



# THE CHOATE NEWS

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Photo courtesy of Tomison Oyinloye

A performance featuring Choate rappers Julian Fraser '16 and Matt Lacey '18 commanded the audience's attention at Friday night's Foolin' Around Concert in the Student Activities Center. **See Arts and Leisure, Page 7.**

## STUDENTS ELECT NEW JC

By **Mehreen Pasha '18**  
Staff Reporter

Elections for the Judicial Committee (JC) followed speeches by the candidates on Wednesday, March 30. Shrenik Agrawal '17, Mohammed Memphis '17, Antigone Ntagkounakis '17, Olivia van den Born '17, Josephine Mah '18, Julian Yau '18, Sophie Mars '19, and Robert May '19 will now serve as the school's JC representatives for next year. 93% of the freshmen, 84% of sophomores, and 84% of the juniors cast their ballots for the people they wanted to represent their form.

Students had mixed opinions regarding the candidates speeches. Kristen Altman '18 noted, "Most of the speeches had some sort of opposition to the status quo. The majority of them talked about opposing the administration in some way, which is interesting because the JC is a function of the administration." Lauren Lamb '17 was concerned that some people simply ran for the wrong reason: getting a coveted leadership position. She also added, "Even though our representatives right now are really good, they gave false promises in their speeches. A lot of the speeches were really repetitive."

### I think it's very important that students get a say.

Josephine Mah '18  
JC Representative

Some students also observed that the male candidates exuded more confidence than their fellow female competitors. Altman remarked, "It's always very clear that the boys are more authoritative and assertive in their speeches, and there's something about that that really bothers me. I'm not saying this in a sexist way, but I do feel like if we weren't required to vote a female and a male representative, we would all have selected males."

However, HPRSS teacher and JC adviser Ms. Amy Salot did not think gender was a significant variable in the election. She explained that some female candidates received more votes than male candidates in some forms, such as the fifth form, but not in others. She attributes this lack of a trend to the students's focus on the candidates and their ideas rather than their gender.

Maya Birney '17, however, said, "It was biased. They referenced transparency way too much, though they failed to ex-

**See JC Elections, Page 2**

## BACKPACK BANDIT LEAVES SCHOOL UNEASY

By **Haley Chang '18**  
Copy Editor

Eight thefts have occurred on campus within the past two months, and the culprit has yet to be found. In the wake of these thefts, most of which have involved backpacks being stolen from outside the dining hall, the school has implemented several measures aiming to prevent similar events from happening: key cards are now required to enter the day student lounges and students are encouraged to bring their bags into the dining hall.

There have been no additional incidents of theft since students have returned

from spring break, and the school has not implemented any new policies in response to the thefts since the end of winter term. Instead, the administration is focusing on investigating the past thefts.

According to Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, there are no conclusive suspects at the moment. "There have been several pieces of information brought forward that we followed up on, but nothing concrete or clear has emerged. We just don't know. If we knew, we'd be doing something. It's frustrating." He added, "One of the mysteries to me is that a good number of students have activated Find My iPhone or iPad. But the devices

never pinged. Whoever took it must have somehow deactivated the setting without the devices turning on."

### When thefts like these happen, they tear the trust of the community.

Mr. James Stanley  
Dean of Students

Director of Community Safety Mr. Stephen Shea commented, "The investigation is still ongoing, and we're still gathering as much information as possible. We have several things we're working on as to who may be responsible for

these thefts." Furthermore, Community Safety has been collaborating and sharing information with the Wallingford police.

Nia Soto '18, a victim of the thefts, said, "I think Community Safety handled the situation very well, because now there's security around the vestibule area during lunch blocks. However, I would definitely like to know if the school had found anything out."

The first instance of theft occurred on February 17, when three backpacks disappeared from the vestibule between the dining hall and Hill House common room. Lenny Sandberg '17, another one of the victims, had

placed his backpack on one of the benches; after returning from lunch, he realized his backpack was missing. Sandberg's backpack contained various electronics, including a laptop, an iPad, and a camera.

He immediately notified Mr. Stanley; Mr. Tom Hill, Dining Hall Student Worker Coordinator; and Mr. Andrew Speyer, Director of Information Technology Services (ITS).

"I was surprised and thought that some student mistakenly took a backpack. Then when other students came to me stating their backpacks were also miss-

**See Investigation, Page 2**

## COMMUNITY DIVIDED ON SUPPORT STRUCTURES

This is the first part of an ongoing exploration by Esul Burton '16 into Choate's mental health services.

While I was interviewing people for this series on mental health at Choate, I was struck by how diverse the viewpoints regarding the issue were. Almost no one was on the same page about our support systems at Choate, but despite those differences in opinion, the general consensus still seems to be that these systems have room for improvement.

"I got a feeling of faux-interest," said Elena

Turner '17, who sat in her room in McCook recollecting an experience with a counselor at the Pratt Health Center. "In the end, I was the one who solved my own problem. I didn't trust the counselors with the information they needed to help me. I've tried the Assessment Team, and all these other things — they lack power. The only support system here is a self-made one."

On the other hand, alumnus David Labonte '15 had positive experiences with his counselor. He found his counseling ses-

**See Mental Health, Page 3**

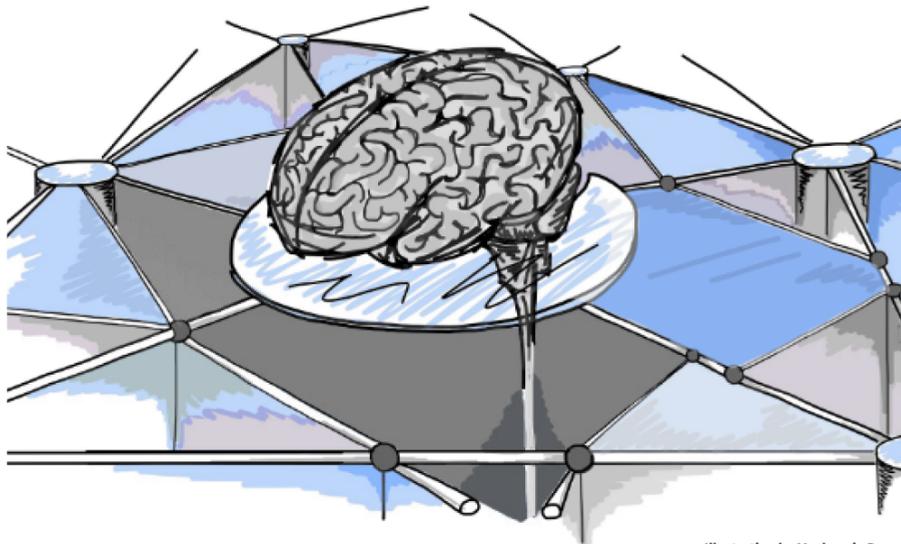


Illustration by Myckynzie Romer

In the first article of a series, Esul Burton '16 begins her exploration of mental health at Choate by examining support systems.



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**Visuals by Tony Hao, Bryce Wachtell, Dilan Bozer, and Ross Mortensen**

## NEW SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED TO JAPANESE STUDENTS

By **Kevin Chyun '18**  
Staff Reporter

Though the student body is comprised of approximately 17% international students, Choate enrolls only five students from Japan. However, this number may change as starting next fall, the school will grant Murata U.S.-Japan Scholarships to Japanese international students.

This scholarship, funded by the generosity of alumnus Takashi Murata '93, will aim to encourage more Japanese international students to study at Choate.

Every year, Japanese international students will receive this scholarship to attend the Choate Summer Programs and the full academic year. Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis announced this new multi-year initiative last December.

The Murata U.S.-Japan Scholarship is the first scholarship to target Asian students specifically.

Director of Curricular Initiatives Dr. Katherine Jewett said, "Choate will learn a lot from students from Japan. It is definitely a two-way street. This is the exciting part of Mr. Murata's generosity."

Director of Financial Aid Mr. Matthew McDonald commented, "Our hope is to open up the idea of Choate to another part of the world. What we hope is that students coming back from this will be able to talk about the advantage of coming to Choate."

The Murata U.S.-Japan Scholarship has been in effect for a year, as seven students from Japan received scholarships to attend the Choate Summer Programs in 2015.

However, effective next fall, the scholarship will also start covering tuition for the academic year.

Currently, there are three Japanese students who have enrolled at Choate for the next school year. The students are from Kaisei Academy and Seikei Junior and Senior High School, which are both nationally renowned for having superior curriculums. The students are particularly strong in math and science, according to Dr. Jewett.

In the interview with the Bulletin, benefactor Mr. Takashi Murata shared his inspiration for establishing this scholarship.

He said, "My hope is that by taking the financial burden out of the equation, the program will allow more top-notch students in Japan to now consider U.S. boarding schools as a real option, and help create a bigger trend of Japanese students studying overseas at an earlier stage."

From his experience working as a partner at Goldman Sachs, Mr. Murata observed, "Japan has been known as somewhat of a reclusive place, and probably more so after two decades of economic deflation. Multicultural, multilingual Japanese talent is in short supply."

Furthermore, after attending an influencing Choate Summer Program in 1990 as a freshman, Mr. Murata applied to Choate as a new sophomore against his parents' wishes.

At Choate, Mr. Murata excelled in academics. Mr. Doug James, who was Mr. Murata's English teacher, described Mr. Murata as, "a resourceful scholar with an engaging style and mind." Mr. Murata also was a prefect and an active wrestler; he was on the wrestling team that won the Founder's League Championships in 1992-1993.

Mr. Murata remembers his wrestling experience

with particular fondness. He recalled something that his wrestling coach, Mr. Jay Hutchinson, would always say: "He talked about how 90 percent of winning is attitude and all of the rest — physical attributes, technique — is only 10 percent. That frame of mind is something that I have carried with me since."

From his experiences serving as a prefect, Mr. Murata learned, "You just realize you need to be yourself and do the best you can." He carried these lessons with him as he went on to business. In order to give back to his alma mater that has taught him so many things, Mr. Murata felt the need to sponsor this scholarship.

According to both Mr. McDonald and Dr. Jewett, the admissions process of the Murata U.S.-Japan Scholarship greatly resembles the general Choate admissions process.

Foremost, applicants should have strong academic backgrounds.

However, students under consideration for the scholarship need not only excellent academic records, but also either a great grasp of the English language or the ability to learn foreign languages quickly. The students who are receiving scholarships will be from international schools, and consequently, it would be very difficult for these students to show their best work at Choate if they do not understand English.

Choate hopes that in addition to offering more students the opportunity to attend, it can attract more Japanese international students to foster a diverse community in which students can learn and grow.

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## JC ELECTIONS PROCESS REVEALED



Photos by Elle Rinaldy / The Choate News

Out of a dozen rising seniors who ran for positions on the Judicial Committee, the four candidates with the most votes were selected.

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plain how they would generate transparency. You get the surface, but they don't explain how they will succeed."

The representatives elected to the JC represent an integral part of the school community. Four sixth formers, two fifth formers, and two fourth formers serve on the committee for yearlong terms, and are responsible for adjudicating honor code violations. The JC strives to ensure that its representatives create an environment in which all students accused of honor code violations receive fair treatment.

"Most schools have students on an adult committee, but we have the opposite: adults on a student committee," said Ms. Salot, a faculty member who acts as an adviser to the JC.

The JC is currently considering conducting a second circling if the number of students running exceeds a certain number, as was demonstrated in the third form and fifth form this year. However, this amendment may raise some concerns in the future, especially for Ms. Salot, since this could cause a part of the process to be-

come a popularity contest. According to Ms. Salot, "My initial instinct is that I don't want to do a second circling because I want every student to have a chance to make a speech in front of his or her form. I would be nervous that a circling could make it closer to a popularity contest, and this just isn't the place to do that."

**If we weren't required to select a male and female representative, we would have all selected males.**

*Kristen Altman '18*

The comprehensive election process ensures the JC representatives uphold the honor code. The students and faculty involved in the JC election process can attest that it is rigorous. To participate in the election, students obtain signatures for a petition form and have a series of conversations with their dean, four current members of the JC, and Ms. Salot.

By the end of the process, they have undoubtedly shown their commitment to the role and understanding

of how the committee functions and what expectations are held of a representative.

The candidates give speeches about why they are ideal candidates to their form members, who electronically select winners via approval voting shortly afterwards. Later in the term, the committee will elect rising seniors who will hold the Chair and Vice Chair of the JC next year.

Many of the candidates had been on the JC last year, and have integrated their experiences into their speeches. According to Josephine Mah '18, "After being on the JC for a year, it was really something I wanted to do again, and it was just a really good opportunity. I think it's very important that students get a say because the school isn't just about teachers teaching students; I think it should be more inclusive than that."

It was the resounding consensus of the community as a whole that all candidates showed dedication, delivered good speeches, and represented the values of the JC.

**Mehreen Pasha** may be reached at [mpasha18@choate.edu](mailto:mpasha18@choate.edu).

## INVESTIGATION INTO BACKPACK THEFTS CONTINUES

Continued from Page 1

ing, I knew that we had a problem. I was saddened that someone would take students' personal belongings," said Mr. Hill.

Following the first wave of thefts, Mr. Stanley sent an all-school email on February 23, encouraging students to place their backpacks inside the dining hall. However, some students saw the email too late to heed the warning. Later that day, three backpacks vanished from the same area outside the dining hall.

Ben Wendel '17, another victim, said, "When I walked into the dining hall to grab lunch, I checked my email and saw Mr. Stanley's email to not put bags in the vestibule. But when I went back to the vestibule to get my bag, it was already gone."

The next instance of theft did not occur in the vestibule, but rather in a day student lounge. On February 24, a day after the all-school email, a backpack disappeared from the third-form lounge.

In light of the new development in the thefts, Mr. Stanley announced new preventative measures to the student body via an

all-school email. Since February 26, a Choate card has been required for access to the third-, fourth-, and fifth-form lounges. In the email, Mr. Stanley also encouraged students to use their lockers in Hill House, the gym, and the Larry Hart pool.

"The majority of these bags were taken just outside the dining hall, in a place that historically has been safe, but for whatever reason is not anymore. So we have told students to move bags into the senior section as opposed to leaving them in the vestibule. Either Mr. Hill or a member of Community Safety has been in the vestibule, too, reminding students to move their bags into the dining hall," said Mr. Stanley.

Despite these efforts, however, another bag was stolen from the vestibule on February 27.

Although the school has yet to identify the culprit, several stolen backpacks have reappeared on campus without all of their contents.

On February 23, two bags were stolen, but found later that day on North Elm Street. Soto recounted, "Around 3:30 p.m., Community Safety came to my dorm, and

they had retrieved my backpack and all of my books. My keys were still in there, but everything else — my iPad, calculator, prescription medication — was all gone. I was stressed, because I didn't know what kind of information someone could already have obtained from my bag. I also lost a lot of notes that I took on my iPad, which was very inconvenient, since the term-end experiences were just around the corner."

On February 26, a bag was found outside the fourth-form lounge. Around that time, another bag was found on Curtis Avenue.

The school has taken various actions to help the victims of these thefts. Choate has lent laptops and iPads to students who lost their electronic devices and has replaced the devices free of charge for students who had received them through financial aid.

Wendel commented, "I think the school accommodated the students very well. Putting up signs, sending emails, lending or even replacing students' electronic devices — you can see the school really cares about the students in these cases."

Mr. Stanley observed, "One of the things that is so

upsetting about this case is that this is a really trusting campus. Students feel safe here, and they should feel safe here."

He added, "When thefts like these happen, they tear the trust of the community, and that's heartbreaking. This is a relatively open campus, and that's a part of what we like about the school. When people come through, we trust the people coming through, and we want to continue doing that."

He anticipates that the policy of having students place their bags inside the dining hall instead of the vestibule will be in effect for the foreseeable future.

In conclusion, Mr. Shea remarks, "I think the best thing that can happen is an increased awareness on the students' part regarding leaving their items. We have been in the area outside the dining hall where the thefts mostly took place, but our presence alone is not going to stop every theft — we can't be everywhere. But I hope the thefts send a message of being more aware of our own belongings."

**Haley Chang** may be reached at [hchang18@choate.edu](mailto:hchang18@choate.edu).



Wednesday, Feb 17th

**Three bags are taken from the area outside the dining hall during lunch hours.**

Tuesday, Feb 23rd

**Three more bags are taken from the area outside the dining hall.**

Tuesday, Feb 23rd

**Two of the bags taken on February 23rd are found about half a mile off campus on North Elm Street.**



Wednesday, Feb 24th

**One bag is taken from the third form lounge.**



Thursday, Feb 25th

**Mr. Stanley sends an all-school email encouraging the student body to leave their bags inside the dining hall.**

Friday, Feb 26th

**Access to third, fourth, and fifth form lounges now require one's Choate ID at all times.**



Friday, Feb 26th

**One bag is found outside the fourth form lounge.**

Saturday, Feb 27th

**One bag is taken in the area outside the dining hall.**

Illustrations by Kevin Xie

# MATH TEAM TRIUMPHS AT YALE TOURNEY

By **Jessica Shi '17**  
Features Editor

While the rest of the Choate community was busy sleeping through their Saturday mornings on April 2, six students boarded a bus to the third annual Math Majors of America Tournament for High Schools (MMATHS), held at Yale University. After more than three hours of competition, these six students headed homeward, this time with one team award and two individual awards.

The recent performance by Choate's Math Team is representative of the team's strong abilities. Co-captain Alex Zheng '16 said, "The math team is exceptionally strong this year. Last term, we also set a new school record for our performance at the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament."

Perhaps this success can partially be accredited to the raw passion of participants. According to Math Team member Tony Hao '19, "I love the 'aha' moments in math. When as a team, we successfully tackle a problem which we originally had no clue about — I think that is the best part."

MMATHS featured three rounds of intense examination, as well as plenty of time for pizza and mingling in between. The three rounds are, in chronological order, the Individual Round, the Mixer Round, and the Mathathon Round.

As the name implies, the Individual Round entails students working alone to solve 12 questions in 75 minutes. Kanon Kihara '17 enjoyed this round the most. "It was the least stressful. Even if I get everything wrong in that round, it doesn't affect the team," she said.

Top scorers from the initial Individual Round were invited to participate in Indi-



Photo courtesy of Tony Hao

Choate's Math Team attended the MMATHS competition at Yale University and left with awards.

vidual Tiebreakers, in which they had to solve a series of proof-based problems. Hao and co-captain Jacob Klegar '16 snagged sixth place and third place, respectively.

The following Mixer Round was a rather unique element of MMATHS, as it allowed peers from different teams to work with each other. Students formed groups of five students whom they had never met before. Math Team Co-coach Ms. Kolina Koleva commented, "It gave them a chance to meet other math lovers and make connections and contacts."

Finally, the Mathathon Round, perhaps the most intense round, required school teams to answer questions in groups of three, sending a designated "runner" to submit each set of answers and retrieve the new set of questions.

Choate did exceptionally well in the Mathathon, missing only one question to clinch first place. Klegar said, "Choate did better than I expected in the Mathathon. We even finished the contest with ten minutes left. And this was against some of the strongest teams in the area,

ones that have beaten us at previous contests."

Members relished the excitement of the Mathathon Round. Scores were updated live and projected onto a screen to inform teams of their rankings.

Hao commented, "The result is very good, but the feeling during the match was even better than the moment when we got the trophy. We finished a set of problems. We submitted it. We saw our score climb gradually — from unranked to top twenty, top five, and eventually first place." He elaborated, "When you see that, you know that you are a contributor, and the large number of pixels representing your score bar was the result of the power from your brain and your hand."

Students who attended MMATHS not only solved math problems, but also listened to a lecture by Dr. Daniel Spielman, the Director of Undergraduate Studies for Applied Mathematics at Yale. Dr. Spielman discussed the basics of graphs and networks, as well as his work with algorithms. The goal of his lec-

ture was to introduce high school students to some of the practical and fascinating applications of research in mathematics.

In its third year, MMATHS is coordinated by volunteers throughout the East Coast and sponsored by well-known math organizations such as Art of Problem Solving and Mu Alpha Theta.

MMATHS consists of three parallel competitions being held simultaneously at Yale, Columbia University, and the University of Florida. Thus, in a few weeks, the Choate team can look forward to knowing their rankings nationwide.

MMATHS provided Choate math enthusiasts a fantastic opportunity to both demonstrate their problem solving skills and also interact with the math community beyond Choate. As Math Team member Andy Si '18 said, "The competition was an amazing experience. It was a privilege to connect with people who think in extraordinary ways."

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# FALL OF THE GOLDEN ARCHES

By **Tommy Wachtell '19**  
Reporter

The recent demolition of the McDonald's on Route 5 at the base of Cedar Lane, a major food run destination for Choaties, has impacted the community greatly. Engineer John Thompson is charged with rebuilding a smaller McDonald's with no play area.

Before the construction began, the consistent McDonald's customer Director of the Student Activities Center Mr. James Yanelli recalled, "I have been to McDonald's every day for a Diet Coke. Just like how some people go to Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts for caffeine, I go to McDonald's."

He continues, "The taste of McDonald's Diet Coke is very different than that of Burger King or canned Diet Coke. I like the combination of carbonation, ice, and chemicals. It all just comes together in a beautiful way."

While Mr. Yanelli will feel the loss of his daily tradition until the new and improved McDonald's is finished, he will adapt. "I would like to say I'm going to start drinking water, but I'll probably find another supply. I will import it from another country if I need to sustain my addiction."

He continued, "I talked to one of the managers there and he's excited about the

reconstruction because it would mean a more efficient operation. There will be a two-lane drive-thru, which would mean double the drive-thru pleasure. It will mean a better operation in terms of the customer experience. I think the game area that kids used was run down and unappealing. Everything will benefit from being enhanced and rebuilt."

The famed Mr. Ned Gallagher, while indifferent to the McDonald's reconstruction, is saddened that he can't take Memorial House inhabitants on food-runs to McDonald's as he has previously.

To match the fast food demand, Mr. Gallagher plans to follow in Mr. Yanelli's food steps and find alternate sources of fast food by "taking them to Chipotle or Chick-Fil-A instead."

The drawback of the reconstruction affects not only these two individuals, but many others across the campus and Wallingford. Several students have voiced complaints as well.

While the time of the opening of the new McDonald's is unknown, Choate students and Mr. Yanelli will soon, once again, be "Lovin' it."

Tommy Wachtell may be reached at [twachtell19@choate.edu](mailto:twachtell19@choate.edu).



Photo courtesy of Dave Zajac / Record-Journal

Owners hope to open a new McDonald's very soon.

# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Continued from Page 1

sions to be comfortable and helpful, and acknowledged that in addition to fellow students. "Choate faculty understand the stress that students are under day in and day out," he vowed.

These two students also represent a microcosm of the ways students perceive support systems at Choate.

Turner is one of almost 500 students who have gone to counseling at some point in the past year.

She began to see a counselor at the health center during her freshman spring to deal with panic attacks and issues relating to her identity, but her subsequent experiences with her counselor discouraged her from continuing to seek professional help at Choate. Turner said she was misunderstood and felt that her issues were something that she needed to hide.

Like Turner, many present and prior students believe that an institutionally-based support system is not fully adequate.

Jerri Aordam '17, a leader of the Choate Diversity Student Association's Mental Health Campaign, ruled the health center out of the equation entirely.

"I personally wouldn't go to the health center if I had a problem. I would feel more comfortable going to a

  
**488**  
Average number of students seen for counseling each year from 2012-2015.

teacher or a faculty member whom I trusted, or even a friend." Lanie Schwartz '16 admitted that Choate is surprisingly unsupportive as her support systems existed only in the form of her friends. She recalled an incident that occurred her sophomore year when she was in a "very volatile relationship," and her friends brought it to the attention of some faculty members. Despite the nature of her friends' concerns, however, Schwartz recalled, "Not a single teacher spoke to me about it."

Some alumni are more supportive of the institutionally-based support system available. Alumna Sitara Zoberi '15 was satisfied with the counseling services she received at Choate, despite her initial hesitation, and noted that the counselors could support students in ways that a friend-based support system couldn't. "I am open with my friends, but there are certain things that are

  
**2,213**  
Average annual number of counseling sessions from 2012-2015.

hard to tell them, because they don't know how to help. I've been both the suffering and the helpless. Both suck, but the counselors are professionals. Reaching out to someone who has dedicated his or her life to helping people like you can change your life."

Some alumni questioned the security of the friend-based support system. Alumna Courtney Cook '15 remarked, "In terms of adults and other authority figures, yes, we have a support system. Among students, no. We don't create an environment that aids one's mental health."

Cook believes that Choate provides a competitive environment that is detrimental to students' self-esteem. She continued, "My peers made fun of students who got good grades and labeled them 'try-hards' rather than celebrating them in their academic success. I'm a perfectionist, and this environment was toxic and hard to adjust to for me.

Data courtesy of Mrs. Charlotte Davidson

How could I learn to love myself for not being the "best" when I felt that my peers wouldn't accept me for who I am?"

In contrast, faculty and staff members on campus tend to see the support system as a robust network that students can rely on. Ms. Nancy Miller, the fourth form girls' dean, explained, "It starts in the dorm. Certainly, the advisers are part of the support system, the dean is part of the support system, and the health center is probably the largest component of the support system. I also think that students reach out to friends as well when they need support. Sometimes a kid has a wonderful relationship with a teacher that will allow her to talk to the teacher about something that is troubling her."

Similarly, Mr. Will Morris, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, described Choate's support system as something that should be

akin to the kind of support that students often find at home. "I think it's very important that students feel connected to the social network and to the community of peers and adults, because those relationships are where students develop a sense of belonging and a sense of connection, which is so important to good mental health."

The sheer variety of opinions on the existing support system at Choate begs the question: Is there any consistency in how Choate supports its students, and what can we do to provide consistent and equal support?

There are barriers that stand in the way of consistency. Many of them have to do with student-counselor incompatibility, students' fears of attending coun-

seling sessions, a general societal aversion to talking about mental health, and the stress that results from any academically competitive environment.

Perhaps Tomi Lawal '16 addressed the consistency of a support system best. He said, "I think that there is a support system. I don't think it takes the same form for every student, though. Something they tell you is to find your support system, but you're assuming there's an ideal of what that is. I don't know what might be the best support system, or even if there should be a best form." However, "Having someone who is older and wiser is the least that anyone could really ask for."

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# THE CHOATE NEWS

110<sup>TH</sup> MASTHEAD

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Interested students should attend an assignment meeting, held on most Mondays, at 6:45 PM in the i.d.Lab of the Lanphier Center. To submit a letter to the editor or opinion piece, please email us at [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu). Opinion pieces represent the opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the School. Unsigned masthead editorials represent the view of the majority of the members of the editorial board of *The Choate News*.

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## JC SPEECHES REVEAL CULTURE OF COMPLAINT

By **Kristen Altman '18**  
Copy Editor

But the path to election doesn't reflect that. Ironically, the people most likely to be elected are the ones giving speeches about how they're going to put an end to the current administration.

This may seem shocking, but for the most part, the administration functions because it has reasonable policies. Choate isn't a prep-school autocracy. If changes need to be made, our school has procedures in place to recognize and respond to those needs accordingly. But cooperation doesn't make a compelling JC speech.

In other words, misery sells. Our identities at Choate are rooted in discontent. It shows in the type of student officials we elect, the editorials we publish, the way we talk about Choate in our everyday conversations. If a reason for dissatisfaction isn't there, we invent one.

Constantly demanding revolution within governing systems is self-defeating: first, because promises to fulfill these demands are often used to garner votes rather than institute actual change, and second, because a *revolution usually isn't necessary*. The "necessary change" cited by so many JC hopefuls is ambiguous because no one can define what it actually is. Choate is rebelling against an enemy that doesn't exist.

Ultimately, there is only one solution to this problem: substantive change. Rather than continuing to depict the administration as an oppressive force, we must put our complaints aside and advocate for progress. If we try to lessen — or, dare I say, *stop* — our calls for revolution against an imaginary enemy, we might actually pave the way for institutional change.

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### Corrections:

A graph accompanying a News article last week failed to accurately compare the number of Choate applicants from 2004-2014 to the number of applicants from 2015-2016. The 2004-2014 figures represented total number of applications, including those that came in late. The 2015-2016 numbers only included the applications that were received by March 10. In the past two years, Choate has received a record-breaking number of applications. The numbers used from 2004-2014 were sourced from previous issues of The Bulletin and were not reviewed by the Office of Admission.

A News article incorrectly attributed a quotation about Mr. Jordan Ellenberg to Dr. Matthew Bardoe. The quotation was from Mrs. Lorraine Connelly.

A News article incorrectly stated that Patrick Kage '16 began his sign-out application in December 2015. He began in December 2014. The article also implied that the application failed to be realized because of Kage. In fact, it failed to be realized because Kage lacked necessary assistance from ITS.

A News article incorrectly stated the name of the Robotics Team. Its name is 6106.

The Choate News apologizes for these errors.

# THE BEAUTY OF MATH

Math is an artistic pursuit, not just a diploma requirement

By **Alan Luo '18**  
Online Editor

The well-cultured of this world would never dare say anything like "I hate music" or "I hate art." Sit a woman at a dinner table, and if she can hold a conversation on contemporary literature, taxes, and politics, then she must indeed be a responsible adult. For her to resent history might instill some ambivalence, but a resentment for the sciences is completely acceptable. There is one field, however, for which it seems to not only be utterly acceptable, but fashionable to dislike: mathematics.

This double standard is not as present in a community as diverse as Choate's, but it still exists. It may have been particularly visible in the days leading up to Jordan Ellenberg's special program, but it has been an underlying theme of Choate culture for eternity. It seems to be widely accepted that the Honors Geometry course is the poison of the earth.

I think this standard originates from the notion that there is something inherently "beautiful" about the arts that is not present in any other field. This almost certainly has something to do with the way that foundational math classes like Honors Geometry are taught. Some students who come from mathematically-inclined families and backgrounds are able to skip to higher-level courses, which the department seems to mandate are a prerequisite for calling yourself someone who enjoys math. The end

result is a positive feedback loop that produces zealous math lovers and equally zealous math haters.

As a self-proclaimed math enthusiast, I'd like to dispel a few of these myths. In other words, I'm going to tell you about why math is really, really cool.

For me, the linear track of American math education culminating in calculus is a disgusting misrepresentation of a beautiful field. Math is fundamentally different from other fields in the way that it acts more as a tool than anything else. Math is only useful to the extent that it can model a system. Depending on how creative you are, this system can be anything from projectile motion to World War I. I find the most enlightening things in math to be those where these models come together to form a complete description of a real system. I'm sure you've all had that "Wow!" moment when your teacher's whiteboard equation works out during a physics class.

We can also apply math to the seemingly discrete subject of history by studying human behavior. As a case study, let us look at biology. Say that a population of birds, categorized into "hawks" and "doves," occupies a habitat. Hawks are aggressive, and doves are passive. When two birds encounter each other, they can either fight or flee. If they are of different species, the hawk will always win a fight. If they are of the same species, both birds lose. Running away has no benefit and no drawback.

If you set up all of these situations in a table detailing every potential outcome, you can assign a value to each outcome for both hawks and doves. Positive values represent gains, and negative values indicate losses. If you did the math, you'd find that hawks would dominate certain situations, while doves would dominate others. Using probability, you could calculate an equilibrium distribution of hawks and doves. This is called an Evolutionary Stable Strategy, or ESS. The most incredible thing is that nearly identical methods have been applied to predict with significant accuracy the populations of real ecosystems, with the outcome values derived from field study.

*The beauty of mathematics comes not from appeal to the senses but appeal to the mind.*

It is not difficult to extend similar behavioral studies to humans. The field of quantitative history is entirely dedicated to performing such studies. History offers a wealth of data for mathematical models that can be used by people like Nate Silver to predict things like elections.

We can also apply this process in the reverse. Instead of using the math to describe the world, we can use the world to describe the math. Math is constrained purely by the extent to which

things can be modeled. When something doesn't exist, mathematicians invent it based on real-life behaviors. For example, applying quantum physics allows us to deduce that the sum of all counting numbers 1, 2, 3, and so on to infinity is equal to  $-1/12$ . This kind of seemingly nonsense theorizing has given birth to monstrosities such as imaginary numbers, imaginary exponents, four-dimensional imaginary numbers, and so on. Four-dimensional imaginary numbers, known as quaternions, are actually widely used in any sort of engineering that involves rotating objects through space.

We live in a culture that perpetuates an idea of math as a "diploma requirement" rather than a source of wonder. However, math is not a utilitarian mentality; it is a frontier of discovery. The beauty of mathematics comes not from appeal to the senses but appeal to the mind: the ability to describe all we can perceive and all that we cannot represent a notion of artistic power in itself. "Beautiful" is fundamentally distinguished from "non-beautiful" by creativity, and I cannot think of a word that describes extradimensional systems or quantum mechanics better than "creative." Defined in this manner, we see that beauty is not only related to mathematics, but that the two are intrinsically inseparable.

**Alan Luo** is a fourth former from Hong Kong. He may be reached at [aluo18@choate.edu](mailto:aluo18@choate.edu).

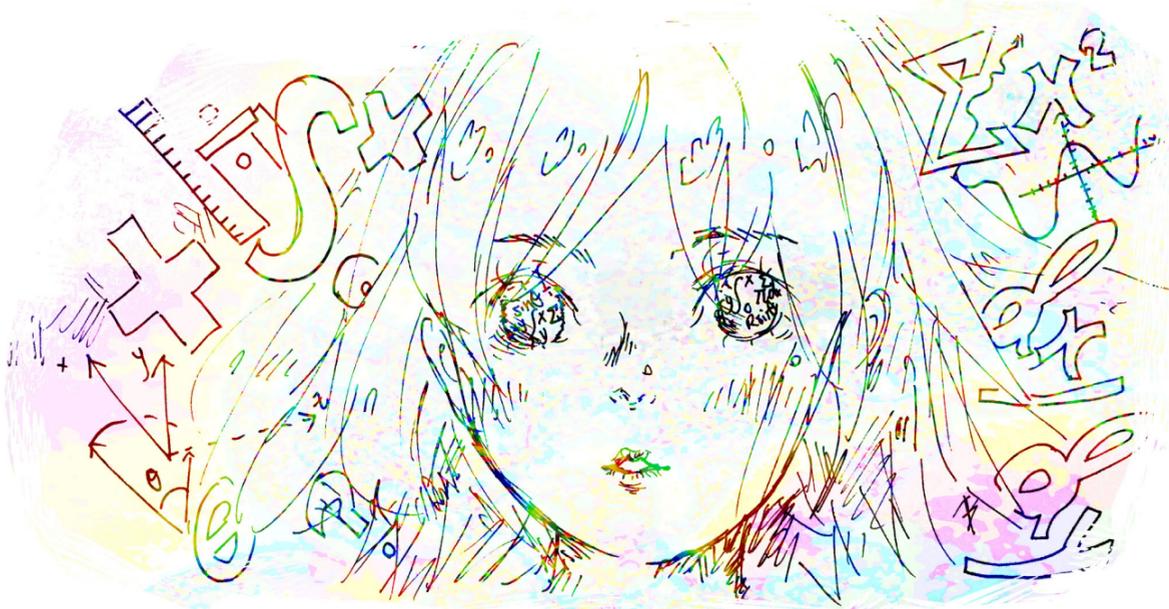


Illustration by Katharine Li '17

## OUR DINING HALL, DIVIDED

By **Mohammed Memfis '17**  
Opinions Writer

By the end of spring term, many Choate students — especially seniors — come to the regrettable realization that they have failed to establish relationships with individuals outside of their friend groups. After our first, maybe second year at Choate, we know who our friends are. Cliques are clearly defined and well-established. Having a group of supportive companions is an indispensable part of being in high school. However, the problem arises when we become disinclined to socialize outside of our friend group. Not only does this expose a growing reluctance among students to understand different people and opinions, it also leads to the creation of a community in which communication and diverse interactions are limited.

Unless you are new, most of the people that you have met within the past year most likely shared a class with you. This unfortunate reality highlights that we don't pursue the opportunity to meet new people or be outgoing — we wait for that opportunity to come to us. As time goes

on, we walk past other students that could potentially be close friends of ours. Our own unwillingness to initiate conversation restricts us from many potentially meaningful relationships.

*The most polarized place on campus also happens to be the very center of it: Hill House*

The exceptionality of all Choate students is guaranteed through the admission process, where character and personality are important considerations when admissions officers review applications. On my revisit day, it was clear to me that Choate Rosemary Hall's student body was kinder, more respectful, and more considerate than any of its peer schools. Yet while students here take advantage of the extensive academic, athletic, and other extracurricular opportunities available to them on campus, they fail to fully appreciate the breadth of diverse personalities and individuals around them.

Now, a clarification for the administration: don't take this as a call for more initiatives like community lunch. Forcing us to sacrifice a free period by sitting at an assigned lunch table on Fridays makes us miserable, not sociable. Rather, this is more of an individualized call to action. In a recent all-school meeting, Julian Yau expressed this same concern: that the most polarized place on campus also happens to be the center of our campus, Hill House. The dining hall exemplifies Julian's message. If someone were to name one person sitting at a specific table in the dining hall during any meal, we could probably very accurately guess all other students sitting at that same table with that person.

This is because we have developed a legitimate phobia of meeting new people and creating friendships outside of our established friend groups. The idea of interacting exclusively within our "circles" or "squads" in itself limits the relationships that we are able to make here at Choate. The truth is that most Choate students are nice; unfortunately, the same sort of down to earth, affable people won't surround many of

us when we graduate. We will look back and miss the sense of family and shared respect that flourished and is still flourishing throughout this campus today. We may or may not admit to our negligence to be more sociable, but we will all eventually regret not doing so.

Starting a conversation, lending a helping hand, or simply acknowledging someone's presence goes a long way. These social efforts embody the community values we as students of Choate should strive to represent. Think about the friends you've made at Choate and how you met them. These relationships are usually created through common extracurricular or academic interests. Now, think about the friendships that could be lifelong but won't, because we have settled for our current group of friends and decided against branching out of that group. The Choate community is a genuinely amazing one, but it isn't perfect; taking initiative to bring about an even closer-knit and friendlier campus is a start to getting us there.

**Mohammed Memfis** is a fifth former from Atlanta, GA. He may be reached at [mmemfis17@choate.edu](mailto:mmemfis17@choate.edu).

Today in History: Final League of Nations Assembly Meeting (1946)

## Government Oversteps in Seeking iPhone Hack

By **Namsai Sethpornpong '17**  
Opinions Staff Writer

By now we've all heard about the FBI-Apple legal battle that brought the question of balancing the issues of national security and civilian privacy to the forefront of the public agenda. The FBI toppled a delicate balance when it sought to unnecessarily compromise public privacy by demanding Apple to not only unlock the phone of a San Bernardino shooter, but also to create a new iOS software designed to let the FBI access any and all iPhones.

The spotlight now focuses on both the issue of balancing national security and civil liberties and yet another blunder by the federal government; a blunder

characterized by its willingness to sacrifice public privacy. A blunder that comes as no surprise following the occurrence of the Snowden scandal, which revealed that phone companies all over the world gave the American government access to their users' phone records, leaving no room for civilian privacy.

I am unwilling to support the egregious demand that the FBI tried to force Apple into: "GovtiOS."

Prior to finding a third party to unlock the iPhone 5C, the FBI had sought a court order to force Apple's assistance in unlocking Syed Farook's phone.

CNN's released a fallacious statement: "What is truly dangerous is the divide between our security needs and the economic in-

terests of industry." Apple CEO Tim Cook has said of the request: "We have done everything that is both within our power and within the law to help, but now the U.S. government has asked us for something we simply do not have, and something we consider too dangerous to create."

*The FBI toppled a delicate balance when it sought to unnecessarily compromise public privacy.*

Even if Apple's reasoning stems from its economic interest and its desire to maintain the trust of its consumers, its refusal to yield to the

FBI's demands is a step in the right direction. The underlying theme here is not as clear-cut as CNN and various other news outlets have claimed it to be; rather this issue is underscored by a company's moral obligation to the public.

If Apple, a magnate in the technology market, whose consumers come from every corner of the world, created a software that allows the government to access any iPhone it desires on so-called grounds of national security, then what of the phones of people who are not prioritized by the government?

What of people like me, an international student from Thailand, whom the American government owes nothing to? To know that the government of a differ-

ent country could easily access all the information of my iPhone scares me.

If it had chosen to comply with the FBI's wishes, Apple would be symbolically condoning a blatant breach of privacy. It would be repeating the disaster that Verizon, AT&T and other phone services took part in when it allowed the NSA to access all civilian phones. This issue is a battle between public welfare and private interests; it's a case that opens up the unresolved issue of how dangerously far the government will go to ensure national security, and to expand its own power.

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## ELECTION



# 2016



**Donald J. Trump**  
@realDonaldTrump

.@FoxNews should be ashamed for allowing experts to explain how to make a nuclear attack!



**Hillary Clinton**  
@HillaryClinton

.@BusinessInsider: "Do you trust Donald Trump with our military?" Hillary: "Of course not."

## The GOP Race for the White House: Child's Play

By **Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18**  
Opinions Writer

As various states hold primary elections, and the clock draws closer to November 6, immaturity among the GOP candidates is at an all-time high. Although politics often involve puerile behavior, no election in American history has witnessed as much misconduct as the 2016 race. Thanks to bombastic candidates such as Donald Trump, the Republican Party has descended into insult-fueled mayhem. This malicious strategy may work in the short term — after all, Donald Trump is currently leading all other GOP candidates in the polls — but it is extremely detrimental to Republicans in the long run. If the 2016 election establishes the GOP as the party of vitriol and anti-intellectualism, Republicans will likely never recover.

Ever since Donald Trump entered the Republican race, he has acted like a petulant child. He has made fun of Marco Rubio for sweating, mocked the appearance of Ted Cruz's wife, and imitated Serge Kovaleski, a disabled *New York Times* reporter. As a result, the other Republican candidates feel obliged to mirror Trump's behavior in order to stand a fighting chance. This vicious dynamic hit its

nadir in the one of the recent debates, where Marco Rubio commented on the size of Donald Trump's hands: "You know what they say about men with small hands? You can't trust them." In response, Trump said, "Look at those hands. Are they small hands? And, he referred to my hands — 'if they're small, something else must be small.' I guarantee you there's no problem. I guarantee." In previous years, there was simply no way presidential candidates would have engaged

in such crass euphemisms on the national stage. However, inappropriate conduct is now the cornerstone of the GOP.

Sadly, this behavior has yielded results: Trump is the front-runner and likely nominee. Because of his success, Trump has set a juvenile precedent for the 2016 race, causing the GOP to lose touch with any sense of professionalism and civility.

Instead of discussing policies and ideas, Republican candidates bicker about

matters such as hand size and physical appearance. This reality-TV style behavior, although entertaining on the surface, is destroying the Republican Party.

In addition to their incessant bickering, another sign of the Republicans' immaturity is their anti-intellectual platform. Indeed, to some Republican voters, discussions about economic or social policies can come across as boring, even elitist. These voters view intelligence as an intimidating quality, and pre-

fer their politicians to talk about policy in the simplest terms possible — or even not at all. While this anti-intellectual stance may attract less-educated voters, it is undoubtedly harmful to the welfare of the party, if not the country. Discussing complicated policy is not elitist, but rather the bare minimum of what politicians should do. If Republicans continue to market only oversimplified beliefs, their party will soon lose any substance altogether.

Since 2016 is an important election year, the current candidates could easily leave a lasting mark on the Republican Party. If Republican voters respond positively to immaturity, future candidates will emulate this behavior. Anti-intellectual sentiment and petty conduct will become the norm, resulting in a party of blustering demagogues who are more concerned with insults than ideas.

While some Republicans may be more entertained by this version of the GOP, it would ultimately be a failure of a political party, and cost them the election.

If Republicans wish to remain a serious contender in elections in the next decade, it must up its act and stop this childish behavior.

**Liza Mackeen-Shapiro** is a fourth former from New Haven, CT. She may be reached at [lmackeen Shapiro18@choate.edu](mailto:lmackeen Shapiro18@choate.edu).



Illustration by Julian Yao '18



Photo courtesy of Anthony Wahl - AP

Sen. Ted Cruz stumping in Wisconsin shortly before the primary on April 5. Cruz was heavily favored to win the Republican Primary there.



**Bernie Sanders**  
@BernieSanders

A victory for workers fighting for collective bargaining rights at Trump's Vegas hotel. Unions make America great.



**Megyn Kelly**  
@megynkelly

.@tedcruz on abortion: "I'm pro-life. I believe that we should protect every human life... from the moment of conception." #KellyFile

## SHOULD USA FOLLOW CALIFORNIA'S \$15 MINIMUM WAGE?

### FOR

By **Imad Rizvi '18**  
Opinions Staff Writer

In the United States, over forty million people live in poverty, struggling to support themselves and their families with extremely low wages. In light of this fact, California is set to increase the minimum wage to \$15, although the federal minimum wage remains at only \$7.25. The initiatives taken by legislators and the governor of California should be matched at the federal level, where the minimum wage should gradually be raised to lift millions of Americans out of poverty and bring improvements to the economy.

It is unacceptable that the current level of federal wages results in only a \$15,000 annual salary, making it nearly impossible for the working poor to survive in the United States. Increasing the minimum wage is a necessary action that must be taken to help ensure that anyone working a full-time job earns a living wage. The argument that most minimum wage workers who would benefit from the change are high schoolers who don't need the money is false, as estimates indicate that 90% of those whose incomes would rise from the rule would be above the age of 20.

No one can live or support a family on the current minimum wage; an increase will help people, families, and communities in which the new wealth will be spent. Opponents to enacting this policy argue that increasing the wages would lead to unemployment — a proposition that has no statistical basis.

*No one can live or support a family on the current minimum wage.*

Research actually suggests that a minimum wage increase could stimulate the economy as workers spend additional earnings, raising demand and causing job growth. An extensive study by economists David Card and Alan Krueger concluded that raising the minimum wage does not lead to any significant decrease in employment. Their study tracked employment in fast food industries in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, showing that when the minimum wage was raised in one area, there were no noticeable effects on unemployment.

In the last few decades, the presence of steady in-

flation and wage stagnation have combined, resulting in wages today that are much lower in real (adjusted) value than they've been in the past. Raising the minimum wage in California and the rest of the country would allow people to keep a constant purchasing power and have their wages still be worth the same value. The \$15 minimum wage in California would barely be an increase in real value compared to the wages of the late 20th century.

With no proven links to changes in unemployment, an increase in the minimum wage in California will help many people living paycheck-to-paycheck: an initiative that should be matched by many other states and even the federal government.

Even as one of the world's richest countries, America is still plagued by problems of poverty. States like California can be the leaders in a movement to help millions of American lives through higher wages. It is imperative that other states and the federal government finally follow California's example and raise the minimum wage to a living wage.

**Imad Rizvi** is a fourth former from Glastonbury, CT. He may be reached at [irizvi18@choate.edu](mailto:irizvi18@choate.edu).

### AGAINST

By **Jack Bergantino '18**  
Opinions Writer

California's decision to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour will cause more harm than good. The new law, which is meant to help working-class people, will actually hurt these people the most.

In Seattle, where the minimum wage has steadily increased and will soon reach \$15, the availability of jobs is falling. In less than a year, nearly 15,000 people have lost their jobs; this has been the worst job loss in Seattle since the Great Recession. The repercussions in California could be far greater. Seattle has a relatively educated population in comparison to cities like Los Angeles, which implies that fewer people in Seattle depend on minimum wage jobs. While this proves true for some places in California, California also has a large population of young, unskilled workers. As the minimum wage increases, employers are given more incentive to move across local borders. Texas, two states away from California, has a minimum wage of \$7.25. Companies, like the automotive giant Toyota, are already moving to Texas as the minimum wage in California increases. Thus,

employees left behind are becoming jobless.

In addition to an incentive to move away from California, automating jobs is becoming increasingly attractive to employers. As employing unskilled workers becomes too expensive, cashiers, for instance, can easily be replaced by robots.

Also, businesses that are able to weather increases in the minimum wage will be forced to raise the costs of whatever commodities they offer. Restaurants that cater to low-income populations are also staffed by working class individuals. In order to support higher costs, restaurants will eventually have to increase their food prices.

*In less than a year, nearly 15,000 people have lost their jobs.*

So while everyone will indeed make more money, they have to pay more for everything they buy. While some effects of raising the minimum wage will take longer to come to fruition than others, the effects of raising it to \$15 in California will largely be negative, as work-

ing class Americans will see their wages lose value.

Minimum wage, no doubt, has to be raised from time to time. Yet moving it from \$10 — already one of the highest state minimum wages — to \$15 is too drastic of an increase. Minimum wage was never meant to be a sustainable salary; no matter how high the wage floor is, it will remain challenging to support oneself and others on a minimum wage job. Instead, local municipalities and the United States Federal Government should focus on providing better opportunities in higher education, so that fewer people have to depend on the minimum wage as a means of survival.

Indeed, the minimum wage must not be raised throughout the country. While the raise makes sense in some areas where the cost of living is very high, such as San Francisco, for the majority of America the raise makes little sense. A worker for a small business in rural California has a much lower cost of living than one in a city. Therefore, the minimum wage should be lifted locally, not at the state level.

**Jack Bergantino** is a fourth former from Cromwell, CT. He may be reached at [jbergantino18@choate.edu](mailto:jbergantino18@choate.edu).

## CHOATE DAD RUNS FOR PRESIDENT



Illustration by Julian Yau

Mr. Trump lacks a lot of things, but Choate spirit is not one of them.

By **Amy Hagan-Brown '18**  
Reporter

Throughout this election cycle, it seems as if no newspaper, political conversation, or Facebook “trending” feed is complete without at least one mention of the infamous Mr. Donald Trump. His — shall we say — *interesting* personality has been at the forefront of popular media throughout the election season. One aspect of his character has yet to be fully explored, however. As much as we would perhaps like to pretend otherwise, Mr. Trump is a Choate dad.

Mr. Trump’s daughter Ivanka is a member of the Choate class of 2000. Faculty members who taught or otherwise knew her agree that her personality is very different from her father’s. Mr. Jim Davidson, for example, said, “I had her in a class way back when. My impression of her was that she was hardworking, sharp, socially skilled and a good kid.” Mr. Stephen Farrell, who was also at Choate when Ivanka attended, agreed. “One of my impressions of her was that she is very, very intelligent. She is professional.”

Faculty interactions with Mr. Trump as a Choate parent were limited and fairly ordinary. Mr. Davidson described one chance encounter while with his son at the dining hall; Mr. Trump came over to their table. “He very normally pushed a match-

box car back and forth with my son. It was no big deal. I was just struck by how he didn’t bring attention to himself in any way.”

Mr. Michael Velez '00, who was in Ivanka’s graduating class, and is now the school’s fourth-form dean, said, “I met him a couple of times, very much on the hello-and-that’s-it side. There were no extended conversations or anything like that.” Could it be? The notorious Mr. Trump — a normal human being?

Mr. Farrell, however, offered a slightly different story. “The only time I saw Donald Trump on campus was at graduation with his security guard. He conveyed the exact same image he does now as a presidential candidate, of importance and self-satisfaction.”

Mr. Trump once said, “If Ivanka weren’t my daughter, perhaps I’d be dating her,” but Mr. Farrell cautioned not to conflate the candidate’s antics with his daughter’s personality. “I would never want her smeared with the same paintbrush that is smearing him because she is very different from her father. She is a very wise woman, and I would advise people to distinguish between them,” he said. After all, like father, not necessarily like daughter.

**Amy Hagan-Brown**  
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## INCLUDING THE EXCLUDED

Choate’s women of color seek to make their voices heard

By **Kristen Altman '18**  
Copy Editor

Choate embraces diversity, yet important minority groups remain largely unnoticed. While students and faculty make an effort to discuss identity during events like Diversity Day, those conversations seldom continue into everyday scenarios. For women of color at Choate, this phenomenon is particularly hard to ignore.

Ms. Judi Williams has been passionately involved with these issues since she arrived at Choate in 2014. She believes that while Choate is certainly a welcoming community, there is an evident need for effective dialogue about women of color. “I don’t want these girls to feel dismissed or like they don’t have someone they can talk to,” she said.

In fact, for many at Choate, even the definition of “women of color” is murky. Ms. Williams said, “In the past, I think Choate has defined students of color as black and Latino, though for me, the term includes all non-white students.”

Similarly, Mehreen Pasha '18 expressed uncertainties. “I feel like stronger parts of my identity have to do with the country where my parents came from. If someone were to ask me what I identify as, I would probably tell them that I’m Pakistani.” Though Pasha ultimately does consider herself a woman of color, questions about what the term truly means, as well as what the experience of being a minority woman entails, are still un-

solved. Pasha is not alone in realizing the difficulties that traditionally unrecognized women of color face. As Cecilia Zhou '17 added, “Because Asians in particular are held to high standards of academic achievement, I frequently feel conflicted between trying to adhere to that expectation versus not wanting to seem like a stereotype.”

Esul Burton '16 is currently attempting to address such concerns. “We put together a framework that we want to present to some faculty members, and, with luck, we’ll graduate leaving behind a more supportive network for all students of color. I’m also hoping to establish a discussion-based group for Asian students.”

Furthermore, Ms. Williams has created a safe space for young women of color by leading the Young Womyn of Color Book Club. Regarding the name, Ms. Williams used the feminist adaptation “womyn” because the traditional spelling — *women* — implies that women are a subset of men.

Ms. Williams elaborated on the idea: “The book club is basically just an opportunity for young women of color on campus to bond and read literature by and about women of color, as well as to share their experiences and get different perspectives.” The group has thus far focused on discussing Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s novel *Americanah* — the tale of a young Nigerian woman’s experiences as an immigrant to the U.S.

Recently, Young Womyn of Color has become more than just a club. The group has realized they are not just students with common backgrounds: they are also a community. Burton, a member, said, “I really found solace in being among other women who identified similarly to me, even if we were from different racial groups. I think many of us have gone through similar if not parallel experiences, so it was comforting to know that I was not alone.” This sense of togetherness allows for an unparalleled level of understanding and empathy for these women of color, who are able to share experiences without fear of judgment or misunderstanding.

**I don’t want these girls to feel dismissed or like they don’t have someone they can talk to.**

Ms. Judi Williams

In addition to sharing experiences within group settings, student-driven initiatives seek to portray these stories to the whole of the Choate campus. Michelle Bolt '16 leads one such endeavor. After watching the documentary *Who Cries for the Black Girl?*, a series of interviews about black women’s experiences at Amherst College, Bolt realized the impact of discussing identity for women of color. “I was really inspired by the documentary,”

stated Bolt. “I tried to watch it again with my friends, and we only made it through 15 minutes into the movie because we kept stopping it to talk about how similar it was to our experiences.”

Afterward, Bolt sought to initiate similar discussions at Choate. She has spearheaded a photography and film project to explore the experiences of women of color on campus. “The first part of the project is a photo series about women of color at Choate, kind of like *Humans of New York*,” Bolt explained. “I’m asking a range of questions about things like aspiration, race, gender, sexuality, cultural identity, immigration status, that kind of thing.” After completing this stage of the project, Bolt plans to post the photos and interviews at key locations around campus — the goal is to raise as much visibility as possible.

“I feel like when we talk about race, we either speak in generalities or we discuss the black male experience,” said Bolt. “We don’t ever really shift the conversation.”

In a school so dedicated to diversity, listening to every voice is crucial. Initiatives like Bolt’s seek to make women of color heard. As Anika Zetterberg '16 put it, “Everyone has different experiences, but when we accept and listen to the experiences of others, it brings us together in a way that is truly beautiful.”

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## THE VIEW FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW

Monday, 7:28 p.m.

Whenever I complain about the construction interrupting my three-hour long senior spring naps, I think of the Mem resident who had his eyebrow shaved off. When life gives you lemons, find someone with more lemons than you.

Grace Tully '16  
Bungalow 202



## LA BELLE VIE IN PARIS



Only in Paris could I find bustling street action by day and peaceful alleyway scenery by night.

By **Dilan Bozer '17**  
Reporter

No more study hours or lights out, no more stealing snacks from rooms next door, no more advisers telling me to do work, no more waving in between classes. Instead, it’s 6:00 p.m., and I’m in a crowded metro that has been stuck underground for a full 15 minutes. The woman next to me is trying to get cell service to call her husband. She screams, “Le metro s’est arrêté.” She’s going to be late for dinner. I hear an announcement from the speakers reminding us to be aware of pickpockets. The couple behind me is kissing, and the old lady with the red-lipstick next to them is trying to read her book — *L’Etranger* by Albert Camus. Welcome to Paris: a minimalistic capital that serves as a live museum to thousands of years of art history, culture, and now

a humble group of Choate Study Abroad students.

Paris first greeted me with its characteristic “French sarcasm.” I was sitting in a cafe, eating an omelet with ham, when a waiter ran towards me, yelling, “No! No! Mademoiselle, you can’t eat that. It’s pork!” I looked at him blankly for a moment and then realized that he must have heard me speaking in Turkish to my parents and made the conclusion that we were Muslim. I jokingly told him that I absolutely loved pork, to which he replied, “Isn’t it a sin?” It was his way of telling me that he knew I was a stranger to his country, and it was my way of learning that I had left the safe and politically correct bubble of Choate.

Further differing from Choate’s atmosphere, my term abroad experience had a very unique dynamic due to its timing and my personal background. Even though the coordinators decided not to



Photos courtesy of Dilan Bozer

cancel the program, we knew that we were going to counter a very tense post-attack atmosphere in Paris. Coming from Turkey, I could empathize, in some ways, to what the citizens must have been feeling. Remains of the tragedy were apparent: Taxi drivers interrogated passengers about their carry-ons. Armed soldiers patrolled the streets in Marais. I never felt unsafe in Paris, but I could feel the people’s fear.

Living on an isolated campus, we rarely get to experience (and often forget) interactions with strangers, or being strangers ourselves to people around us. In Paris, life was just the opposite. One rainy Sunday, I walked around with my camera, hoping to capture glimpses of those strangers. I turned around the corner and saw one of the strangest scenes I have ever witnessed — one that would surprise me even in an art gallery, never mind

in front of me. A French girl, with a cigarette burning between her fingers and a scarf wrapped around her neck, stared blankly at what seemed to be a toilet bowl on the sidewalk. She didn’t make a single movement. I saw that she was staring at the rotting cigarettes at the bottom of the toilet. I asked her if she was okay, and she shocked me once again with her answer: “That looks just like my life. A cigarette that’s quickly burning out, just to be left with all the other rotting cigarettes.”

However brief, exchanges such as these were both jarring and endearing. Clearly, I was submerged in a world wholly different from the one that I had become familiar with at Choate. As enlightening as those experiences were, I must admit, it feels good to be back inside our bubble.

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## CHOATE CRIBS: GRIFFIN BIRNEY '18

By **Gabby LaTorre '17**  
Staff Reporter

If you ever happen to be on the third floor of Hill House, one particular room — that of Griffin Birney '18 — may be of interest. Birney’s passion for music and revolutionary floor plan makes his room unlike any other.

The highlight of Birney’s room is his sound system, consisting of a record player attached to speakers. Coupled with an extensive record collection perched atop the windowsill, Birney’s audio setup makes his room a popular destination for dorm-mates to hang out and listen to music. In stark contrast to the maximum of two people he could fit in his dorm room last year — Birney had the honor of living in the smallest room on campus — his room capacity is now at an impressive five people.

Besides being a crowd pleaser, Birney’s music gives his room a personal flair. Posters line the walls: his favorite artists include Jimi

Hendrix, Bob Dylan, and Pink Floyd. Earlier in the year, the walls of his room were bare. However, as people began pointing them out to him, he was inspired to put up some decoration. Besides posters, Birney’s records sit atop his dresser drawers neatly in boxes.

Pushed up against the wall, Birney’s bed immediately reveals another interesting feature: it does not have a bedframe. Instead, the mattress sits on the floor. “It’s better for your back,” Birney insisted. “People judge me for doing it, but it’s actually catching on around the dorm.” Not only does it create more space in the room, but Birney also claimed he is sleeping better.

Overall, the elements of Birney’s room work well together, creating a nice atmosphere that both he and his dorm-mates can enjoy.

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Photo by Andrew Garver/The Choate News

# CHILDREN'S PLAY BRINGS SMILES TO THE PMAC



Photo by Graysen Airth/The Choate News

Danny, the protagonist in *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*, resists his family's pressure to eat healthy.

By **Nicole Yao '18**  
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, April 3, dozens of children and parents from Wallingford filed into the Paul Mellon Arts Center to watch the musical production, "The Monster Who Ate My Peas." Based off the multi-award winning children's book written by Danny Schnitzlein and illustrated by Matthew Faulkner, the show was presented by ArtsPower, a New York-based national touring theater.

Choate typically presents one or two children's productions during the academic year. Of those, at least one show is performed by a professional theater company. "For many years, that company was NYC's TheaterWorks USA," said Ms. Carol Jones, the director of the Young Artists' Program. "However, this year their touring schedule did not match up with the dates that we had available. So, for the first time, we hosted ArtsPower."

"Their production is touring all over, so we're one of the venues they stopped by and shared," further explained

Ms. Kayla Yannatos, Director of the Arts. Choate was the last stop in ArtsPower's tour.

The performance was organized by Choate's Young Artists Program, which aims to teach children the fundamentals of various forms of art. "Theater for young people is so very important," said Ms. Jones. "As an audience member, you make connections and feel a part of something when you are watching something on a screen."

The musical production told the story of Danny, a young boy who refused to eat his peas despite encouragement from his parents and dog. Danny's dad eventually dressed up as a monster and made a deal with him: in return for eating his peas, Danny would give the monster any one of his possessions. First, it's his new soccer ball, then his bicycle. But how much was Danny willing to give up before finally facing his fear?

The performance was amusing and lively, including 13 musical and dance numbers throughout the show. The audience also clapped along and told Danny not

to trade with the monster anymore, making it very interactive. The ending was humorous but featured an important lesson about the value of will power.

The audience's responses were overwhelmingly positive. "I liked the whole show," exclaimed one little girl. Another announced that the show had inspired her to eat peas in the bath tub later, while a young boy told the performers that they were the "best actors he'd ever seen."

**We strongly believe that the Arts Center is an important bridge to the external community.**

Ms. Kalya Yannatos  
Director of the Arts

The hour-long performance was capped off by a quick question and answer session with the four actors. Eileen Veghte, who played Danny, showed the audience how they created the illusion of eating peas that were actually plastic. Chris Mauro,

who portrayed Danny's dad and the monster, highlighted the differences between the book and the performance. "A great thing about acting is that we can be whomever we want to be," concluded Veghte. "I love sharing what I love to do with kids all over the nation — it's super fun."

"We strongly believe that the Arts Center is an important bridge to the external community," added Ms. Yannatos. "It serves first and foremost the Choate community, but it's an obvious way for Choate to reach out to the surrounding community and ensure that we are welcoming them."

Indeed, this production was a way for Choate to reach out and give back to the Wallingford community, especially the children currently in the Young Artists Program. As Ms. Jones concludes, "There is so much to learn from observing other performers in addition to practicing and modeling what it means to be an excellent audience member."

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## IN THE PMAC WITH MIKA SHEVCHENKO '16

By **Namsai Sethpornpong '17**  
Staff Reporter

Maria Shevchenko-Masnyj '16, known to her friends as Mika, is one of the most compelling and talented artists in our very own little theatrical world. With her fierce personality and ability to interpret a wide range of characters, Shevchenko-Masnyj has contributed to our school through the performing arts and her beaming disposition.

Now a senior, she was accepted into the Arts Concentration Program her freshman year. Since her arrival at Choate, she has been a part of several main-stage shows such as *The Mad Woman of Shaiho*, *Tartuffe*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Pentecost*, and has also assumed roles on smaller productions, such as the annual Fringe Festival and Student Directed Scenes.

However, she explained, "The roles that I played during freshman and sophomore years were small ensemble parts. Both characters really taught me to be a part of an ensemble and how to develop a presence on stage and be engaged even without having a lot of lines."

Nevertheless, she connected deeply with the character the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, but found her true calling in *Pentecost's* Jedlicova. "I think Jedlicova resonated with me a lot because the entire show was stationed around Bulgaria after the fall of the Soviet Union. Because of her background, I really identified with her, and my Ukrainian heritage also adds to this," she said.

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, Shevchenko-Masnyj's mentor in the Arts Concentration Program, has pushed her student to challenge her-

self on stage. "I told her that the scope of character that she had played in the past has not been as large as I think it could be, and she really took that to heart," Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said. "When she created her one-person play, she really pushed herself and took a huge risk. She's on that trajectory where she's making all of these realizations from all these individual experiences and she's bringing this into her theater artist." Shevchenko-Masnyj added, "During my one person play, I was able to play different characters, stretch myself into those characters, and be out there, outrageous and wacky and not caring. That was very liberating."

Shevchenko-Masnyj has a strong, yet compassionate and optimistic personality. Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said, "Everybody loves her. She's consistently positive, even though we all have good days and bad days, and if Mika's having a difficult time, she does not bring that into the theater with her. It's especially lovely to have someone like her because she understands that sometimes people's bravado is about them really feeling awful. A lot of people can't see beyond the bravado, but she does."



Photo courtesy of Mika Shevchenko-Masnyj  
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## FOOLIN' WITH FRASER

By **Sophie Hare '18**  
Staff Reporter

Last Friday, the campus flocked to the SAC to watch Julian Fraser '16 and Matt Lacey '18 (a.k.a. J. Fraser and KidLacey) headline in their concert, "Foolin' Around."

Though the pair had little previous experience, it seemed as though they'd been performing their whole lives. Amy Hagan-Brown '18 commented, "Matt and Julian seemed so at home on stage. They had a great command of the audience."

The room was pulsing with energy—with every song, the screams just got louder. The artists even gave up part of the stage to students while continuing to rap as classmates danced behind them.

The duo clearly exuded great confidence, but both were slightly on edge beforehand. Lacey, who has performed at multiple talent shows and showcases, noted, "I am not nervous about the turnout, but about the crowd's reception and reaction." Fraser, on the other hand, said that while he felt a "little bit nervous," he was "good under pressure," and "very well prepared."

During the concert, KidLacey and J Fraser sang both covers and original compositions. The duo also invited some of their classmates to the stage: Kwabena Ayim-Aboagye '16 (King Kwab\$) opened the show, Kaitlyn Dutchin '17 contributed as a backup singer, Fraser's roommate Michael Gordon '16 soloed, and Choate Hip Hop tore up the stage. Katie Lee '18, a member of Hip Hop, said, "It was really fun to perform. An excited crowd is always fun to perform for!"

"I want this event to be a place where people can just let loose, have fun and not worry about what they have to do next week or the week after," explained Fraser before the

show. Lacey wished the audience members would "truly have a great time and enjoy themselves." Marta Garcia-Ferreiro '18 can attest to that. "The performance presented a great atmosphere to hang out with friends and celebrate!" she said.

Fraser and Lacey had been preparing this highly-anticipated Friday night performance since mid February, but the idea first arose during a fall-term football team dinner. Lacey recalls, "Julian went up, started rapping, and all of a sudden was like, we need to do a collab!"

For Fraser, a rising Yale Bulldogs defensive lineman, music was a plausible career even before football became a priority. "I actually really wanted to be a musician. I would write music daily," he said. "In fact, I had a book on me so I could constantly write wherever I went." He owes his renewed interest in music to the Choate rap community. "The Choate rap game really re-sparked my passion and fire for music," he said.

Music has also been part of Lacey's life, for he started "dabbling with rhymes" when he was only eight years old. For a few years Lacey exclusively covered songs on YouTube, but at fourteen, he began to write, use SoundCloud, and record with his very own microphone. He explained, "After that, it's all history."

Ayim-Aboagye '16 noted, "Last night was an ephemeral experience. I've never seen anything like it at Choate before." So, if you missed "Foolin' Around," be sure to head over to SoundCloud and check out "KidLacey," "J. Fraser," "King Kwab\$," and "Mike G." Whether on the football field or at the SAC, the Choate community is full of talented artists.

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## THE PERFECT-PITCH BELLACANTOS

By **Inc Thongthai '19**  
Reporter

Wander into the Paul Mellon Arts Center gallery on Monday, Friday, or Sunday night, and you will find a group of students singing and harmonizing to ever-catchy songs. A group of boys and girls sway to modern and classical tunes, radiating passion, energy, and enthusiasm for music. Meet Bellacanto, Choate's first ever co-ed a cappella group.

Bellacanto offers a welcoming home to its members. Elaine Shen '18 said, "Bellacanto helps me relax after a busy day at school. It is a place of comfort when you are trying to figure out who you are at Choate." The group fosters a sense of belonging and a family-like bond. Joseph Coyne '19 explained, "We are all passionate about singing, and just want show people how amazing music can be."

Ms. Alysoun Kegel, who oversees all a cappella groups on campus, stated, "They all work extremely hard and pay a lot of attention to musical elements. They are not sexualized, unlike single gendered groups, and are appreciated solely for their music. Single gendered groups are often objectified. It is inherently not inclusive of people who are on different places of the gender spectrum." This is reinforced by the excitement of all-girl groups visiting boys' dorms, and vice versa. Bell-

acanto breaks away from this norm, creating a new era of co-ed a cappella at Choate.

Maya Iyer '16 said that being relatively new, Bellacanto is "in a special situation because we are able to start our own traditions and create a legacy for our group." Many members of the group came into Choate knowing this was the a cappella group for them. Steven Jiao '19, recounted, "I wanted to be in Bellacanto because it is more diverse, making it stand out from other groups." This uniqueness stems from the group's diverse range of coed voices, which widens the spectrum of songs to perform.

**They are not sexualized, unlike single-gendered groups, and are appreciated solely for their music.**

Ms. Alysoun Kegel  
Choral Director

Hopefully, next time you hear Bellacanto around Choate, you will remember the significance of this group in terms of their individuality, acceptance of all, and deep sense of community. Be sure to listen for them if you walk into the PMAC during their practice hours!

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## EAT-ABOUT WALLINGFORD



Image courtesy of The Center Street Luncheonette

By **Asher Zelson '17**  
Reporter

Throughout my two years at Choate, I have learned one thing: Wallingford is full of surprises. Making your way down the main drags of the bustling town, you may not find five-star bites to eat, but in a select spot, five-star heart and soul is waiting to be discovered. I'm talking about the Center Street Luncheonette. Not only do they drop a little bit of love into each dish that they serve, but their breakfast food is pretty flippin' good too ("flippin'" get it?).

I often make the short trek down Center Street to enjoy breakfast food at its finest. Being a part of a truly pleasant, comfortable atmosphere full of people from Choate, Wallingford, and far beyond contributes to the glorious experience of Luncheonette.

I have lately enjoyed ordering the "Big Man's Breakfast" (the Mac-daddy of all breakfast creations), which is just as monstrous as the name leads its consumers to believe. True to its humongous size, the dish packs huge flavors. It is made up of a short stack of pancakes, two thick-cut slices of Challah French toast, three eggs, four slices of buttered toast, two slabs of bacon, two

sausages, and a hefty pile of spicy home fries.

The pancakes are moist and fluffy, but a touch dense for my liking. Try adding a small dollop of salty butter and a cumbersome amount of syrup for an ideal pancake consistency. The French toast is thick cut, but as you allow your fork to delve into the delicate creation, a soft, spongy steaming center is revealed to its consumer. The eggs are wonderfully seasoned, sunny side up, and a vivid and tender white, while the golden-hued yolk is warm and runny (perfect to dip toast into). Few breakfast joints are able to truly perfect the classic egg, but the Center Street Luncheonette is eggcellent. The bacon and sausage are crisp, crunchy, and smothered in grease, adding the right amount of salt for an enjoyable dish. I am not a huge fan of home fries, but those served at the Luncheonette are on the road to changing my mind with their soft, succulent, and tender consistency.

I'm disappointed to report that I was unable to conquer the "Big Man's Breakfast," but the Center Street Luncheonette did conquer my heart, and I know it will soon conquer yours.

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Game of the Week: Girls' Varsity Lacrosse vs. Pomfret, 3:30 p.m., 4/09, Shanahan Field

## TOUCH BASE

W-L-T

**Baseball** | 0-1-0  
**LOSS** Cheshire | 5-8

**Boys' Golf** | 1-0-0  
**WIN** Hopkins | 204-211

**Boys' Lacrosse** | 1-0-0  
**WIN** L'Ville | 12-10

**Girls' Lacrosse** | 0-1-0  
**LOSS** Exeter | 5-9

**Ultimate** | 0-1-0  
**LOSS** NMH | 3-15

**Boys' Volleyball** | 0-1-0  
**LOSS** Andover | 1-3

### Saturday's Games

**2:00 p.m.** • JV Baseball vs. Kingswood – JV Baseball Field

**2:30 p.m.** • Varsity Baseball vs. Kent – Ayers-Yankus Field

**2:30 p.m.** • Girls' JV Tennis vs. Kingswood – Hunt Tennis Center

**3:15 p.m.** • Boys' and Girls' Varsity Track and Field vs. NMH – Gelb Track

**3:30 p.m.** • Girls' JV Lacrosse vs. Pomfret – Mid-Level West Field

**3:30 p.m.** • Girls' Varsity Lacrosse vs. Pomfret – Shanahan Field

## VARSITY SAILING

# ON THE SEA FOR CHANGE

By **Olivia van den Born '17**  
*Reporter*

The Blue and Gold is looking greener than ever as we head out on the water this spring. For the first time, Choate's Varsity Sailing program is teaming up with Sailors for the Sea, a marine conservation organization, to set the standard for clean sailing at the high-school level.

Since 2004, Sailors for the Sea has been offering resources to sailors to help protect the ocean and educating race organizers on how to run clean regattas.

This year, Choate will be the first high-school sailing team in the country to earn accreditation from the organization for an entire season. Sailors for the Sea hopes that Choate's clean season will serve as a model for high school, college, and club teams nationwide.

Recently, Olivia van den Born '17 caught up with David Rockefeller Jr. — Chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation, co-founder of Sailors for the Sea, and lifelong sailor — to learn about his motivation for starting the organization and his hopes for the future.



Photo courtesy of Trewin Copplestone '17

The Varsity Sailing team is helping to conserve our oceans by joining forces with Sailors for the Sea.

**OVDB:** How did you first get involved in ocean conservation?

**DR:** Although I was an environmentalist and was active with the national parks through the '90s, I had not really connected the problems with the ocean and my experience on it until I got appointed to the Pew Ocean Commission in 2000. That was totally transformative. I said to myself, "Hmm, I haven't heard that

sailors are trying to protect the oceans." So I did a little study and found a white space in the conservation field and in the field of ocean conservation in particular. I attempted to fill it.

**OVDB:** Since the ocean covers roughly 71% of our planet, why do you think relatively little attention is paid to ocean conservation?

**DR:** I think in a way it is a simple answer: you pay at-

tention to what impacts you the most. If you can't see it, and most of the problems of the ocean are not necessarily visible, then it doesn't seem like a problem.

**OVDB:** Do you think students are more aware of the environment now than a generation ago?

**DR:** I believe so. Materialism continues to be the main driver in the U.S. economy and around the world,

and it's a problem because it is material that impacts the oceans in a negative way. On the other hand, I think more and more people have become interested in something called the "circular economy": the idea that when you no longer need something, you recycle it for another good use. You don't put it on a barge and dump it in the ocean. You don't put it in a landfill. So I think those are shifts that cause me to be optimistic.

**OVDB:** My hope is to expand your Clean Regattas program to a broader youth base. Do you think the model is scalable in youth club and school sailing programs?

**DR:** I am absolutely certain that it is. You have young people who care both about winning races and keeping the environment clean and healthy. I can really see it starting from Choate and the teams that you interact with, then to the agencies that run the national regattas that you try to qualify for.

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## OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE: OFF-CAMPUS SPORTS

By **Jackson Elkins '18**  
*Staff Reporter*

Choate is a time-consuming place, there's no doubt about it. However, the Choate grind just isn't enough for some students; despite bountiful time commitments, a special group of athletes on campus finds time to play for club and town teams outside of school.

Some of these students are committed to teams both at and outside of Choate, like Dilibe Iloeje '18, one of the rising stars on the boys' varsity soccer team. Iloeje is not only an instrumental part of the Choate offense, but also a highly valued player on his club team, Sporting CT.

When asked about the difficulty of balancing club soccer with Choate commitments, Iloeje said, "My club team's schedule is less rigorous than Choate sports because I only have practice twice a week ... It's much easier to get work done during the week, since this schedule gives me more time to study. However, when I do have practices and games, they take up more time than Choate sports would." Iloeje emphasized the importance of time management on days like these. Still, he said, "I prefer playing outside sports because in general you have a lot more time in the week."

However, some out-of-school athletes choose not to play an additional sport at Choate, like Cammi Chester '17. She comes from a rugby family and decided to play on Cheshire's team after discov-

ering that Choate doesn't offer a rugby program. Chester said, "As a freshman, I was told to spend as much time on campus as possible, so I considered not doing rugby at first. But when freshman fall rolled around, I decided to sign up for morning fitness so that I could still do rugby in the afternoons. That was horrible. I was in the gym by 6 a.m. every day, then I went straight to school, and then to rugby for two hours. Luckily, my fitness teacher helped me get a sports exemption so I was able to get through rugby practice without collapsing."

**For me, skating is just a way to continue doing something I love.**

*Sarina Sun '17*

Chester added that she's glad she joined Cheshire's rugby team because she has been able to make connections with people outside of Choate. In addition, traveling for practices makes for a refreshing change of scenery every day.

She also enjoys the less-competitive nature of a town team. Chester said, "Sports at private schools are extremely competitive, which I love, but that means rivalry between teams can turn petty and hurtful. All Connecticut rugby teams are very close, and they foster a sense of camaraderie. Even after beating each other up on the field, we always sit down and share a meal with the other team afterwards."

Chester noted that despite

all the benefits of doing a sport outside of Choate, she can't deny the inconvenience of it all. "My practices are a half hour away. I usually leave right after school and don't get back to campus until 6:30, which is a pretty unfortunate situation to be in during junior spring."

Another fifth former, Sarina Sun '17, has been figure skating since the age of four and, naturally, wanted to pursue this throughout her high school career. "It can be a good way to get to know people outside of Choate, but for me, skating is just a way to continue doing something I love," Sun said. Team Espirit, Sun's figure skating squad, meets two or three times each week in a rink about twenty minutes away from Choate. Sun said that, in addition to travelling for practices, attending figure skating competitions can conflict with her school commitments. She occasionally has to leave class early or skip the entire day, which is something that Choate athletes rarely need to resort to.

All around, Choate athletes seem to love playing their sport outside of school. Town and club programs can be a great way to enrich your high school experience, especially if Choate's athletic programs don't include your desired sport. Time requirements may vary, but everyone involved has fun getting outside of the Choate bubble to pursue the sport they love.

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## BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

# BOARS BEAT BIG RED IN SEASON OPENER

By **Eben Cook '18**  
*Staff Reporter*

On April 2, a dark and rainy Saturday, the Choate Boys' Lacrosse team gathered to take on the Lawrenceville Big Red in their home opener. Tons of avid Boars fans braved the weather and waited in anticipation for the game to start.

With Jack Fenton '18 winning the first faceoff of the season, the game was underway. A quick goal from Bobby Goggin '17 gave Choate a 1-0 lead, demonstrating the ferocity and skill that the Boars would exhibit throughout the game.

Both teams put many shots on net during the first half. After a thrilling thirty minutes, the scoreboard displayed a 5-5 tie, with two of the five Choate goals coming from Goggin.

The teams continued to trade the lead until the final minutes, with Lawrenceville unwilling to compromise its thus far undefeated season and Choate fighting relentlessly to win its first game. With just two minutes left in play, the game was tied 10-10. However, by the time another minute passed, the Wild Boars had scored two more quick goals, making the score 12-10 in Choate's favor.

Now, Lawrenceville was pressured to utilize what little time they had left to at least tie the game. The final minute consisted of multiple



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Choate's Varsity Lacrosse team triumphs over Lawrenceville in a thrilling season opener.

Lawrenceville shots and opportunities to tie the game. Luckily, goalie George Uppgren '17 held down the fort, not allowing a single shot to get past him. Because of this, Choate held onto its two-goal lead and triumphed over Lawrenceville, 12-10.

The clear standouts of the day were Tyler Burns '16, who put up an exceptional performance as a midfielder, Nick McCall '17, who led the team with three goals, and Uppgren, who came in clutch for the team by stopping many critical shots toward the end of the game.

The team was ecstatic to have won their nail-biting season opener. "Everyone was so excited to finally get to play, and we were all pumped to have a lot of fans watch," said Albie Austin '16. Nick McCall '17 added, "It was an unreal sensation to get that win at home." Uppgren said,

"Team members on the bench actually played an incredible role in our win. People who were on the other side of campus said that they could hear them cheering for us during the game."

The team has a solid mix of newcomers and returners this year. Goggin said, "We have a great brotherhood this year. The new players are my brothers just like the returners." Austin added, "All of the new players have stepped up in practices and games. They are easily becoming a part of the team and establishing their roles. It's great to see how all of us have come together to make such a great team environment."

Make sure to support the boys' varsity lacrosse team in what's expected to be a spectacular season.

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