



JUJU CHANG RESONATES WITH CHOATE COMMUNITY



Juju Chang addresses Choate students in Colony Hall.



Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/The Choate News

By **Erin Li '24**
Copy Editor

To kickstart Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) month, renowned journalist and Emmy Award winner Ms. Juju Chang spoke to the Choate community regarding her Asian-American identity and its impact on her experiences as a news anchor. Following her speech, she attended

an affinity lunch with AAPI-identifying Choate students and faculty and later spoke with faculty members on issues related to supporting AAPI members at Choate.

After Audrey Lim '23 proposed the idea to bring an Asian speaker to Choate, Dean of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Rachel Myers invited Ms. Chang as a speaker to shed light on the AAPI experience, particularly regarding

challenges the community has faced since the onset of the pandemic. Ms. Chang's influence through her role as co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline" has made her one of the "most visible AAPI journalists in the country," according to Dr. Myers. She added, "She was an obvious choice of an incredibly accomplished AAPI professional, and she's incredibly relevant across multiple gener-

ations. She's interviewed Olivia Rodrigo through Oprah — she truly resonates with everyone!"

In her speech, Ms. Chang touched upon specific issues regarding diversity, such as racially motivated violence and the use of microaggressions. Ms. Chang framed her identity as a source of pride and encouraged Choate students to feel reaffirmed and empowered by their own identities.

When describing personal struggles with embracing her culture, Ms. Chang recounted, "I avoided talking about my ethnic identity and even my gender identity because I didn't want to be different. With the rise of AAPI hate, I was finally able to merge all the things I've been doing off-camera, my community work, my work in my synagogue, and let it play a role in my storytelling." Many students

resonated with her experiences, finding comfort in seeing an Asian American figure's success in an influential position. Lim explained, "Her experience has motivated me not to let my identity hold me back from achieving my goals."

Many students felt heard and experienced solidarity when Ms. Chang reflected on shared experi-

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CLUBS ORGANIZE FUNDRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL

By **Sundari Von Wentzel '25**
Reporter

During the month of April, clubs across campus organized an array of activities, ranging from baking cookies to a spikeball tournament, to support and fundraise for various causes.

The Bystander Education Program (BEP) handed out teal ribbons in the dining hall in light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month to advocate for victims of sexual misconduct and foster upstander culture on campus. BEP member Valerie Guadian '23 said that their aim was to create "something that was noticeable on campus, something physical and tangible that you could hold onto." Catherine Cronin '23, another member of the BEP, acknowledged the global prevalence of sexual misconduct by demonstrating their support for victims of sexual assault on campus. Although the BEP hoped to hand out more ribbons, Guadian acknowledged the success of the initiative. "Making a positive effect is a job well done. Just affecting one person, making their day, or educating them makes a huge impact."

The Neurodivergence Club collaborated with the Health and Science Education Program (HSEP) to fundraise for Autism Awareness Month. They handed out blue pins in exchange for a donation to the Star Institute, an organization helping neurodivergent people overcome sensory issues. "There are so many websites and articles that you can read online that are harmful towards the neurodivergent community," said president of



Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/The Choate News

Students play spikeball at WONDER event.

HSEP, Sophia Zhang '23. President of the Neurodivergence Club Campbell Pflaum '23 noted the difficulty of choosing an organization to donate to. "Organizations like Autism Speaks have abused the phrase 'aiding' or 'curing' autism," she said. "It was really important that it was an organization that acknowledged neurodivergent peoples' humanity." Their fundraiser strived to spread awareness about the struggles that the autistic community faces and the changes we as a society can make to better support them. Zhang also noted the challenges of picking a date for their event due to President's Day, long weekend, and conflicts with other club fundraisers, a struggle acknowledged by members of the BEP as well. However, both members considered the fundraiser a success. "Support means a lot, even if they're not paying money ... just the fact

that they're now aware," said Caroline Kim '25.

On April 29, WONDER and Boarpen organized a spikeball tournament where students sold custom-designed bracelets to fundraise for New Reach, a local women and children's shelter. "Our initial thought was to go with something fairly straightforward like Planned Parenthood," said Sofia Galarza '23, President of WONDER. "We later decided to do something that was more in touch with our community and something that directly related to the people around us. That's when we came across New Reach, whose message stood out to us the most." The process of organizing the event was especially challenging because the clubs faced multiple logistic obstacles, ranging from not receiving email responses to having difficulty finding a speaker. "It was a lot of work to organize everything and I'm

really grateful to the four people I was working alongside," noted Galarza. Despite these challenges, the event was a great success. "I thought it was very successful. I think this was one of the bigger events we have had since the start of Covid. It was super fun with great weather, and people had an amazing time just being together. The things we can do together is impressive," she concluded. "We raised \$415 by the end of the week and it truly made me really appreciate the support in our community."

With the various fundraisers being held throughout the month, clubs on campus were not only successful in raising money for their respective goals but were proponents in promoting awareness and support for global issues.

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FIRST HURRAH AND 3/4 RETURN

By **Calvin Moon '24**
Reporter

Scheduled for May 7, the 3/4 Spring Ball and First Hurrah are just around the corner. The 3/4 Spring Ball, typically held in May, is a dance specifically for sophomores and freshmen. First Hurrah, on the other hand, is a special dance held for juniors and seniors that traditionally takes place 100 days before graduation. Though members of the SCOPE (Student Committee on Programming and Engagement) Events Team and the SAC (Student Activities Center) planned for First Hurrah to take place during February, as per tradition, the School was forced to postpone the event due to the rapid rise of Covid-19 cases on campus. Now with a more stabilized Covid-19 situation, the Events Team and the SAC were

able to reschedule First Hurrah and the 3/4 Spring Ball for Saturday, May 7. "The biggest importance is that we want our students to start having fun and bring back traditions," said Director of Student Activities Ms. Alexandra Long.

Hardships and obstacles were ever-present in planning these events. "Securing dates was a difficult task because we had to push the First Hurrah a couple of times. We had to find a Saturday that worked for every form that did not collide with other events on campus," explained Ms. Long.

Another obstacle was finding a location for the 3/4 Spring Ball. Since First Hurrah and the 3/4 Spring Ball would traditionally both take place in Hill House, organizers of the event had to account for

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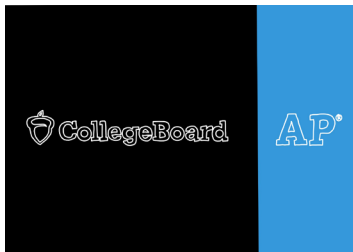


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EMMA HERMACINSKI '22 PLACES FIRST AT WORLD DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By **Aubrie Williams '24**
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, April 17, Emma Hermacinski '22 won first place in Impromptu Speaking at the World Independent Debating and Public Speaking Championship (WIDPSC). Though competing at WIDPSC has been a dream for Hermacinski ever since she started debating in her freshman year at Choate, the idea of it sounded nearly impossible, especially in the category of Impromptu Speaking. "When I came into Choate, I was terrible [at debate]. For my

first debate, I got up there, stuttered for a minute and a half, and sat my butt down," admitted Hermacinski. "But for that reason, I went to pods my freshman fall three times a week."

Hermacinski's determination and consistency helped to improve and develop her debate skills. Though she initially struggled with debate, Hermacinski's prior experience with public speaking turned out to be immensely useful.

"I wanted to try debate because as a kid, both of my parents were news reporters, so they both raised me with the general idea of public

speaking," Hermacinski explained. "I think I'm very lucky because I never experienced the fear most people have with public speaking, because I started too young to worry about that sort of thing."

Her natural talent in public speaking came in handy when Hermacinski competed in Impromptu Speaking at WIDPSC, where she was given two minutes to prepare a speech from a selection of three topics.

Mr. Neil Shimmield, an advisor of Choate Debate, explained, "You can prepare the techniques or practice impromptu speaking, but when it comes time to perform, you have to go out there with no knowledge of what you're going to speak about."

Hermacinski was less familiar with the spontaneous nature of the Impromptu Speaking Event. "I had virtually no experience with impromptu speaking. I did it once my junior fall at Hotchkiss, and I hated it," shared Hermacinski. "So I go into impromptu speaking with absolutely no idea. I just decided I was gonna go in there and have fun." This attitude towards impromptu speaking allowed Hermacinski to differ-

entiate herself from others and embrace the nature of the competition. While some of the more experienced impromptu speakers followed a specific formula, Hermacinski's speech was truly impromptu. "Whereas other people had clearly practiced what they were going to say and were prepared to slot it in, I was willing to just talk," she explained.

Ms. Kyra Jenney, another advisor to Choate Debate, highlighted the skills that helped Hermacinski in Impromptu Speaking. She pointed out, "Emma is a very fluid and measured speaker, so even if she's thinking of what she's saying as she goes, it feels very prepared and practiced."

Hermacinski believes that public speaking will remain valuable to her in the future. "I plan on debating at Princeton next year. Unfortunately, speaking events aren't a huge thing in college," she said. "I just hope to carry this skill with me, and I'm just going to look forward to having a great public speaking career because no matter what I do, I'll need that skill."

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the location of the events. As a result, First Hurrah will take place in its traditional location in Hill House, while the 3/4 Spring Ball has been moved to the Remsen Arena.

Though Covid-19 cases have decreased and stabilized around campus, the Events Team and the SAC had to consider pandemic protocols when organizing First Hurrah and the 3/4 Spring Ball. Under typical circumstances, food, such as a chocolate fountain and snacks, is provided to make the dance even more enjoyable. However, to ensure that students remain masked during the event, plans were instead shifted to remove food from the event altogether. As a consolation, there will still be refreshments for the avid dancers who need to quench their thirst and candy bars for students to grab on their way out.

Despite these challenges set by the pandemic, the Events Team and the SAC are planning on creating the best possible experience for students.

Ranging from decorations and maintenance of the party locations, they have also planned other activities that aim to add variety to each dance, such as a photo booth and party favors such as sunglasses, glowsticks, and even bubbles.

Students are extremely appreciative that such events are returning to campus since many have not yet had the chance to experience a dance at Choate because of the strict pandemic restrictions in these past two years. "I had always looked forward to First Hurrah since freshman year, and since it's a special event for upperclassmen, I'm super grateful for SCOPE's hard work to bring it back. It will certainly be a memorable experience," noted Sofia Muñoz '23.

Despite the postponement this year, the influence of the pandemic, and many other obstacles, First Hurrah and the 3/4 Spring Ball will finally take place this term, and this is thanks to all of SCOPE and the SAC's hard work.

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Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/The Choate News

Emma Hermacinski '22 wins first place at debate competition.

ACCEPTING THE "NEW NORMAL" AMID RISE IN COVID-19 CASES ON CAMPUS

By **Zoe Dieringer '25**
Reporter

After the mask mandate on the Choate campus was lifted in an effort to return to a "new normal," there was a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases on campus, forcing the community to adjust many of its events accordingly to minimize the spread of the virus. Many of the students infected with the virus were required to use their backup plan for where they would reside while quarantining. Since the Health Center was nearly at full capacity due to the unexpected increase in student illness, many challenges arose for those who contracted Covid-19.

According to Medical Director Dr. Miriam Cohen, the Health Center asked all students to have an emergency plan for where they could complete their isolation off-campus if they tested positive for Covid-19. She noted, "Most stu-

dents either go home or go to a local relative or family friend. Those who have no place to go stay here in the Health Center. Prior to the long weekend, we needed to expand to Sally Hart Lodge to provide isolation spaces for our students."

Unfortunately, the Health Center could not anticipate the number of students who needed to stay on campus. When asked whether or not she believed the Health Center was prepared to handle the 95 cases of Covid-19 after the mandate was lifted, Dr. Cohen stated, "That's a complicated question to answer. I do believe that we did a good job of managing all of the students. It's hard to say that we were prepared because I didn't foresee that we would see that many students [with Covid-19] at this point in the pandemic on campus. I think we were prepared from a resource standpoint, but we didn't feel mentally prepared."

The idea of a "new normal" has become a pressure point for the Choate community. Aside from what has been newly defined for the class day and extracurricular activities, the "new normal" definition also applies to how Covid-19 is stigmatized around campus. Some students feel ashamed for contracting the virus and having to miss classes and potentially infecting other students despite their limited control over the situation. "It felt terrible at first. I was scared of getting my parents sick, and I felt guilty for having gotten sick," said Marialba Gallegos '25. Many students who tested positive for the virus expressed similar sentiments, with multiple students trying to hide the fact that they had tested positive for Covid-19.

Dr. Cohen said, "I think our 'new normal' includes times when we may need to temporarily reinstate the mask mandate. So yes, I think this is our

'new normal.' There are times we will need to mask to remain safe and times when masks can be optional depending on one's own choices." Gallegos agreed, "I think that we have more or less reached a 'new normal,' and I think the administration does a good job in accommodating that. I think we also need to give the students credit for being so adaptable."

Quinn Farmer '25 expressed both praise for the Choate Health department and criticism towards their all-or-nothing mentality. She said, "The Choate Health administration has done a really good job overall, but there is room to improve." Elaborating on the fact that the virus has been present for over three years and will most likely continue to affect operations around the world, she noted, "[The Health Center] has this very interesting reaction where they either flip totally one way and it's a

total disaster if you get Covid, or it's just like a cold. They need to find a middle ground."

As both the School and health officials across the nation scramble to find a balanced response towards the pandemic, in this

new era of masking and sanitizing, for the Choate community, it appears that flexibility is key to attain the "new normal."

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Graphic by Yujin Kim '23/The Choate News

CHOATE HOSTS SPEAKER FOR AAPI MONTH

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ences of microaggressions toward the AAPI community. Julia Xu '23 added, "In terms of East Asia, Chinese people are treated very differently. Knowing that she is a Korean person and hearing her talk about Chinese issues regarding Covid-19 was really special to me." Ms. Chang touched on issues faced by all members of the AAPI community, expanding past her own Korean culture. English teacher Dr. Amber Hodge said, "A lot of times, certain groups aren't recognized similarly to how the term 'people of color' gets lumped. She acknowledged the huge range of identities under the term AAPI that encompasses dozens of nationalities and backgrounds, and I was really glad to see her do that."

After her lecture, Ms. Chang participated in a Q&A session led by Lim and Raghav Sharma '25. When asked about her experience interviewing Ms. Chang, Lim noted, "I really liked how easy she was to talk to. I liked her personal anecdotes, and we related over our favorite Korean foods!" During the Q&A, Ms. Chang shared her personal experiences and how she overcame challenges when

faced with microaggressions. Dr. Myers added, "She brought us stories, both professionally and personally, that reinforced the importance of developing empathy and resilience."

Faculty members also attended a workshop in the afternoon where Ms. Chang spoke about how faculty can better support the AAPI community. Dr. Myers commented that she hoped the workshop would stimulate "reflection among faculty regarding how we support our AAPI community members." After listening to the workshop, Dr. Hodge mentioned, "Some of my colleagues may not be as acquainted as members of the AAPI community. I think it was really reaffirming to have someone share their experience, especially those who appreciate her sharing about her experiences as a parent."

Though she is an influential figure in the media, Ms. Chang faced many challenges because of her Asian American identity. From her past experiences and struggles, she strives to balance injustices and bring awareness to those who are underrepresented. "It's really important to illuminate everybody's story, and I'm going to do justice to it and just try to really be honest to try to represent it,"

she said, regarding creating equality in the media. Being invited to speak with the Choate community was an "honor and a privilege. It makes me feel like I'm doing something constructive in the face of so much darkness, prejudice, misunderstanding, and mistrust."

In the coming weeks, students can look forward to activities such as club meetings, movie screenings, and game nights as the community continues celebrating AAPI month. Ms. Chang provided Choate with a strong start to the month, as she ignited conversation and reflection among the Choate community about overcoming struggles related to racial identity and using it as a form of empowerment. "It's when we can start fully understanding each other and seeing our humanity that we can work towards a greater understanding of society. You are the next generation of leaders in this country," Ms. Chang said. The Choate community's strength lies in our ability to embrace and acknowledge our differences. Ms. Chang's words reflect a mission we have long strived for — acceptance and celebration of ourselves and each other.

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JULIA ALKHAYER '23 WINS PRATT-PACKARD CONTEST

By **Jonathan Zhuo '23**
Reporter

Last week, the School announced the 2022 Charles Krause Junior Fellow in Public Speaking, Julia Alkhayer '23. The final round of the Pratt-Packard Declamation Contest was held on April 19. Four finalists, Julia Alkhayer '23, Micole Makau '24, Claire Fu '22, and Andrew Kim '25, delivered their speeches during school meeting.

Behind the scenes of Pratt-Packard is a long process of brainstorming, developing, and careful editing. Students put in a lot of hard work, time, and energy into their speeches. Along with writing the speech, contestants must also practice their execution, which is equally as important.

Alkhayer decided to enter the contest because she had always loved public speaking. She knew that Pratt-Packard would be a great experience and opportunity for her voice to be heard as an Arab. "My YouTube channel brought me an immense amount of happiness, and when I received negative backlash because of my ethnicity, I was heartbroken. Since I first came to Choate, I've wanted to pro-

vide insight into the normalized discrimination towards Arabs in this country," said Alkhayer. She wanted to voice her experience to shed light on an issue prevalent in our modern society.

Finalists are judged on very specific and meticulous criteria. Besides the contents of the speech, every little detail about its delivery is scrutinized as well. According to Mr. Cobb, "The judges consider every speaker's stance, projection, pace, articulation, tone, and eye contact when deliberating. Julia performed best in those categories."

Alkhayer noted that public speaking comes naturally to her, giving her an advantage. "Although I was a little bit nervous, it all went away when I started speaking," she said. "Luckily, public speaking comes easy to me, and I felt proud to talk about my ethnicity. The tremendous support I've received from the Choate community has been amazing."

Her natural talent and preparation during the speech was noticed by members of the audience as well. Ethan Hodgson '23 said, "Julia was obviously very well prepared to deliver her speech. I could

tell she practiced it often, and her hard work really paid off. I thought that her performance was pretty much flawless."

Mark Hong '23 agreed, saying, "After seeing Julia deliver her speech with such great execution and confidence, it sparked a love of public speaking in me. It was a great opportunity to learn about my classmates' experiences and hardships."

Alkhayer hopes she planted a seed for change. "I want to change how Arabs are perceived. I hope my message will continue to spread across campus and that others are inspired to continue learning about Arabs," she said.

The Pratt Packard Declamation Contest is an annual tradition that continues to inspire and teach the Choate community about public speaking as well as students' experiences. "All of this year's finalists appreciated the opportunity and privilege of delivering an original speech to the assembled community," said Mr. Cobb. He urged students to join the competition in upcoming years and share a new perspective with the School.

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AAPI HERITAGE MONTH: 14 YEARS AND COUNTING

By **Tyler Kuo '23**
Copy Editor

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed Proclamation 8369, recognizing the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. This declaration was the culmination of years of efforts for broader recognition of the AAPI community, a group that has been historically underrecognized despite nearly 200 years of contributions to the United States. With the significant rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans and newly-launched efforts in the Connecticut state legislature, AAPI Heritage Month has taken on additional meaning this year.

One of the most significant efforts made by CT legislature is the push for House Bill 5282, a bill that would require public schools in the state to integrate a history curriculum recognizing the cultural, political, and social contributions of the AAPI community. Introduced on February 28, 2022, the passing of this bill would be historic, making Connecticut the third state in the U.S. to require AAPI history to be taught in schools. Quan Tran, a Senior Lecturer in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration at Yale University, stated, “What we’re trying to do is expand the conversation on the civic engagement and contributions of Asian Americans, the relationship between Asian Americans and other social groups in the history of the United

States and the important roles that Asian Americans play in the history of this country.” Through efforts from Make Us Visible CT, an organization dedicated to raising awareness on AAPI contributions to the US, and other AAPI advocacy groups, House Bill 5282 has passed through the state legislature’s Education and Appropriations Committee.

Asian Americans have been one of the fastest-growing groups in the United States, making up over 7% of the population, with the total population growing nearly 40% over the last decade from 2010 to 2020. Despite this, the voices of the AAPI community and their role in the history of the United States have been historically underrepresented, often leading to the widespread circulation of misperceptions and stereotypes of the community. Asians have also suffered significant discrimination at the hands of the U.S. government, with examples such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, which limited immigration to the U.S. and the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Given the recent rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, educating the broader public on the contributions of Asian Americans and their role in this nation’s development has only become more pressing. Anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 339% between 2020 and 2021, according to data published by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Mr. John C. Yang,



Graphic by Katherine Chong '25/*The Choate News*

the president of the nonprofit civil rights group Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), said, “Reports of increased anti-Asian hate in 2021 are, sadly, not a surprise ... again, our communities are still under attack, and we must continue our efforts to address anti-Asian hate.” Through the passage of Bill 5282 and other broader efforts to heighten awareness of discrimination against Asian Americans, schools and local communities can take a leading role in breaking down prej-

udices and ensuring that AAPI history is taught alongside the histories of other proud American minorities, including those of the Black and Latinx communities.

For those keen on participating in local activities during AAPI Heritage Month, there are a number of options nearby, including multiple events hosted by the Asian American Cultural Center at Yale University. Yale will also be hosting an AAPI Heritage Month Book Table from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Ross

Library, an event for participants to secure a new read or leave suggestions of books written by AAPI authors. There are a number of resources for those who would like to learn more about the AAPI community, such as the University of Connecticut’s resource page. To directly immerse oneself in AAPI culture, available opportunities include cooking food based on Asian recipes and enjoying virtual tours of Asian art galleries such as the New Haven Museum and Historical Society.

There is still much work to be done in raising awareness for the AAPI community, both around their contributions to the development of the United States and the historical discrimination that they have suffered. For the U.S. to better uphold its dedication to racial and cultural diversity, it is critical to raise awareness and recognition of the impact of Asian Americans.

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Wallingford Hosts Food Truck Festival



Photo courtesy of The Record Journal

Birria Mia Food Truck serves delicious food to Wallingford residents.

By **Sarina Fernandez-Grinshpun '25**
Staff Reporter

Food truck vendors and Wallingford event planners joined forces on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 to hold a fundraiser for the Wallingford Dog Park. Petrillo’s Events Consulting Services, run by Paul Petrillo, coordinated with the dog park to make the event possible for partygoers. This event brought more than 15 food trucks, including Birria Mia and Tater Tot Heaven Food Truck, to the Meriden Mall parking lot, enticing guests from all corners of Wallingford with the promise of a weekend of fun. Outside of the food trucks were a multitude of activities and contests arranged for the event, such as live music and a contest for dog owners to compete for the title of “best kisser” for their furry friends. Many vendors and crafters also came to sell their goods and contribute to the fundraiser. Wallingford attendees were able to buy memorable gifts for their friends and family with no admission fee and help out by

making on-site donations. The event aimed to implement new changes through participant donations, including improved maintenance, water fountains for dogs, shade structures for hot days, and a water line, to improve the environment of the Wallingford Dog Park.

Although the issue of a last-minute location switch from Wallingford to Meriden arose, students were, thankfully, still able to attend. Athena Liu '23, a fifth-former living in the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC), was a participant in the fair. When asked about their experience as an attendee, they said, “I would definitely go again. I feel lucky that we were still able to make it there after they moved it from Wallingford.” The event was a fun and memorable experience for Liu and also served as a fun escape for students who remained on campus for long weekend.

For the vendors, the fair was both a great opportunity for business and exposure. Given the ever-changing locations of food trucks, it is often difficult to accumulate a steady customer base and this fair was a great opportunity for food trucks to

book more events. Mr. Roger Solis-Hernandez, owner of the Birria Mia food truck, commented on his experience, saying, “[It was] definitely overwhelming...orders kept coming in and when I looked out the window, the line was just getting longer and longer.”

Overall, he and his team were pleased with the event. “Definitely this year, we will be attending a lot more [food truck] festivals.” Particularly with the proceeds going towards the Wallingford Dog Park, many dog-loving vendors came eagerly to support the cause. Mr. Solis-Hernandez hopes “that similar events will benefit other cities in Connecticut as well.”

The event ended up being a huge success. According to Mr. Petrillo, “The overall attendance was five times better than we expected. The lines were huge for both days from open to close! The mall said it was the most filled they had seen their parking lot in a number of years.”

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CT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS TO HOST LECTURE SERIES ON DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

By **Stanley Cho '25**
Copy Editor

The Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) has collaborated with Choate Rosemary Hall to host eight dialogue sessions that aim to spread critical information in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This unique experience allows students to learn about topics such as the relationship between the color of one’s skin and culture, microaggressions, learning to balance the influence of social media, colorism in athletics, and more through conversation and lectures.

Since its creation in 2001, the Commission on Diversity in Independent Schools (CODIS) has existed as a program managed by CAIS to inspire people to celebrate the unique and individual experiences every student has within their own school communities. CAIS prioritizes its mission of creating work environments that reflect the diversity of the world in which we live and the schools that we represent, allowing each person to be their true selves in a workplace that values diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CODIS has worked with trustees, administrators, teachers, staff, students, families, and local residents to garner support for its

ambitious projects, such as its dialogue session offered to Choate students. Leveraging schools’ diverse student bodies, CAIS hopes to reinforce the importance of valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion within schools. Chair of the Commission on Diversity for Independent Schools (CODIS) Ms. Elisa Del Valle iterated that “the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in education is all about belonging. Students cannot learn if they do not feel comfortable in a classroom setting.” The ability for students to perform to the best of their ability is critical in a setting such as Choate, where students are under constant academic pressure.

In addition, Ms. Del Valle believes in the importance of spreading information about diversity, equity, and inclusion in schools as “they benefit all students.” She elaborated that “an educational institution that holds these values at the forefront of its work not only creates but nurtures a more complex experience for all students to be critical and curious about their learning, their community, and their purpose in contributing to change as agents of it.”

Ms. Del Valle’s push for CAIS to continue collaborating with member schools and other education organizations is a continuation of CAIS’s ambitious mission to foster independence

and freedom of choice in education. Other than its collaboration with Choate, CODIS has hosted the annual Connecticut Student Diversity Leadership Conference (CT SDLC) conference to raise awareness about diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging in schools. The Connecticut SDLC conference allowed CODIS to provide social development gatherings for adults, dialogues for students, and workshops for heads of schools and board members to cultivate agents of change to help support one another on their journeys of growth while honoring individualistic differences.

With the prominence of racial microaggressions and their significant impacts on the mental health of young black students, Ms. Del Valle hopes that the programs that CAIS offers to members of CODIS will help inform students of privilege about the struggles that students of color go through daily. She explained, “The fear any student with privilege holds to make a mistake or say the wrong thing also comes at a cost to their wellness,” and that it is crucial that the programs offered by CAIS work towards benefiting everyone in a community by nurturing a sense of belonging and understanding.

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An Ode to the Library: My Quiet Place

By **Teniola Obayomi '25**
Opinions Staff Writer

I would assume that most Choate students have a favorite spot on campus, whether it's a spot to study independently or to hang out with friends. For me, this coveted location is the Andrew Mellon Library.

Libraries have always been one of my favorite places. I grew up in my local library, spending every weekend picking out and reading books. I have always felt comfortable spending time there, surrounded by all the books and kind librarians. In fact, I spent so much time in the library that the librarians and I were practically on a first-name basis.

Now, as a Choate student, my love for the library hasn't dimmed a bit. However, my relationship with the library here is completely different. For convenience, I mostly read books on my Kindle now, so I don't really go to borrow physical books. Instead, I spend most of my time in the library studying and doing homework. After taking on the



Graphic By Brian Yip '24/The Choate News

workload of a sixth class in the winter term, I started to spend more time there, quickly familiarizing myself with the staff and resources. Getting used to the demanding workload was difficult at first, but I quickly discovered that I needed a quiet place to focus and get all of my work done. Just like that, the Andrew Mellon Library became my favorite spot.

In the library, there are two spots where I absolutely love to do my homework. The first is in the Quiet Study Area, which contains a side room with several desks.

Fully immersing myself in the quiet of the room, I always choose the same desk: it's near a window and houses an iMac computer. The natural sunlight, along with the silence, helps me focus and get my work done. This is a stark contrast to other spots on campus, such as Lanphier Commons or the SAC, which tend to be busy and noisy during the school day.

I also like to study in the library basement in one of the small rooms with two desks that you see right after coming down the stairs. Although I love the li-

brary basement, I prefer studying in the first floor location. Something about the lack of windows in the basement makes me feel tired and trapped, making it difficult to be productive. After all, a basement isn't exactly the most engaging learning environment.

To sum it all up, I truly love the library. It's a cozy environment for studying and relaxing, complete with a multitude of books to read. As a day student, the library kind of serves as a home base for me. I can take a second to unwind in one of the comfortable arm chairs, but I can also use it as a productive workspace — the library is my happy medium. If you haven't before, I encourage you to use the library. Though it's a large physical building, I feel as though it's one of the School's hidden gems. If you ever see me in the library, at my favorite desk or in the basement, feel free to wave, and I'll be sure to return the favor.

Teniola Obayomi is a third-former from Milford, CT. She may be reached at tobayomi25@choate.edu

The Power of Prefects

DAY STUDENTS NEED PREFECTS TOO!



Graphic By Yujin Kim '23/The Choate News

By **Eva Swanson '25**
Opinions Staff Writer

Like boarders, day students, too, have to face the difficult obstacles Choate has to offer. Yet, we aren't provided the luxury of an older peer to guide us beyond freshman year. While boarders have prefects to help them through the social, academic, and emotional highs and lows of their Choate experience, day students lose all semblance of an older mentor after freshman year. To better both the well-being and overall ease of school life for day students, a more robust day student prefect program, spanning from freshman to junior year, should be implemented.

My day student prefects, Jessica Wu '22 and Dan Altschuler '22, were two of the first faces to greet me on campus. Throughout the fall term, they organized meetings, along with the other day student prefect groups, for any freshman day students able and willing to attend. They were two people I could always rely on, especially at the beginning of the year, when it was hard to navigate such a large campus and student body. Even amid their cherished senior spring, I know I can count on them to be there for me. It's something I value tremendously.

The transition between being a third and fourth-former seems daunting. I can imagine that the abrupt ascent of the grade-centric social hierarchy would be jarring. Regardless, with the end of the current one-year day student prefect program, I will have to approach those inevitable challenges all on my own.

If the school were to implement a three-year prefect program for day students, we would have the opportunity to receive additional support. Though I am extremely grateful to have an advisor as approachable and friendly as mine, naturally, we all need support from people who have first-hand knowledge of the challenges that arise at times with being a Choate student in today's world. This program doesn't have to be mandatory, and students should be able to choose to opt-out after freshman year. While I found my prefects to be extremely helpful, I understand that others may not have had a similar experience and don't necessarily require the same support. Regardless, the option to receive such support should be present for those who want or need it.

Though we make up roughly one-fourth of the student body, day students often feel like an afterthought within the Choate

community. The schedule isn't designed to accommodate us, which is understandable, but because of things like the lack of a comprehensive, three-year prefect program, it feels to many of us as if our wellness and ability to prosper at the school is considered less important than those of the boarders. The prefect program, which is so heavily relied upon by boarders, should be extended to all of us. Prefects are so instrumental in dorm life, not only in providing advice and camaraderie to their prefectees, but in creating a sense of community amongst a group of students. After freshman year, day students are expected to have it together and aren't given a chance to cultivate a similar sense of community. Many say that we have it "much easier" due to parental support. However, being unable to live in a dorm or take part in dorm life is very isolating and can easily make you feel disconnected from the community as a whole.

As is, there is already a great divide between boarders and day students. However, by implementing a stronger and more inclusive prefect program, we can help bridge the divide and allow peers to better aid in each others' growth.

Eva Swanson is a third-former from New Haven, CT. She may be reached at eswanson25@choate.edu

Freshman Prefects: The Most Important of Them All

By **Olympia Wolff '25**
Opinions Writer

My Pitman prefects, Ella Sklar '22 and Shivani Sharma '22, make an iconic pairing. With fresh and polar-opposite personalities, you might assume their contrasting vibes would make them clash, but they do a great job of cultivating a comfortable and open dorm environment. Shivani is known for following rules closely and having a caring and generous heart. Ella converses with us as a friend, bringing fun and autonomy to the Pitman girls. Prefects have a unique glimpse into the lives of their prefectees, making them the perfect ally for a vent session and the best mentor in the midst of an academic crisis.

Freshman prefects, in particular, are the glue of the Choate community. They keep students academically and emotionally intact: two central aspects of life at Choate that are hard to manage, especially when it's their first time away from home. These student mentors are relatable, dedicated, and provide a support system for all new students, particularly, the School's youngest.

All prefects have a significant impact on their prefectees, regardless of their age. Whether they know it or not, they serve as

a role-model and mentor for every person in their dorm. Coming in as a freshman, there are so many new things to experience: new clubs to join, sports to try-out for, and, most importantly, people to meet. At the beginning of the year, before we met anyone else, we met our prefects. We were told that they were to be our confidants — people we could trust with everything and were there to support us. Two terms later, and they've helped me in more ways, both consciously and inadvertently, than I can list. That's what makes freshman prefects so unique — they are the first mentors you encounter as part of your high school experience.

I can't envision life at Choate without the prefect program. My prefects have encouraged and advised me to try new sports and helped me create a good academic, social, and extracurricular balance. They're the ones that we can go to when we're struggling to stay sane amidst a busy week, need advice on dorm friction, or need a smile and hug when we're missing home.

Students who step up to this role are often trusting, caring, and approachable role models. Therefore, they can sometimes be treated like counselors and are required to be ready with a helping hand for one too many students' emotional problems. Drama, bad grades, breakups, friends, sports, club elections: Choate's student body

experiences all of the conventional high-school difficulties. Everyone needs somebody to talk to at the end of the day (conveniently right when prefects come around for nightly check-ins). This forces prefects to carry emotional baggage and make tough decisions in the best interest of dorm life at Choate. I can imagine that it's a challenging job and, because of this, I appreciate all that my prefects do for me and my dormmates.

Prefects are helpful and key to the dorm environment, especially in freshman dorms. Their kindness, generosity, and willingness to extend their help to their prefectees is greatly appreciated. Pitman has stellar prefects — the duo is iconic — and the pairs' personalities balance each other to create a warm, supportive environment. To get a quantitative understanding of the impact of our freshman year prefects, I sent out a survey to my dorm asking one simple question: when you're a senior, do you want to be a prefect? All five responses that I received were affirmative — Shivani and Ella have successfully inspired the Pitman girls to prefect in their senior year, continuing the legacy of student leadership and support.

Olympia Wolff is a third-former from St. Paul, MN. She may be reached at owolff25@choate.edu



Graphic By Brian Yip '24/The Choate News

PAKISTAN ABOLISHED ITS PARLIAMENT: HERE’S WHY THE U.S. SHOULDN’T INTERVENE

By **Stan Cho ’25**
Copy Editor

On Sunday, April 3, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was responsible for leading a constitutional coup that caused the dissolution of the National Assembly. Though the country was notorious for its controversial politics, the recent turn of events has threatened Pakistan’s democracy, making it very vulnerable. If we’d like to continue diplomatic ties with Pakistan, it is imperative that we refrain from intervening in the establishment of its political system.

With his background as a former professional cricket champion, Khan gained support for his campaign through his status as a celebrity and

his relationship with the Pakistani military — the sixth largest armed forces in the world. Though Khan was able to secure his position in office, his inability to deliver on election promises of decreased corruption and increased economic opportunities led to the downfall of his political career. As a result, Khan has become the first victim of a no-confidence vote in the history of Pakistan in spite of the overwhelming support he received during his political campaign in 2018. Pakistan’s economy continues to suffer under the rule of Khan, as inflation rates rise up to the double digits and unemployment rates reach soaring heights despite the billion-dollar program from the

International Monetary Fund. To make matters worse, Khan was unable to undermine his political opponents in his anti-corruption witch hunt. With the cards stacked against him, the collective might of the military and the Pakistan Peoples Party’ (PPP)s call for a no-confidence vote led to Khan’s ousting from office on April 10.

Though the vote of no-confidence has allowed Pakistan to heal from the damages on its economy and political stability, the ousting of Khan does not guarantee the stability of the nation. Pakistan is home to one of the most volatile, powerful militaries in the world, having access to a vast nuclear arsenal and a history of unleashing coups on government bodies. Even though

the country has called for the elections for Pakistan’s next leader to be held in 90 days to allow for the necessary reforms to prevent corruption, the military’s presence remains in the political landscape of Pakistan.

During his political term, Khan embraced a strategic partnership with China and Russia in an attempt to undermine the relationship that opposing parties had with the United States. The debilitating alliance between the United States and Pakistan caused the military to withdraw support from Khan in response to the changes made to the country’s foreign policy and security agenda. Though Pakistan’s military continues to remain neutral in the current political crisis, multiple

military leaders have expressed their interest in deepening ties with the United States, raising the possibility of military intervention. Despite claims that the army was not involved in the removal of Khan from office, supporting parties of Khan continue to claim that the no-confidence vote was part of an American conspiracy to cause a shift in Pakistan’s leadership.

As an important political country in Asia, Pakistan is a valuable political and militaristic ally for the United States. Despite the benefits that it may reap, it is imperative that the United States allows for democracy to be implemented in Pakistan’s election for its next leader. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the chairman of the opposition Pakistan Peoples

Party reiterates the importance of the maintenance of Pakistan’s democracy, stating, “We are ready for the fresh elections, but we cannot allow violation of the rules and the constitution.”

In a country as controversial and politically vulnerable as Pakistan, the intervention of the United States will fundamentally destroy the political infrastructure upon which Pakistan is built. Pakistan continues to recover from the multitude of militaristic coups in its past, and the United States’s intervention will only cause further disruptions in Pakistan’s quest to fight the corruption that plagues its politics.

Stan Cho is a third-former from Busan, South Korea. He may be reached at scho25@choate.edu

THE ACCIDENTAL MORALITY OF CAPITALISM

By **Alex Aronov ’22**
Opinions Writer

Eugene Harold Krabs, owner of the Krusty Krab Eatery establishment in Bikini Bottom, once said, “I like money.” Therein lies the American story. For decades of our history, people have inextricably linked the United States with capitalism — the triumphant economic system. However, Gallup, an analytics company based in Washington D.C., recently released a survey that showed that this might be changing with the new generation. According to the poll, as many Millennials and Gen Z — those born between 1981 and 2012 — have a positive view of socialism as have a positive view of capitalism. This is a stark difference from Gen Xers, where the split is 60/40, and Baby Boomers, whose split is 70/30. At the same time, the new generation’s view of “big business” and “free enterprise” is becoming more negative.

There is one notion that all people of all political views agree upon — capitalism is driven by the primal force of wanting more. More wealth. More assets. More money. In other words, greed. From this common knowledge, the difference of opinion becomes this — what should the dominant drive of an economy be? Should a market be governed by the rules of self-interest, as in many western countries? Or should they be driven by other means?

Those who advocate for socialism often argue that capitalist systems are unethical. In essence, redistribution of wealth should go a long way in making free markets more ethical. Upon closer inspection, however, the evidence seems to suggest that capitalism inspires

unselfish behavior in its participants. Whether you loathe the coercive excesses of the state or love the practices of private, money-hungry companies, capitalism always seems to lead to greater prosperity for everyone. Almost by accident, it appears that the system characterized by greed turns out to be the most moral of the bunch.

But why just discuss it in principle? Let’s get practical, and a little heartbreaking. Corporations don’t care about you. The primary objective of any firm in a capitalist economy is to make a profit. Every corporate chain has a board of directors deliberating 12 hours a day on how to generate as much revenue as possible. So why is it that companies, especially during the pandemic, are practically shoveling money into the maw of charity? Apple donated 20 million masks to healthcare workers. Facebook pledged 100 million dollars in aid to journalists. Cell phone networks paused monthly fees for essential workers. Beyond Meat donated over one million of its patties to food banks and hospitals, and, most impressively of all, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey pledged one billion dollars of his own wealth to fight the coronavirus — all in the first months of the pandemic. This is great!

But why care? What do companies stand to gain from this seemingly ill-advised charity? To be honest with you, I have no idea. Other than an elite cabal of C-level executives, no one can definitively say whether charitable giving is actually net positive for a business. But we do have some incredibly compelling evidence: the fact that companies keep on doing it, over and over and over again. But how is this possible? Wasn’t the whole point

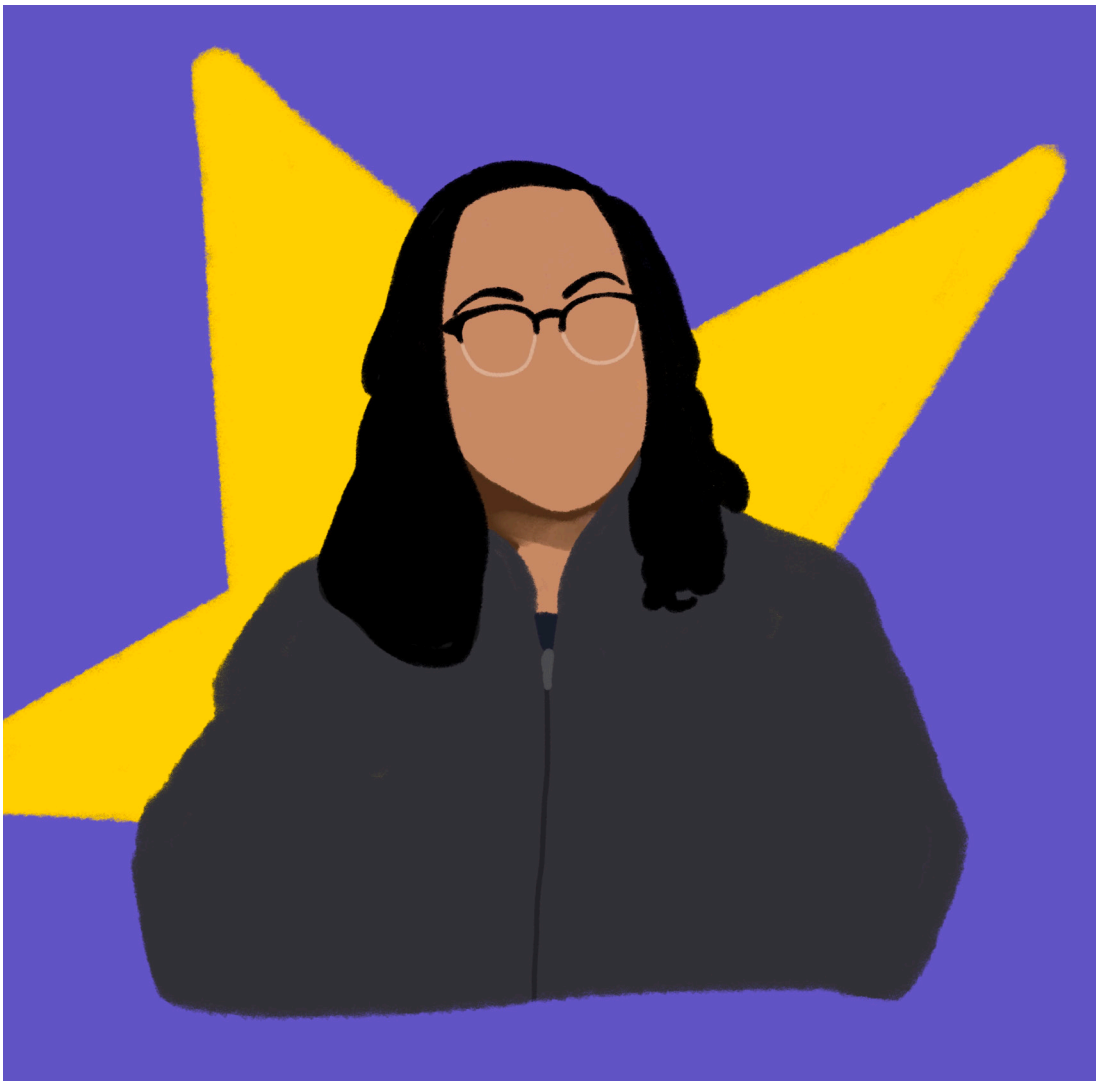
of capitalism that it’s facilitated by greed? Well, yes. But very often, capitalism encourages benevolent actions. Not because people become nicer when the economy is freer, but because the system is set up in such a way that engaging in generous acts is in everyone’s self-interest.

In a socialist system, we must also remember that it isn’t left up to the individual what is fair and what is not. Say you, dear reader, are in favor of socialism. You believe, generally speaking, that shared prosperity is fairer for everyone. Great! Unfortunately, in this system, it’s the government which gets to decide what’s fair for you. Agents of the state use coercive force to expropriate your assets and to allocate those resources wherever they deem necessary. They determine what’s “moral” using your money without your consent. Nations have used this wealth to wage war, carry out genocide, and commit other mass atrocities. Rarely do the state’s actions line up with the desires of its people.

Thus, we arrive at our conclusion: shockingly, capitalism is the most moral system! And in order to prevent the propagation of a socialist system, that’s what we must continue reminding young people. This free enterprise system, popularized by economists like Adam Smith, has greatly contributed to the prosperity of the United States. And despite all that rabble, the fact remains that capitalism is freedom. You can be an accountant, a nurse, a programmer, a hippie, a mountain climber, a movie maker, a clown, or even a Deerfield student. In socialism, you can only do what the state allows. Doesn’t seem very moral to me.

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JUST WHAT THE SUPREME COURT NEEDS: KETANJI BROWN JACKSON



Graphic by Jewon Im '23 /The Choate News

By **Helen Ryan ’24**
Opinions Staff Writer

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson has been very successful and well-known in her profession for many years. Recently, she has become even more renowned after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a 53-47 vote on April 7 to be the newest justice on the Supreme Court. This makes Jackson the third Black justice, sixth female justice, and first-ever Black woman to serve on the highest court. But the path to becoming a barrier-breaking Justice was not an easy one for Jackson.

Jackson excelled in both high school and at Harvard University, after which she clerked for Justice Stephen Breyer during his 1999-2000 term. Her time at Harvard was filled with academic and social challenges. As a college student, Jackson faced acts of racism, and she stood up for what she believed in. Since then, she has served as an assistant federal public defender for the District of Columbia and was the vice-chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. In 2012, Former President Barack Obama nominated her to serve as a district court judge in Washington, D.C. She served in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 2013 to 2021. Though Jackson has had a long and successful career with more diverse experience than many of the other judges, she was still faced with unreasonable questioning and challenges during the confirmation process.

Jackson faced particularly harsh questioning in regard to

her views on political issues. In terms of political ideology, a number of Republicans were upset because she refused to answer many of their questions, including those related to court-packing. Jackson stated that there is no simple way to state her political philosophy. She tends to interpret the Constitution depending on the case, putting effort into ensuring that each case is treated fairly based on the circumstances. This shows the hard work and dedication of Jackson and the balance that is required to be a Supreme Court Justice. Just because Republicans want her to pick a side — specifically their side — does not mean she has to. Jackson successfully kept her composure during questioning on topics that were not relevant to her position on the Supreme Court but were rather inquiries into her personal views and opinions, such as transgender athletes, illegal immigration, border policy, court-packing, and critical race theory.

Conservatives continue to argue that Jackson is a part of the far-left, and is, therefore, not fit to serve on the Court. Pushing the idea that Jackson has only gotten this far because of a left-wing agenda takes away from the success that she has worked so hard to achieve. Questions were no longer about her ideologies or opinions on theories of law but rather about small cases or views, with which senators tried to create a false image of Jackson. Though her views may

differ in many ways from that of others (specifically Republican and conservative members of the Senate) that difference didn’t stop her from being confirmed to the Supreme Court.

It is necessary to have a diverse set of opinions on the Court. The Court currently has a Republican majority, and among the majority of the Senate who voted against Jackson included Republicans. Jackson’s own ideology is likely to go right up against that of the Republican or right-leaning justices. But isn’t that the whole point of having a Supreme Court — to have fair group of people with some balance? Jackson will be extremely beneficial to reaching this ideal.

Though Jackson’s opinions may be different from what many are used to, she is essential to providing balance to the now right-leaning Supreme Court. Not only will she bring balance back to the Court, but her rulings as Justice will come with a perspective as a Black woman that no other judges can offer. Justice Jackson’s position on the Supreme Court was well deserved, despite the ridiculous questioning and doubts she faced from the Senate. The challenges she faced in this first phase are only the beginning, but with her intelligence, strong sense of self, and determination, she is sure to succeed and simultaneously improve the US Supreme Court.

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Graphic by William Gao '24 /The Choate News

Preparing for APs in a Non-AP School

By Brian Harder '23
Staff Reporter

In recent weeks, Choate students could be spotted working on a high stack of Advanced Placement (AP) practice books in the library. These standardized subject exams, developed by the College Board, have ceased to be a part of Choate's curriculum since the 2017-2018 school year; however, they are still popular among students.

According to the College Counseling office, 401 AP exams were administered in 2019, the year after the removal of AP courses, but it has since rebounded. 503 AP exams were administered on campus in the spring of 2021. AP exams were designed to give high school students the opportunity to gain college credit, but many now use high scores to enhance their profile for college admission.

Even though Choate has stopped offering AP courses to allow for more flexibility in the curriculum, many students still value the exams as a crucial assessment of their academic capability. "Getting a five on an AP definitely helps prove your ability as a student," said Annika Lee '23.

Most Choate students who choose to take AP exams find themselves having to spend a significant amount of time outside of class to prepare, whether through resources provided by the College Board or with tutors outside of school. The task of balancing AP preparation with schoolwork and extracurricular activities can be taxing, as students frequently find themselves underprepared for the exams that they are scheduled to take. Deven Huang '23, a student in Physics 650, recalled how his teacher Mr. Jon Gadoua "had to upload notes that we wouldn't go over in class to give us the necessary content for the AP [Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism] test."

Although most courses require exam takers to review portions of the AP syllabus on their own, some

Choate classes still refer to the College Board curriculum. Calculus BC teacher Mr. Andrew Murgio said, "Immediately following the dropping of the designation, [Calculus BC] courses did not really change much at all." Shifts in the schedule and Covid-19 have limited the amount of time for AP review, but some sections of Calculus BC at Choate still do assign students AP practice problems and conduct an accumulative test that serves as a mock AP exam.

"Because our classes do still align pretty closely with the AP curriculum, it seems that most of our students, especially the BC ones, are in fact well-positioned for the test, so we recommend that most of them take it — and for their benefit, we squeeze in some review," said Mr. Murgio.

Macroeconomics, in addition, covers nearly everything students need to know for the AP test. According to current student Bryant Figueroa '23, "the free-response practice questions provided by the College Board felt very similar to the macro tests [at Choate]." Spanish 550 also includes content that prepares students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam. This class's assessments mirror the tasks in the free-response section, similar to Macroeconomics.

Despite the institutional shift away from AP classes, the exams remain a popular option amongst students. There are cases when Choate courses assist students with preparation, but by and large, this time of year is packed full of independent preparation.

College admissions is the popular driving force behind the hundreds of AP exams still administered each spring. As Mr. Murgio put it, "typically, now, the students taking the AP are underformers who can use the score as an objective credential on their college apps, rather than seniors hoping to gain credit/placement in college."

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A LOOK INTO CHOATE'S PUBLIC SPEAKING TRADITIONS

By Laya Raj '24 and
Jacqueline Yan '24
Copy Editors

Choate students are presented with many public speaking opportunities throughout their high school careers: the Krause-Stevens Declamation Contest, the Goodyear Presentations in World History, and the Pratt-Packard Declamation Contest. As each speech is presented, five criteria circle the judges' minds: stance, projection, articulation, tone, and eye contact (SPATE). This acronym was coined by the late Mr. Zach Goodyear, a former HPRSS faculty member who had a keen eye for the components of a successful speech.

Mr. Goodyear was the torchbearer of Choate's public speaking tradition — one that started even before the establishment of Choate Rosemary Hall. Political figures like John F. Kennedy '35 and Adlai Stevenson '18 gained their early experience in public speaking from a course at The Choate School introduced in the 1920s. Similarly, students of Rosemary Hall were required to recite hundreds of lines of prose before being dismissed for spring vacation.

As the two schools merged, Mr. E. Stanley Pratt and Mr. H. Jeremy Packard '55, both beloved deans and notable members of the HPRSS department, preserved the public speaking traditions. In the late 1970s, Mr. Packard introduced public speaking as a required unit for all third-form students.

Mr. Charles Krause '51, another important contributor to public speaking at Choate, funded the monetary prizes for the Pratt-Packard Declamation Contest in 2000. He was the captain of Choate's Debate council and later established the fund to "encourage and train young people to speak in public with clarity of thought, confidence, and enthusiasm and to use this talent throughout their lives."



Graphic by Carolyn Chen '25/The Choate News

Currently, English Teacher Mr. John Cobb helps extend the legacy of public speaking at Choate. He considers it "a 21st-century skill that everyone's going to need." According to *Forbes Magazine*, roughly 80 percent of humankind experiences levels of anxiety before speaking in front of an audience. Mr. Cobb believes that Choate's public speaking contests provide inspiration and encouragement for students to overcome their apprehension and give public speaking a try.

"You can have the opportunity, which is, I think, a privilege to speak in front of the whole school and say whatever you really want," said Mr. Cobb. "One of the things I always take away from the public speaking contests is, boy, Choatians are pretty good. These are some talented people."

In part thanks to her parents' jobs as TV reporters, Emma Hermacinski '22 is one of Choate's successful public speakers. She is both the vice-captain of the Choate Debate Team and recent champion of the Impromptu Speaking at the World Independent Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIPDSC). Her experience with

public speaking at Choate began in freshman year from frequenting several debate pods. "I completely sucked at public speaking when I started out," she said. Referring to the pod leaders, she recounted, "They were like, 'Okay, you only have to speak for five minutes on this really, really broad topic.' And I got up there, gave 90 seconds of gibberish, and I sat right down ... I really did come from nothing."

Melody Qian '24, one of the four Goodyear Speech Contest finalists this year, is another student largely involved in public speaking at Choate. An avid member of the Choate Debate Team and competitions outside of school, Qian greatly values the emphasis Choate places on public speaking. "Like it or not, you're going to need to do public speaking at some point in the future. Whether it's in an office or at a wedding party, if you've taught yourself how to appear confident when you're speaking, it will save you in a lot of situations," she said.

One of Qian's favorite classes was the public speaking elective she took with Mr. Cobb during her freshman year. She said, "He taught me how to be an impactful speaker to audi-

ences outside of debate, which comes with a different style of speaking that can be faster and more aggressive than most speeches." Qian believes that the HPRSS department's incorporation of graded discussions and oral presentations in the course curriculum has provided more opportunities for her to perfect her public speaking techniques both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

The significance that public speaking holds at Choate has encouraged many students from different forms, with vastly varying levels of experience, to engage and participate in opportunities to grow as a speaker. Gavin Boudreau '24 described the Pratt-Packard Declamation Contest and Goodyear Presentations as both "inspirational and empowering."

"Knowing that others just like us, who literally attend the same school, have the experiences that they've had and have been able to express those in the way they have — it's priceless," said Boudreau.

Laya Raj and Jacqueline Yan may be reached at lraj24@choate.edu and jyan24@choate.edu.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

By Analy Vega '25
Staff Reporter

What are you most looking forward to this Spring?

"I enjoy eating ice cream, so I am most looking forward to the ice cream that we could enjoy eating in warm weather."
—Kara Wang '24

"I am mostly looking forward to the amount of time that I could spend outside. Seeing as I live in the KEC, I enjoy walking back and forth to campus and, overall, the atmosphere that nature offers. I also enjoy taking naps in hammocks

— very relaxing. Finally, I recommend the Otterpops that Walmart sells — very tasty and a good price!"
—Megan Mitchell '23

What is your favorite moment from Spring?

"I have played softball since I was very young, so I think I mostly remember the softball games I would have during the weekend and my family watching and supporting me. Currently, I am on the Choate softball team, so playing and practicing with my teammates have been a highlight in my spring term as well."
—Gioia Segui '25

"I enjoy seeing how our campus turns multiple shades of green as you can see how leaves pop out. Additionally, a warm Saturday for a home track with the temperature raises the competitive spirits."
—Mr. James Davidson

"Easter was my favorite spring holiday growing up because of how we would celebrate it. My dad's side of the family would all drive down to my great-grandmother's house. We called our great grandmother Gigi, and she would give us all hugs. My cousins would go on an egg hunt across the house and through the yard."
—Ella Morris '25

Does your family have a Spring tradition?

"[A] special tradition [in] my family has always been the first bike ride in spring; it is always fun to enjoy Connecticut that way. I also have vivid memories of seeing the cherry blossoms in Wooster, Connecticut."
—Rebecca Denhart '23

"I have always enjoyed doing the most mundane activities outside. For example, reading or doing homework — doing it outside makes it so much better."
—Adam Fletcher '25

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C-Proctors' Nature Photo Competition Winners

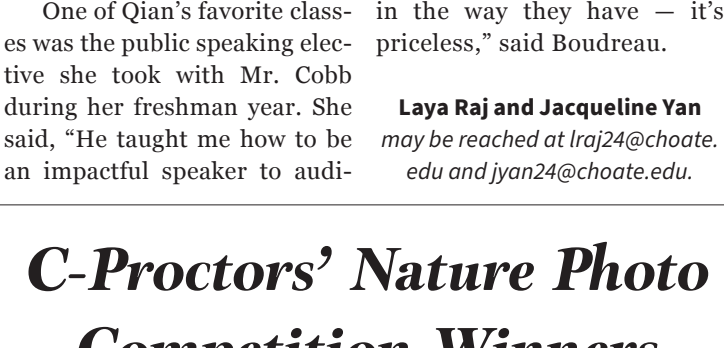


Photo by Rohan Shivakumar '22

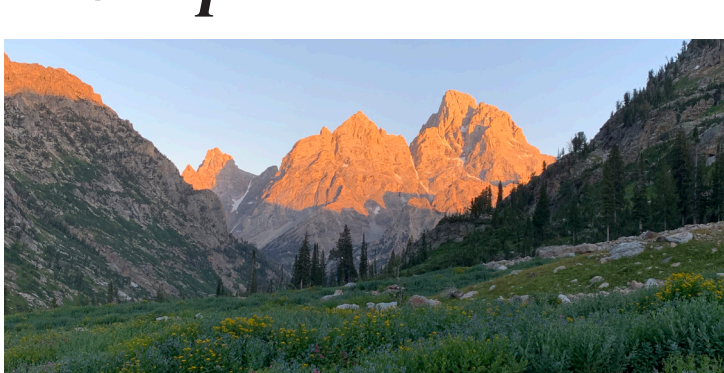


Photo by Camila Granda '25

Photo by Kate Laird '24

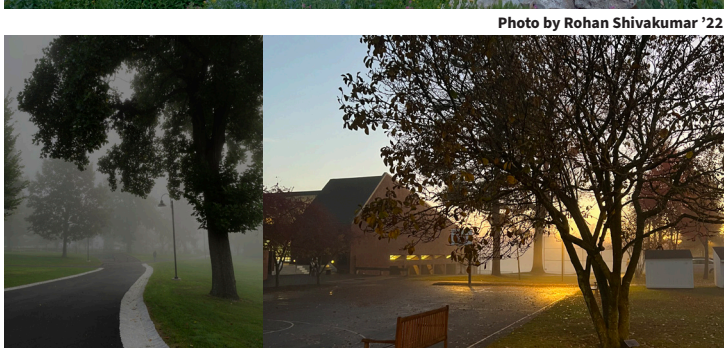


Photo by Madeleine Dubrinsky '22

Photo by Tenzin Bista '23



Photo by Juliet Lin '22

Graphic by Katherine Chong '25/The Choate News

Rock 'N' Roll with *Footloose* — The Spring Musical!

By **Amelia Sipkin '25**
Copy Editor

Chicago-born city kid Ren McCormack loves to party and dance. However, financial troubles force him and his single mother to move to a small Midwestern town, where he learns that dancing and “Rock ‘n’ Roll” are illegal. Through his struggle to fit in and bring spirit back into this lifeless town, he meets doopey farmboy Willard Hewitt, rebellious teenager Ariel Moore, and her best friend Rusty the Romantic. Together, will they find a way to face Reverend Shaw Moore’s power and overcome all that they’ve lost? Come see *Footloose* on the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) Main Stage on May 19, 20, or 21 to follow these characters on their journey to hope, love, freedom, and forgiveness.

Footloose will be loud, raucous, and exciting. Filled with incredible dancing, it is guaranteed to have audiences grooving in their seats. “It’s a story of freedom — freedom through dance,” said Gavin Doak ’22, who is playing Ren McCormack. Jordan Dodd ’25, who is playing Cowboy Bob, said, “The audience will be starstruck when they see this amount of talent put into this two-hour show.”



Graphic by Yujin Kim '23/The Choate News

The musical, which follows the same storyline as the 80s cult classic film of the same name, uses songs from the movie soundtrack in addition to new songs created solely for the stage. The combination of new songs and famous 80s jams (including “Holding out for a Hero,” “Let’s Hear it for the Boy,” “Footloose,” and more) creates a performance that will be nostalgic for some while still holding an element of surprise. “Most of the songs in the movie were background music or commentary on what was happening. Now [in the musical], they’re using the music to actual-

ly further the story,” said Director Ms. Deighna DeRiu.

Most of the cast and crew agree that the best part of the production is the dynamic energy and diversity within the cast, which consists of 40 students across all grade levels. “I just think it’s a fantastic ensemble. Everyone works with each other and feeds off of each other’s energy,” said Assistant Director Mrs. Carol Jones. Ensemble member Candace Beverly ’25 agreed that although the group is silly and loves to joke around, they are serious when it comes to their work. “I see people practicing songs and dance combinations in the hallways, but

then also cheering others on when it’s their time to shine.”

The performers’ strengths lie in different areas — there are experienced dancers who have never done theater, and, on the contrary, skilled actors who have never danced in their life. “There’s such a good mix of people, different skill sets, talents, and what people specialize in,” said Stage Manager Lara Stone ’21. Christian Castro ’21, who is playing Reverend Shaw Moore, exclaimed, “The choreography is HARD.” Many other cast members agree with Castro that the difficult choreography and limited rehearsal time has been

the most challenging part of the rehearsal process.

Castro highlighted that the characters in *Footloose* will resonate deeply with current Choate students. “This is one of the first productions we’ve done where you can actually relate to the characters — the [teenage experience] and just the whole idea of being forced by older people that don’t have the same ideas as times change.” The story revolves around young people fighting power in order to make change, much like what is happening in the world now. Dodd added that the characters are not only relatable but quite lovable and com-

plex as well. “It’s a tearjerker, really. [The characters] are all so heartfelt. It’s so interesting to watch the characters unfold, learn, and grow.”

Describing the characters in the show, Ms. DeRiu said, “The show starts, and the Reverend has an opinion, and Ren has an opinion, and Ariel has an opinion, and you can side with each of them at some point.” Although the characters start out fixated on their own perspectives and desires, she explained that audiences will watch them grow and evolve as the show goes on.

Footloose possesses a unique balance of “a hell of a lot of fun,” said Beverly, and “a story of complex grief,” said Kenadi Waydmire ’21, who is playing Coach Dunbar.

“It’s magical. I don’t know why; it just is,” said Mrs. Jones. Audience members will get to enjoy both big, elaborate musical numbers and embark on a heartfelt journey. “It’s exuberant and exciting,” said Ms. DeRiu.

“It is a journey of unhealthy coping mechanisms, love, and jubilation,” concluded Stone. “I hope that by the end of it, everyone feels a cathartic happiness and taps into the energy that I know all of us are going to bring to every show.”

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Raving Reading Recs

The Three-Body Problem By Cixin Liu

By **Ryan Yang '23**
Reporter

The *Three-Body Problem*, the first book of Cixin Liu’s “Remembrance of Earth’s Past” trilogy, tells the story of humanity’s first contact with an alien civilization. Through the book’s three plotlines, readers experience the tragedy of the Cultural Revolution, the cycles of an alien civilization simulated by the mysterious “3body.net,” and an unexplainable scientific phenomena that drives scientists to commit suicide. The story traverses space and time; it is a masterful combination of Chinese history and modern science.

The English version of *The Three-Body Problem*, which, thanks to translator Ken Liu’s efforts, manages to retain the same voice as the Chinese original. While reading the original version would typically be the

most authentic, author C. X. Liu himself endorsed K. Liu’s English translation because of the changes that were made when translating the book. In an unusual move for a translator, K. Liu moved a major section, a

“You will never see the stars in the same way again after reading *The Three-Body Problem*.”

Ryan Yang '23

flashback to the Cultural Revolution, from the middle to the beginning of the book. When he asked C. X. Liu about the adjustment, the author revealed that this was the book’s original structure. However, due to the

politically charged nature of the Cultural Revolution, C. X. Liu had placed the flashback in the middle of the book instead.

Although the writing is stellar, I highly recommend this book for the brilliant ideas that C. X. Liu showcases. The great science fiction classic, *I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov, is remembered for its novel ideas like the “Three Laws of Robotics.” Likewise, *The Three-Body Problem* is a testament to C. X. Liu’s scientific background, where he proposes some remarkably creative solutions to the titular “Three-Body Problem” from orbital mechanics. This one novel contains enough ideas for an entire series, and readers will constantly be left mulling over the feasibility of different propositions.

This book and the rest of the series not only focuses on scientific ideas — C. X. Liu incorporates profound philosophical questions about the nature of science and the universe as well. For instance, he proposes the “Dark Forest” solution to the Fermi Paradox, a question regarding the existence of extraterrestrial life and why humanity has yet to encounter any. C. X. Liu’s *The Three-Body Problem* leaves readers in awe of the possibilities in our scientific future while simultaneously questioning if the laws of physics are an illusion based on the induction fallacy, which is the misuse of specific instances to support a generalized claim. Additionally, for more politically-inclined readers, humanity in the book can be interpreted as the West and the aliens as China.

The Three-Body Problem is a masterpiece of scientific fiction. It surprises readers with ideas that could appear in a research paper, but C. X. Liu chose to include them in this well-told and engaging story. This book is best for readers who look up to the stars and are left wonderstruck by how tiny we are compared to the universe; you will never see the stars in the same way again after reading *The Three-Body Problem*.

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Audrey Lim '23: Choate’s Rising Writer



Photo by Ava Persaud '25/The Choate News

Abby Lu '22, Julia Xu '23, and Jordan Dodd '25 perform in Audrey Lim's '23 *Overboard* in the 2021 Fringe Festival.

By **Aria Ramnath '24**
Reporter

Exploring her passion for storytelling, Audrey Lim '23 joined the playwriting Arts Concentration program to expand her writing skillset beyond the short stories, poems, and novels she was already familiar with. As she wrote more plays and read more works, Lim fell in love with playwriting. Since then, Lim has ventured into screenwriting and won several awards for her scripts; she received Gold Keys for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and became a semi-finalist in the 2022 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Young Playwrights Festival.

One of Lim’s earliest experiences with playwriting was when she composed and submitted a play for Choate’s Fringe Festival during her sophomore year. “When my first real short play made it into the program, I was so happy,” she said. This year, her play *Overboard* was also featured in the production.

Lim’s screenwriting journey had a natural beginning. After reading a short screenplay — a piece by Ethan Luk '20 — for the first time in the spring of her freshman year, she decided to branch out from her comfort zone of playwriting and began to write short films for fun. She credits her strong foundation in playwriting for paving her way into screenwriting. For her, playwriting and screenwriting are “natural ways for [her] to tell stories and paint pictures of characters and really interesting people.”

With her experience in both screenwriting and playwriting, Lim finds that the most significant differences between the two are the constraints that come with screenwriting, where the script must be easy to read for directors and producers. “A lot of the fancy writing and figurative language and focus on diction that goes into playwriting can’t be used in screenwriting because it ends up being a distraction from the goal of production,” she said. Lim also noticed parallels between the two, adding that “you can make pretty much any story come alive either way” and that both “are really great platforms for storytelling.”

One of Lim’s favorite plays she has written is *A-Loi-ah*, a personal story inspired by her mother and grandmother. The play’s name is derived from the English phonetic spelling of “daughter” in Cantonese. The story follows a girl named Jade who struggles with her Chinese identity and her relationship with her mother. It also revolves around the prevalence of hate crimes targeting Asians in San Francisco. “It’s just bringing awareness to that topic because a lot of the time it’s not widely covered,” said Lim.

Jade’s character is inspired by Lim herself, who is from the Bay Area and is half Korean and half Chinese. “When I was growing up, I really wanted to be what I thought was American. I would watch these Barbie movies and be like, ‘That’s what I have to look like,’” said Lim. “So, I used that part of me ... to

write the beginning about Jade feeling like she wants to immerse herself in what America is supposed to be,” she said.

Although Lim wrote the entirety of *A-Loi-ah* in one day, one of her biggest challenges was fitting the play into ten minutes, which was a requirement for the competition she originally wrote it for. Nonetheless, the writing process was particularly memorable and special to Lim because she wrote it while sitting next to her mom, whom she would ask for feedback and suggestions. “When I think about [*A-Loi-ah*], I think about her,” she said.

Along with her mother, Lim appreciates endless support from her Arts Concentration adviser, Mrs. Kate Doak, along with the arts faculty, her dean, her adviser, and the Choate community. “No one’s ever put down my writing here,” she said. “No one’s ever been like, ‘That’s not important.’” The support and enthusiasm of Lim’s mentors and teachers have been extremely valuable to her. “It feels like they really care, and I think that’s a great environment to grow in because I know I’m not doing everything by myself,” she added.

In the future, Lim hopes to continue screenwriting and playwriting on a professional level. “For now, it’s pretty up in the air, but I’m definitely going to be a writer,” she said. At the moment, Lim is working on a feature-length romance screenplay that she hopes to get produced along with her other stellar works.

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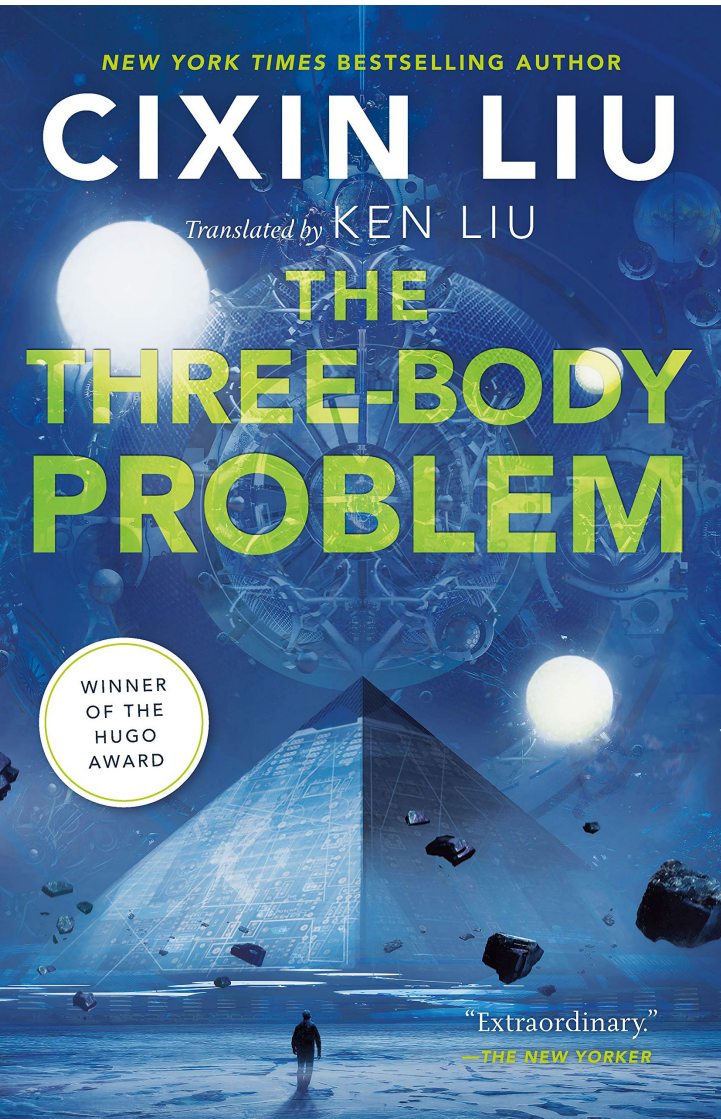


Photo Courtesy of Amazon

The English version of *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu was translated from Chinese by Ken Liu and published in 2014.

FIELD
REPORT

Choate Spring Record
47- 43- 2

Varsity Games

Girls' Softball (8-0)
vs. Ethel Walker, 12-2

Boys' Golf (6-3)
vs. Westminster, Hopkins,
193-208, 193-219

Boys' Tennis (7-0)
vs. Trinity-Pawling, 7-0

Frisbee (2-2)
vs. Miss Porter's, 11-5

Boys' Lacrosse (3-4)
vs. Taft, 2-8

Girls' Lacrosse (4-5)
vs. Ethel Walker, 14-2

Boys' Volleyball (0-4)
vs. Exeter, 1-3

Girls' Tennis (2-2)
vs. Loomis, 8-1

Boys' Baseball (3-7)
vs. Deerfield, 3-11

Girls' Water Polo (1-3)
vs. Deerfield, 7-14

J.V. Games

Boys' Lacrosse (1-4)
vs. Taft, 1-9

Boys' Golf (2-2)
vs. Taft, Kingswood Ox-
ford, 222-257

Boys' Baseball (0-4)
vs. Hamden Hall, 7-5

Girls' Lacrosse (3-3)
vs. Miss Porter's, 9-2

Boys' Tennis (5-0)
vs. NMH, 7-1

How Much Does Physicality Matter in Sports?

By **Tariq El Mammann '24**
Reporter

Have you ever doubted your athletic ability because of your height or weight? Do you ever question how you can compete at a high level when your size feels like a disadvantage? There are quite a few athletes here at Choate who feel this way, posing the question: what is the significance of a student-athlete's size and its impact on one's athletic experience?

When asked about the advantages and disadvantages of his height, weight, and physicality in basketball, Payton Garcia '23 said, "Being that I'm about 5'6 and weigh maybe 130 pounds, a lot of what I have to do in basketball involves skill work, especially with dribbling, getting crafty under the basket, and getting to my spot when I'm shooting." Garcia understands that he has to work hard at mastering his skills when it comes to height differences, "Otherwise, I'll get a lot of my shots blocked. To be capable on the court, I have to be the best at my height." Garcia tried to focus on what he can control, which is his desire to succeed. There are obvious disadvantages to being relatively shorter in a sport like basketball, and Garcia acknowledged these obstacles and got around them by excelling where others lack.

Ryan Villano '23 (5'9, 175 lbs) had similar ideas on his size and its importance on the football field. "You obviously cannot control size in sports, so when you're smaller, especially in a sport like football where size is a big part of the game, you have to focus on what you can control, like being pound for pound. Strong." Villano played wide receiver for Boys' Varsity Football this fall. He was competing for spots with players that were all six feet and taller, including Jack McManus '22 (6'3, 230 lbs), Cobe Crews '22 (6'2, 175 lbs), and Vincent Drolet '23 (6'5, 220 lbs). Villano continued, "Just because you're smaller doesn't mean you can't have that strength... Also, a big thing is speed. Being faster than others both physically and mentally is important because a lot of the time you can't rely on sheer size to win your matchups." Villano added that although size is a significant factor in the sport of football, it is certainly not everything, and one needs to focus on those other aspects of the sport. "Don't



Graphic by Yujin Kim '23 /The Choate News

sit there saying 'if I were bigger this' or 'if I were bigger that' because you're not gonna get anywhere." Villano, similarly to Garcia, acknowledged the disadvantages but worked through those obstacles to be at the level needed to compete in these demanding varsity sports.

Sachi Mehra '23 (5'4, 114 lbs) also recognized many disadvantages in her size while playing football. Mehra emphasized that there is a limit to how much hard work and personal strengths can help you. "You should focus on your strengths and not on what you can't control, but there will always be a limit to that. Especially in football season, I realized that I'm shorter, smaller, not as fast, and not as strong as basically the entire team. As much as I wanted it, there was a point where I was saying, 'What can I do to get better with all of these disadvantages?'" She asked this to Coach Cliff Ashley, the special team coach on the Varsity Football team, and he replied, "You can work on catching, route running, and knowing the plays,

but to an extent, there is nothing you can do to get that much better." Mehra then found a sport that was stripped of favoritism towards natural size/physicality — wrestling. "But then, I found that it really catered to you with wrestling. It wasn't like you had to fit a mold, everyone had a place, and everyone could wrestle and get better. Unlike in football, where you are trying to fit into this mold of being tall, everyone is on equal grounds."

Like Sachi in wrestling, some athletes see no disadvantage in possessing a smaller size and view it as a complete advantage in their sport. Three student-athletes on the Girls Varsity Hockey team at Choate, including Caroline Holm '24 (5'2, 113 lbs), said, "Being small is an advantage for me. If I was bigger, I don't think I'd be the same player. I use my speed as my strength, and I rely on that in my games." Similarly, Norah Morris '24 (5'2, 111 lbs) said, "I don't see being small as a disadvantage...Especially now, with hockey developing, it's more of a skill game

and not really about physicality. Specifically, you have to be a skilled player, smart, and a good skater in girls' hockey. I think that is more important than size." Nani Keyes '25 (5', 115 lbs), spoke on the differences in rules between boys' and girls' hockey and how players can use these rule differences to their advantage. "We're lucky in girls hockey that hitting isn't allowed because I feel like if it were it would be a disadvantage to be smaller than most players. Still, since that is a rule, it is an advantage in girls hockey because you can use your speed more often without worrying about getting hit."

As the three athletes emphasized, there is more to the game than size. In order to make the most of your physicality you can hone your skills, improve your IQ, and add to your craft. You should embrace yourself physically and use it to your advantage, no matter the sport.

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AT PLAY
ON
CHOATE'S
FIELDS

By **Carolyn Chen '25**
Reporter

Memorial Field

Located in close proximity to the dorms of Memorial Circle, Memorial Field's convenience makes it a popular choice for spending time outside or engaging in competitions of spikeball with friends. In warm weather, picnic blankets are a common sight and an occasional humanities class. Overall, Memorial Field is great for all uses.

Class of '76 Field

On Friday nights, the Choate community can be found gathered on the Class of '76 Turf — the perfect location to hold Under the Lights games. The main purpose of the turf field is to foster a multi-use athletic atmosphere.

Maguire Fields

The Maguire fields are Choate's second set of turf fields. Dedicated to Robert Maguire '41, the field was ultimately a space to celebrate spending time outdoors, enjoying the sunshine. In order to create a space for broadened athletic use, the field was replaced by turf in 2019. Regardless of the short hike to get there, many students still spend time watching both Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer games at the Maguire Fields.

Gunpowder Creek Field

Situated at the bottom of the hill to the left of the X, the Gunpowder Creek Field is one of the most centrally located athletic venues on campus. In 1967, what once was the location of the Choate Hockey Rinks was converted into a playing field. Now, the field houses J.V. Soccer games and is centrally located for everyone to watch.

Maher Field

Named in honor of John J. Maher '22, former English and history teacher and football coach, Maher Field hosts Varsity and J.V. football games. Football is a lively sport that often draws many spectators, so the field is home to a large set of bleachers allowing the space for large crowds. It is also a shorter walk from the center of campus than some other athletic fields, which is a relief for those unfond of long treks.

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SPRING'S UNDEFEATED TEAMS HOPE TO CONTINUE STREAK

By **Lily Hrazdira '24**
Reporter

Competition season for spring sports energizes the Choate campus, especially when certain teams remain undefeated for more than half the term. As soon as classes end, Choate athletes can be seen running on the track, playing lacrosse on the turf, or hitting home runs. Teams all across campus practice to secure as many wins as possible, but two of these teams impressively stand out with undefeated records: Girls' Varsity Softball and Boys' Varsity Tennis.

The Girls' Varsity Softball team, coached by Dr. Edrik Lopez and Ms. Brianna Sawicki, is composed of 13 talented players, all of whom contribute greatly to the team. Their current and impressive record is 8-0. The team's captains, Lauren Ben-Ezra '22, Hadley Rogers '22, Rachel Pittman '22, and Alex Hassett '23 are leading the team in their success this season.

Their dedication to their sport stands out and continues to contribute to their accomplishments. Captain Ben-Ezra attributes the team's success to "the bond shared between teammates, in addition to a lot of talented players." In addition to the incredible energy on and off the field, the girls have great athletic talent. On top of the perfect record, Jordan Wallace '22 and Hassett have been named NEPSAC All-Stars. Wallace said her favorite memory this season was during a game against Loomis saying, "We were losing by one run, and then it was our last at-bat, and I hit a walk-off home run to win the game." Ben-Ezra also made the Northeast FastPitch League All-Star team for the class of 2022. Although the team's success is undeniable, softball is often overlooked at Choate, as the field is far from many spots on campus; nevertheless, their undefeated record shows they deserve more recognition and respect.

The other undefeated team at Choate this term is Boys' Varsity Tennis, coached by Mr. Ned Gallagher. Team member Paul Montrone '22 explained that the path to the 7-0 streak hasn't been easy. "We've had a lot of injuries this year and sick players as well," Montrone said. The 2020 spring season was also canceled entirely, and last year's season was irregular, leaving many feeling as if they aren't completely back to normal this year. The injuries on top of Covid-19 forced team members to step up as leaders, guided by Mr. Gallagher and their captain Hugo Chung '22. One player on the team, Arin Tongdee '23, shared, "I think our strength at the top of the ladder combined with our depth has helped keep us afloat against other teams." This sentiment was echoed by another player, Praj Chirathivat '22, who stated that the team's "support for each other and working hard every practice" was what



Photo Courtesy of Choate Communications

Boys' Tennis poses for a team photo.

allowed them to start the season off so successfully. According to Tongdee, his favorite memory so far is the massive comeback made by player William Ji '23. Tongdee said, "He was down 2-7 in the super tiebreaker, which is first to 10, in a game that would decide the match. Everyone crowded around the courts and Will proceeded to win the next eight points in a row to close out the game."

Both teams bring pride to the Choate community with their outstanding achievements thus far. Ben-Ezra said it perfectly: "Being undefeated has brought a certain sense of pride knowing that you're on the softball team, knowing we're a good team and that we deserve respect."

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