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BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONVENES

By **Victoria Li '16**
Senior Reporter

The Choate Rosemary Hall Board of Trustees convened on campus from Wednesday, October 7, 2015 to Friday, October 9, 2015 for one of three Board meetings throughout 2015-2016. The Board of Trustees convenes three times throughout the school year — once every term — to examine the overall well-being of the school and set priorities for the development of the institution.

The focus of the trustees is in improving the strategic vision and ensuring that the current administration is exercising to the fullest extent the central values and mission of Choate. Improvements and proposals are included in the Strategic Plan, which outlines broadly Choate's values in cohesion and culture, teaching and learning, enrollment and student outcomes, and communication and outreach. Main themes, as discussed by the trustees during their meeting, include the ability of Choate students to think independently and critically, the spirit to respect their environment, and the ways to improve the world students will soon inherit.

The Board of Trustees consists of alumni, parents, parents of alumni and other Choate-affiliated people. Their visit this term began with a campus orientation for the newest members of the Board. Three new members joined the Board this year — Tal H. Nazer P '17 and P '19, Kenneth G. Bartels '60 P '04, and Anne Sa'adah, whose father taught philosophy and Arabic at Choate in the 1960s.

Throughout their visit, the trustees attended committee meetings with those involved in Finances, Admission, College Counseling, Buildings and Grounds Development, Student Life and Athletics, Alumni and Parent Relations, Investment, Trusteeship, and Audit. The topics which trustees examined in these committees ranged from professional development of faculty to diversity and student life on campus. The committees consisted of trustees, administrative staff, faculty and student representatives, and each committee provided preliminary discussion as a basis for discussion in

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LITTLE FAMILY GIVES \$10 MILLION FOR PMAC MAKEOVER

By **Stephanie Chan '16**
News Editor

With a \$10 million donation from investor William "Ted" Little '49 and his wife, Fran, the Paul Mellon Arts Center Main Stage Theater will, for the first time since 1972, undergo major renovations. The money will be given over four or five years, with the first payment arriving this January.

Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis said that Mr. and Mrs. Little's gift will allow the school to bring the PMAC into the twenty-first century. "I'm thrilled because the Arts Center is a very important piece of architecture," Dr. Curtis said. "The I.M. Pei building was a breakthrough at the time. Once again, that building will come to the forefront of arts and in boarding schools around America."

According to Ms. Kalya Yannatos, Director of the Arts, the new theater inside the PMAC, which will be renamed the Little Theater, will include more sustainable lighting, wide, clear-cut aisles, and fewer seats. The current 770-seat theater will be downsized to hold between 500 and 550 seats. Mr. and Mrs. Little's gift will also cover renovations for the Chase-Bear Experimental Theater and backstage areas such as the green room, scene

shop, and dressing rooms.

Construction on the Little Theater will begin after Choate's new auditorium is completed. As Dr. Curtis announced last spring, the auditorium, to be built into the hillside behind the current PMAC Gallery and slated to open in 2018, will include 1070 seats and serve as a venue for all-school meetings, special program events, and musical concerts. It will be able to hold the school's entire student body, something the PMAC theater cannot do. The Little Theater will be a more intimate setting for theatrical productions and dramatic arts. Mr. Little's donation will not contribute to the construction of the auditorium.

Mr. Little, who goes by Ted, was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduating from Choate, he served in the U.S. Air Force in 1949 before earning his B.A. and M.B.A. at the University of Michigan. He and his wife have placed little restriction on the funds. "Our attitude is: The School knows what the students need and how it should be and how it should be done." Mr. Little said. "I only hope that the new theater will be more accessible for those who are hearing or sight-impaired. I'm hard of

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Photo by Charlotte Beebe/The Choate News

Ted and Fran Little's donation will allow Choate to redesign the PMAC auditorium, backstage areas, and the Chase-Bear Experimental Theater.

STUDENT COUNCIL: TRANSPARENT OR OPAQUE?

By **Nathan Chang '17**
Circulation Manager

In order to efficiently respond to requests from students, last spring, Choate's Student Council created four subcommittees. One of these subcommittees focuses on communication and transparency between the Council and other students. Brendan Ferguson '16, Mpilo Norris '18, and Julian Yau '18, the three members of the Communications Committee, are work-

ing to better convey Student Council's activities and efforts to the rest of the student body.

Since the beginning of its existence, Choate's Student Council has had an open-door policy, so anyone is welcome to attend Council meetings. Although the Student Council has promoted its open-door policy more this year, the Council does not get many visitors during its meetings. Curious about the Student Council's open-door policy and its transparency, a few reporters

from *The Choate News* sat in on Student Council meetings.

Lawal recounted that the three reporters who went to recent Student Council meetings were among the first guests to attend a Student Council meeting this year. Lawal added that he had later spoke with Ms. Katrina Homan, a former faculty adviser to the Student Council, who said that in her time as a faculty advisor to the Council, she had seen very few

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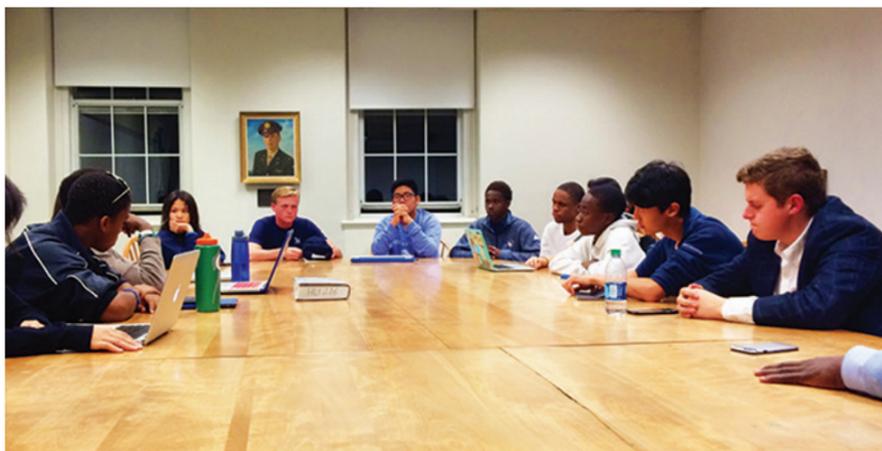


Photo by Arianna Gonzalez-Wagner/The Choate News

Choate students have given the Student Council, which meets every Monday night, mixed reviews of its transparency and inclusion initiative.

DRESS CODE COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

By **Mehreen Pasha '18**
Reporter

Following last spring's hotly debated talk to students on the dress code, Choate has taken the much-needed steps and established another committee geared towards student life: the establishment of the Dress Code Committee.

Currently the group includes faculty members Mr. Jesse Minneman, Mrs. Ellen Devine, Ms. Judi Williams, Mr. Samuel Doak, and Mrs. Catherine Velez. The students on the committee include Esul Burton '16, Dylan Stafford '16, Cecilia Zhou '17, Shamari Harrington '18, and Boxuan Su '18. According to Burton, "There's definitely a spectrum on that committee and I think that's good because we are each representing sections of Choate." With a diverse group of students and a myriad of opinions, the committee hopes to reflect the needs of the Choate community as a whole.

The committee's year-long

task is to devise a proposal amending or affirming the existing dress code through researching dress codes at other peer schools, analyzing proposals from various interest groups across campus, and gathering input from faculty and students who may have differing viewpoints. While embarking on this endeavor, the members had a clear-cut goal: to propose a new dress code policy that reflects where Choate is right now, as a school, and uphold the school's values.

According to Burton, "One of the reasons that the committee was created in the first place is because last spring there was a form meeting that caused some controversy. The girls were told to stay behind from the form meeting and were talked to about the dress code. Many of the girls thought it was sexist." Even more, Burton stated, "There's been this huge discussion of

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NEWS LEDs Light Up Choate

Facilities replaces incandescent lamps with high-tech LED lamps around campus. PAGE 2

Decoding the Dress Code

New committee hopes to demystify dress code. PAGE 2

Bring on the Heat

"Let there be heat," he said. "There was heat," she said. PAGE 3

OPINION: CAMPUS Not Just Another Asian

Are Asian students represented as an ethnic identity at Choate? PAGE 4

OPINION: NATION/WORLD After Umpqua

Ben '17 and O'Donnell '17 discuss the gun violence epidemic. PAGE 5

Corruption and Justice in Mexico

Justice for the 43 missing students. PAGE 5

FEATURES Choate Gets Deep

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Behind the Lights

Welcome to PMAC backstage: where the magic happens. PAGE 6



ARTS & LEISURE The Sound of Music

The WSO, along with Rob Zappulla, celebrates Sinatra's 100th anniversary. PAGE 7

Meet Caitlin Chiochio '16

The Arts Con visual artist's story. PAGE 7

The New Non-Choatie Oboist

She plays here, but she doesn't go here. PAGE 7

SPORTS Kayaks Are Back

Emilia Furlo '17 explains Choate's hottest intramural sport—the one with a hint of danger. PAGE 8

I'm On A Boat

Team to send top eight rowers to Head of Charles in Boston this coming weekend. PAGE 8



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LED LIGHTS INSTALLED AROUND CAMPUS

By **Saloni Jaiswal '16**
and **Julie Tamura '16**

News Editor and Senior Reporter

Although winter is approaching, the way back to your dorm may seem a little brighter for some odd reason. All you have to do is look up and you'll find the answer: LED lamps. High-end light emitting diodes, known as LEDs, have made an electrifying entrance onto Choate's campus, replacing the existing incandescent lamps.

According to Frank Peters, Electrical Supervisor for Facilities Services, Choate's old incandescent lamps are being replaced with LED lights for several advantageous reasons. "From a service standpoint, anything that will extend the time between re-lamping is extremely beneficial. Many of these lights are in hard-to-reach places, and the energy savings is substantial due to the quantities involved," stated Mr. Peters. He also noted that replacing incandescent lamps on a frequent basis has become a labor-intensive job, so using LED technology would be a more efficient alternative, allowing the Facilities Service to solve this issue.

LED technology will have a beneficial and sustainable impact on Choate's campus,

given Choate's focus on sustainability and energy efficiency. Moreover, because Choate has been heavily involved in the pursuit of sustainable initiatives, such as the LEED Platinum status of the Lanphier Center and the state-of-the-art Kohler Environmental Center, Mr. Peters noted that it would be an obvious choice to use LED lamps whenever viable. "For Facilities and Choate, the benefit of having a lamp that will last ten times longer, or greater, is a great reason to utilize them," said Mr. Peters.

Though replacing incandescent lamps with LED technology has many advantages, there are some limitations to this new change on campus. According to Mr. Peters, the biggest obstacle is that LED lamps are very sensitive to heat. As a result, these lamps will not be installed in dormitories around campus. As Mr. Peters noted, "Many of the enclosed fixtures in dormitories now have compact fluorescent lamps because we found out that the LEDs would burn out in a very short period of time."

Another disadvantage of LED technology is the high cost. In theory, improvements in technology and developments in new innovations should reduce cost; however, LED lamps are



Photo by Alex Ejimofor/The Choate News

Taking another step toward sustainable energy, Choate has introduced LED lights around campus.

an exception to this theory. Generally, LED lamps still cost ten times the amount of incandescent or fluorescent technology. However, for Choate, the cost of LED lamps has been exceptionally low. "For instance, one LED flood light at the PMAC cost \$55, then the cost reduced to \$33, which we thought was great they actually dropped to \$7.50 a lamp with energy rebates. That is quite a difference in four years' time. We haven't had to change one of those lamps in the gallery for over four years now," explained Mr. Peters.

According to Mr. Peters, there have been sev-

eral challenges in installing the new LED technology in places around campus. For instance, all of the lights in the Hill House Dining Hall's chandeliers were changed two summers ago. Different types of LED lights were tested in the many chandeliers, all of which had different dimmer switches, which are switches that adjust light levels. Given that these LED lights were so new, the manufacturer of these lamps "had virtually no technical support available to help" noted Mr. Peters. Stuck in a tough situation, Facilities Services had to almost switch gears and go back to incandescent lights.

However, a dimmer switch suitable for the dining hall was finally found.

For members of the Facilities Services, changing the lights will require very little effort. The only challenge in this case comes in when these lamps require dimming capability, which incandescent and fluorescent lights have never had a problem with before at Choate.

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TRUSTEES MEET AT CHOATE



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

During its visit to Choate, Choate's Board of Trustees gathered for a celebratory ground-breaking on the construction site of the new St. John Hall.

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an executive committee for Choate's long-term development. In addition, the Board of Trustees, with Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis, attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the new St. John Hall on Friday, October 9.

A highlight of the Board's visit was the Student Life and Athletics Committee meeting, in which the Student Council and student representatives from student organizations such as Sexual Minorities and Straight Supporters (SMASS) and Choate Diversity Student Association (CDSA) communicated with the trustees concerning social issues of concern on campus. Rosetta Lee, Choate's feature speaker at the 2014 Choate Diversity Day, joined the conversation and focused on a survey which Choate students, faculty and staff completed this past spring that asks about the diversity culture and social justice issues on campus. The session focused on the importance of academic institutions such as Choate to consider cultural competency as a major conversation in the administration. Student

Body President Tomi Lawal '16 commented, "The school is looking to foster well-roundedness in being socially aware."

The Board of Trustees ended the week with a general meeting in the Andrew Mellon Library Reading Room, which was attended by senior administrative staff, Lawal, and Judicial Committee Chair Singhei Yeung '16. Topics included a curriculum review aimed at improving Choate's academic curriculum. The discussion was based on a survey last spring that asked for the opinions of the student body on Choate's curriculum as of now. The curriculum review coincides with Choate's first year of fully administering the culminating experience program, which replaces trimester exams at the end of each term and provides an opportunity for cumulative projects and more collaborative work. Based on the curriculum survey, focus committees such as the Committee for Health, Wellness, and Readiness for Adult Life, The Scheduling Committee, and the Committee on Diversity Inclusion and Social Justice were made to examine

and propose revisions to the current Choate curriculum. The Trustees demonstrated an emphasis on skills such as being able to think outside the box, the ability to communicate clearly, willingness to collaborate. In addition, the meeting also included conversation about Choate's endowment and discussion about the annually increasing tuition and its impact on Choate's application pool. "I was really pleased to hear that [the increasing tuition] was a conversation they're having," Lawal said.

"The board members are very committed to the future growth of Choate," Mr. John Cobb, faculty member and member of the Alumni and Parent Relations committee, noted. Ms. Megan Shea, another faculty member and member of the Alumni and Parent Relations committee, said, "We are in a pretty good place as a school. I am confident that the different priorities that the board sets will align with the values of the school and we will see improvements."

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DONATION TO RENOVATE PMAC

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hearing, so my wife and I suggested that it would be nice to provide those benefits."

Mr. Little's donation, according to Mr. Dan Courcay, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations, may have been influenced by his grandson Kohl Weisman's '15 involvement in Choate's arts program. (Last spring, Weisman was awarded the Francis Lemoyne Page Prize for Outstanding Contribution in the Creative Arts.) "While Ted and Fran never told us directly, I suspect witnessing all the extraordinary things their grandson experienced here had a direct impact on their decision to come forward with this gift," said Mr. Courcay.

Mr. Little explained that he was also spurred on by his failing health. Three years ago he went blind and, soon after, developed a terminal kidney disease. "During all of that," Mr. Little said, "it became clear to me that because of my limited time, I needed to do something significant for the school. My wife and I were talking one night, and we decided that we wanted to be a part of the theater."

Since construction on the Little Theater will not begin immediately, the Arts Department plans to use the next few months to examine its programs and courses. Mr. Little's donation arrives amid a school-wide curriculum review, and the Arts Department will be able to design and tailor the Little Theater to both accommodate the needs of students and fit a new vision of the Choate Arts Program.

Ms. Yannatos said, "The construction of the Little Theater grants us the opportunity to imagine and dream in new ways about how our programs might express themselves and how they

serve the students. I hope there will be a lot of informing back and forth. Programs informing space, space helping to inform and inspire programs, and doing things that we maybe haven't been able to do before because the space was not accessible or appropriate."

Throughout his years, Mr. Little has shown great commitment to Choate. In 2009, he funded the Heads of Schools Bust Project, located outside of the Sally Hart Lodge. Mr. Little later supported the construction of Phoebe House, the new Headmaster's house that was completed in 2013. In 2014, Mr. Little was given the Distinguished Service Award. That same year, Mr. and Mrs. Little joined a handful of supporters of Choate's Beyond the Classroom initiative by establishing the Ted Little '49 Family Beyond the Classroom Fund, which lends financial support to students who could not otherwise afford to participate in certain extracurricular activities.

Mr. Little said, "I developed a lot of pride in being at Choate, and I developed a very strong feeling about the School, about being in a special place. I made friends that I'm still close to." To this day, Mr. Little attributes his success as an investor and entrepreneur to his Choate education.

He went on, "Choate basically saved my life. As a young man, the only ambition I had was to play professional basketball, but Choate put me on a path to accomplish something with my life. I certainly felt a strong obligation to somehow repay the school for what it did for me."

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DRESS CODE REVIEWED

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"Is our dress code cisnormative?," "Is it too strict, is it too casual?," and "What standards are we trying to uphold?" As a committee we want to reflect on those questions and come up with a dress code that's a lot more clear and causes less stress between faculty and students."

Many Choate students and faculty believe that the current dress code needs some adjustments and that the school should enforce a more lax dress code that mandates appropriateness and lacks ambiguity.

Mr. James Davidson, an HPRSS faculty member, suggested a dress code that covers the bases of "neat, clean, and good coverage." He said, "I realize that it gets more complicated when you talk about length of skirts or shorts. I think that we could be much simpler and clearer." This may seem familiar, for Phillips Andover Academy enforces a dress code in which "students dress informally but with a sense of propriety."

The first meeting tackled the issue of identifying what the dress code looks like now, what people are saying about it, and what issues need to be addressed. As of right now, students not involved in the committee are not able to submit proposals. Currently, committee meetings are behind closed doors. However, students on the committee are currently creating surveys and focus groups to extend the discussions held during committee meetings. The committee recognizes that it's crucial to take the feelings of the community into account and not limit the discussions to solely their personal opinions.

However, like any new endeavor, the committee is anticipating its share of potential obstacles. The biggest challenge thus far is not being able to ensure that a future proposal will be initiated. According to Burton, "Even if we, as a committee, come to a consensus, we don't have any certainty that that's going to be taken to the next level because we're only a committee and the final decision about the dress code is not really in our hands." There is also the matter of coming to a consensus within the committee itself, which proves to be a challenge considering everyone's varying opinions on the philosophy of the dress code.

For now, the discussion

"We want to come up with a dress code that's a lot more clear and causes less stress between faculty and students."

Esul Burton '16

of amending the dress code has only begun. However, with the committee's strict agenda and various methods of reaching out to students and faculty throughout the school year, the future looks bright. Who knows? Maybe Choate students will be seen wearing blue jeans to class in the near future.

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CHOATE'S HEATING SYSTEM DECRYPTED

Jessica Shi '17
Staff Reporter

And Facilities said, "Let there be heat," and there was heat.

As autumn morphs into winter, students inevitably begin the annual round of complaints about the belated heat in dorms. From the average student's perspective, the underlying workings of the heating system consist of someone sitting in a dark room flipping a magical switch. Alan Luo '18 said the other day, "I know that there are systems in place to optimize when the heating comes on and that the Lanphier Center has..." he paused. "Actually, I don't know. I don't know anything." Here's how Jeff Niu '16 put it: "I live in a room. Heat goes in. There is a heating system."

Many think that, when summer's finally over and the cold creeps onto campus, Community Safety comes around to each dorm and turns on the heating units. Incorrect. Choate's heating system is far more intricate and sophisticated.

Mr. Steve Cahoon, Manager of Energy Management Systems, graciously explained how the heating system is

turned on, the different types of systems, and how the school maximizes energy efficiency. Regarding the first, computer systems are in place to determine the optimal time to enable the heat. Naturally, the primary consideration is outdoor air temperature, specifically when it starts to consistently fall below 50 degrees Fahrenheit in the evenings. For example, even though students felt an early fall chill, the average temperature this fall only dipped down to 50 degrees Fahrenheit for a few days. Therefore, since the average temperature has not consistently been 50 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, the heating in buildings such as dorms has not turned on yet.

After the heat is enabled, students and faculty can typically then turn on and control temperatures on a room-by-room basis. Some dorms also have thermostats in faculty apartments, so that faculty can control at what temperature the heat turns on for that dorm.

Heating systems vary considerably across campus, according to the type of building and how recently it was built or renovated. These include steam, hot water, radiator,

fan, forced air, heat pump, and electrical. The more recently renovated dorms tend to have fan units that use hot water in each room, while older dorms, such as Squire Stanley, have big radiators that use steam or hot water. Lanphier uses a forced air system, meaning that each room contains a device that changes the amount and temperature of the air that enters the room, allowing individual rooms to be heated or cooled. The KEC, as well as Bernhard and Tenney, use heat pump units as part of a geothermal well system. As students who have taken physics may vaguely recall, instead of depending on outside air temperature, this system runs beneath the ground, where the more stable temperature acts as a source or sink for heat, depending on the season. In the winter, when underground is warmer than the air, it enables a more efficient transfer of heat.

Thanks to the efforts of organizations such as the C-Proctors, most students are well versed in methods of heat conservation: close windows to minimize heat loss and turn off the heat during the day. Mr. Cahoon stressed



Photo by Arianna Gonzalez-Wagner

Heating systems around Choate, such as the one shown above from the Andrew Mellon Library, are very different from each other, and are quite more complicated than they appear to be.

the importance of the former: "We've had issues where pipes have frozen because it got cold enough with the draft through the open window." He added, "So, especially for vacations, it's important to close the window."

The heating systems themselves are also designed to be energy efficient. For example, since classroom buildings and office areas tend to be vacant

in the evenings and weekends, the temperature is lowered during those times. Newer buildings, such as Lanphier, also have additional systems in place to conserve energy. For example, the glass windows are designed to minimize heat loss. As Mr. Cahoon summarized, "We try to conserve where can, but we also try to maintain comfort level." He explained, "We try to get new-

er, energy efficient equipment that make it easier to heat and cool the buildings."

Thus, the great mystery of the Choate heating system is solved. Although, with the variety of heat systems around campus, students may be best off just wearing an extra sweater.

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2015 DIVERSITY EDUCATOR RETURNS



Photo by Sabrina Huett/The Choate News

Rosetta Lee spoke on diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism to Choate students and faculty during her revisit.

Dagny Belak '16
Senior Reporter

2015 Diversity Day speaker Rosetta Lee returned to campus last Wednesday and Thursday to meet with students and faculty members about diversity issues at Choate. Lee's visit was part of a follow-up discussion based on a diversity survey administered by Choate's Diversity Education Committee, and Lee met with several student groups, faculty members, staff members, and the Board of Trustees.

The DEC conducted the survey in May in an effort to better understand perceptions of climate and culture on campus, and ultimately ensure that Choate's campus was on in which everyone felt included. The AIM, or Assessment of Inclusivity and Multiculturalism, was administered through the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and made available to students, faculty, staff, current parents, recent alumni and trustees.

Lee's visit is the second step in this climate assessment process, and her visit provided the opportunity to go beyond the headlines to better understand survey results. Lee's familiarity with Choate and her exper-

tise in this area made her the ideal candidate to return to campus and help students appreciate difference and respect one another.

The survey, created by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and used by experts and practitioners around the country, was originally developed through a think tank group hosted by NAIS named "Call to Action." The survey includes questions that are developed to try and measure multiculturalism and diversity at schools. Students respond to the questions by selecting an option on a scale ranging from "completely disagree" to "completely agree." For example, a question might be, "I feel I can be myself at my school." The data was returned for this survey last May, and Lee was asked to help interpret the data by talking to students and hearing their stories.

Although Lee was happy to see the enormous amount of energy displayed at last year's Diversity Day, she treasured her recent opportunity to work with small groups of students and hear their stories. She met with various classes, hosted evening sessions, and met with students during A and B blocks this past

Wednesday. During these sessions, Lee talked with students about gender, sexuality, race, socio-economic status, and specific Choate programs, such as the Beyond the Classroom Fund, that feed into various topics relating to diversity. She also met with small groups of faculty members to discuss these topics—in particular, she hosted a workshop on inclusivity in athletics for all interscholastic coaches.

Fraynette Familia '16 commented, "During the session I realized that those who need to hear about equality and separation issues tend to shy away from the subject, or we don't address it as a whole campus; we end up neglecting the situation. She inspired me to never let anything slide. Every opportunity to let people in on my experiences, let's say, as a Latina student, is an opportunity to change someone's perspective." Familia, like many others at her shorter session that was held during classes on Wednesday, realized she could do something to make a change in the way Choate sees diversity. Familia also said, "I realized that, as a senior and as president of Hispanic-Latino Forum, it is important to set the tone for the younger students. I would hate for someone to feel excluded because they speak differently, learn differently, or otherwise. Choate is too good of an environment to succumb to ignorance and exclusivity."

Victoria Li '16 also attended a session specifically geared towards prefects and felt that she was able to get a sense of the different perspectives held by her fellow prefects on Choate's diversity and inclusion. Li commented, "It was personally very interesting to hear what my peer prefects had to say and to hear their perspectives on diversity and acceptance on campus. I was inspired to com-

municate with my peers more." Li also felt that she was able to walk away with a newfound sense of Choate's multiculturalism. "I think the session provided a platform for not only Rosetta Lee to learn, but also for me to get a more holistic scope of Choate's culture. I was able to find out more of how some people thought the school was divided."

Thao Pham '16 attended Lee's Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, which aimed to review the ways schools view diversity and how to obtain a greater sense of inclusivity. According to Pham, "Diversity shouldn't be superficially viewed based on external appearance and surface-level stereotypes. Diversity applies to everyone, even those that society would deem as regular, since it's multifaceted and encompasses many aspects of your life. Therefore all those identifiers, such as race, age, socioeconomic status and so forth, should be taken into account."

According to Lee, "Choate is trying to do big-picture things that allow for more diversity and for being a more aware community. Teachers are working on trying to incorporate that into the curriculum, and students groups are trying to create dialogue and safety in the community." Moving forward, she would like to see students take the time to fully listen to each other and accept the fact that people have different realities that span an entire spectrum. For Lee, "If someone can tell a story without people telling them they're being too sensitive or too politically correct, I think we can actually have dialogue and find that good people with good intentions come to a greater understanding of each other's intentions."

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NEW TRANSPARENCY OF STUDENT COUNCIL

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visitors. In response to the students sitting in on the meeting, the members of the Council were curious and a little uneasy, not, they say, because they were worried about outside people listening to their discussion, but because it was the first time they had multiple visitors at once. A week before this incident, a reporter for *The Choate News* had also attended a Student Council meeting on assignment, which was much different from the second incidence in which a group of reporters arrived.

Despite its open-door policy regarding visitors, the Council prefers that students either e-mail the Council or tell a member that they will be attending a meeting. According to Dr. Lauren Martini, one of the Council's faculty advisers, this suggestion is mainly because students will find some meetings more interesting than others. She added, "Sometimes we're just organizing who's going to do Daily Grind and sometimes, we discuss the issues that the kids are bringing in from the class committee meetings. These meetings are the really interesting ones," explained Dr. Martini.

Student Council President Tomi Lawal '16 also clarified that visitors only need to e-mail him or a member of the Council if they will join the meeting as guests who want to work with the Council. For instance, club presidents looking to host events with the Council or suggest charities for the Daily Grind should e-mail a Student Council representative before they come to the meeting, so that event can be added to the meeting's agenda. Lawal further explained that if

one wants to listen to the Student Council meeting discussion and not actively participate in the meeting, then he or she does not have to e-mail.

With the goal of better informing the student body in mind, the Communications Committee recently created a Student Council website, which is available through the Choate Portal. This website includes weekly meeting notes, the constitution, and a discussion board for students to use. Lawal described the site as "a venue for all Choate students to be able to use." "I think it really helps us take initiative and focus on certain things that we hear from our classmates," he added.

The Student Council website's purpose is to solve a problem that has existed in the past, and even in the present: the problem is that not everyone at Choate is aware of what the Student Council is working on. For example, fifth-former Naomi Chang '17 mentioned that although she does not have a clear idea of what the Student Council is currently doing, she believes that the new website will make it easier for members of the Council to communicate with the rest of the student body.

"It's good that they addressed the problem of transparency to try and fix it in the long run. I think it's definitely better than it was my first two years at Choate. I don't feel like there's necessarily a strong connection between the students and Student Council, but at least an attempt is being made to try to lessen the gap," explained Sofia Esquibies '17.

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TODAY IN HISTORY: MARIE ANTOINETTE IS BEHEADED AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF TREASON (1793)

WANT TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE? END THE WAR ON DRUGS



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

President Obama addresses the press about the Umpqua Community College shooting.

By **Leland Ben '17**
Opinions Writer

The grossly oversimplified politicization of the recent massacre at Umpqua Community College in Oregon has again sparked a national conversation on the effectiveness of 'common sense' gun control laws. The proposed measures, however, are abstract, cater to individuals, and impractical. Gun violence statistics point to a more dire issue: homicides as a result of drug-related violence.

Leftist pundits have been attempting to legitimize gun reform by championing universal background checks. This demonstrates an alarming ignorance towards how gun sales actually work in this country. These people have been so good at perpetuating these misunderstandings that many would be shocked to find out that background checks are already required for every single commercial firearm transaction, making guns the most highly regulated consumer product in the United States. Since 1938, commercial firearm transferors have had to be licensed by the government.

Commercial gun sellers are bound by federal law to conduct a criminal background check on all individuals purchasing a firearm. This revelation also extinguishes the myth of the 'gun show loophole,' or the belief that gun laws regulating transactions evaporate at gun shows; commercial and non-commercial dealers are still bound by the same laws. It is a popular misconception that a person with a felony conviction or a clinically insane indi-

vidual can walk into your local Wal-Mart and easily purchase an AR-15 assault weapon.

If common sense background checks are already in place on a national level, then what types of gun reform are the left really raving about? First, it is worth noting that there are over 300 million guns in America. Many Democrats spew out gun violence statistics about other nations, which cannot be replicated in the U.S. and entirely discount the increase in general homicide and crime rates in such nations.

If President Obama had

Gun violence statistics point to a more dire issue: homicides resulting from drug-related violence.

absolute authority for one day, the 'common sense' reforms he would initiate would entail a ban on assault rifles, magazine capacity restrictions, and a national gun registry. This would indeed amount to confiscation of weapons from the citizenry, which is a blatant violation of the Fourth and Second Amendments. Attempting to register and confiscate firearms would be not only a bureaucratic nightmare, but also a total failure. As has been proven in Canada and New York, the only people who would actually follow the law are the people who are law-abiding; a market of over 30 million illegal firearms would still be unchecked and ultimately wreak havoc on the now defenseless law-abiding citizenry. The evidence lies in the countries that have at-

tempted to do this, notably Australia and Canada.

The confiscation programs in these nations resulted in tremendous increases in armed robberies, home invasions, and general homicide rates because criminals failed to turn over their illegal firearms. America is not and never will be like Hong Kong or Japan, where gun culture does not exist, and dabbling in such policy to replicate these nations is a waste of time.

According to conservative talk show radio host Dana Loesch, over 80% of homicides are gang or drug-related. Thus, decriminalizing drug use would result in a large decrease in homicides. When Prohibition was repealed, gun-related violence plummeted significantly; however, since the 'War on Drugs' started with the Nixon administration, gun-related deaths have skyrocketed. What's more, ending the war on drugs would have several other positive effects beyond limiting gun violence.

The campaign itself has cost the federal government over a trillion dollars and has failed. Additionally, it would be a significant effort towards relieving overcrowded U.S. prisons filled with non-violent drug offenders. A regulated drug industry would nearly eliminate a black market and allow people to settle disputes peacefully in a court system and not through the barrel of a gun. By ending the War on Drugs, we can kill two birds with one stone. Let's end the War on Drugs, dramatically reduce gun violence, and get low-level drug offenders out of prison.

Leland Ben is a fifth former from Albany, NY. He may be reached at lben17@choate.edu.

GUN CONTROL IS AMERICAN

By **Jack O'Donnell '17**
Staff Writer

October 1, 2015 seemed to be like any other day. People went to their jobs, Choate students did their homework, and Christopher Harper-Mercer walked into Umpqua Community College armed with six firearms and murdered nine innocent people in cold blood.

No one was surprised.

As sickening as it is to say, it's unfortunately true. We as a nation have become so numb to mass killings and gun violence that we're no longer fazed by incidents such as the ones in Aurora and Charleston. And it seems like no one cares. As I write this, there have been 40,398 shootings in the United States in 2015. That's about one shooting every ten minutes.

And yet, we do nothing about it. We blame video games, mental health—everything but guns. Guns, we insist, are ingrained in American society, and they're not going away anytime soon. Our right to bear arms is essential to our rights as Americans.

We do not have to abolish guns to make American society safer for everyone. However, stricter gun control is essential to America: it will make America safer without the government infringing on the rights of its people.

The recent shooting in Oregon has sparked conversation about gun control in the government, and President Barack Obama is once again calling for gun reforms.

While the most publicized instances of gun violence may be mass shootings, they aren't the main issue. Nearly all gun violence comes from small shootings commonly perpetrated with illegally bought handguns. Opponents of gun control argue that these guns are bought illegally and that gun control would do nothing to stop these transactions that don't require background checks.

President Obama's 2013 gun control plan called for "background checks for all firearm sales, with limited, common-sense exceptions for transfers between family members and temporary transfers for hunting and sporting purposes." Furthermore, the President's plan suggested increased prison sentencing for possession of illegal firearms and sell-

ing firearms without a background check. These measures would greatly reduce the number of guns in illegal markets throughout the United States and would stop convicted felons and others who fail the background checks from getting guns—reducing the amount of gun violence in the United States greatly.

Besides making it harder for criminals to get guns, the President proposed that assault weapons and magazines of 10 rounds and larger should be banned. In the Aurora, Newtown, and Umpqua mass shootings, the gunman had an assault weapon; in the majority of shootings that occurred in the United States this year, the gunman has had a magazine of 10 rounds or more.

40,398

The number of shootings that have occurred this year in the United States.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't need an AK-47 to hunt pheasants. You don't even need an AK-47 to defend your home. The fact that assault weapons are legal is mind-boggling. It's a no-brainer. They were banned from 1994-2004, and since legalization they've only hurt people.

What's more, as Obama proposed, magazines of 10 rounds or more should also be banned, as this will reduce the rate of mass shootings and gun violence as a whole. This is just another part of the 'common sense' gun control that Americans refuse to accept.

Lastly, these laws will not inhibit law-abiding Americans from buying guns for recreational or defensive purposes. While it may seem inconvenient that you can no longer buy an automatic weapon with a drum magazine and go full "Rambo 2" next time at the range, it will be well worth it in the eyes of the 10,000 families of gun murder victims, as well as those who will inevitably be saved by this legislation.

Gun control isn't unconstitutional or un-American. It's about caring about those who are hurt and those who can still be saved. To me, that's as American as it gets.

Jack O'Donnell is a fifth former from Hong Kong. He may be reached at jodonnell17@choate.edu.

FOREIGN



DESK

Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Tunisian Group

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee has given the prestigious award to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. This group worked to build a democracy in Tunisia and to promote dialogue between opposing sides following the Jasmine Revolution in 2011. The group consists of a labor union, a trade confederation, a group of lawyers, and a human rights organization.

President of FIFA Suspended

President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Sepp Blatter has been suspended for 90 days. Under pressure after facing accusations of corruption, Blatter has announced that he will step down as president of the organization next May. Blatter has also been accused of accepting money from sports firms and giving payments to other football officials in Europe. Additionally, the United States Justice Department and the Swiss attorney general are also investigating Blatter.

Banks Pledge More Money to Combat Climate Change

The World Bank and other development banks have pledged to give an additional \$15 billion per year by 2020 to fight climate change. The target set last year was to eventually increase funding for this cause to \$100 billion a year. The money will be given to help developing countries fund operations including building sea walls, more heat-resistant highways, and relocating low-lying communities impacted by rising sea levels.

"Queen of Ivory" Arrested and Charged

Yang Feng Ghan, a Chinese woman nicknamed the "Queen of Ivory," was arrested in Tanzania. She has smuggled over 700 elephant tusks out of the country, worth 2.5 million dollars. Tanzania has lost about two-thirds of its elephants in the last decade due to widespread poaching of the animals.

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MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PROVIDE JUSTICE

By **Arielle Kassinove '17**
Opinions Writer

In September 2014, 43 Mexican students were abducted from rural Mexico. Unfortunately, the Mexican government has done an insufficient job of resolving the case and it may even have been involved in the abduction itself. The abducted students had been planning to protest at a conference held by the mayor of Iguala, a city in the southwestern state of Guerrero, Mexico.

The presumed story is that the mayor had asked the police to restrain the students, and when the students resisted, the police abducted the group and hired a local gang to murder the students that had not been captured. This January, after many hoped that they would be discovered alive, Mexico's attorney general officially con-

firmed the deaths of the students. It is abominable that so many government officials have allegedly played central roles in this tragedy.

The Mexican government has failed to solve this issue in many different ways. The government has failed to be transparent and will not disclose many details regarding the case. Mexico's president, Enrique Peña Nieto, has been at a loss for words on how to deal with this matter properly. Yet, the ex-mayor of Iguala, Jose Luis Abarca, and his wife have been arrested because they are suspects in the disappearances of the students. This issue is emblematic of a larger issue with the Mexican government—the government and the gangs are often one and the same.

When the incident happened in 2014, it was a major crisis for Mexico. Many have



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Graffiti in Iguala, Mexico states, "They took them alive. We want them alive. Solidarity with the 43 [missing] students."

hoped to exterminate corruption in the Mexican government, but this incident has clearly proved the country has a long way to go before that can be achieved.

How do supposedly honorable elected officials have such disregard for their own people?

sue affected the families of 43 students—imagine how many family members were hurt by what happened to their brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters, yet feel powerless because of their government's inaction.

The government and the gangs are often one and the same.

There is nothing the people of Iguala can do but raise awareness of the issue, hoping that doing so will appeal to the emotions of the government. However, in our globally connected world, people living outside of Mexico can make an effort to educate themselves about the conflict, and can join the citizens of Iguala in pressuring the government to rectify its wrongs.

Although the deaths of the disappeared students have been confirmed, the issue is still relevant a year afterwards. The families of the missing students still lead protests, demanding justice for the kidnapped students.

Unfortunately, there is little that the protestors can do because of the rampant government corruption in Mexico. Ideally, Nieto would take control of the situation, admit to the government's mistakes, apologize to the families, and move forward in the search for the bodies. However, until Nieto attempts to resolve the conflict, it is not only the responsibility of the citizens of Iguala to speak up—it's on all of us.

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is a fifth former from Laguna Beach, CA. She may be reached at akassinove17@choate.edu.

WAY BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Photo by Kristen Andonie

Everyone signs the matriculation book when they come to Choate. Only techies sign the scene shop when they leave.

Kristen Andonie '17
Reporter

Taking seats in the arts center, the audience watches as the final product of a Choate theater production unfolds. If everything goes according to plan, the effect is magical: it's as if the actors, set, lights, and sound all mysteriously appear out of nowhere. It appears seamless, but a spectator can't help to wonder, "What on earth is happening in that unknown territory called the 'backstage'?" Well, I am pleased to inform you that the uncharted world located behind-the-

scenes is not as intimidating as it may seem, and it is, in fact, a second home to many students and faculty.

When exploring backstage, an observer will encounter several noteworthy areas. At the end of a short hall is the Green Room, a comfortable common-room-style space used mainly for tech work, classes, and lounging. Just beyond the Green Room, a door opens to the Costume Shop, a classroom-sized space housing a myriad of labeled cardboard boxes, sewing machines, cloth, and cutting and measuring tools (as well as a TV). The shop is

where acting director, teacher, and costume designer Deighna DeRiu's and her student helpers design and create (you guessed it) costumes. Traversing this space will bring one to the Scene Shop, where Technical Director Mr. Brad Seymour and the tech students who sign up for Tech Theater as their afternoon activity or take one of the shop classes during the day construct sets.

The students and faculty who work with the theater program agree that the atmosphere backstage is one that epitomizes Choate values of respect and tolerance. The Director of the Theater Program, Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, said, "We work really hard to make this environment inclusive and safe so that the energy is always positive and joyful."

Lenard Sandberg '17, who works with sound tech, added that the "atmosphere is amazing. It's so inclusive. Everybody has their own walk of life, and we all come together and become little tiny cogs in the gigantic machine that is a tech production."

An important element of backstage life is the freedom students are granted to explore the world of theater and make independent decisions. Moreover, the backstage forms an interesting juxtaposition to Choate's academic setting; relations between students and teachers are less hierarchical. For example, all the faculty members in the theater department are addressed by their first names, without a prefix. According to Mr. Seymour ("Brad"), "Collaboration is really important for theater, and if you have that

student-teacher formality, it can get in the way of certain types of collaboration."

Tradition plays a fundamental role in backstage spirit. The most obvious ritual that graduating techie grandmasters observe is the signing of the walls and ceiling of the Scene Shop with paint (it's a wonder how students manage to sign the estimated 20-foot ceiling; apparently they use lifts). In addition to their names and graduating classes, seniors of the past have left a variety of messages, ranging from inspirational quotes to inside jokes: "If you eliminate the impossible, Whatever Remains, however improbable, must be the Truth. Julie '10" or "Hockey is life, the rest is Tech. 2005 Sam Bergan" or "The only People for Me are the Mad Ones... Cait '08". And, inexplicably, "Oh hey".

Farewell notes are so numerous that, as Nell Shaper '17, a tech theater arts concentration member, puts it, "Wall space for signatures is a commodity." Mr. Seymour says that in order to solve the problem a book was recently created to hold the "notes and advice to future generations of tech kids."

In a way, the backstage world of theater is a reflection of the ideals the Choate community seeks to uphold. With an open and welcoming ambiance, a greater emphasis on liberty of self-expression and discovery, and an avenue to follow Choate footsteps through the keeping of tradition, many regard the backstage Arts Center as a haven and a home.

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If You Could Change One Thing About Choate

By Stephanie Liu '17
Reporter

Although we love Choate, it is not perfect. Even when relaxing in a common room, friends often find their conversations drifting toward Choate's flaws. Students are notorious for complaining, but when asked the one thing that they would change about school, most people were flustered by the question. Here's what a few community members decided to say.

"I want more vegetarian food outside of just salad, because I don't like salad."
Anna Ekholm '17

"Dining hall service time - it's too short. I can't eat sometimes."
William Wu '19

"The class schedules, making it so that kids can better pursue their interests and not be bogged down by arbitrary restrictions and less homework in order to assist this endeavor."
Mpio Norris '18

"I would add a Starbucks."
Saloni Jaiswal '16

"The big issue is that people don't have enough empathy for each other. We get caught up sometimes in our own issues, but it's good to take a step back and consider how other people are feeling."
Cecilia Atkins '16

"I would change the day student and boarder integration: there's not much at all."
Arjun Katschia '19

"I would change early check-in [on Saturdays] to earlier in the day. A lot of activities start at seven, so if we have a movie that starts at seven, we actually have to start it at eight 'o'clock because students all have to go early check in."
Mr. Vincent Jones

"I would improve the social divide, in terms of the PMACers versus the football athletes versus the robotics kids."
Victoria Li '16

"The ITS opening hours, because so many times I've wanted to get my computer fixed, but they are always closed."
Amy Gao '19

"I would change myself, because I am the cause of all my problems."
Kevin Shen '17

MEDITATION

Riley Choi '18
Reporter

The dim lights in the chapel created a peaceful and warm atmosphere. Several students and I sat on the cushions on the floor and crossed our legs. Closing our eyes, we waited for the instructions. "Place your hands comfortably either in front of you or on your laps," Mr. Jim Davidson, an HPRSS faculty who advises Buddhist students, said. "Try to sit straight up, and try not to move during the meditation. Try not to be distracted and focus on your breathing: in and out." He continued, "Close your eyes or simply look in front of you." Mr. Davidson chimed the bell four times. The clear sound of the bell echoed throughout the chapel, and the meditation began.

Buddhist meditation at Choate was established by Mr. Davidson in 1976, and, ever since, it has been held on every Wednesday from 8:45 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. in the chapel. Some students participate in the meditation for religious or spiritual purposes, and others participate to relax from their hectic daily life. It is open to any student, regardless of his or her religious affiliation (or lack thereof). Buddhist meditation is not a club or an organization. It could be a time for reflecting on one's life or a time of relaxation. The number of students varies from session to session; this year, there have been as few as three or as many as nine. Mr. Davidson remembers in recent years that the largest group was 22 participants. Although, he also recalls a packed chapel the time that an entire grade was sent by its deans to meditate.

The meditation could be physically challenging, although the instructions of the meditation—crossing legs, closing eyes, and

breathing slowly—seem easy. A few minutes after the meditation, my legs started to have cramps because I had crossed them uncomfortably. I longed to move around freely. I noticed my breathing becoming faster, and I was distracted with the sound of cars passing by the chapel. With a level of coercion, I told myself to focus on the breathing, not on my legs or the cars by the chapel. When Mr. Davidson chimed the bell four times and indicated that the meditation was over, all the students stretched out and rubbed our legs to get the cramps out.

Mr. Davidson values meditating because of the benefits it provides. He explained that meditation is "a guaranteed quiet time with some simple but challenging instructions to follow. You fully focus on the present moment. In a way, it is a mind-training." He added that meditation could lead one to understand oneself better, and it gives opportunities for students to relax in the middle of the week. Meditation is a short pause during the day when one can put all the worries aside.

Choate students, myself included, do not have enough time to sit down, relax, and forget about the things that worry us, such as grades, athletic performance, and time management. It may sound impossible, but some students are able to find time to think for themselves, to rest, and to renew their focus during weekdays when their daily lives get hectic and challenging. As important as academics, sports, or extracurricular activities, the time students devote to themselves and to their own mental and emotional growth ultimately results in peace and comfort.

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THE VIEW FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW

Monday, 7:46 p.m.

The trustees took a photo on Mars (also know as the giant hole outside my window) to commemorate the construction groundbreaking. Instead, I think they were commemorating my future loss of hearing.

Grace Tully '16
Bungalow 202



FRIDAY PHILOSOPHY

Rachel Hird '17
Staff Reporter

Stop what you're doing! It's time to ponder the topics that really make your brain hurt (because we don't do enough thinking here already). Last week, I asked students around campus to answer extremely frustrating philosophical questions. Get ready to furrow your brow and flip some tables, because Choate is getting deep.

First question: what is reality? Take a moment to figure out your answer.

Are you ready with a response? Upon hearing this question, people usually sat in awkward silence for awhile, then mumbled, "Reality is... what's real?" After that realization, people felt more comfortable expressing their opinions. Karen Shure '17 believed that reality is everything made of matter, or in other words, everything in the physical world that humans can measure. No one rejected this definition outright, but there was some debate about whether or not mental states should be included. Claire Stover '17 believed that reality consists

of experiences, and therefore that an individual's thoughts cannot be included.

On the other hand, Bryce Wachtell '17 believed that reality is closely tied to our consciousness. He explained that while we sleep, dreams are our reality, though they are temporary. Some other students, tired of debating the issue, resorted to Googling the word. Even the Internet's definition was inconclusive: reality was either "the conjectured state of things as they actually exist, rather than as they may appear or might be imagined" or "everything that is and has been, whether or not it is observable or comprehensible." The teachers are right—you can't count on Wikipedia.

Next, I asked, "How do you define good and evil?" Now, I was expecting a unanimous answer: the terms cannot be defined because they are subjective. And while many students did believe this, others defined 'good' as something that benefited others. Grayson Brunjes '18 explained, "Good is something that's helpful to human existence." He added that the impact of a good thing, no matter how small, is still rel-

evant to society.

Wachtell had a slightly different opinion. "Good is acting with the best intentions to better yourself or others. Evil is doing the opposite of that. But everything is relative, so it depends on what scope you're looking through." So do good intentions make a deed good, or do good results make a deed good? Food for thought, thoughts for food.

"Good is something that's helpful to human existence."

Grayson Brunjes '18

Now, people got quite irritated when I inquired about souls. First, there was debate on what a soul was. People also had conflicting opinions about whether souls even exist. Some students, like Megan Diana '17, believed that a person's soul is "everything you are minus your body." That definition means that a soul includes a person's influences, experiences, and personality. Stover, Shure, and Wachtell all stated that a soul is a human's consciousness and

that it controls a person's physical actions. "We know that we exist both physically and mentally, but we don't know where they attach," Wachtell elaborated. He considered the soul the embodiment of our physical and mental self.

However, the real conflict arose from the question: what has a soul? Sofia Esquibies '17 thought that all living things have souls, including plants and non-human animals. Nathan Chang '17 passionately asserted that plants do not have souls, as did Diana, who exclaimed, "Plants don't even know they're alive!" Gabby LaTorre '17 agreed with both Chang and Diana, believing that a being can only have a soul if it is self-aware. LaTorre also believed that humanity's superior intelligence is the reason why humans have souls; therefore, other animals do not have one. (Most dog owners disagreed.)

Whew—philosophizing is hard work. Let's go watch Netflix and smell the flowers.

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SCHOOL'S NEW OBOIST ISN'T A CHOATIE

By **Sophie Mackin '18**
Reporter

You may have wondered why you never see Choate's Symphony Orchestra's new oboe player in the Lanphier Café or crossing the street between classes. Well, that's because oboist Johanna Alstott doesn't go to Choate!

For the past few years, there were students at Choate who were advanced-level oboists, such as Sonja Eliason '15 and Anne Wo '15. However, now that these two oboists have graduated, there are no longer students that play advanced oboe at Choate. The lack of an advanced oboist is problematic, as the oboe is a crucial member of the orchestra; the entire woodwind section tunes their instruments to the first oboe, and the intonation (or pitch) is the principal oboe player's responsibility.

In addition, the Choate orchestra plays music that requires a principal oboist. Therefore, the Choate oboe teachers recommended that Alstott step in. "She's a wonderful person and a wonderful oboe player. She's holding the section together with her intonation. She plays perfectly in tune," orchestral director Mr. Phillip Ventre commented. Alstott is also incredibly committed, driving to campus from New Haven for orchestra rehearsals and each week.

Though it may seem odd, Choate has brought in outside players for different instruments several times in the past. "An orchestra has to

have complete instrumentation. Each person has a specific assignment and role. Together, they form a group."

Alstott, who is currently 15 years old, began playing the oboe at the age of twelve. "I fell in love with the instrument, and at this point I wouldn't give it up for anything," she said. Alstott believes that the tone, color, and repertoire of the oboe make it one of the most beautiful instruments in the orchestra: "The orchestral repertoire for the instrument is astounding, and you rarely find a piece where there isn't an interesting oboe line somewhere," she said. Alstott also mentioned her fascination with "the non-musical challenges of the instrument, such as reed making and adjusting the oboe."

Alstott, who is also the principle oboist for the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra, enjoys the challenges of the Choate orchestra. In particular, she loves the fact that the orchestra is playing pieces from various time periods and cultures. Alstott is learning about Classical music (Mozart), 20th century South American ballet music (Ginastera), and a contemporary piece with strong jazz influences ("Uke Can't Be Serious").

Though she does not attend Choate, Alstott plays a significant role as the oboist in our orchestra. Be sure to keep an eye out for her at the next Choate Symphony Orchestra performance!

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Photo courtesy of Wallingford Symphony Orchestra

Renowned vocalist Rob Zappulla stunned the audience with his performance of more than two dozen songs by Frank Sinatra.

WSO CELEBRATES SINATRA'S 100TH

By **Sophie Hare '18**
Reporter

Friday marked what would have been Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday, so to commemorate, the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra (WSO) held a full-house performance in the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) featuring world-renowned vocalist Rob Zappulla. Choatians and citizens of Wallingford and beyond crammed into the PMAC to listen to Mr. Zappulla, backed by the WSO and his own Big Band, perform a total of 25 songs and two encores.

The show was a spectacle and delighted the audience. Mr. Zappulla frequently paused between songs to give humorous anecdotes and interesting facts about the life of Frank Sinatra

and, at the end of the performance in his second encore, even challenged the audience to a "Who can hold your breath the longest?" competition.

Of this interaction with the audience, Zappulla said: "Basically, what you see on stage is what you see at home. I like to goof around, have fun, tell jokes, and then when the music part comes, get serious." When asked if he had any advice for aspiring Choate singers, he replied, "If you do not have the passion, you many want to be an accountant."

Kathryn Twombly, the orchestra's librarian and a thirty-year member, found the concert to be extremely enjoyable and noted that there was a surprisingly large audience, remarking, "The feeling in here was electric!"

This performance was not Mr. Zappulla's first trip to campus. In fact, it wasn't even his first concert at Choate to commemorate Frank Sinatra. "Last year we did a Frank Sinatra tribute and had such a good audience that I decided to put out a centennial concert," he said. This year's program had about a dozen new songs, the result of the collaboration of Mr. Ventre, Choate's Orchestral Director, and Mr. Zappulla. "We worked well together putting a set list together that was different from last year but still had enough power behind it," Mr. Zappulla explained.

Mckynzie Romer '17, drummer for Choate's Jazz Ensemble, attended the concert to observe the jazz drummer's techniques and habits. She left

the PMAC blown away by Mr. Zappulla's performance: "It is incredible how accurate he is at sounding like Frank Sinatra!" she noted during intermission.

The WSO, led by Mr. Ventre, dazzled the audience as well. The orchestra received their 26 pieces of music only two weeks prior to the concert and had its first rehearsal on Friday night, just two days before the concert. Ms. Twombly quipped, "They were supposed to practice at home." Annually, the WSO performs about five major concerts, including one set of children's concerts. Elaine Shen '18 noted after the show, "The orchestra made his songs even more pleasing to the ear."

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THE LASTING POWER OF EVERY THREE SECONDS

By **Simran Sachdeva '19**
Reporter

One of the main purposes of Choate's Service Day is to inspire the community to make an impact, and this year's featured film *Every Three Seconds*, a documentary about world hunger and poverty, helped do just that. During Service Day on October 2, the screenings of this film left students inspired and in tears.

The film took the student body through the journeys of five characters who dedicate their lives to helping others.

Charlie Simpson, a seven-year-old boy, supports UNICEF UK; Josh Nesbit, a medical intern, uses technology to improve health care in impoverished communities; Ingrid Munro, gives people the necessary resources to climb out of poverty by running a micro-finance institution in Kenya called Jamii Bora; Lisa Shannon hosts runs to help Congolese women; and 68-year-old Gloria Henderson stands against world hunger by gleaning, or combing of harvested fields for left behind crops. *Every Three Seconds* showcased their inspiring work, sparking conversation.

The documentary was chosen with the intention to have a lasting effect. Ms. Mary Pashley, Choate's Director of Community Service, stated, "Our hope was that students would understand that hunger and extreme poverty is the reality for many people, and that they have a responsibility in their lifetime to help others whenever they can."

Fraynette Familia '16, a Service Day facilitator, believes that the movie provided a personal element: "It is one thing to just pack and not have any feeling for it, but knowing who your efforts are helping

and what problems you can change is powerful."

Every Three Seconds also highlighted ways that students can help from Choate. UNICEF and Women for Women, non-profit organizations who both have clubs, were featured in the documentary.

Every Three Seconds not only touched hearts and was educational, but reminded us that it is possible to make a difference no matter who you are, how old you are, or where you come from.

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Y.A. LIT OFFERS SURPRISING DEPTH

By **Michael Waters '16**
Reporter

The Young Adult (YA) category of books is heavily stigmatized. Despite its broad diversity of titles, it is known primarily for its blockbusters, including *Divergent*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, and *Twilight*. Although these are enjoyable, they are far from emblematic of the category as a whole. In fact, as someone who reads and writes YA, I often find that such titles inaccurately represent YA and imply that YA books forgo nuanced takes of our culture's complications for high-voltage drama.

YA is as rich and innovative as its counterpart, what you might call the Adult category. Take, for example, a science fiction novel about a boy who is cryogenically frozen and then reborn with his head attached to a new body (*Noggin*, by John Corey Whaley); a story of two runaway girls—one black, one Chinese—at the height of the Gold Rush (*Under A Painted Sky*, by Stacey Lee); or a multigenerational magic realism novel spanning the early 20th century about a girl born with angel wings (*The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender*, by Leslye Walton). These are the sorts of books that truly define YA.

YA is also a medium for social justice: Jason Reynolds's *All American Boys*, featuring a black boy who is beaten by a police officer after being falsely accused of shoplifting, looks at race relations in the United States. *Poisoned Apples* by Christine Hepperman, is an anthology of feminist poems that examines sexism through dark, retold fairy tales. *Dumplin'*, by Julie Murphy, tells of a plus-sized girl who enters a beauty pageant. Adam Silvera's *More Happy Than Not* explores the intersection of race, class, and sexuality, and Hannah Moskowitz's *Not Otherwise Specified* examines biphobia in and out of the LGBTQ community.

YA novels have literary merit. Though not a perfect category, YA is one where increasingly becoming the norm and where anyone can find plenty of meaning. If you'd like to read nuanced explorations of all parts of our culture, YA novels are the place to start.

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CHIOCCHIO '16 CAPTURES THE MOMENT

By **Nicole Yao '18**
Staff Writer

Have you met Caitlin Chiocchio '16? If not, you may have met her work, which is often displayed in the PMAC gallery. Chiocchio, a three-year senior from Branford, Conn., is an exceptional Arts Concentration visual artist.

Ever since she was young, Chiocchio has been interested in art. "My mom is an artist," she explained. "So I've been doing art ever since I can remember." Chiocchio now specializes in oil painting and drawing. When asked how art has affected her life, Chiocchio said, "It's a way to express myself."

"Caitlin's been passionate about art for a long time," Grace Tully '16, a friend, added, "I really admire her commitment." Anika Zetterberg '16, another artist, gushed, "She doesn't do anything halfway. She will keep pushing



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Chiocchio

Chiocchio '16 poses with her painting, "Out of the Blue."

a piece until it's reached her level of expectation."

In addition to pushing herself, Chiocchio helps other artists. "She's always asking what I'm up to and gives me honest but kind critiques," Zetterberg said. "She has been going around and talking to all the new Visual Arts Con kids as well, showing interest and support for their work."

Despite her exceptional talent, Chiocchio maintains a down to earth nature and

level head. "She never boasts or brags, and she is always accepting of suggestions and opinions." Zetterberg added.

In her free time, Chiocchio enjoys hiking and travelling. "My favorite thing to do is combine my passion for travel and exploring with my passion for art," she said. "Whether it be taking pictures or taking videos wherever I go."

Tully said, "Caitlin is one of the most adventurous spelunkers I know, and I think

her passion for exploration is reflected in her art."

"Art is very rewarding," Chiocchio said. "Capturing a moment is satisfying." Despite the relative dearth of opportunities to display visual arts on campus as compared to other mediums, Chiocchio has been successful in sharing her work with others. She has had her artwork displayed in Hill House lobby, and shows off her "naturally artistic mind in her stellar Instagram aesthetic," according to Tully.

Chiocchio, who will graduate this spring, is understandably excited for the future. "I'm going to have an art show at the end of the year," she shared. "And I'm definitely thinking of art school for college."

"She's incredibly gifted in every art form I've seen her try," Zetterberg concluded. "She personifies her art."

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GAME OF THE WEEK
BOAR PEN
 GIRLS' VARSITY VOLLEYBALL AT TAFT AWAY, SATURDAY AT 7 P.M.

SPORTS

The Choate News

SPORTS QUOTE OF THE WEEK



I'd be willing to bet you, if I was a betting man, that I have never bet on baseball.

- Pete Rose

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015

Boys' Crew Makes Waves As Key Race Looms

By **Martin London '17**
 Reporter



Photo courtesy of Row2K

Choate's first four-person boat, led by veterans Jay Kahle '16 (rightmost rower) and Chris Novak '16 (leftmost), finished second at both the Head of the Riverfront on October 4 and the Head of the Housatonic on October 10.

Norwalk River Rowing Association in their event. The first and second four-person boats placed fourth and fifth, respectively, out of 29 boats in a hard-fought battle. Choate Crew is, by no means, content with their placement, but the results show great potential for this squad and room for improvement. After a hard week of

training on the ergs and on the water, the boys of Choate Crew entered their next race, the Head of the Housatonic, with a vengeance. During the race on October 10, the first four-person boat, which was racing in a drastically different lineup from the weekend before, took second place in a race of 29 boats, only one second behind the Saugatuck

Rowing Club. Chris Novak '16, the second co-captain of the team and the stroke (front) seat of the first four-person boat, noted that, "The race was a huge improvement from the Head of the Riverfront. In the first four, we went from finishing in fourth place, 25 seconds behind Saugatuck, to finishing in a very close

second place." However, the devastation of that one-second loss only fueled the fire for Choate Boys' Crew. Hungry for more, they hope to satiate their thirst for victory at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston this coming weekend. The regatta is the largest two-day rowing event in the entire world, with roughly

11,000 athletes from across the globe expected to compete over the course of the weekend. The event draws in 400,000 spectators that all flock to Boston. The boys' first four-person boat, which is the only boat that Boys' Crew will be sending to Boston, hopes to find some serious speed. Kahle commented, "The Head of the Charles is a real test for us to see how we stack up against boats from across the country and across the world."

Looking forward, the athletes of Choate Boys' Crew hope to improve during the rest of the fall season and to prepare for the main event: the spring season. In the crew world, training is long-term and nonstop. The team is setting its sights on a gleaming golden trophy from the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association Championship, which will occur in May.

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Kayakers: Casual, but Crazy



Photo Courtesy of Kojo Clarke

Two audacious oarsmen and members of Intramural Kayaking take the water on a breezy, almost perilous day.

By **Emilia Furlo '17**
 Staff Reporter

more than crew physically, and that's not easy; but you begin to crave the adrenaline."

away from her boat and towards the waterfalls that are sometimes as high as twenty five stories.

"What have I signed up for?"

Arianna Gonzalez-Wagner '16
 Kayaker

Anything can happen out there on the water, so it's not surprising that several of these group members report capsizing, and a lucky few have even had encounters with the Great Whites (waves) that encircle the kayaking site. These daredevils paddle through the shark-infested waters only to encounter some of the roughest rapids Connecticut has to offer. Moving at speeds of over 2 miles/hour, this group faces the threat of capsizing and even the chance of never remounting the boat and straying from the group. Gonzalez-Wagner continued, saying, "I sometimes question my decision to join kayaking. What have I signed up for? Is this rush worth the risk I'm putting myself in?" Violent water currents can push a hopeless kayaker like Gonzalez-Wagner

In an interview with the group, I asked a few questions about their life off of the water. The students unanimously agreed that their favorite pump-up song was "Row, Row, Row Your Boat;" however, their favorite artist was FloRida. If they had to have one app of their phone it would be KaYikYak. And finally, most admitted to canoeing as their guilty pleasure.

Extreme kayaking is a sport known to few, but it's making big waves in the States and the town of Wallingford already. These brave souls congregate several times a week, never knowing if it will be for the last time and never seeking the glory that comes with being an intramural kayaker. Proceed with caution if you bump into one around campus; these thrill-seekers are known to be more dangerous than the art of kayaking itself.

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VARSITY TEAMS GO 3-4 ON ANDOVER DAY

By **Jackson Elkins '18**
 Staff Reporter

Boys' Cross Country: Varsity 34-21 L, JV 15-43 W (low score wins)

Andover going on to take the final set and the match 15-12 and 3-2, respectively. However, the girls in Gold and Blue have nothing to hang their heads over, as they nearly defeated a championship contender, down two starters, a sign of obvious success to come. The Wild Boars take on Taft this coming Saturday night.

Choate students and faculty alike place a tremendous focus on our athletic rivalry with Deerfield Academy. However, a longstanding tradition that is less regarded is Andover Day, the annual day where Choate and the Big Blue face off in a variety of sports. Like previous years, Andover challenged our forces across the board, with Football, Cross Country, Volleyball, and Water Polo battling to the final ticks for their respective results.

Football: 27-15 W

The Wild Boars got off to an uncharacteristically slow start, being held scoreless through the first quarter. Things got even tougher for Choate when postgraduate quarterback Steven Genova '16 sustained an injury that ultimately kept him out of the game. However, in the ranks, Pat Piscatelli '17 came on in relief of Genova and filled the absence brilliantly. Running the offense down the field, Piscatelli ran 15 yards to the end-zone to put the first points up on the board. There was no looking back for the Gold and Blue, as they responded each time Andover began to gain momentum, including a huge kickoff return by Abu Daramy '16 after an Andover touchdown: his second of the game. This widened the Choate margin to 27-8. As was expected, football continued their unbeaten streak, improving to 4-0 on the year.

The Choate harriers came confidently into the day, hoping to grab a win after a slow start to the season. Last year, this race was a near-disaster for the Wild Boars, who were almost shutout by an older, more talented Andover squad. This year was a different story, however, with Choate in position to potentially win through the first 1.5 miles. However, the older Andover squad began to pull away at this point, taking 3 of the top 5. Huge performances from Joe Berrafati '17 and co-captain Matt Burlage '16 kept Choate in the race. Griffin Birney '18 led the Class of 2018's "Legion of Zoom" (Birney, Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18, Matt Kim '18, and Jackson Elkins '18) with a strong performance as well. Junior varsity was simply sensational; the first seven runners across the finish line were all Wild Boars.

Girls' Volleyball: 2-3 L

This was a huge contest for Varsity Volleyball going up against Andover, as the teams have a combined 5 New England Championships since 2009. However, with Choate down two starters, this was going to be a tough bout for the Wild Boars. The match was dead even through four sets, as each squad had two sets a piece. Amassing a 10-3 lead early in the final set, the smallest mistakes ended up making the difference, with

Water Polo: 14-12 W

Saturday was a test for the aquatic-loving Wild Boars, coming off a sudden death loss the previous week to Exeter. After three quarters, the scoreboard read 10-9, in favor of Andover, going into the final quarter of play. Choate eventually evened up the score to 12-12 with 5:00 to go in the 4th, when Co-captain Omar John '17 played the role of hero, scoring twice to give the Wild Boars the 14-12 victory over Andover. The game was highlighted not only by John's play, but also by that of goaltender Jake Mackenzie '17, who played the entire game in both ends for the Gold and Blue. Stefan Kassem '17, an absolute offensive weapon for the Wild Boars, scored not once, not twice, not thrice, but eight times over the course of the game, annihilating the Big Blue defensive scheme and propelling the aquatic Wild Boars to a much-needed victory.

Tomorrow, several varsity Wild Boar teams head off to Taft. Stay tuned!

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Girls' Soccer	1	varsity weekly scoreboard				Girls' XC	50
Andover	0					Andover	15
Boys' Soccer	1	Football	27	Girls' Volleyball	2	Boys' Water Polo	14
Andover	3	Andover	12	Andover	3	Andover	12
						Boys' XC	34
						Andover	21