



WELCOME TO CAMPUS, PARENTS!

ACTIVISM WEEK PROMOTES EMPATHY

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**
Reporter

After seven days of promoting education and awareness for the LGBTQ community, Activism Week, formerly known as Ally Week, came to a close this past Sunday, October 18. An interactive gender spectrum chart outside the dining hall, a movie screening of *Pride*, and discussions hosted by several student groups were all part of an effort to inform the community on issues ranging from the meaning of labels to how to be an activist.

For the past several years, Choate has been supporting Activism Week, a national initiative run by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). A host of student-run clubs on campus—SMASS (Sexual Minorities and Straight Supporters), CALSA (Choate Afro-Latino Student Association), CDSA (Choate Diversity Student Association), and SAGE (Students Advocating for Gender Equality)—sponsored and organized Activism Week this year for the Choate community.

SMASS and SAGE kicked

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Photo by Arianna Gonzalez-Wagner/The Choate News

Mr. Philip Ventre directs Choate's Jazz Ensemble during last Tuesday night's special program. The performance featured pieces by Count Basie and improvisational solos by several students.

EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL VISITS CHOATE

Author of summer reading book interviewed on stage by Choate alumnus

By **Haley Chang '18**
News Staff Reporter

Choate welcomed Ms. Emily St. John Mandel, author of this year's required summer reading book *Station Eleven*, to speak to students and faculty on Wednesday, October 14. Apart from being the author of the widely-acclaimed novel, Mandel is also a 2014 National Book Award finalist and a 2015 PEN/Faulkner Award finalist.

The Summer Reading Committee, a group of seven English teachers, convened last year to select the summer reading and plan the author's visit. As a part of the School's 125th anniversary celebration, the committee also invited Choate alumnus Mr. Kelefa Sanneh '93, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, to interview Ms. Mandel on stage at an all-school meeting.

The school meeting did not include the usual open

microphone Q&A session for students. Instead, the school meeting took the form of a candid conversation between the two guests.

The discussion between Ms. Mandel and Mr. Sanneh generally aroused positive reactions from the audience. James Rose '18 commented, "I really liked this format of having a conversation, especially since the interviewer was so eloquent and relatable. I think the interview was very effective in keeping

the audience engaged."

However, many students expressed the need for student involvement in special meetings. Sabrina Xie '17 suggested: "It would've been better if we had a special program at night instead of a school meeting, especially since I felt that the interview was rushed towards the end. Also, if we had a special program, there would've been enough time for some form of

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HEALTH CENTER WAIT TIMES CAUSE CONCERN

By **Varshini Kumar '17**
Copy Editor

It has never seemed likely that every student at Choate who gets sick will hear, within minutes of arriving at the Pratt Health Center, "How can we help you today?", yet over the past several weeks wait times for patients have grown to lengths that most consider unreasonable. Some students, with complaints ranging from a mild cold to severe headaches, have reported waiting up to 30 minutes to an hour. As cold and flu season approaches, the Choate community has begun to wonder why.

Cammi Chester '17 described a recent experience at the Health Center: "I went in because I had a fever, and I felt like I was going to faint. I was there waiting for an hour and a half before just leaving, since I had already missed a class and a half."

Kate Moore '17, who recently had scheduled a walk-in appointment, told *The Choate News*, "It took them twenty minutes to get to me, and there was no one else in

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NEW FIREWALL TO SPEED UP CHOATE'S WI-FI

Plagued by Wi-Fi issues, ITS will increase bandwidth to handle increasing online activity

By **Nathan Chang '17**
Circulation Manager

For the past several weeks, after hearing repeated student and faculty complaints about slow Wi-Fi upload and download speeds, Information Technology Services (ITS) has been diligently working to resolve the issues.

Mr. Andrew Speyer, the director of ITS, explained that the problem with the Wi-Fi was the result of multiple smaller issues. "My analogy is that it's very much similar to a river of polluted water flowing down a stream. We've reached the tipping point," he said.

This year, academic buildings switched to a different wireless vendor. This



Photo by Ariana Gonzalez-Wagner/The Choate News

Student and faculty complaints of slow Wi-Fi have prompted ITS to take serious measures to fix the system.

transition has been rocky; the access points, which are devices that allow wireless devices to connect to a network, need to be fixed frequently, causing lags in streaming times. Moreover,

the school's switch to Microsoft Office 365 has created congestion. Office 365 operates on cloud storage, which means that data is distributed among multiple servers in various locations.

Now, every student must access Office 365 to get to his or her e-mail, so at any one time, hundreds of devices are connecting to a server.

However, according to Mr. Speyer, the campus's biggest problem concerns bandwidth, which measures information capacity. "We are saturated with our bandwidth. We need more bandwidth, which would be easy to get. However, our current firewall, which is the device that all the traffic goes in and out of, is maxed out."

A firewall is a security system that regulates the amount of data that flows into a network. When a firewall reaches maximum capacity, it cannot transfer more data. If there are a lot of people using the Internet,

they will experience a slower connection. By increasing the bandwidth, ITS can increase the amount of data that can be brought to computers, and consequently, speed up the Internet connection.

"Our current firewall, which is the device that all traffic goes in and out of, is maxed out."

Mr. Andrew Speyer
Director of ITS

ITS hopes to speed up the Internet connection by installing a new firewall. Mr. Speyer said, "We hope to have the new firewall in by after Thanksgiving, and

that should solve an enormous amount of problems, since we'll double our bandwidth."

The process of replacing the current firewall is laborious. Moreover, upgrading the firewall will not solve a more fundamental issue—managing the sheer amount of data that students use daily. Streaming videos, making Skype calls, and playing video games all tend to increase data demands, and Choate's wireless system cannot currently keep up with these demands.

Part of why the Wi-Fi system is struggling at the moment is that Choate is currently transitioning between wireless networks.

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Now in its 109th year, The Choate News is written, edited and designed by students to cover events at the school and to offer a forum for opinions of significant interest to the Choate Rosemary Hall community. The Choate News is published weekly on most Fridays while school is in session.



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I.D. LAB INSPIRES STUDENTS

By **Mehreen Pasha '18**
Reporter

Ever since the i.d. Lab opened last spring, students have used the space to do many things, including attending classes such as "Reverse Engineering: How Things Work", designing robots, and making Halloween costumes.

Moreover, under the leadership of Mr. Travis Feldman, the i.d. Lab facilitator, the i.d. Lab has expanded its supply of materials. This action is a part of an effort to broaden the contraptions that students are able to create in the facility. Among other things, the i.d. Lab is now equipped with a sewing machine available to all students.

For those who have yet to explore this part of Lanphier Center, the i.d. Lab consists of three large classrooms, one smaller classroom with computers, and two workrooms. One of the rooms in the i.d. Lab has an electronic station in the back brimming with a myriad of materials: electricity-measuring devices, multimeters, and LEDs, to name a few.

Mr. Feldman hopes that more students will utilize the resources in the i.d. Lab. "Once you get started and have any curiosity or willingness to jump into it, there are millions of projects out there that you can go learn from."

For those new to designing, programming, and building, students can use the Arduino board, a small programmable computer. Students can use these boards to build robots or other interactive devices. Mr. Feldman stated, "That it's easy to do has caused people all over the world to start making projects with Arduinos."

On the other hand, experienced students can use the more complex Raspberry Pi boards in the i.d. Lab. Raspberry Pi boards are more technical than Arduinos, but can allow students to do more.

The projects students do in the i.d. Lab don't have to necessarily be STEM-related. In fact, with Halloween approaching, Mr. Feldman described the process by which students can incorporate electronic components into their costume. "Let's say you want to make a Halloween costume that moves, like a Yoshi costume. You need a tail that's bouncy and a mouth that moves. What you would do is look online and see if there are projects that have involved costumes with motors that move the mouth and the tail. You would base your project off of other projects that you find."

Choate students have already started to utilize the i.d. Lab. Last year, Adham Meguid '16 worked on a piano stairs project (an idea proposed by Danica Lee '16) with the STEM club. According to Meguid, "The goal of the project is to trigger piano sounds and activate lights as people ascend or descend a staircase." They created a prototype of the project that triggered LED lights up the staircase. However, due to its exposed wires, a potential safety hazard, they were not able to install it. Meguid and others in the STEM club are planning to redesign and recreate the staircase, so it can be mounted in the future.

Mr. Feldman's overall goal is to "allow students to build and create their own electronic devices."

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DR. DIAMOND ADDRESSES LONG WAIT TIMES

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the Health Center."

Many students who arranged appointments in advance experienced similar delays. "I was told I had an appointment with Karen Klein at 12:00 p.m., and they took me at 1:00 p.m.," recounted Lucas Ferrer '17.

Dr. Christopher Diamond, who began as Choate's new Director of the Health Center this fall, pointed out that Choate's schedule inherently causes congestion in the Health Center. "We have seven blocks in a day. When are students allowed or encouraged to come to the Health Center when they are feeling ill? At the beginning of a free block or beginning of a block. So most students will show up at the beginning of the block."

He added, "Every person is on the same schedule. The times they can call and the times they can come are going to be the same. Automatically, with the way we set things up, there is going to be a bottle-neck. Depending how long it takes to take care of the people in the infirmary, the waiting times can get longer and longer."

Moreover, stressed students also go to the Health Center, which adds to the list of patients waiting to see a doctor. "Every single person in this community has similar stressors. Everyone has midterms at the same time, seniors take the SATs at the same time. We

may have subgroups of people, such as orchestra, who are under huge amounts of stress at the same time."

Another possible cause of the waiting room traffic jam is the recent spike in sickness. Ms. Ann Polleta, a registered nurse, remarked, "Just recently in September, several students were sick on campus with a variety of things. We were seeing so many children that we couldn't catch our breath."

Dr. Diamond agreed, "We've been very busy. My first day here, I think there were at least eighty student visits, which was an incredibly busy day." He continued, "There's been no doubt that for the first three weeks, it has been very busy. Until then, we had been missing one medical provider. I think Karen and I have been very busy with appointment slots as well."

"I don't want to make radical changes before I know how things work. That could throw everything off."

Dr. Christopher Diamond
Director of Health Services

As Dr. Diamond arrived at Choate only four weeks ago, he still has to acclimate, "As I am more comfortable here and get to know the process better, you will automatically see wait times get better," he said.



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

Recently, students have complained of particularly long wait times in the Pratt Health Center.

He continued, "No matter what solution we have, there will be situations in which demand overwhelms capacity, and wait times will occur. But we can do a better job always of communicating, of trying to help students find more convenient and useful times for themselves, and to do all of that without compromising the type of care we provide."

The majority of students who go to the Health Center sign up for walk-in appointments. These students are seen in the order of their arrival, unless a student is in critical condition. Dr. Diamond said, "Most students that are coming in are walking in to be initially seen by the nurse to determine whether they need to be seen by Karen or me." The Health Center tries to accurately access the severity

of a student's illness. "We try to do our best to triage quickly, and we take a child that is bleeding or a child that can't breathe first," explains Ms. Polleta.

He continued, "What we do in the Health Center is so effective in so many ways. Until I know that certain changes to the system won't affect our ultimate goal of providing the best possible care to students, I don't want to make radical changes before I know how things work. That could throw everything off."

For some Choate students, wait times at the Health Center hasn't been an issue. Ranjan Guniganti '16 recalled spending a long time in the waiting room during his visit to the Health Center, but he pointed out, "I felt it was pretty reasonable considering the line ahead of me,

which consisted of a dozen people."

However, Dr. Diamond hopes to find ways to make visits to the Health Center more efficient. For the future, he wishes to create an online Health Center updating system. "Students might not check in and sit down, but we might be able to provide them with the opportunity to select an open appointment slot later in the day, or at the very least start to post something about what our wait time is now. If you're not so sick, you can go and come back."

Dr. Diamond added, "Our goal is that a person should never have to wait more than 30 minutes before being seen, and ideally shorter."

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Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

Choate alumnus Mr. Kelefa Sanneh '93 interviewed *Station Eleven* author Ms. Emily St. John Mandel last Wednesday during school meeting.

NOVELIST VISITS CAMPUS

Continued from Page 1

student interaction."

Two of the most-discussed topics in the interview were the book's fictional pandemic and its recurring allusions to Shakespeare. Ms. Mandel explained, "I did a fair amount of research in historical pandemics, which made me realize the extent of smallpox's influence—particularly how it affected Shakespeare's life and the era that he lived in. That finding cemented my decision to make the traveling company an exclusively Shakespearean company, because it seemed that people in Shakespeare's time would have also been somewhat haunted by memories of the pandemics."

As writers, Ms. Mandel and Mr. Sanneh both incorporate their passions into their work. In accordance with her interest in the arts, Ms. Mandel had the idea of having a traveling company of actors in a post-apocalyptic setting in *Station Eleven*. Ms. Mandel explained: "I wanted to write about the lives of actors because I'm very interested in film and theater; I wanted to

write about what it meant to devote your life to art. But I also wanted to write about the modern world, in terms of the apparatus of technology. So it occurred to me, an interesting way to write about that would be to write about its absence, to consider what lives would be like if all technology that we take for granted was gone."

Similarly, Mr. Sanneh used the skills and passions he had developed at Choate to serve a greater audience. While at Choate, Mr. Sanneh explored his passion for music by playing in a rock band and hosting a show on School's radio station. After working for seven years as the pop-music critic for *The New York Times*, Mr. Sanneh moved over to write for *The New Yorker* in 2008.

After the school meeting, Mr. Sanneh had the opportunity to visit a sophomore English class to talk about his experiences as a journalist and answer questions that students had. He offered his advice to the students in the class: "The important thing is having something that you are excited, passionate, and obsessed about even if that

has nothing to do with school. When I was attending school at Choate, I did the radio station. You wouldn't have believed it at the time that my passion for music, in a way, would end up being my career—I was just a kid who was obsessed with records. For me, it's these interests that really ended up shaping my life."

Ms. Mandel is working on another novel, as well as a full-length version of the comic book in *Station Eleven*.

To aspiring writers, Ms. Mandel advised, "There are two things. The first is to read constantly, and read things that are challenging. Even books that are bad can teach you a lot about writing because you can think about why the book didn't work. My second advice is actually from a quote by Neil Gaiman: 'You have to finish things—that's what you learn from, you learn by finishing things.' It's easy to start anything, but finishing is how you push through difficult moments and become a writer."

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ITS EXAMINES SLOW WI-FI

Continued from Page 1

Last year, during the construction of the Lanphier Center, ITS decided to transition to a new network with faster access points. The switch began over the summer. Now, as a result, there are two Wi-Fi networks on campus: the old 'CRH' network and the new 'Choate' network. Dorms use the CRH network, but the Lanphier Center and a few other academic buildings use the Choate network.

Mr. Speyer explained that the complete switch to the Choate network is a gradual process. He said, "It's going to take a couple of years. We started with five academic buildings this summer; we're going to have the library and other buildings next year." In the meantime, he explained, "There are more people on the CRH network, so it's obviously slower." Once ITS fixes the access points, wireless devices will connect to the Wi-Fi network faster, and the Choate network will better accommodate students' Internet needs.

Choate has also experienced technological difficulties with the firewall and the school website. Last week, the website Amazon was blocked for students using the school wireless internet. Mr. Speyer explained, "I think Amazon got incorrectly flagged as spam. When sites see us spamming them, they block us." A similar situation occurred with Google.

"Usually it's because somebody's computer has a virus, and it goes out of our network and gets tagged as a Choate account," said Mr. Speyer.

Also, on Monday, October 12, the Choate website crashed for several hours because the company that hosts the Choate website had a malfunctioning disk drive. The company was supposed to have a system in place so that if one system goes down, another goes up. Though the company quickly fixed the problem, the reason that the second system did not go up is uncertain. Mr. Speyer noted that crashes like this one happen at most once a year.

"It's very similar to a river of polluted water flowing down a stream. We've reached the tipping point."

Mr. Andrew Speyer
Director of ITS

Mr. Speyer concluded, "I'm very appreciative of the students and the community being patient with us. I understand that it the Wi-Fi is choppy, especially when using Netflix and Skype. I understand the importance of that kind of stuff, and we're working hard to fix it."

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DIGITAL ERA PROMPTS BIG LIBRARY CHANGES



Photo by Arianna Gonzalez-Wagner/The Choate News

Choate's new director of the library, Ms. Jennifer Tuleja, hopes to make fresh changes and modernize the Andrew Mellon Library.

By **Kevin Chyun '18**
Reporter

Ms. Jennifer Tuleja, the new director of the Andrew Mellon Library, hopes to transform the library in order to make it more accessible to Choate students.

After former director Ms. Diane Langlois retired from Choate after an industrious 30-year career, Ms. Tuleja was appointed the new director of the Andrew Mellon Library. With an extensive background in running research libraries to providing revitalizations for libraries at other schools, Tuleja hopes to incorporate her skills and ideas into the Choate library. Tuleja's past experience includes working at the Massachusetts Historical Society as a research and reference librarian, and even working in the libraries of The Hotchkiss School, University of Montana, and the St. George's School, where she was the Director of Library Services/Archives. At St. George's School, she headed an \$8 million renova-

tion of the entire library, which transformed the library into a LEED Gold Certified building. She headed another revitalization and modernization project at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Newport, Rhode Island, where she was the Executive Director.

Ms. Tuleja wants the library to interact more with the school community by hosting student events. She noted that the library is mainly used for academic purposes. Ms. Tuleja remarked that the image people have of the library is unnecessarily traditional. Thus, Ms. Tuleja hopes to dispel this notion by having the library host some school-wide events, such as flash mobs and even speeches by famous speakers.

Another way Ms. Tuleja hopes to challenge traditional perceptions of the library is by collaborating with the i.d. Lab. Though she currently does not have any concrete plans, she hopes that the library can help all students in their endeavors.

Ms. Tuleja believes that students don't realize the ex-

tent of the resources in the library. The library holds hundreds of volumes that never leave the shelves. Once, she noted that there was a book the Choate library had, but students didn't realize and to check out that book from the Wallingford Public Library instead. In addition, there are hundreds of books brought in the 1930s or 1940s that have never been checked out. Thus, Ms. Tuleja hopes that students will use the databases on the library portal's website to check out more books. She wishes that students would take advantage of all the resources available in the library. Her ultimate goal is to for the library to act as an "incubator space" for Choate students to brainstorm new ideas. According to Ms. Tuleja, "I want library to be a place that incubates ideas for students." Overall, she hopes to make the library a place that everyone can use to casually spend his or her time.

The first change Ms. Tuleja plans to make is with the physical building. She noted

that the current library is older compared to other buildings on the campus. The walls of the basement were painted with various colors a few decades ago.

Ms. Tuleja hopes that in a few years, she can make the library into a modern place that plays an integral role in the school community. Overall, she truly wants a modern space like the Lanphier Center, and she hopes to make the library a place that everyone can use to casually come and go out and spend their time. She also hopes to collaborate with the i.d. Lab in the Lanphier Center and wants the library to be a place that supports what the i.d. Lab students are doing, instead of operating separately. In the future, Tuleja desires to initiate her plan for renovating the library in a few years. If students are fortunate, they may be able to experience a modern, trendy library at Choate.

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COMMUNITY HONORS CHARLESTON SHOOTING VICTIMS

Students and faculty gather in Chapel for a candlelight vigil

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Reporter

On June 17, 2015, a man opened fire during a bible study in Charleston, South Carolina, killing nine members, including Reverend Clementa Pinckney, the church's pastor and a member of the South Carolina Senate. The perpetrator, Dylann Roof, planned this crime, which took place in the Charleston Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church. The church holds immense historical significance as a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement, and was founded by Morris Brown, an avid abolitionist, in 1816. Many civil rights activists, including Martin Luther King Jr., spoke at the Charleston Emanuel Church. This devastating event is just another example of the pertinence and persistence of racial discrimination in the United States.

The Spiritual Life Department at Choate and Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance (CALSA) hosted a candlelight vigil and open-mic session at the Seymour St. John Chapel on Saturday to commemorate the nine lives lost in the Charleston Shooting as a community.

Before the Saturday vigil took place, Ms. Ally Brundige, known fondly as "Chappy B," expressed her hopes for the event: "With an event like this, my primary hope as chaplain of the school is that it creates a safe space for those who want and need to reflect, speak, be together, and support one another in reckoning with the continued presence of racism and racialized violence in our nation and in our world, and whether [a] few [people] or many attend, that is my primary purpose. Of course it would be wonderful if a large portion of campus turned out to make that kind of stand against racialized violence and in this case, a white supremacist violence."

On Saturday night, about thirty students and faculty members came together to address the issue and share their hopes and fears about the future of racial justice. While various clubs provide an opportunity for students to discuss different issues, the open-mic session provided a unique, intimate atmosphere in which students and faculty could open up about their own views and

experience.

"I go to an AME church, which is the division of Christianity the victims were a part of. In our church, there is a huge focus on welcoming outsiders. It really struck me how horrifying it was. Since I grew up in the church, I was trained to give visitors everything you have, such as special care. For them to welcome him [Dylann Roof] with open arms and for him to murder them was awful. The vigil made me realize the scope of what happened and the scope of racism," said Blair Cox '17, secretary of CALSA.

"I didn't really realize how deeply the shooting affected the people who weren't directly connected to it."

Pascale Huntsinger '17

The candlelight vigil also provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the event from one another and reflect. While reading the news can act as a foundation for information, it can be hard to grasp the emotional depth of the event. Face-to-face discussions allowed the students to see the many facets and depth of the Charleston shooting.

"I thought a lot of what people said during the open-mic was heavy, but in a good way. It made me think about the shooting in a way I hadn't thought about before. I didn't really realize how deeply the shooting affected the people who weren't directly connected to it," Pascale Huntsinger '17 said.

When questioned about the plans for the future, Chappy B said, "In general, it's a personal mission of mine to stand against injustice, in this case racial injustice. It does not stop after Saturday's vigil, and it doesn't stop at the Choate border. I do hope we can continue to have conversations, and I think you all as students are doing countless things to inspire those conversations. Those conversations need to continue. I think we as faculty and administration are doing a lot for inclusion and justice, and we need to continue to grow those efforts."

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ACTIVISM WEEK HUGE SUCCESS

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off Activism Week in the Lanphier Center by hosting a discussion about identity labels and what they mean last Monday, October 12. On Wednesday, SMASS hosted another discussion on how to be a productive activist and ally. CALSA and SMASS wrapped up Activism Week by co-hosting a final talk on Sunday about queerness and cultural heritage. On Saturday night, SMASS presented *Pride*, a movie about London-based gays and lesbians who lent their support to striking coal miners in Wales in 1984.

During the week, an interactive "I am an activist..." banner was put in the sophomore-junior section of the dining hall; students and faculty could sign the banner to express their support for the LGBTQ community. A gender spectrum chart was hung on the wall in the dining hall lobby as well; students and faculty could place star-shaped stickers on the chart to indicate where they felt they belonged on the gender spectrum. Elli Sandberg '16, a member of the SMASS cabinet, noted, "While watching people put stuff on the spectrum, I saw that a lot of people started talking about what the different terms meant and asking each other 'What does this mean? Could you define that?' Getting people to ask questions

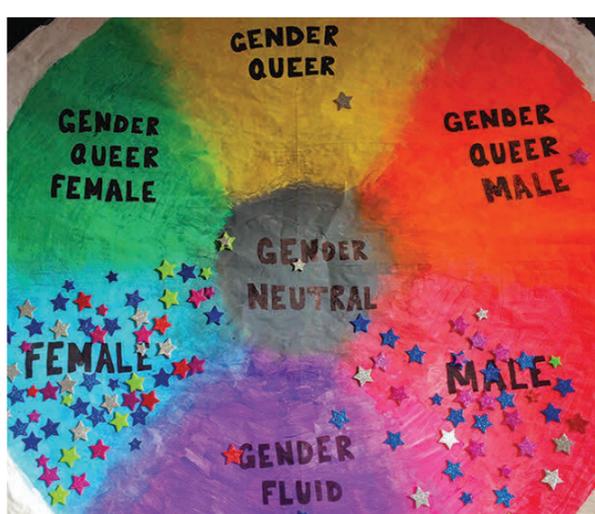


Photo by Charlotte Beebe/The Choate News

A gender spectrum wheel greeted students as they walked through the dining hall lobby during Activism Week.

and spark conversations—that was our main goal."

SMASS began planning for the week in September, and members of the club noted that it was a challenge to coordinate with other clubs to find convenient times to hold the proposed discussions. Ms. Marybeth Duckett-Ireland, SMASS's faculty adviser, said, "It's always tricky when you're trying to do things on this campus because everyone is so busy all the time."

Students were curious about the name change of the initiative from "Ally Week" to "Activism Week." According to Ms. Duckett-Ireland, the organizers of the Week had hoped that the new name would "promote action" instead of passive support.

Sandberg elaborated: "It used to be called Ally Week, but 'ally' is a term you can't

really claim—you have to be given the name, as in, 'You've been so helpful so we'll call you an ally.' An activist is something anyone can outright say, 'I'm going to be an activist, and I'm going to do this or that.' We changed the name in hopes that truly everyone would participate."

For Eli Bickford '16, co-president of SMASS, "It can be hard to see a lot of actual change because the people who end up coming are the same people every time." He continued to say that it is a challenge "to target the community at large, since the people coming to the discussions are mostly those who already think these things are an issue." SMASS hopes that future club activities will encourage those who aren't already a part of the conversation to become

more involved.

Along with extending the conversation to the entire community, SMASS also hopes to have a larger publicity campaign next year. According to Ms. Duckett-Ireland, "We wanted to use the idea of people holding signs saying 'I'm an ally,' like the microaggression posters, but we felt that the idea of people holding signs had been used so many times recently, and we weren't able to come up with something else in time. Next year we want to do something that more of the campus will see and be involved in."

Sandberg hopes that Activism Week has "taught students and faculty about the different terms used to describe gender and sexuality and created awareness about conflicts that still happen on campus regarding the LGBTQ community." She hopes that members of the Choate community will emerge from Activism Week as more supportive of LGBTQ rights.

Bickford concluded: "We know the Choate community is very forward thinking, but sometimes allyship on campus is simply saying, 'I believe there is a problem.' Activism Week should empower people to say that something is not okay and then actually do something about it."

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About Us

Now in its 109th year, *The Choate News* is written, edited, and published to cover events at the school and to offer a forum for opinions of significant interest to the Choate Rosemary Hall community. *The Choate News* is published weekly on most Fridays while school is in session. The paper's offices are located in the Library. Members of *The Choate News* editorial board can be contacted at thechoatenews@choate.edu or by telephone at (203) 697-2070.

BECOME YOUR OWN HERO

By **Chloe Choi '19**
Opinions Writer

“What would the hero of your life’s movie do right now?” asks Joe Rogan, a stand-up comedian and podcaster. “We define ourselves far too often by our past failures. That’s not you. You are this person right now. You’re the person who has learned from those failures. Build confidence and momentum with each good decision you make from here on out and choose to be inspired.”

Last year, Joe Rogan released a short video called “Be The Hero of Your Own Movie.” There, he tells us to not let our past failures define us, but to let ourselves be the heroes, the stars, and the main characters of our own movies and to learn from our failures.

Heroes are not flawless. Consider Odysseus. If you have ever read *The Odyssey*, you would definitely remember how Odysseus had some nasty issues with pride. Remember how he blinded Polyphemus and, out of his own hubris, blurted out that his name was Odysseus, which provoked Polyphemus to pray to Poseidon who then made Odysseus’s life onerous over the course of, what, 20 books? Better yet, remember how Circe specifically told Odysseus to not fight off the immortal Scylla, but he, out of impulse and pride, attempted to fight her anyway, and lost six of his best men? Odysseus definitely wasn’t the symbol of perfection.

However, heroes are called heroes for a reason. After having gone through numerous internal and external conflicts, Odysseus finally returns to Ithaca, his native land. While we point out and analyze Odysseus’s flaws in *The Odyssey*, we don’t default into thinking that Odysseus’s flaws define him. Instead, we prize his bravery and his cunning words and actions. So then, why should we often let our failures define us? Because we’re not as heroic and as great as Odysseus? Well, here’s

the thing: Odysseus lives in this novel where he’s the main character -- the spotlight of his story. That’s why he appears to be so great. That’s also why his men are portrayed as useless, “mutinous fools” who don’t do anything properly. If one of his shipmen were to be the main character of his own story, the book would completely turn a different way. Perhaps Odysseus wouldn’t even be remembered.

What does *The Odyssey* have to do with Choate? I’m sure we all remember seeing our midterm grades a couple of weeks ago, which might have failed to meet our expectations. What I want to say in this article is that your grades do not define who you are right now. Rather, your grades and your failures lend you an opportunity to change, and to make wiser decisions. These are the tasks that only you can perform. Parallel to that, as much as heroes need the help of their comrades, it’s up to the hero himself to make the final decision in the end.

Here is life’s sweetest secret: school is a simulation of life. And grades are just one of the countless symbols of mortal struggle. The world awaiting you out there will be so much more different than it is now. Grades are only helping you set up goals and make better decisions in this stage of life, so that you can make use of this skill in your later life.

Unfortunately, you can’t possibly become Odysseus. But you can become your own hero. Just imagine that you’re featured in a movie where you receive the spotlight. Tell yourself that you’re the most important person on earth, and that everything you do directly affects how your life—your own movie—unravels. Would you still be making the same decisions as you are making now?

Chloe Choi '19 is a third former from Seoul, South Korea. She may be reached at hchoi19@choate.edu.

CHOATE MUST KEEP INTEGRATING

By **Hannah Lemmons '16**
Senior Writer

Growing up in Colorado as a nerdy violinist, I was used to being the only black girl—and often, the only black person in any given room. As a result, I learned how to walk through the world as the exception to the rule. I learned how to answer people’s awkward questions and compliments about my speech patterns and interests. I learned how to ignore parents who glared and those whose eyes lit up with surprise when they saw me sitting next to their son or daughter during a concert. I learned how to say no when someone asked to touch my hair without blurting out that it felt like I was being petted like a dog. And although most people I interacted with had the best of intentions, I still felt like a curiosity, an animal in the zoo that had somehow broken out of its cage and learned to walk on its hind legs.

So, I looked for diversity when applying to boarding schools. I wanted to surround myself with people who were open-minded, people who weren’t surprised about my interests,

despite my race—and most of all, people who looked like me. I sought representation. I thought that Choate, a place with over 30% students of color with a variety of interests would allow me to explore without feeling like an anomaly. Although I interacted with people from many different backgrounds in each of my classes and extracurriculars, I still often found myself being one of the few black girls in the room. For a long time, I wondered: what gives?

I felt like a curiosity, an animal in the zoo that had somehow broken out of its cage and learned to walk on its hind legs.

Choate, like many communities, is a microcosm of our greater society. And in a number of fields, representation of people of color and women is severely lacking. In the world of classical music, black and Latino people combined make up less than four percent of orchestras across the nation. Only one African-American female senator has been in Congress. Less

than ten percent of minority women are employed scientists and engineers. Although perhaps less stratified, these disparities trickle down into Choate classes and extracurricular activities: for example, more boys take computer and political science classes than girls; as a freshman, I was one of two African-Americans in the symphony orchestra.

I do not believe Choate administration and faculty are actively denying underrepresented groups from taking part in certain disciplines or activities; these divisions stem from systemic issues. For example, fewer black families, chiefly ones of lower socioeconomic status, emphasize learning a classical instrument than families of Asian descent, so the audition pool is bound to include as many black musicians. However, many students are reluctant to attend certain club meetings or take particular classes because they feel uncomfortable venturing into new territory for fear of being voiceless or alone. I believe Choate can do more to encourage students—especially freshman and other new students—to break away

from confining stereotypes and push themselves to pursue interests in subjects or groups where they may feel less welcome. Furthermore, Choate should create initiatives that explicitly invite a diversity of students to participate in underrepresented fields. Students have already begun the push with clubs like Girl Code, and now the faculty and administration must do the same.

The documentary, “who cries for the black girl” created by Abigail Bereola, featuring five black women at Amherst College sums it up best: “As a black woman, my race is sexualized and my sex is racialized.” The intersectionality of issues of representation must be addressed. We must examine why the disparity of students of color, queer students, non-binary students, and women exists in certain disciplines at Choate. And we must identify ways in which we can promote inclusivity for those students who want to feel like the standard, not the exception.

Hannah Lemmons is a sixth former from Denver, CO. She may be reached at hlemmons16@choate.edu.

1 DAY BEFORE PARENTS WEEKEND



Julian Yau/The Choate News

CHOATE’S FAÇADE FOR VISITORS DISINGENUOUS

By **Bryce Wachtell '17**
Social Media Editor

The food gets better, students are told to follow the dress code, teachers start smiling more, the hedges are groomed and the grass cut, and white linens are topped with coffee and donut holes. What do all of these occurrences have in common? They all come about when parents, grandparents, trustees, alumni, or masses of prospective students visit Choate.

In days prior to the arrival of any one of these groups, an announcement urging the student body to watch their language, tuck in their shirt-tails, and be friendly to strangers on the paths occurs. Such an announcement comes in many forms and from many people—whether it is Mr. Stanley at a school meeting or our dorm advisors in house meetings—but the sentiment is largely the same. We need to alter our image and portray our best self to demonstrate that we are a great school.

There are a couple of issues that come with these announcements and the encouraged shift in the school’s image. The first and

most important issue has to do with lying. Is it lying to alter our campus physically and culturally to appeal to an outside perspective? In short, yes. When we urge students to change behavior and shift our campus for these visits, Choate’s image becomes just a façade, a false exterior with no truth. When we project this guise, Choate is indirectly stating that our real culture isn’t good enough and we need

I’m just advocating for a more authentic Choate to be on display.

to temporarily replace it by creating a new one.

The second problem with our temporary change is that it lacks character. A visiting student, parent, or trustee wants to see a genuine Choate in all of its valor and glory, but also its pitfalls and needed improvements. This is a high school; of course some students swear. We serve thousands of meals every day; understandably, some are bad. Choate has a huge campus; obviously we won’t get around to beautifying every square inch. When people

come to visit, they don’t want “brochure Choate,” the Choate that you can access with a quick Google search. They want to be engrossed in our culture and understand our imperfect lives for what they are: imperfect.

The façade is understandable: Choate is looking to woo current tuition-payers, alumni-donors, and prospective students, but if we want to impress outsiders, we should work to improve what it means to be part of Choate year-round, not just during Parents’ Weekend. A school that improves its facilities without seeking applause is a school that truly demonstrates its character, and with Choate’s Parents’ Weekend façade, the school is failing to show its character.

I’m not complaining about the donut holes, though if students got the same food the dining hall serves during parents’ weekend, the Choate student body might physically look a little bit different. I’m just advocating for a more authentic Choate to be on display, one where I can walk around campus with only a minimal fear of being accosted for a dress-code violation.

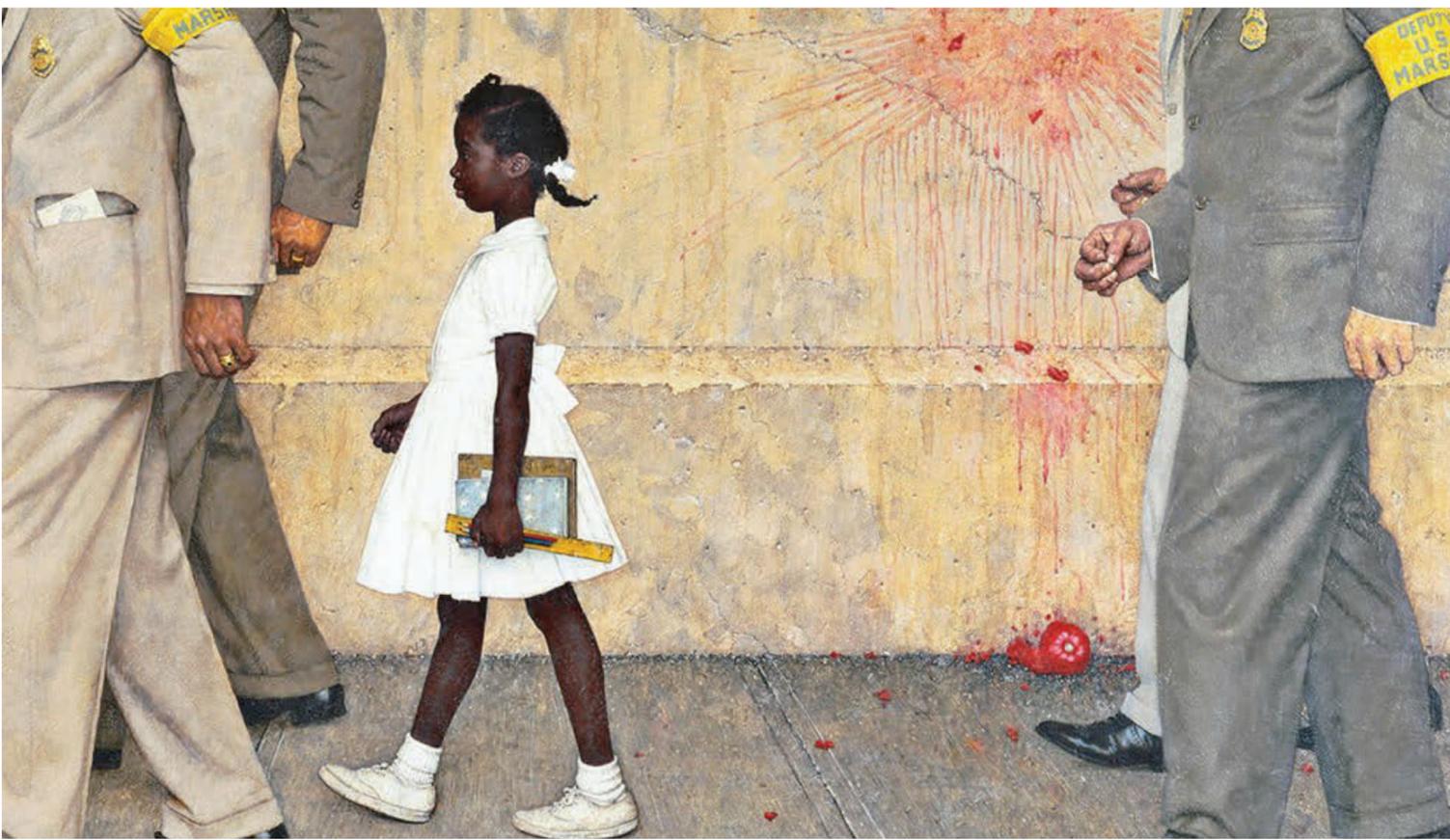
At the end of the day, a few gruff interactions will make the school look even better. I want to go to a school that’s not afraid to print a soft swear-word in its newspaper or show its true self.

We should improve what it means to be a part of Choate year-round, not just during Parents’ Weekend.

Choate is a fantastic school with talented students and faculty who deserve to be recognized and appreciated as they are. There is no need to disingenuously embellish Choate for the sake of placating parents’ fears or in hopes of wooing potential donors. As a community, we have a lot to be proud of, and anyone visiting our campus should be able to experience the raw, unadulterated Choate for what it is, instead of what we think others want to see.

Bryce Wachtell is a fifth former from Boise, ID and is the Social Media Editor for The Choate News. He may be reached at jwachtell17@choate.edu.

TODAY IN HISTORY: APPLE RELEASES THE FIRST IPOD IN CUPERTINO, CA (2001)



Painting courtesy the Norman Rockwell Museum

Norman Rockwell painted "The Problem We All Live With" in 1964 at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in America. It displays Ruby Bridges, who on November 14, 1960, became the first African-American student to integrate into an all-white public school.

FOREIGN



DESK

Withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan to be Delayed

On Thursday, October 15, President Obama announced a delay in the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, acknowledging that he will not achieve his stated goal of removing all American forces from the country before he leaves office, in 2017. The President's new plan keeps the number of troops in Afghanistan at about 5,500, in hopes of reducing the strength of the Taliban.

Giant Elephant Killed in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, a German tourist paid \$60,000 for a 21-day safari hunt. On this spree he killed the largest African elephant in decades. While there are restrictions on the hunting of certain animals in Africa, the hunter had proper permits. Though the hunt was legal, it has outraged conservationists.

Existence of Iranian Underground Missile Base

Days after reports that Iran had tested long-range ballistic missiles, footage was released showing a tunnel 500 meters under a mountain packed with missiles on launch vehicles. The ballistic missile testing did not violate terms of the recent Iran deal, but it does breach a UN resolution preventing Iran from engaging in activities with these missiles. Iranian Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh has described this underground base as one of many across the country and said that the missiles in the bases are ready to be launched.

Brazil Speaker Accused of Corruption

Eduardo Cunha, the speaker of Brazil's Lower House of Congress, has been accused of keeping millions of illegally obtained dollars in Swiss bank accounts, in the names of his wife and children. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has also been accused of breaking budget management laws last year by borrowing money illegally from state banks. Government officials, including Cunha, have called for the impeachment of Rousseff.

Imad Rivzi may be reached at irivzi18@choate.edu.

THE NEW FACE OF RACISM

By **Hakeem Angulu '16**
Senior Writer

On June 22, 2015, Marc Maron hosted President Barack Obama on his comedy podcast "WTF", and the President, less inhibited in his speech than usual, said something that would blow the minds of Americans everywhere:

"We are not cured of it [racism]. And it's not just a matter of being able to say the 'n-word' in public. That's not the measure of whether or not racism still exists or not. It's not just a matter of overt discrimination. Societies don't, overnight, completely erase everything that happened 200 to 300 years prior."

Expectedly, critics jumped on Obama's use of the "n-word," but his message was much more far-reaching than that. President, Obama understands, possibly more than most, how racism is intertwined into 21st century America. It's no longer about lynchings or segregated bathrooms. Racism today is sneaky, systematic, and internalized.

The podcast "This American Life" is very popular, as far as podcasts go, but their credibility and popularity skyrocketed when they released "The Problem We All Live

With," a critical report on segregation in schools. The title of podcast comes from Norman Rockwell's 1964 painting of the same name. This painting depicts Ruby Bridges, a six-year old black girl on her way to an all-white public school in New Orleans in 1960. Parents and other students made numerous threats to her life, so she is being escorted by four deputy U.S. marshals. Behind her, there are several symbols of hate: the inscribing of the words "n-word" and "KKK," along with a smashed tomato that was thrown. President Obama had the painting installed in the White House, right outside the Oval Office.

The nation started massive desegregation of schools in 1971. In that year, black 13-year-olds scored 39 percentage points lower on standardized reading tests than white students of the same age. At the statistical height of desegregation, 1988, that figure dropped to just 18 percentage points. Since then, we have started to resegregate our schools, and the racial achievement gap has widened, to 29 percent, at the turn of the century. Right now, New York state has the most racially and economically segregated schools in the country, with about 73 percent of schools being practically racially or

economically homogenous. In fact, minority students are often doubly segregated because of the intimate connection between race and class in America. This results in a school environment devoid of motivated teachers, good resources and involved parents. The US Department of Education reported last year that black and Latino kids in segregated schools have the least qualified and experienced teachers, the worst course offerings, the least access to AP and upper level courses and the worst facilities. Couple these details with that fact that many of these students are already disadvantaged by their family life and by the stereotypes that saturate society, and you'll see that we have a problem.

An unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, was shot by a police officer on August 9, 2014 in Ferguson, St. Louis, and this sparked nationwide outrage and protests. He became a national symbol against racialized police brutality. However, without discounting the experiences of many, the fact is that most black kids will not be shot by the police. Instead, many will attend similar schools, and be woefully disadvantaged. In 2014, Michael Brown's senior year, his school district was per-

forming as follows: points for academic achievement in English: zero; math: zero; social studies: zero; science: zero; points for college placement: zero. In eleven of thirteen measures, the district didn't earn a single point. Instead of losing accreditation, like what was supposed to happen with low performing schools, the Normandy school district was given a warning...every year for fifteen years. Officials tried tirelessly to improve, cycling through teachers and principals every year, but nothing short of moving schools worked for the students.

29%

The percentage of the national racial achievement gap at the turn of the century.

To solve Normandy's problem, the parents decided to lobby for integration with nearby white schools. However, the school officials were afraid of losing their jobs, and gamed the system so that in order for black kids in Normandy to move to better schools, they would have to travel 60 miles everyday. Even with this condition, some kids decided to go, but the white parents in the other district shut the program down at a parents' meeting.

One of the first questions asked was whether or not the arrival of the black kids from Normandy would be accompanied by metal detectors, for the children's safety. Another was, "I'm hoping their discipline records, like their health records, come with them." The students that wanted to make the 60 mile trip everyday were devoted to their education, but nevertheless, they were stereotyped because of their race, with seemingly good intentions.

This is only one example of the fight against segregation, and the tactics used by parents in better districts to keep schools homogenous. Segregation is a phenomenon in many school districts around the country, with school officials, state officials and parents being against the education of minority children. The fact is, this situation is a perfect example of 21st century racism. Racism is systematic, and it is time we shift the energy we use to fight the seldom occurrences of explicit bias to challenge the laws, and failures of the law, that adversely affect the most vulnerable in our community.

Hakeem Angulu is a sixth former from Kingston, Jamaica. He may be reached at hangulu16@choate.edu.

THE SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES OF TERRORISM

By **Alfredo Brillembourg '16**
Senior Writer

Prior to his pursuit of the Joker in *The Dark Knight*, Bruce Wayne is warned by his butler, Alfred, "Be careful, some men just want to watch the world burn." We must internalize this advice beyond its cinematic purpose, because Alfred's message can be connected to the much larger, widely misunderstood issue that is terrorism. While its nature, much like the Joker's, is seemingly irrational, terrorism must be analyzed from the perspectives of both the attacked and the attacker in order to holistically understand it.

At their core, terrorism and terrorists are similar to attention hungry children. The title of "terrorist," though, discusses the use of violence—by sub-

national groups, who hold fringed beliefs and feel unheard—to create fear and social unrest in order to be heard. Indeed, terrorism is difficult to define, but that is because the definition is in the eye of the beholder; that is, terrorism is a word that holds a different interpretation to different groups with different interests. It is deeply politically rooted and is charged with bias, so its meaning can therefore take on a variety of forms. The American Revolution is an example. Americans such as Sam Adams and George Washington committed acts of violence, such as ransacking British cargo and tarring British military officials, for political gains. From the British perspective, these men were terrorists of sorts whose actions had extensive repercussions beyond just the immediate targets.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Nations pump millions of dollars into counter-terrorism units. Their targets frequently deem them just as politically violent.

However, to Americans, these men were patriots who led an altruistic charge for the greater good. In a more modern day example, groups in the Middle East, such as Hamas, which we label as terrorist organizations, see themselves as "freedom fighters." Terrorism is a term used by the

attacked.

The word "terrorism" antagonizes, labels, and stereotypes the attacker from the perspective of the attacked. In dehumanizing the attacker this way, it becomes easier for the attacked to pursue the terrorists, making them the enemy of the world. In recent

years, the constant media coverage of terrorism suggests that it is on the rise. This, however, only makes it clear that it is the influence of terrorism, rather than terrorism itself, that is growing because of the rapid expansion of globalized media. Globalization is giving terrorism a much stronger voice and presence at the international level. This is precisely the attention such organizations seek through the perpetuation of their violence.

What is terrorism? It depends on the political group defining it.

Despite the previous analysis of terrorism, it is a harmful political tool of

violence and it is important to understand how to moderate its presence on the global stage. In addition to curbing the violence that terrorism entails, the attacked must structure its response in a way that avoids nationalism and patriotic fervor in order to avoid further antagonizing terrorist threats. If this were accomplished, there would be no longer be a need for the word "terrorism," but, of course, these goals are all much easier said than accomplished. The current trends of self-determination and the tendency to discount fringed beliefs lie at the foundation of human nature and will, therefore, be near impossible to alter.

Alfredo Brillembourg is a sixth former from New York, NY. He may be reached at abrillembourg16@choate.edu.

JORDAN TERM ABROAD: CHOATIE IN ARABIA



Photo courtesy of Chloe Irving/Facebook

Anselm Kizza-Besigye atop a camel in Wadi Rum, Jordan, during his term abroad.

By **Anselm Kizza-Besigye '17**
Reporter

Let me be frank: I decided to take a term abroad at King's Academy, a boarding school in Jordan, to escape Choate. After two years of the same clothes, the same classrooms, and the same routine, I desired nothing more than separation from the quirks and traditions that make Choate the distorted reality it is. Therefore, nothing disappointed me more than arriving in Amman to discover how much about Choate I couldn't escape.

My first day of classes, I walked into the dining hall—which is adorned with flags like Deerfield's dining hall—to find that every lunch would be community lunch. The small-talk skills I had accumulated over two years at various community lunch ta-

bles expired within a week of extended conversations about the weather. I was shocked to find Harkness tables in all but one of my classes. I was dumfounded at the sight of suede Sperry boat shoes and Vineyard Vines belts. The final straw, however, manifested itself when at Saturday brunch I had to wait ten minutes for an omelet. I felt betrayed. Would I ever be liberated from the oppressive grip of New England boarding school?

Over time, the differences between Choate and King's Academy unveiled themselves. I traded cold and rainy New England weather for hundred-degree temperatures and dust storms. Purple and green bushes of lavender and rosemary replaced the orange hues of the maple trees by Hill House. Adjusting to the Arab workweek, which begins on Sunday and ends

on Thursday because of Friday's religious significance, was difficult. Many Arabs are also very family-oriented and have a strong sense of duty towards their families. Other exchange students and I took a weeklong trip through Jordan, and many of the people we spoke to recounted fairytale-esque stories about their families' histories.

When I got to King's Academy this fall, I felt at home.

These tales of land disputes, wars with other families, and migrations that date as far back as the 19th century fascinated me. One Christian family I met boasted about being the descendants of those who guarded the ruins of a Byzantine church for centuries.

Of course, not all of the

similarities are bad. When I arrived at Choate my freshman year, I felt welcomed. Big kids in yellow T-shirts shepherded me across campus until I knew my way around. When I got to King's this fall, I felt at home. Students, regardless of their role on campus, approached me to engage in conversation; teachers and students alike stopped me on the paths to ask where I was from. These expressions of "Arab hospitality" extended beyond campus to the streets of Amman, where passersby would yell, "Welcome to Amman!"

As my time at King's reaches its close, the question most often asked of me is, "Do you like King's or Choate better?" It's true: when I left Choate last spring I was ready for a change. And yes, there are many aspects of King's that outshine Choate. For instance, Popeye's delivers to campus here. Also, sand dunes are far more surmountable than the uphill walk from Lanphy to Hill House. Some exchange students from other schools are even considering staying at King's beyond the current term. However, I now realize I can't abandon Choate. Even though King's Academy has welcomed me with kindness and warmth, its students lack that love of school that binds the Choate community and has me excited to come back for more. I may be temporarily abroad, but I am forever true.

Anselm Kizza-Besigye

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THE VIEW FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW

Tuesday, 12:00 p.m.

Mars still looks the same. I saw someone throw a banana peel into the pit. That's the most exciting change of the week! I hope no one slips and falls.

Grace Tully '16
Bungalow 202



WONDERS OF COMPOUND WORDS

A typo leads to the question: What, exactly, would be a 'wildboar'?

By **Truelian Lee '17**
Staff Reporter

When I first saw the word "Wildboars" (and not, as is proper, "Wild Boars") emblazoned on our 2015 Service Day shirts, my first thought was: if 'wildboar' was actually a word, what would it mean?

Sure, it was a weird question. But the day 'wildboar' becomes legitimate isn't as far off as you might think. Many words, like schoolboy and pickpocket, were originally two words: 'school boy' and 'pick pocket.' Over time, the two words came together and formed a new word. This process, called compounding, is an effective way to generate new words.

According to Ms. Tianlin Ford, a language teacher who studied sound construction in graduate school, the reason words are compounded is that "people were trying to create new words to describe things that began to exist in their lives, but didn't yet exist in their language."

Words are also compounded because it's easier to create new words out of existing ones. "Other people who are unfamiliar with the word can then reliably discern the meaning of the new word," explained Ms. Ford. If I say

the word 'boathouse,' because the word is made of two recognizable components you can discern that a boathouse is a building that stores boats.

Commonly, the compounded word has two parts: the head and the modifier. In our 'schoolboy' example, 'school' modifies the meaning of 'boy' (the head), and, thus, the word 'schoolboy' has the combined definition of the head and modifier. Generally in compounds, the modifier is changing the definition of the head. However, in cases like 'pickpocket,' the relationship is less clear. 'Pickpocket' does not describe a certain type of pocket, but rather a type of thief.

In that sense, the word 'wildboar' could take on various meanings; it could refer to a kind of overtly undomesticated boar, or it could mean something like: the person who keeps wild boars. It all depends on the circumstances that lead to the compounding of the word.

In this case, an innocent printing error suggested a new word. However, people compound words in English all the time. One of the theories explaining the process of compounding is called the teenage girl effect.

The teenage girl effect is the theory that teenage girls are driving changes in language. Usually these changes originate in colloquial speech, often by teenage girls. "As a society, in a lot of places, young girls communicate at a higher pace compared to other groups," explained Ms. Ford. After the new word is repeated enough times, it gradually becomes a part of the language.

Most compound words follow a similar trajectory, which consists of three stages: the open form, the hyphenated form, and the closed form. The open form is simply two words separated by a space: 'school boy.' Sometimes, that compound will transition into the hyphenated form, 'school-boy,' in order to more clearly emphasize that the compound refers to one entity. Later, the word can drop the hyphen in a transition to the final closed form.

Not all words advance through these stages at the same rate. For example, the word Italian-American is one word, but French Canadian remains two. It is hard to pinpoint the reasons for these differences.

"English is a very difficult language to explain, since it's been influenced by so many other languages," commented

Ms. Ford. "We have many speculations, but we don't really know. It's hard to catch something in action."

The word-compounding process was particularly notable during the advent of the personal computer and the Internet. Suddenly, there was a multitude of new concepts that existing words could not express. People coined terms like 'laptop.' Ms. Ford remarked, "We live in a society that's constantly evolving, and we have a need to come up with words to describe the constantly evolving society." Some of those words, too, have already begun the compounding process. The word 'e-mail' was originally hyphenated, and, while many purists still insist on that spelling, others prefer the simple 'email.'

So would it be possible for 'wild boar' to make a similar journey to one word? In Ms. Ford's opinion, "If a new word is used enough times, it will become a part of the language."

Fair enough, but, as a teenage girl, I think I'll start using this word to see if it catches on. Hey, Deerfield, are you sure you want to pick a fight with the Wildboars?

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CREEPY CLOTHES, FRIGHTFUL FROCKS

By **Kristen Altman '18**
Reporter

Looking at the calendar can inspire a sense of disorientation, especially with this striking realization: there's only a week until Halloween. With such little time left, many Choate students have been scrambling for Halloween costume ideas. To give some inspiration, here's a list of costume ideas from students around campus—some weird, some low-effort, and some as spooky as possible.

Characters: "I'm being Luna Lovegood, and I'm making the rest of my friends dress up as Harry Potter characters, too," stated Ava Hathaway-Hacker '18. As Hathaway-Hacker suggested, dressing as a character from your favorite series is a quick and easy way to get in the Halloween spirit. It's probably the simplest costume you can make, too—for most characters, just mimic their clothing style and you're in costume!

Classics: "Pumpkin costumes are definitely the way to go... They're so classic," said Amy Hagan-Brown '18, who sported a pumpkin costume for Halloween last year. As Hagan-Brown said, wearing Halloween staples, such as witch hats, vampire teeth, or pumpkin costumes, is a tried and true method of Halloween costuming. Keep in mind, though, that these things are classic for a reason: if you go this route, be pre-

pared to match with other students!

Onesies: "I'm wearing my Totoro onesie this year," stated Maya Scandinaro '18, who also sported her onesie last Halloween. "It's easy, comfortable, and it looks so festive!" Onesies, which come in a variety of characters and sizes, have been a staple of Choate Halloween festivities for years. If you're looking for the comfort of PJ's and the functionality of a full-body Halloween costume, wearing a onesie might be your best bet.

Serious: "I'm going as a World War I soldier," commented Jonathan Joei '18. If you're sick of all the cute pumpkins and happy costumes, try taking Joei's route. Fake blood and mean expressions can go a long way.

Punny: Pinterest suggests wearing a white shirt that says "Go ceilings!" on it—you'll be a huge ceiling fan! As the Internet suggests, wearing puns is a great way to show your creativity. But beware: you'll probably get some eye rolls for it.

Yourself: "I'm not dressing up," said Michael Zhou '18, "I'm scary enough... Also, I don't have a costume." If you're not feeling like costuming this year, dressing up as yourself is your only solution. But if you frown enough, you might actually scare someone this Halloween!

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PREPARE FOR THE PARENTS

By **Rachel Hird '17**
Staff Reporter

There's nothing like some good ole' fashioned trickery to make your guardians proud of you. Follow these nine simple steps to blow away your visitors this Parents' Weekend, and you'll see a sizable jump in your Choate account—I mean, earn yourself a big hug.

1. Talk as much as possible in your language class; hopefully, your guardians will be very confused and assume that everything you say is brilliant. If they question you later about what you said, mention "the impact of social media on teens" or "the importance of summer reading."

2. Say "hello" to all the people you walk by during passing period. If they know you, they'll say "hello" back and smile. If they don't know you, they'll do the exact same thing. At some point, remind your parents, "Choate is a tight-knit community." They'll tell all your relatives back home that you're thriving socially.

3. In your science class, mention terms that are simple but scary-sounding, like "exocytosis" or "oxidation-reduction reaction." Better yet, get one homework assignment ahead so that you outshine everyone else in class.

4. Show your visitors your beautiful dorm room! Have your laundry done, your sheets changed, and a shrine to your guardian displayed prominently above your bed.

5. Or, instead of doing your laundry, just store your dirty clothes in a hermetically sealed bag... in someone else's closet.

6. Pay someone ahead of time to fake-hurt their ankle so you can walk them to the Health Center or trainers' office.

7. Actually, the best way to make your visitors proud of you is to make time to hang out with them.

8. When they start to drive you crazy and you need a break, just say that you're going to go help your friend with some studying. They'll say in awe, "Oh, what a selfless child we raised!" And you can reply with, "Psh, I know."

9. Steal your guardians' reading glasses. If they can read this article, the jig is up.

Even future leaders of the free world will need an elaborate scheme to impress their parents this weekend. Don't fret, friends—*The Choate News* has your back.

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TWIRLING THROUGH CHOATE

Kellisha James '16 is a key player in every dance organization on campus

By **Nicole Yao '18**
Staff Reporter

You've probably seen Kellisha James '16 dance during your time at Choate. This is because James, a four-year senior from Brooklyn, New York, is front and center for every performances of Dance Company, Dance Ensemble, Hip Hop club, and Step Squad.

James started dancing when she was only five years old. "My mom sent me out to her friend's wedding, and I started dancing all over the place," James explained. "I had tons of energy that I needed to burn, and it was something that I was good at, so she put me into dance lessons."

James still dedicates her energy to dance. At Choate, she plays an instrumental role in the dance culture: in addition to being a president of the Dance Company, James is also co-captain of Step Squad and a Hip Hop club president. Every Sunday, she spends a total of six hours practicing for these organizations.

"I don't think she understands how much of a hold she has on dance at this school," commented Fraynette Familia '16, another president of the Hip Hop club. "I've seen her dedication towards the art grow with every year that I worked with her."

Alexis Walker '17, another co-captain of the Step Squad, agreed: "She's extremely dedicated and committed to the groups that she's a part of, and she brings her own flavor and dance style to each."

Undoubtedly, dance has played a huge role in James'



Photo by Ross Mortensen/The Choate News

In last year's Student Dance Concert, James was in all but one dance.

life. Before coming to Choate, James attended Mark Twain Middle School, a performing arts school. There, she danced in monthly performances. "Ever since I went to Mark Twain," she said, "my life has changed. It's a fantastic school." James has also participated in many dance programs in the past summers.

"Dance is my outlet," she said. "Whenever I'm frustrated or upset, I go to the studio and choreograph for my clubs. It's lots of fun."

James is most interested

in contemporary dance, hip-hop, and tap. "I haven't been able to do tap in awhile," she said. "So I'm excited that there's going to be a tap piece in the dance show this year."

Before she graduates in the spring, James plans to make the Hip Hop club more exposed and respected on campus. As for her other clubs, "Dance Company is amazing," she said, "and Step Squad's always had it together, so I'm just happy to be a part of that."

Although she isn't sure if

she will major in dance in college, James knows that it will continue to play a role in her life. "I can't stop dancing," she admitted. "It's definitely going to be part of my future."

"I want people to know that they shouldn't be scared to do Choate's dance programs," James concluded. "We have fantastic dancers, we're such a loving bunch. So, people, please do the dance programs!"

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HLF's MERENGUE MARKS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

By **Sophie Mackin '18**
Reporter

At last week's all school meeting, Fraynette Familia '16, Mirialie Dejesus '18, Spencer Jimenez '18, and Simon Jimenez '18, members of Hispanic-Latino Forum (HLF), danced the merengue for the entire Choate community and received a standing ovation for their performance. The students wanted to educate the school about their culture during National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15 and ended on October 15. Fraynette Familia '16, one of HLF's presidents, knew that "a simple announcement would not make a lasting impression." Thus, the idea for the performance was born.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is not talked about; culture like this isn't represented as much as I believe it should be," Familia explained. When asked why she felt the merengue was the best means of communicating with the school, she replied, "It encompasses the music and dance style, so it's a good handful of culture."

Though the merengue is considered the national dance of the Dominican Republic, it is also popular throughout the Caribbean and South America. The merengue, as well as the salsa and the bachata, are the signature dance styles of Hispanic culture. Dejesus explained, "I grew up learning how to dance like this. I grew up dancing at family gatherings. Thanksgiving, Christmas, there's always

dancing. It's a big part of who we are." Dejesus added, "We really wanted to get the word out about Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as HLF. We thought that this dance was a great way to do it, because who doesn't like dancing and music? Especially a dance as upbeat as the merengue!"

HLF's merengue at school meeting was certainly a success. The dancers were surprising and engaging, and the performance promoted Hispanic culture and sparked interest among the student body. "People are coming up to me and asking about it," Familia noted. "That's what I wanted!"

"I knew that a simple announcement would not make a lasting impression."

Fraynette Familia '16

Familia describes HLF as "a second home to Hispanic and Latino students and a safe place for people outside of that circle to come learn about the culture without feeling like they are intruding." Dancing is just one of many ways to learn about and celebrate Hispanic culture. Keep an eye out for more of HLF's influences and initiatives around campus this year; if they're anything like the performance at school meeting, you won't want to miss out!

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"UNVEILED" DRAWS ON PRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES

By **Sophie Hare '18**
Reporter

On Friday evening, Rohina Malik, a Muslim actress and activist, presented her thought-provoking one-woman show entitled *Unveiled* to the Choate community. Held in Gelb Theater, Ms. Malik engaged the full house with her 60-minute show about racism, hate crimes, love, Islam, culture, and language.

Unveiled tells the harrowing stories of five Muslim women: Maryam, a Pakistani; Noor, a Moroccan-American woman; Inez, an African-American Islam convert; Shabana, a South Asian rapper; and Layla, a Palestinian immigrant. As a common thread, Ms. Malik named each story after a specific type of tea, such as Chocolate Chai and Moroccan Mint. The stories of the women were just as diverse as their teas; their narratives told tales of colorism, racism, and hate crimes.

When asked how she conceived the show, Ms. Malik stated that she wrote the play in 2008, explaining, "I was concerned after 9/11 because of hatred towards the Muslim community. And it was not only affecting my community, but also the Seek, Hindu, and Latino communities."

After the initial performance at the 16th Street Theater in Chicago, the play



Photo by Audrey Powell/The Choate News

Rohina Malik's one-woman show "Unveiled" had a full audience.

received an explosion of invitations from all different venues, from churches and universities to theaters and interfaith groups. In Connecticut alone, Ms. Malik has already been hosted by the Hartford Seminary and Yale University.

The show was brought to Choate through the collaboration of the school's Muslim Chaplain, Mrs. Samsiah Abdul-Majid, and Reverend Ally Brundige, the school's Chaplain. The idea to bring the show to campus was formed after Mrs. Abdul-Majid saw the show performed at the Hartford Seminary. "From that point on, there was a lot of constant contact and discussion about how the show would work best for the school at large," Rev. Brundige explained, adding, "In general, I think that it is important to elevate the voices that I know *Unveiled* revealed."

After the performance, Ms. Malik hosted a discus-

sion and Q&A session featuring tea, cake, and a book signing. Many Choate students gave testament to the challenging situations they have endured in their lifetime, while others asked Ms. Malik questions about the play, her life, and her religion. "I want people to realize that this is very serious," Ms. Malik urged. "We have to challenge the degrading language and negative stereotypes! If left unchallenged, the results can be horrific."

Amy Gao '19, commented, "My favorite part of the show was the idea of love. It wasn't just about racism and violence."

"Everybody has a story that will stop your heart," Ms. Malik answered when asked if she had advice for students. "We have to be brave enough to tell our stories, and then brave enough to listen to others'."

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GRAFFITI SPANS DECADES

By **Simran Sachdeva '19**
Reporter

In recent years, graffiti has transformed from an underground and illegal form of self-expression to a globally celebrated art form. Martha Cooper, now 72 years old, has watched and documented this change through the lens of her camera since the late 1970s.

Cooper fell into the world of graffiti when working on an assignment for feature stories in *The New York Post*, where she had to photograph people. During this assignment, she met graffiti artist HE3, who showed her tags (graffiti art signatures) and introduced

her to more artists. Cooper loved the experience of sneaking underground with artists, and since then, she has been extremely successful in the documentation of street art.

Cooper specializes in documenting graffiti when it is still in the process of being created. She stated in a *CNN* interview, "I enjoy watching artists at work because when you see a finished wall, you don't really know what it took to get there."

Throughout the past 40 years, Cooper has dug into the thrilling art form. She has experienced the adrenaline rush of illegal graffiti with street artists and documented graffiti

everywhere from underground and in subways to festivals in Senegal and Soweto. However, as graffiti grows increasingly celebrated, Cooper misses the excitement that used to be part of the experience.

Even after 40 years, Cooper finds new tags every day and has released numerous books on her findings. Her third edition of *Subway Art*, a collaboration with Henry Chalfant on subway graffiti, will be released soon, providing a window into one of the 21st century's most up-and-coming art forms.

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TRUCK ART SWEEPS INDIA

By **Camila Borjesson '17**
Staff Reporter

Travel on any busy highway in the US, and you will spot intimidating trucks roaring passed the tiny cars alongside them. However, in other areas of the world, trucks are not seen as speeding nuisances. In India, for example, they are travelling works of art.

Truck drivers in India have worked closely with specialized artists for generations to practice the use of trucks for artistic representation. The exquisite blend of colors, shapes, symbols, and slogans on trucks illustrates the personality of the driver and serves as a form of identification of his character. To a

driver, his truck represents a home on wheels, a workplace, and a shrine. The symbolism on the richly painted exterior is imminent: the iconography of deities offer protection, and Bollywood stars and political figures portray the ideals of the person behind the wheel. Interior decorations, in contrast, include ornaments and bangles to remind the driver of his home, wife, and children.

India's economy runs on wheels, and these trucks ensure its stable flow. With countless rural, isolated villages laying in the midst of millions of acres of land, these trucks are often the only contact the local people have with outside settlements. Because of this, the designs painted

on the trucks are not merely an artistic whim, but also a shrewd business idea. Their artistic designs remind us that, regardless of the situation, there is always a way to find—and create—beauty where there seems to be none.

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Photo courtesy of CNN

Trucks represent their owners.

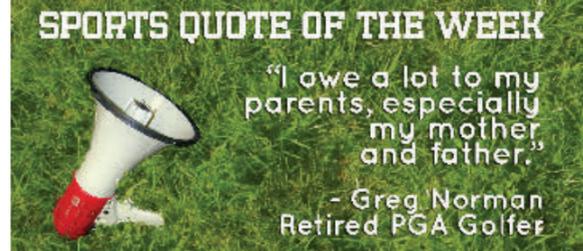
GAME OF THE WEEK
BOAR PEN
 BOYS' VARSITY SOCCER VS. HOTCHKISS
 UNDER THE LIGHTS ON TURF FIELD
 6:30 P.M. TONIGHT

SPORTS

The Choate News

SPORTS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."
 - Greg Norman
 Retired PGA Golfer



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015

NO MERCY ON THE GRIDIRON



Photo courtesy of Fenton Films

Choate's football team has not lost a game in two seasons.

By **Eben Cook '18**
 Staff Reporter

For the past two seasons, Varsity Football has uncontestedly been Choate's most successful athletic team. Finishing the 2014 season at a remarkable 10-0, last year's squad was a well-oiled machine and the most daunting competitor in New England.

This fall, the team has started once again on a rather high note, winning their first five games of the season even despite the injury of postgraduate quarterback Steven Genova '16. Despite the losses of numerous key players this fall to graduation, great chemistry is already present between Choate Football's seasoned veterans and the latest recruits.

The football team has also managed not only to defeat their opponents, but, since the start of the 2014 season, has also defeated their opponents by at least three touchdowns in fifteen of seventeen games played. In fact, Choate Football is now beginning to gain a reputation for obliterating its opponents.

There is no problem with soundly defeating your opponent. For one thing, a win is a win no matter how many points are scored. To be more technical, football is a timed sport with 12-minute quarters. Football is unlike soccer, wherein a dominant team can possess the ball when they are up by many goals. However, in football, the very nature of football makes this tactic impossible; Choate football's only tactics for mercy could be for the coaches to put in the less experienced players. Unfortunately, they do, and it still makes no difference.

There are other less obvious reasons why there is no such thing as unfairly dominating a game. The football team's roster consists of many postgraduates and dedicated football players. Many of these athletes choose to take a fifth year of high school to improve in the sport. Others have already committed to a football program in college,

but have been given the advice to take a postgraduate year to prepare. To deprive these players of experience and game time, simply because they are effective, completely goes against the goal of the PG system. Granted, Choate Football has put a greater emphasis on recruitment in recent years. However, on account of their undefeated season last year, the team has proven their legitimacy and seriousness, meriting said degree of recruits.

Team veteran Charles Rowland '16 commented in favor of the team's domination, "We practice so hard every day to play four quarters, up until the echo of the whistle. This is a competitive sport, and when you put on the pads, you are expected to go full throttle the entire game."

Four-year player Kwabena Ayim-Aboagye '16 agreed with Rowland, and commented, "When we dominate, we focus on perfecting our execution of the plays and getting our specific position's techniques correct. That is the only way for us to compete with skilled teams and ensure consistent victory; we are more disciplined, conditioned, and we want to win many times more than any other team."

It is tough to refute that it is unfair to dominate. It is simply the nature of sports. Choate's football program is so far unmatched by New England schools, but that does not mean that Choate has to push on the brakes in order to make it a fairer game. The integrity of football and sports altogether would be compromised if other measures were taken.

Continuing on their quest for perfection, Choate Football's margins are not likely to change; to stray away from its tradition could cost the team its most prized, and currently held, possession: the New England Football Championship. Postgraduate Julian Fraser '16 and the rest of the gang is determined to keep "making teams know it," if they weren't ready to face the Wild Boars.

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Former Choate Athletes Thrive in Post-Wild Boar Years

After Choate, Denorfia '98, Knight '07, and Harris '15 have achieved elite success in baseball, ice hockey, and football, respectively.

By **Jackson Elkins '18**
 Staff Reporter

Choate is often recognized for the incredible accomplishments of some of its most esteemed alumni. A few of Choate's most notable names are President John F. Kennedy '35, Paul Mellon '25, Michael Douglas '63, with alumni specializing in topics ranging from architecture to philanthropy. However, a great deal of Choate's most famous alumni hail from the sports fields, or, well, ice surfaces. Choate has had 8 Olympians, and a total of 13 Olympic medals, two of which have been gold (Bob McVey '54 and Angela Ruggiero '98). Three athletes are particularly noteworthy: Chris Denorfia '98, an outfielder in the MLB, is currently battling to help the Cubs win their first World Series in 107 years; Hilary Knight '07 has played for two US Olympic Hockey teams, winning the silver medal in both 2010 and in 2014, and now plays in the National Women's Hockey League; and most recently, Will Harris '15 is in the midst of his freshman year at Boston College, where he's a defensive back. Harris has already recorded two interceptions for BC, as well as four tackles in his first four games.

Chris Denorfia grew up only 20 minutes from Choate in Southington, Connecticut. After a big growth spurt going into his junior year at 16, Denorfia began to shine as a second baseman at Choate, attracting the attention of college scouts. After Choate, Chris moved on to Wheaton College, where he studied international relations and Hispanic studies, simultaneously breaking school records with his .467 batting average and eventually attracting major league



Chris Denorfia '98 (left) of the Chicago Cubs, Hilary Knight '07 (middle) of the Boston Pride, and William Harris '15 of Boston College are spreading the Choate name in the MLB, NWHL, and NCAA.



Photo Courtesy of WikiCommons

attention. Denorfia was drafted in the 19th round of the 2002 MLB Draft by the Cincinnati Reds but didn't see his first glimpses of big league ball until 2005. In 2006, he played a total of 49 games with the Reds while moving back and forth between Cincinnati and their AAA affiliate. In 2007, Denorfia was traded to the Oakland Athletics, where he began to struggle. He sat out the entire 2007 season after Tommy John's surgery and only saw 62 at-bats in 2008. In 2009, Denorfia was traded again to the San Diego Padres, where he revived his career, playing 573 games, with 456 hits and 33 HRs from 2009 to 2014. After a short stint with the Mariners, Denorfia found himself signing a one-year contract with the Cubs worth \$2.6 million. Batting .269 during the regular season, Chris and the Cubs are now fighting for their first World Series title since 1908, the longest championship drought of any American sport team.

Hilary Knight grew up in Lake Forest, Illinois. She won a New England Championship her senior year at Choate, which she said was her "absolute favorite moment at Choate." After her success at Choate, Hilary went on to play for the University of Wisconsin, where in only her fresh-

man year, she tallied 38 points. She was also 7th among rookies in points per game, as well as 3rd in the entire NCAA for her 12 multi-point games. Over the course of her career at Wisconsin, Knight accumulated 262 points and became the Badgers All-Time leader in goals (143), game-winning goals (30), power-play goals (37), and short-handed goals (8). However, Knight took leave from Wisconsin in 2010 to play for the U.S. National team at the 2010 Olympics, where she led the team to a silver medal with eight points (1 goal, 7 assists) in five games. Also on the 2010 US Olympic team with Knight were Choate alums Angela Ruggiero '98 and Julie Chu '01. In speaking of the two, Knight said, "I consider them [Ruggiero and Chu] as mentors. When I was at Choate, I would see their pictures on the wall and always aspired to follow in their footsteps." At her second Olympics at Sochi in 2014, Knight had six points (3 goals, 3 assists), again earning the silver medal. Hilary currently plays in the newly founded National Women's Hockey League for the Boston Pride and recently led the World Championship Tournament in points on the way to a first place finish for the U.S.

As a recent Choate graduate, Will Harris has not yet

achieved a résumé of the same magnitude of Knight or Denorfia; however, he certainly is well on his way. In his first game with Boston College, he recorded an interception, helping BC to a 24-3 win over Maine. In addition, Harris has played in games against opponents of the likes of Duke, #5 Clemson, and Northern Illinois. During his time at Choate, Harris played both sides of the line, where he was a huge target for friend and quarterback John Fadule '15, also now playing at Boston College. Harris's 6'2", 193 lb. frame helped him to dominate at the Founder's League level and now certainly helps among the college ranks.

Harris, in his time at Choate, also ran the 100m Dash and the long jump for the Track and Field team. He placed 3rd in the 100m and 4x100m at the New England Championship last spring and was the New England Champion in the long jump, a clear testament to Harris's natural athletic ability. With a hot start to his football career at BC, Will Harris has all the time in the world to catch up to his fellow Wild Boar alumni in the professional leagues, Denorfia and Knight.

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THE BOYS OF AUTUMN: 3RDS SOCCER

By **Arjun Katechia '19**
 Reporter

Boys' Thirds soccer, led by coaches Mr. Johnson and Mr. Robles and captains Imad Rizvi '18 and Andrew Garver '17, is renowned around campus as one of the most ferocious squads to step foot on the grass. The sheer mental and physical demands of being a Thirds soccer player are worrisome. Throughout their daily two-hour practice, the Wild Boars run sprints, hone their skills, and play practice matches. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the weekly improvement is apparent when the team takes the field for matches.

Through team camaraderie and a resilient mindset, Coaches Johnson and Robles aim to make the players better people, on and off the field. According to goalkeeper Michael "Miguel" Swierczynski '19, "Coach Johnson and Coach Robles instill a sense of toughness among us; we have to work hard towards our common goal of eventually moving up to the varsity team, and maybe even playing soccer collegiately." Adrian Whatmore '19 commented on how he gets through the day: "I try to live by the mantra 'soccer is love, soccer is life.' This enables me to stay mentally tough on the field during practice

and games, especially when I face adversity." Swierczynski commented on the teams progress so far this season, saying, "I think we have done well, especially with our close win against Andover (2-1). We had to dig deep and listen to our coaches instructions in order to come out with a win."

In an interview with several players on the team, they stated unanimously that their pregame pump-up song is "Sandstorm" by Darude. Jimmy "Jumbo" Engmann '19 commented about the Thirds Soccer anthem, "It gets the whole team going and ready to play their hearts out." They also stated that their fa-

vorite soccer player is Yaya Touré of Manchester City. Ian "The Train" Mentz '19 stated "Touré provides inspiration for us. He is an exemplar for rising soccer players around the world."

Overall, the team is off to a steady start, sitting at a record of 3-3-2. The squad is in full preparation mode for their next game against Hotchkiss this Saturday, October 24th, before their season climaxes in a massive tilt against Deerfield Academy on Deerfield Day, in what is always an instant classic.

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Boys' Soccer	0
Brunswick	1
Girls' Soccer	3
Taft	0

VARSAITY WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

Football	42
Taft	0

Field Hockey	2
Taft	2

Girls' Volleyball	3
Taft	1

Boys' Water Polo	9
Staples	7

Boys' X-Country	37
Loomis Chaffee	22
Girls' X-Country	46
Loomis Chaffee	16