expressing themselves and

realize that wearing what they want benefits them in feeling comfortable and accepted. So, even if stereotypes often offend crowds, there can be bright sides to them, as rare as it may seem. Overall, as Ferreiro mentioned, in terms of style,

coming from a foreign place gives one the ability to express oneself freely because people will be less likely to doubt your choices, allowing your style to be unique.

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Photo by Elle Rinaldi/ The Choate News

Marta Garcia Ferreiro '18 poses in the PMAC Gallery.

FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Archery (3-1)
beats Bishop, 184-166

Boys' Basketball (7-9-0)
beats Suffield, 61-54

Girls' Basketball (12-6-0)
falls to Suffield, 46-53

Boys' Ice Hockey (6-9-2)
falls to Avon, 0-5

Girls' Ice Hockey (7-6-1)
beats Brewster, 9-3

Boys' Squash (5-11-0)
falls to Belmont, 0-7

Girls' Squash (10-2-0)
beats Hopkins, 7-2

Boys' Swimming (4-2-0)
falls to Exeter, 82-104

Girls' Swimming (4-2-0)
falls to Exeter, 81-102

Wrestling (18-2-1)
beats Canterbury, 65-9
beats Deerfield, 42-29
beats Salisbury, 60-24

Wednesday Games

Boys' Basketball (7-9-0)
falls to Trinity, 60-65

Girls' Basketball (12-6-0)
falls to Loomis, 43-72

Boys' Ice Hockey (6-9-2)
falls to Hotchkiss, 1-3

Girls' Ice Hockey (7-6-1)
beats NMH, 2-0

Boys' Squash (5-11-0)
beats Salisbury, 7-0
beats Trinity, 6-1

Girls' Squash (10-2-0)
beats Westover, 8-0

Wrestling (18-2-1)
beats Avon, 57-24
beats Salisbury, 60-16
beats Williston, 45-21

Behind the Wheel with the Remsen Rink Zamboni Drivers

By **Cecilia Curran '20**
Reporter

On Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Choate students flock to the ice rink to watch their peers play hockey, with the occasional break for the Zamboni to come through. However, few actually know the Zamboni drivers and how they came to be. I spoke to three of them – William Bergan, Michael Svilzasy, and Larry Ryder – about their unique backstories as well as the pros and cons of the job.

First is Mr. William Bergan, a Choate parent, fan, and faculty member. He mentioned that he initially never knew he would be driving a Zamboni, saying, “It was required to be in charge of the rink. Driving a Zam was never a goal for me, hanging out at the rink was. Driving was just another part of the gig.” But Mr. Bergan has grown to love it. “It’s fun. Being the Zam driver is a good time.” Getting into Zamboni driving was a breeze for Mr. Bergan. He said, “I’ve known all the guys at the rink since 1992. When I retired two years ago, a slot opened up at the rink, and it was a shoe-in for me.” Meanwhile, training was not so easy. For Mr. Bergan, it took two months before he was ready to sweep the ice.

One of his most challenging moments on the job occurred at this year’s boys’ hockey game versus Deerfield. “The fans were going wild while I was driving. I tipped my cap, but they wanted more. It was hard to do any more than that, but on my last pass I raised both hands above my head and pumped my fist; the crowd went wild. I don’t think I’ll ever do that again.” As far as his favorite experiences at Choate, he said,

“My daughter had Julie Chu’s uniform, #13. After the season, I had my daughter purchase that jersey and I got Julie to sign it. It is one of my most prized jerseys.” As for his favorite thing about driving the Zamboni, Mr. Bergan said, “20 hours a week for 6 months, and then 6 months off during the spring and summer. You can’t beat that.”

Next is Mr. Michael Svilzasy, an all-around hockey person. When Mr. Svilzasy was first given the opportunity to start driving, he dove right in. He said, “I basically lived at this rink. I played, coached, refereed. I eat, sleep, drink hockey. Love the sport! When an opening arose, I was quick to jump in and try driving.” He also adores the job, saying, “Being a Zamboni driver is a lot of fun. We get paid to watch the most exciting team sport in the world. It’s also a great pleasure when someone compliments you on what a good job you did.”

I eat, sleep, drink hockey. Love the sport! When an opening arose, I was quick to jump in and try driving.

Mr. Michael Svilzasy

But, as Mr. Svilzasy noted, it isn’t easy. “It is a lot harder than it looks. The best way to describe it is mowing an icy and slippery lawn with a bunch of people watching and criticizing you if you miss a spot or have crooked patterns.” His most significant memories of the job are all quite similar: “It seems that at least once a year a player or several will eat too much before a big game and throw up. It’s usually spaghetti and meatballs, of course. Luckily, we have plenty of garbage cans and they

usually make it there.” Why does he love Choate? “Choate Rosemary Hall is a great place to work! We have the best hockey, in my opinion, right here. I prefer Prep over even a college game. It is so fast, and the talent that comes in our doors is second to none.”

Last, but certainly not least, is the aptly named Mr. Larry Ryder. His opinion of driving a Zamboni is two sided. He commented, “Looking at the positive side, you’re a member of an elite group of people that drive a Zamboni. On the other hand, you spend your time going in circles.” He added, “Before I took the job I didn’t even know what a Zamboni really did. But the job kind of grew on me after a while,” as it did for Mr. Bergan and Mr. Svilzasy.

Mr. Ryder’s experience learning to drive was quick: “When I was taught, let’s just say it was on the fast track. But I’ve learned a lot along the way.” He agrees with Svilzasy, noting that the job is not easy. “It only takes a little distraction to mess up a run. There are so many things that can distract you. Plus, your co-drivers are your biggest critics.” But all things considered, he still loves the job. Mr. Ryder said, “My biggest joys are the kids, mostly the little ones. My fan club is four feet tall. I also got to see many good players come through the rink, most notably our Olympic girls. Many have returned and stopped by to say ‘Hi.’”

Next time you see one of these hard-working, fun-loving men on campus or at the rink, take a second to say hello and have a conversation. After all, they have one of the coolest jobs on campus!

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Photo by Andrew Garver/The Choate News

PLAYER PROFILE

BASKETBALL RECRUIT BRAD LANDRY '18

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**
Reporter

A Wallingford native, Brad Landry '18 had always dreamed of attending Choate. This year, he was recruited to play for Boys' Varsity Basketball. And, not surprisingly, Landry has proven to be a real asset to Choate's basketball program. I met with him to discuss his history with basketball and his transition to Choate.

Sarah Gurevitch '19: How was your experience entering Choate as a new junior?

Brad Landry '18: My transition at Choate has certainly had its challenges, but I've really been enjoying it here. I am constantly inspired by the brilliant minds and talented individuals Choate has, and I feel I'm my best self here. The community has been so welcoming. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

SG: How have you been adjusting to the academic, athletic, and social aspects of Choate?

BL: Choate's rigor as has certainly kept me on my toes, but I have figured out what I need to do to succeed here. Aside from the academics, the community that Choate has feels like family. Being a part of the basketball team has definitely also helped me with the adjustment.

SG: How long have you been playing basketball?

BL: I honestly have been playing basketball for as long as I can remember. There has never been a time in my life when basketball wasn't a part of it.

SG: How has the basketball experience at Choate been so far? How does it compare to your previous school?

BL: The Choate basketball program is extremely demanding and so rewarding at the same time. Coach Dawson truly runs the team as if it were a college program, which forces us to play at our best. Every day, you need to be on. You must be focused and eager to improve. Choate Basketball is leaps and bounds ahead of my previous school's program in terms of its focus, skill, and the basketball IQ required. Competing in NEPSAC Class A and New England prep school basketball, in general, is something I have always wanted to be able to do. It's where the



Photo by Andrew Garver/The Choate News

best basketball is played, in my opinion. The level of competition compared to that of public schools is night and day.

SG: How has basketball impacted your life?

BL: The sport has given me the tools I feel I need to be successful in life. Basketball allows me to work with others to reach a common goal. It also teaches me how to push myself, like when I work individually to perfect a skill. I've learned how to execute game plans and how to compete with the best of the best. My mental toughness would not be where it is today without basketball. Besides that, it really just gives me joy. Everything I do in my free time is basketball-related. I know this is cliché but ball really is life for me.

The Choate basketball program is extremely demanding and so rewarding at the same time.

Brad Landry '18

SG: Do you have any favorite memories from your time on the team?

BL: The whole team spent a night at a hotel for the St. Andrews Holiday Classic. It was definitely the most fun I've had with the team so far.

SG: How is the overall dynamic of the basketball team?

BL: We are a driven bunch who are committed to our process and plan. I wouldn't want to go into battle with anyone else by my side. We're a true family.

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THE UNCONSCIOUS PREJUDICE IN SPECTATOR ATTENDANCE

Examining the destructive sexism seemingly inherent to high-school athletics and how it manifests at Choate

By **Laila Hawkins '19**
Reporter

Athletics have a history of being predominantly male, however, this changed in the late nineteenth century, when women were introduced to sports. Since then, there has been a level of sexism when it comes to athletics, whether professional or interscholastic, apparent in every sport. It is no secret that fans and boosters are particular when it comes to what sport they want to show their support for. Unfortunately, the systemic belief that men are more suited for sports still has a dormant presence in society today.

How does this relate to Choate? Choate provides all of its students with a variety of interscholastic sports. Each program (sans field hockey, football, and wrestling) has its boys' teams and girls' teams running in parallel. This is ideal and leaves little room for gender inequality within the Athletic Department.

The apparent sexism in Choate sports lies in the promotion and fan involvement. While spectators have the right to choose what sports they do and don't want to watch, it is worth pointing out that there are some instances where the gender bias of spectators is simply undeniable.

There's a huge tendency for spectators to attend male sporting events over female events.

Vincenzo DiNatalie '19

Jaiden Cruz '18, most commonly referred to as Cruz, is a two-year fifth form football player. When asked about his thoughts surrounding the idea of promotion and fan involvement in girls' teams versus boys' teams, he said, “I only ever watch basketball and volleyball. And I know that the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team

winning the NEPSAC went almost unnoticed. Also, the boys' varsity basketball team gets a lot more attention, even though the girls' team performs better. People don't really notice it, but the girls' teams are tearing up the league right now.”

Choate is a relatively small school, and there is almost no excuse for news to not get around – especially if a team has won a prestigious championship. However, if we look at how fast news about football or boys' ice hockey spreads in comparison with girls' volleyball or girls' ice hockey, there is a stark comparison. While the School makes it a priority to give equal acknowledgement to each team, it is hard to overlook this bias in student interest.

Football, hockey, baseball, and basketball all get an enormous amount of student support and turnout, as well as that of notable alumni who are still present in the programs. And with a strong social media

presence, the boys' teams are consistently increasing their spectator turnout and growing the gap. Vincenzo DiNatalie '19 commented, “There's a huge tendency for spectators to attend male sporting events over female events.”

When asked if they notice a gender bias in the spectators of Choate sports, many students said yes. Katerina Taetle '19 has an interesting perspective on why this might be, saying, “I think girls flock to guys who play sports because of an outdated idea that they are cooler than guys who don't.” This attention that male athletes gets caters to the hyper-masculinity trend in our society – playing sports and getting female attention go hand-in-hand. Taetle added, “Girls don't support girls the way guys support guys.”

This is not to say that girls blatantly disregard girls' teams. But at male sporting events, there are always more guys there to support people

on the team, even if they don't know each other very well. This creates a bigger crowd. The relative lack of support for female teams, from male and female spectators alike, reflects a deeply engrained trend in American society that Choate has been unable to dismantle. It is a systemic issue pushed onto us.

The first step to targeting this discrepancy is opening up a conversation about it.

This is not an attempt to discourage people from watching male athletes, but to highlight a pressing example of gender inequality on campus. The first step to targeting this discrepancy in athletics is opening up a conversation about it.

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