



THE CHOATE NEWS

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WELCOME TO CAMPUS, PARENTS!

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BOYS' AND GIRLS' ROWING REQUALIFY FOR 2017 HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA

By **James Rose '18**
Reporter

Talk to any varsity rower of the Choate Crew Team, and he or she will tell you one thing: rowing has no off-season. Such was especially true for the eight rowers and two coxswains who represented both Choate Boys'

and Girls' Crew on Sunday, October 23, at the internationally renowned Head of the Charles Regatta in the final race of the fall intramural season.

Although the two boats officially headed up to Boston on the Saturday immediately preceding their race, preparation for the race began weeks earlier.

From their arrival in September, all eyes were pointed toward the Charles — a reality attested to by the countdown clock in the team's main training room. For weeks, the rowers on both teams practiced and seat-raced to earn one of four spots in their team's Charles boat, receiving feedback along the way with results from

the Head of the Riverfront and Head of the Housatonic regattas, from which both teams came away with some medals. By Wednesday, October 19, the line-ups for the fours were finalized and submitted to HOCR officials: representing the boys would be

See **HEAD OF CHARLES, Page 8**



Photos courtesy of Gabby LaTorre

For weeks, the Choate Crew prepared prior to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Cambridge, Mass.

PETITION FOR MORE AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOKS TO CIRCULATE

By **Haley Chang '18**
Copy Editor

Anyone who has browsed through Amazon for textbooks may already know that there is a discrepancy between the prices listed online and those listed in the School Store. Students such as Dani Zanuttini-Frank '18 have been able to buy all their textbooks for half the price of the School Store's using online retailers. To address the problem of overpriced textbooks in the School Store, Fifth Form President Noah Hermes de Boor '18 will be starting a school-wide petition either after Long Weekend or right at the beginning of winter term.

Hermes de Boor said, "The three big points in the petition are reevaluating our relationship with the School Store, seeing what we can do to make the

textbooks a little more reasonably priced, and really making known the fact that students are able to return their textbooks after a week, because a lot of people don't seem to know that you can do that once you find cheaper options online."

He added, "I think is the most important thing for people to realize is that when you cut maybe \$250 in textbooks for one person, it may not look like it changes a lot, but imagine what it would look like if you do that with every single person who is part of the 34% of the school who is on financial aid. That's a huge impact. The amount of money we could save could be similar to the cost of tuition. It could be the difference between people being able and not able to come to Choate."

The petition is currently going through an editing process. Hermes de Boor explained, "I

have been working closely with a lot of people in the Student Council, especially Amir Idris '17, head of the Student Life Committee, and Mr. Oliver Morris, one of the Student Council advisers. We're still going through the editing process in order to make it as effective as possible."

Hermes de Boor came up with this idea after listening to other students' experiences of buying books from the School Store, as well as reflecting on his own. He recounted, "I was in \$700 of debt last year for my textbooks. I couldn't pay it back — \$700 is a lot of money for most people." He continued, "When I met with people in Financial Aid, I realized that financial aid does cover the cost of textbooks, although it's not necessarily clear that it does that. That made me happy,

See **TEXTBOOKS, Page 2**

Leland Ben '17 Aims to Invite Conservative Speaker to Campus

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Copy Editor

Several conservative students have recently expressed frustration at Choate for what they claim is its deeply ingrained, activist progressive nature. They can't express their opinion, these students say, because Choate's ethos shuts them down. Conservative Leland Ben '17 recently decided to take action. Ben has spent the last couple of months working to invite a conservative speaker to present at Choate, using a grant he received from Young Americans for Freedom (YAF).

Ben, the President of Young Republicans, had narrowed his choice to either political commentator Mr. Ben Shapiro or former representative Mr. Allen West. Describing the speakers, Ben said, "Ben Shapiro and Allen West are both highly qualified and renowned conservative political commentators. Some of the issues that would be discussed are

the Black Lives Matter movement, white privilege, political correctness, and free speech."

On why he is pursuing this project, he said, "My inspiration has come from people in the community who are disgruntled at the lack of diversity of viewpoints, like the conservative perspective, in our special programs. I, too, have noticed that this is a problem that needs to be addressed."

My inspiration has come from students in the community who are disgruntled at the lack of diversity of viewpoints.

Leland Ben '17

He first tried to invite Mr. West for the Adlai Stevenson '18 lecture series, which features a strong political figure. Head of HPRSS Department Ms. Amy Foster, who is in charge of orga-

nizing the Adlai Stevenson '18 lecture series this year, said, "The Stevenson program exists to bring speakers that almost always are politicians who have a distinguished record of public service, who embody a lot of the integrity and values of Adlai Stevenson II '18. We try to pick speakers who reflect that charge."

Ben said about his endeavor, "The results have been mixed, to say the least. The people in charge of making decisions did not think Mr. West would be appropriate for the Stevenson program for many reasons." There were also logistical reasons; the school does not allow outside donors to fund Stevenson lecturers, as it is endowed internally.

Ms. Foster said, "It certainly is an ongoing discussion, and I have to look at the charge of this particular speaker series and make sure that we choose people who fit what it was funded to do, that's

See **BEN, Page 3**



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/ The Choate News

The cost of test prep can quickly add up; this Princeton Review ACT book and Kaplan SAT II Literature guide both cost around twenty dollars.

SAT, ACT Prep Courses: Is the Money Worth It?

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

With the emphasis that students tend to place on college admissions, it is no surprise that many students choose to take advantage of Summit Test Prep ACT and SAT tutoring services on campus. According to Ms. Marcia Landesman, Director of College Counseling, feedback for these courses have been positive overall. However, different people have varying opinions regarding these courses, and they question whether they are effective and relevant to the Choate community.

When exploring the importance of these standardized test prep courses, another question that emerges is the importance of the SAT and ACT in deciding the results of college admissions. The answer is not simple and varies from college to college. However, there currently seems to be a general trend of colleges understating the importance of these standardized tests in the overall scheme of college admissions. According to Ms. Landesman, "The importance of standardized testing depends on the college. Some colleges place more emphasis on standardized testing than others."

Although some colleges are continuously placing less value in test scores, SAT and ACT scores are still important enough that it is necessary to gain some familiarity with the tests going into them for most students. Such familiarity is something every Choate student has access to during their time here. To familiarize students with the SAT, every student is strongly encouraged to take the school-administered PSAT in their fourth and fifth form year, as well as to take a practice ACT. The scores for these practice exams will not influence college admissions; however they can provide

good preparation for tests and scholarship opportunities for some students.

Some students disapproved of the need to take standardized tests in order to get into college at all. "I think it's unfortunate that we have to dedicate time to preparing for a test rather than studying something more productive," said Myles Stokowski '17.

Whether it is truly less productive or not, standardized testing preparation is very loosely related to core academic classes at Choate. "SAT and ACT prep classes are com-

See **PREP COURSES, Page 2**

Volatile Violence
New columnist Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18 argues that the recent political attacks are unpatriotic.
Opinions • P5



Family Style
For Parents' Weekend, students share their unique background stories.
Features • P6

The Archives Presents Presidential Pins
An exhibit displays pieces of political history.
Arts • P7



Concussion Repercussions
Investigating the response to a spike in head injuries.
Sports • P8



What's Inside

- News..... 1-3
- Opinions: Campus..... 4
- Opinions: Nation/World.. 5
- Features..... 6
- Arts and Leisure..... 7
- Sports..... 8

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Visuals (from left to right) by
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and Freelcons



Read it then recycle it

Students Find Cheaper Textbooks From Third-Party Providers

Continued from Page 1

but then I started thinking about how much money in financial aid was being wasted on paying for textbooks that are incredibly overpriced at the School Store.”

Before creating his petition, Hermes de Boor reached out to various members of the administration, including Mr. Matthew McDonald, Director of Financial Aid. Hermes de Boor said, “We talked about Mr. McDonald’s idea of finding a way to get textbooks more evenly distributed based on need, rather than having it first-come, first-serve. For example, the School could put aside used books so that people who come in for sports pre-seasons don’t necessarily get the first dibs on all of the used books, which really should be parceled out based on need.”

Hermes de Boor also talked to Director of Studies Mr. Kevin Rogers, the liaison between academic department heads and the School Store, to better understand how each academic department chooses its textbooks. Mr. Rogers explained, “Over the past few years, we have been on the lookout for other vendors that we could go to. The last time the department heads really took it up, we landed on the idea that one of the great things about having a bookstore on campus is the convenience and the immediacy of access. However, there have been various courses in the Science, English, and HPRSS Departments, that have moved to online texts, which tend to be cheaper. For instance, I know for the class I teach, our e-textbook is \$23; the paper version is quite a bit more.”

Mr. McDonald added, “We are looking into several different options to make purchases, especially e-texts, more efficient for our students. The student experience is our priority, so we continually review our policies and procedures to make sure that we do this to the best of our ability.”

Mr. Daniel Cronin, Manager of the School Store, said, “We don’t want to have expensive textbooks here either, because when that happens, there’s very little that we can do to control it. Everybody just assumes that we’re the bad guys, but in a sense, that’s not how it works. It’s a much bigger picture than that.”

Mr. Cronin explained why textbooks found in the school store are generally more expensive

that those found online. He said, “The only time we’re stuck having to sell textbooks that comparatively would be very expensive is when we would have to buy it new, as we have to sell it for the price that the publisher says we have to sell it for. Now, a lot of people will go on and look at online retailers like Amazon. That is really difficult for a store like ours to be able to compete.” He continued.

The School Store has considered buying textbooks from these third-party sellers. However, “if we try to go and buy a couple of books here and there from third-party sellers, sometimes those books take longer to get here, sometimes they’re in bad shape, sometimes they’re in the wrong edition, and sometimes they don’t show up at all. It’ll make it difficult for us to make sure that we have enough books to fill a course enrollment on time for the start of the year.” However, “over the past few years, the cost of textbooks has gone down because of the buy-back policy.”

Mr. Cronin elaborated on the school’s buy-back policy. “For the most part, we have used books, which we try to get through buy-back from students at the end of the year. Although it’s not a full refund, it allows us to buy the books back cheaper, which in turn allows us to provide them cheaper to students in the fall.”

Hermes de Boor hopes to circulate the petition through all the dorms. He said, “I plan to circulate it in the same way that the students spearheading divestment did it — circulating it through the dorms with the help of prefects — which I thought was really brilliant. I think prefects, in general, would care about the cost of textbooks because it affects people who they care about. Also, I’m thinking of posting things in the Day Student Lounge and maybe sending things to advisers in senior dorms as well to make sure that we won’t miss any demographics. This issue affects everyone in the school — everyone should have a say in it.”

He concluded, “I think people, students, teachers, and administrators should be thinking of more creative ways to deal with the problems of expensive textbooks and the strain that it puts on financial aid.”

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IAN MORRIS HAS LEFT, BUT THE BEAUTY OF PADDOCK FARM REMAINS



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

The 140-acre Paddock Farm produces a lush harvest of apples each year, and Mr. Erik Freeman hopes to maintain the orchards and flowerbeds.

By Ethan Luk '20
Reporter

Imagine Beethoven’s “Pastoral” Symphony come to life: the colorful opening translated into rustling autumn leaves, the vivid interplay between strings and woodwinds morphed into larks soaring over a bounty of harvest, and there you have it — Paddock Farm, an area near the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) with a faculty home and an extensive array of trees and plants.

Humanities teacher Mr. Erik Freeman is now the farm’s proud resident. He is most excited to work and live there with his wife and two daughters, Chloe and Nora. The challenges of handling a 140-acre farm vary from balancing an equal amount of time and effort to teaching and farming, to wild coyotes snatching away tomatoes and apples Mr. Freeman harvested. He hopes to tackle these issues by involving more students from the KEC or sports teams to give him a hand on Paddock Farm.

As a history aficionado, he dug up old pictures from the Archives to see how Paddock Farm looked like when it was founded back in the 1940s. He noted that the structure remains the same, and the long

creek that runs behind the KEC used to be a favorite fishing spot for locals. Intriguing tokens of the past, including Army Depot equipment, can be found among roots of vegetables beneath the fields. He also mentioned that Choate used to treat Paddock Farm as a junkyard, so it is never surprising to find chunks of a broken toilet bowl or pipes scattered across the land. Mr. Joe Scanio, a science teacher at Choate, also explained that Paddock Farm used to be an active farm where sheep and cattle would roam over the plains. “Currently, only some of the open areas around Paddock Farm are actively farmed, which is now managed by the Freemans. Paddock Farm is a great example of what used to be New England. The landscape, the barns and the fields would all be a second growth forest if no one like Mr. Freeman were taking care of it,” Mr. Scanio stated.

“To me, Paddock Farm is such a wonderful place for historians. One day when you’re merely fixing the flowerbeds, you might stumble upon some important historical artifact, and that is pretty cool.” Mr. Freeman commented.

Mr. Freeman believes Paddock Farm is a land of many

opportunities. “It’s a place where anyone can come up to. A lot of biology classes come here to observe the wildlife in the shared forest with the KEC, and some students from Choate even bring their cameras to shoot pictures around the area,” he said.

I like the open space, the breathtaking landscape, and the fact that my children can play in the forest as their backyard.

Mr. Erik Freeman
HPRSS Teacher

Mr. Ian Morris, a retired teacher who taught biology and marine science at Choate, lived at Paddock Farm for 26 years. He used to pick apples from the orchard to make all sorts of desserts with the fresh produce and sell them to raise money or simply reward his students with a tantalizing treat. Mr. Freeman hopes to follow Mr. Morris’s footsteps to continue the legacy of Paddock Farm. “The main expectation for me is to keep up the flowerbeds and the orchards. Right now there are no distinct activities for the student body but I am hoping that either people from the KEC or

sports team that I coach will help me prune the apple trees up there.”

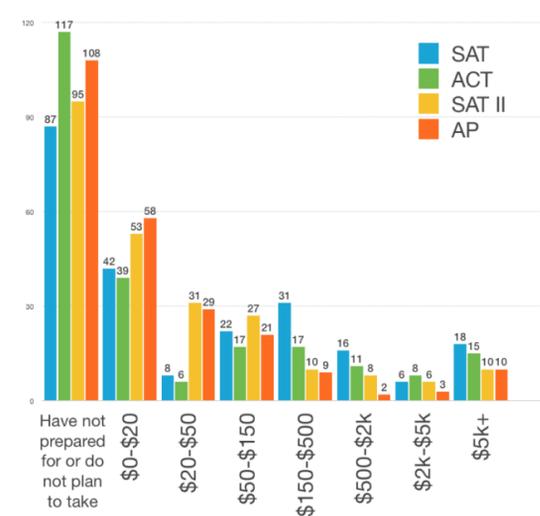
Growing up in Orem, Utah, Mr. Freeman has always been in touch with nature. Paddock Farm was the perfect chance for him to reconnect with the land and sky he knows so well. “I wanted to pursue the chance of working at Paddock Farm because it’s such an inspiring place. I like the open space, the breathtaking landscape, and the fact that my children can play in the forest as their backyard,” he said. “As Mr. Morris used to say, ‘It’s like a little slice of Vermont in Connecticut.’ It just came to me as a great place for my family to live in.” Mr. Scanio also sees Paddock Farm as a place of tranquility.

With the hectic lifestyle of a Choate teacher, it is comforting for Mr. Freeman to know that he will always find respite and a sense of freedom among the farm. “Up there on the farm, there are no neighbors, and I am completely away from the hustle and bustle. You can really feel the beauty of nature emanating at your fingertips. It definitely provides me with tranquility every day,” said Mr. Freeman.

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The Financial Burden of Standardized Test Prep Courses

How much money have you spent on preparing for standardized testing?



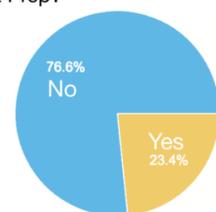
Continued from Page 1

pletely different from classes at Choate. The goal of a standardized test prep course is to prepare for a single test,” stated Ms. Landesman.

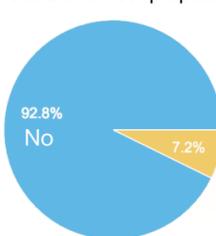
Others simply question the fairness of the existence of SAT and ACT prep courses. “Those who have SAT and

ACT tutoring available to them come from a place of privilege, meaning that they have the necessary socioeconomic conditions to facilitate that kind of learning,” said Bajji Tumendemberel ’18. “While those who don’t come from that place of privilege have to suffice by their own knowledge or their own background of in-

Have you used the testing preparation services offered by Summit Test Prep?



Have you received any form of financial aid for test preparation?



Confidence Interval: 3

formation going into the standardized testing.”

Donessa Colley ’18, a student who is able to take a preparatory course, explained her situation with a similar sentiment. “My scholarship is why I can have classes. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to afford them. I have friends who don’t have that type of schol-

arship and can’t afford them. It’s unfair that they spend extra time studying on their own and don’t have a list of all the strategies that I get and all this extra help. But when it comes down to academics, they might have the exact same grades, so it’s not really fair at all.”

However, there are numerous alternate options to help those who may be at a disadvantage because of their inability to afford standardized test prep courses. For these prep courses, Choate is currently partnered with Summit Test Prep, which offers financial assistance to those who need it. Other resources include online resources such as Khan Academy for the SAT, partnered with the College Board. For the ACT, there is an online course affiliated with Princeton Review. This ACT prep course is offered free for students who qualify, and overall is much more financially accessible than other forms of tutoring.

Additionally, such extra help may not be necessary for every student. “There is a range in how students prepare for standardized testing. Some are very good at self-study. Others

prefer a more structured setting, so courses work well for them. It’s a personal decision,” said Ms. Landesman.

There are resources other than prep courses for those students who do decide to opt out of them, as well. “Choate’s testing coordinator, Ms. Walsh, is a resource for all students. If a student has a question about which test to take and how to prepare, they can see her or a college counselor for advice.” Ms. Landesman said.

It’s unfortunate that we have to dedicate time to preparing for a test rather than studying something more productive.

Myles Stokowski '17

While there are indeed mixed opinions among students about SAT and ACT prep courses, there is no doubt that the existence of these courses has had positive impacts on some. Josie Ruggieri ’17, a student who has benefited from such courses, expresses some of those mixed feelings. “I’ve had three tutors for the SAT

and ACT, and I think it’s really beneficial, but I also think it makes it really uneven for people who can’t afford tutoring or can’t find tutoring. Personally, however, it’s helpful.”

However, the College Counseling Office emphasizes that SAT and ACT prep courses are completely optional. The office does not do anything to gauge the effectiveness of these courses, simply because there are a wide variety of methods students use to prepare for standardized testing, and the courses are not required for anyone. “A lot of college admissions officers will say, ‘standardized testing is less important than students think, but more important than colleges will admit,’” revealed Ms. Landesman.

“Standardized test scores are important, but not the be all end all. Other aspects of the application, such as your performance in classes and your academic transcript, are a much more impactful part of the college admissions process,” concluded Ms. Landesman.

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CHOATE BIDS FAREWELL TO MAILBOX LOCKS

By **Kate Spencer '20**
Staff Reporter

Rather than enduring the often tedious process of opening one's mailbox with a combination lock, students can now access their mail in seconds. The mailroom has removed all locks from students' mailboxes. Although the idea of unlocking mailboxes was controversial, mailroom staff and students are largely pleased with the outcome: easy accessibility.

Unlocking the mailbox is not only more convenient for students, but for mailroom staff, who encountered difficulties with locking mechanisms. Mr. Pete Dupont, head of Choate's mailroom, said, "When I got here a couple years ago, we had about 12 extra parts for locks, but we ran out, and so many pieces were broken. We decided to open them all."

Students now only have to turn the dial and press downwards to open their mailboxes. This approach has so far proven itself productive and easy for users. Additionally, students in the past encountered problems with accessing their mail after the mailroom staff had left for the day. "The reason why we decided to undo them is because kids weren't able to get their mail after hours because of the condition of the boxes," explained Mr. Dupont.

Students may ask for one of the thirty unused locked mailboxes. However, very few students have chosen to take advantage of this option. "Only two students so far have come to lock their mailboxes, but it is an option," said Mr. Dupont.

Most students are appreciative of the change. Aurelie Tamsamani '20 said, "I like how convenient it is. You don't have to worry about remembering your code, and not many people get mail in the first place."



Photo by Michael Li | The Choate News

In order to open a mailbox, students now simply turn the dial and press downwards.

Grace Lawrie '19 said, "It is better because last year, I know a lot of people forgot their combinations, and so they were constantly asking to having them unlocked."

They should be locked all of the time, and everyone should have their own code for their mailbox.

Serena Levin '20

Many other students have praised the mailroom's newfound accessibility. Isabelle Peel '19 said, "I think it's great because I always forget my password, and I never knew how to unlock my mailbox. It might not be a good idea, though, because someone could come in and take my mail, but for me, a forgetful person, it's a good change for the school."

Jack Kim '17 added, "I like that they are unlocked. I forget my password all of the time."

Security was a fear for the

mailroom staff when making the decision to unlock the mailboxes and students. Despite the low number of students who have requested locked mailboxes, many students have expressed concern about the security of their mail. "One of my concerns about the mailboxes being open all of the time is that people could just take each other's mail," explained Serena Levin '20. "I think they should be locked all of the time, and everyone should have their own code for their mailbox."

"People might steal my stuff. If someone sent me a personal letter, and another student thought my mailbox was his or hers, that would be a very awkward situation. The main issue here is security and how we can just ensure that students have the integrity to open their own things," agreed Ethan Luk '20. However, no theft has been reported so far. The mailroom staff now relies on the integrity of the community to keep the students' mail secure and private.

Additionally, the change is

not permanent. Mr. Dupont commented, "We are moving up to the mailroom beneath the Dining Hall." This move is a result of the St. John Hall construction and its predicted opening in 2017. In the new location, the mailboxes will be locked for students on campus. "Next year, we are going to have brand new mailboxes for everybody," said Mr. Dupont.

"The vast majority of students like it," remarked Mr. Dupont, explaining the overall reaction from the student body and the Choate community. Despite concerns, the idea has received positive feedback and seems to be working for the short time it will be employed.

Grace Zhang '20 concluded, "In the end, there will be students that both agree and disagree with this new policy, and there is no way to appease every single student. However, keeping these mailboxes unlocked is a simple and progressive innovation that will convenience the lives of students in general."

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BEN '17 EXPLORES SPECIAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

Continued from Page 1

my responsibility. We've had a number of Republican speakers in the part, in this program. And there are other ways that speakers can be heard on campus besides this particular program."

Director of Studies Mr. Kevin Rogers, who organizes special programs and the school calendar, also explained, "For most of our speakers, we have to work within a narrow financial reality, so we want to make sure that we get the best we possibly can. In addition, the speakers' calendar has to match up with something that we can use. Those are the primary limitations."

Ben added, "Upon my request to host one of those two speakers on my own terms as a Young Republican event, I was told that I could do it with a smaller venue. I found it very interesting. We don't limit attendance for sporting games, dances sponsored by clubs, or plays in the arts center."

He went on, "Choate will not be hosting my requested speaker as of now."

Mr. Rogers remarked, "I think that one of the things that the school would have an interest in, particularly with politics-oriented talks, is that the people from the surrounding area might try to get in or see that person. Sometimes that can pose as a safety and security concern."

Ms. Foster said, "In the HPRSS department, we are about open inquiry and open discussion and trying to understand different perspectives, and give every perspective an appropriate voice as long as those things are voiced respectfully." She continued, "We have to know that people are going to disagree, but we have to disagree in a respectful and constructive way."

The idea of inviting a conservative speaker to campus originated last year. Grace Tully '16, the former President of Young Republicans, worked with YAF to sponsor a speaker, and Ben was in charge to continuing her efforts this year. YAF eventually agreed to help, as long as there was an audience for the speaker.

According to its website, "YAF chapters bring together students to advocate for the ideas of limited government, individual freedom, free enterprise, traditional values, and a strong national defense. YAF chapters can provide a visible presence for the Conservative Movement, energize other students, and encourage them to speak out."

After receiving the grant, Ben reached out to Coordinator of Special Programs Ms. Leigh Dingwall, who handles the logistics of special programs. Ms. Dingwall referred him to Mr. Rogers.

Ben then reached out to Mr. Rogers in August to suggest that Mr. Shapiro speak at an all-school meeting. Every all-school meeting had been booked for the year. Mr. Rogers said, "At that point, we didn't have the Adlai Stevenson '18 lecture, a lecture that comes out of the HPRSS department, so I suggested that he might want to talk to Ms. Foster and see whether she had any interest in welcoming him to campus."

About future plans, Ben said, "My conversation with administrators has been ongoing. I've also talked to Mr. Stanley extensively about this." He noted that those conversations have been productive. "I am happy with the progress that is being made, and I look forward to continue working with the proper authorities."

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ITS CAUTIONS STUDENTS ABOUT ONLINE SECURITY

By **Huong Pham '19**
Reporter

In response to an online scammer drawing a substantial amount of money from a Choate student's account, Director of Information and Technology Services Mr. Andrew Speyer sent out an all-school email last Sunday reminding students to safeguard personal and important financial information such as passwords and credit card numbers. Mr. Speyer directed students to documents on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and reminded them to download Sophos Endpoint Security and Control, a antivirus software the school offers to student free of charge.

Mr. Speyer wrote, "To prevent and protect your identity and access to your technology devices requires you to be suspicious, cautious, and mindful of text messages, email messages, and even phone calls."

We've had different attempts to compromise online security before, directed toward faculty members.

Mr. Andrew Speyer
Director of Information and Technology Services

In a follow-up interview, he elaborated, "We've had different attempts to compromise online security before, directed toward faculty members." However, as Mr. Speyer noted, there are only two to five cases reported each year.

Mr. Speyer commented on the prevalence of antivirus software on campus. Speaking of Sophos, he noted, "Do I think all students have it? Maybe. Probably not." The School is currently exploring other ways to guard against threats to online security. Mr. Speyer shared that the School is considering an additional anti-malware product called Malwarebytes Enterprise Edition in addition to the current Sophos anti-virus. Malwarebytes would offer more assistance with CryptoLocker, a malicious ransomware computer program, as well as support the Choate firewall.

As Mr. Speyer said, the school needs to consider if the change is "worth the time and effort," since Malwarebytes is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000 each year.

Mr. Speyer expressed his opinion regarding the sufficiency of education about cybersecurity on campus. He said, "Is one email enough? No."

Recently, last spring, Mr. Speyer gave a presentation during school meeting about virus attacks that had impacted students and faculty members in the winter. He emphasized now, "This is something that needs to be discussed more often. We need to do a better job." He compared online security measures to other safety protocol such as drills, lockdown, and emergency gatherings, commenting, "You need to remind yourself of the procedure and hope that you never have to implement it."

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MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS IN SCHOOL'S ABRUPT REMOVAL OF MEMORIAL HOUSE ADIRONDACK CHAIRS

By **Tommy Wachtell '19**
Reporter

There has been much speculation regarding why the Adirondack chairs that used to sit at the top of the Memorial House steps were gone at the beginning of the school year.

Head of House Mr. Yaser Robles explained, "During the first month or so of the term they were here and then they disappeared," adding that, "They were removed about a month ago. I know there were some efforts to bring them back and then they were removed again."

Memorial House dorm advisers were unsure of the exact reason for the removal of the chairs. Mr. James Yanelli remarked, "Some believed that the environment was perceived as hostile or at least aggressive to the people that were walking by. They were under the impression, given the architecture of the building, that the people sitting in the chairs were sort of lording over the steps and the adjacent road way. The people walking by were left an uncomfortable feeling like they were being judged or stared at or monitored in some strange way." He added, "Last year was the only year, to the best of my knowledge, that there had been a problem with the chairs, but to tell you the truth, I'm not sure that was a problem related to the chairs as much as it was to the steps."

Mr. Robles said, "I don't know exactly the details. If the chairs were removed, I'm sure they were removed for a reason that would be along the lines of creating some type of an environment in the school."

Mr. Charlie Fuentes was uncertain if an event catalyzed the change. He commented, "I would certainly hope that's not the case, because the Mem steps are a very important social part of being a Choate student, particularly for a four year Choate student." He continued, "I don't think that would have been the case. I think there would be others ways to figure that out, as opposed to just taking away the chairs. I would think if that was the case, this would be discussed and the new class would have the ability to prove themselves."

There have been various reactions to the disappearance of these chairs. "The chairs and the steps allowed me to talk to people that I usually wouldn't approach. It provided a good chance to hang out with my housemates." Wesley Fang '19, a former resident of Memorial House, said.

According to Mr. Robles, "The students are asking for

them back because they were here initially, and the steps were a common place for kids to hang out. I don't think it's just the kids at Mem, either — you also have the girls from the neighboring dorms all hanging out here." He also added that, "To me, the chairs were a part of the identity of Memorial House."

Some believed that the environment was perceived as hostile, or at least aggressive, to the people that were walking by.

Mr. James Yanelli
Memorial House Dorm Adviser

Mr. Yanelli commented, "I don't have a strong feeling about it, but I do think it's reasonable to want to have the environment be comfortable for all people. I hope for girls

to be able to come and sit on Mem steps, whether there are chairs there or not, as much as I would like to have them in the common room. The furniture shouldn't be a driver of the behavior. The behavior should be good and open and appropriate at all times anyways, whether there are chairs there or not. The boy and girls should be expected to get along and behave well and be appropriate."

The chairs had a long history at Memorial House. According to Mr. Yanelli, the former Head of House, "They were brought to campus when benches and chairs were being sprinkled around campus." He added, "They have been there for a good long time. They were here when I moved into the dorm about a dozen years ago. I don't recall them not being here until now."

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Photo by Michael Li | The Choate News

Students sit on the Memorial House steps after the chairs, key social components, disappeared.

THE CHOATE NEWS



110TH MASTHEAD

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Me and the Mets: Why I Keep the Faith

By **Nina Hastings '18**
Copy Editor

Last Wednesday, October 5, the New York Mets lost their shot at the wild card spot in the National League Division Series, effectively ending their season. In last year's World Series, the team fell short of the championship title by three games, and the year before that, they didn't even make it to the postseason. As a Mets fan, I'm used to disappointment. For the rest of the baseball world, the Mets are a joke, never failing to mess up an opportunity to win. Immediately following Wednesday's defeat, I started to receive mocking texts from friends and family. To quote a few: "It's a sad day in Mudville," "Lmk if you're drowning in your tears, I'm a lifeguard," and, "Numb to the pain yet?" Even though fans like me maintained a glimmer of hope up until the bottom of the ninth, there wasn't a doubt in the minds of every other viewer that the Giants would take the win in the wild card game. Everyone tends to remember only the Mets' failures, creating the negative stereotype that surrounds them, but the team has earned the name "Miracle Mets" for a reason — every now and then, they manage to shock the world with an incredible winning streak, and Mets fans everywhere rejoice.

The team's fan base is unlike any other because of all the rises and falls we jointly experience throughout each season. We don't hesitate to engage in every level of interaction, from screaming and chanting in the stands of Citi Field together to exchanging nods on the sidewalk, and I can say confidently that I have never failed to approach someone wearing Mets gear and say, "Nice shirt," or "Nice hat." The rest of the MLB fandom may think that Mets fans don't exist, but the team held the single-season attendance record for New York baseball for 29 years straight, and our Choate community itself is filled

with the fans who pack those stands: Shade Mazer '19, Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18, Lauren Cannan '18, Jake MacKenzie '17, James Deakin '17, Mr. David Loeb, Ms. Judi Williams, and Mr. Michael Velez, to list a few. I've met and conversed with people like these around campus solely on the basis of support for the Mets as common ground. It's easy to be a Red Sox or Yankees fan when they're always winning, but committing to the Mets takes serious dedication and loyalty capable of bonding fans even outside the stadium.

My die-hard Mets fan of a dad has been taking me to games since I was old enough to wear my own baseball glove, but one of the most memorable that I've ever been to was a 2015 home matchup against the Miami Marlins with now 42-year-old pitcher Bartolo Colón at the mound. Colón has always been the laughingstock of the stadium while at bat, but that day I witnessed one of his rare successes behind the plate: he hit a sac fly and ran so hard that his helmet fell off, batting in an RBI to tie the game that the Mets ultimately won. Just like the Mets as a whole, Colón may be ridiculed for his reputation, but he has his shining seconds of fame. Moments like this, from Johan Santana's no-hitter in 2012 to outfielder Juan Lagares's 2014 Gold Glove award, keep our fandom filled with hope for the team we love, and the willingness to wind up with a broken heart after nearly every final inning makes a great win that much sweeter.

I'm aware that my team will never be consistently the best in the NL or in people's minds, but being a Mets fan is about more than just celebrating the wins. We're a devoted following that sticks together throughout the highs and lows for a team that deserves more credit than it receives, and I wouldn't want to be a part of any other fan base.

Nina Hastings is a fifth former from Madison, Conn. She may be reached at nhastings18@choate.edu

CORRECTIONS

NEWS
A profile on a new adjunct faculty member, Mr. Jorge R. Rodriguez, misspelled his last name.

OPINIONS
An article titled "No Honors World History, No Problem" incorrectly stated that Honors World History was removed from Choate's curriculum last year. While there is no longer a distinction between honors thematic and chronological world history, the School still offers Honors World History.

The Choate News regrets these errors. To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu.

NO FALL CONCERT, NO LOVE FOR THE ARTS

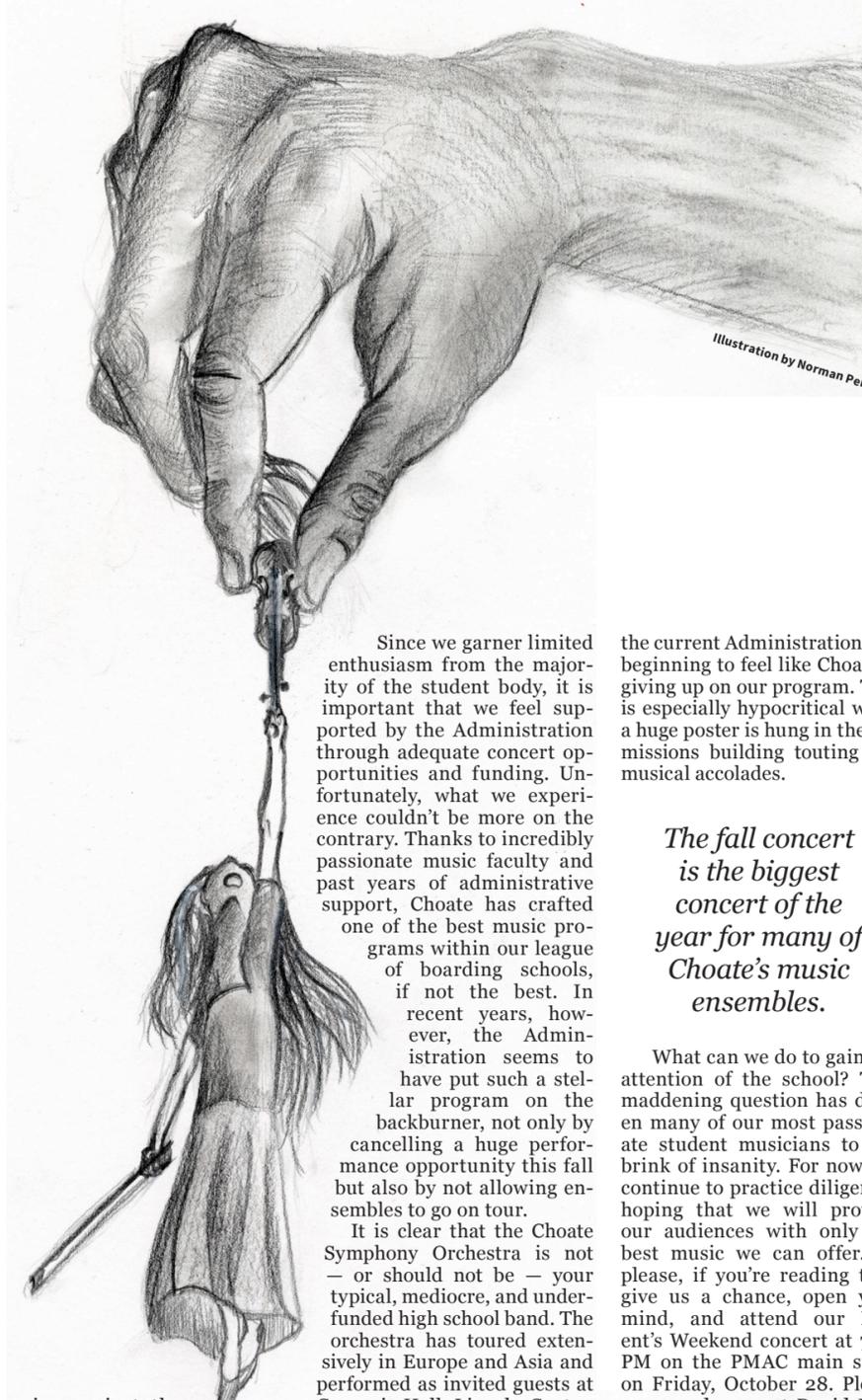
By **Edith Conekin-Tooze '19**
Opinions Writer

On October 14 in an article by Nicole Yao '18, it was reported that the annual fall ensemble concert would be cancelled this year. Usually, this concert is the only opportunity in the fall term for music ensembles such as Symphony Orchestra, Festival Chorus, and Jazz Band to perform for the entire student body. For many of us in the music program, the report was the first we had heard of the cancellation. Unsurprisingly, this announcement was shocking and upsetting for many musicians on campus. The repercussions of what is an extremely frustrating and disappointing administrative decision have reverberated throughout the PMAC and instigated widespread discussion within our community. These discussions have brought to light the way the Choate community and administration often undermine the music program.

I am one of the students at Choate for whom music is a substantial part of their daily schedule. Those of us who are in the Music Arts Concentration program (Arts Con) devote countless afternoons and many evenings to what is an extremely challenging and often emotionally draining discipline. Only those who have made music a priority in their lives could withstand the requirements of being a member of ArtsCon: We are required to practice four times a week for at least two hours each session, perform especially difficult music at recitals or at school meeting in chamber groups, and be a part of at least one Choate ensemble such as the Symphony Orchestra or Chamber Chorus, which meet up to five hours per week during the evenings.

Sadly, the recent cancellation of the fall concert has left me feeling that the level of dedication that we have to our artistic specialties is receiving less and less acknowledgment from the student body. The fall concert is unique in that it would have been mandatory for students to attend. Unlike certain sports games or theatrical performances, music concerts at Choate often fail to attract significant audiences. Thus, the fall concert is often the biggest concert of the year — at least according to attendance — for many of Choate's music ensembles.

I understand that many people find classical music boring, but as a matter of providing a truly comprehensive educational experience, Choate should seek to teach the student body how to appreciate many different forms of expression, even if it means



going against the mainstream. One only needs to recall the student body's thunderous reaction to Annett and Kaki's performance of the virtuosic duet "Caeser" during school meeting several weeks ago to be reminded of the power of classical music. Many of the students in the audience would not have witnessed such a riveting performance had it not been at a mandatory school meeting. It is truly disheartening that students have trouble listening to classical music for two hours when they have no trouble spectating a football game that can last considerably longer than that.

Since we garner limited enthusiasm from the majority of the student body, it is important that we feel supported by the Administration through adequate concert opportunities and funding. Unfortunately, what we experience couldn't be more on the contrary. Thanks to incredibly passionate music faculty and past years of administrative support, Choate has crafted one of the best music programs within our league of boarding schools, if not the best. In recent years, however, the Administration seems to have put such a stellar program on the backburner, not only by cancelling a huge performance opportunity this fall but also by not allowing ensembles to go on tour.

It is clear that the Choate Symphony Orchestra is not — or should not be — your typical, mediocre, and underfunded high school band. The orchestra has toured extensively in Europe and Asia and performed as invited guests at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Great Wall of China, and even the White House. However, this year will be the second time in recent history that the Choate Symphony Orchestra will not tour internationally. Instead, the Chamber Chorus will tour in Scandinavia. In the past, the two groups have been able to tour together rather than have to forfeit one for the other. Even the possibility of the orchestra performing domestically is in jeopardy, further suggesting an administrative disregard for the music program. At the very least, the School should strive to support the music program on campus — but even this level of dedication seems too demanding of

the current Administration. It's beginning to feel like Choate is giving up on our program. This is especially hypocritical when a huge poster is hung in the admissions building touting our musical accolades.

The fall concert is the biggest concert of the year for many of Choate's music ensembles.

What can we do to gain the attention of the school? This maddening question has driven many of our most passionate student musicians to the brink of insanity. For now, we continue to practice diligently, hoping that we will provide our audiences with only the best music we can offer. So please, if you're reading this, give us a chance, open your mind, and attend our Parent's Weekend concert at 7:30 PM on the PMAC main stage on Friday, October 28. Please come and support David Park '17 as he performs "Rachmaninov's No. 2 Piano Concerto." Please come and support our guest artist, David Langstaff '72, who will come play Bach with the Chamber Orchestra. Please come and support your classmates, your dormmates, your teammates, and all of your friends who are taking risks and bravely sharing what they have been working so hard on. Just give us a chance to show you what we can do. We promise that you won't be disappointed.

Edith Conekin-Tooze is a fourth former from New York, N.Y. She may be reached at econekintooze19@choate.edu

THE SURVEY WAS THE FIRST STEP, NOW FOR THE REAL CHANGE

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

As Rosalind Weisman and "A Culture of Dignity" continues to assess the culture of Choate, the number of campus conversations regarding healthy relationships — between both faculty and students — has reached a peak. Reactions to Weisman's presentation at school meeting have ranged from pride at the School's efforts to frustration at the frequency of these required conversations and their disruptions to some people's lunch patterns. Regardless of this disparity, few have been exempt from the stir caused by the presentation. Now, the School must demonstrate its ability to translate data and observations into tangible administrative reforms. If this crucial step is overlooked, as some fear, many of the problems highlighted by this period of reflection will find no resolution.

Those engaged in initiatives to create a healthier campus dynamic, of whom I am one, are suspicious of the way that Weisman's data has been interpreted and how it will lead to concrete change. At the heart of this suspicion are the two presentations on the results of the school-wide survey. In these, presenters have highlighted, first, the disparity between the perceived and real

prevalence of hook-up culture and, second, an observation that healthy motivations for campus relationships outnumber unhealthy ones.

First, presenters have used the results to assure students that they shouldn't feel "left out" or "uncool" because they don't engage in hookup culture. However, this assurance should not diminish the importance of having conversations about hookup culture. As we know from widespread media coverage and emphasis, hookup culture pervades the colleges and universities to which many Choate students will matriculate. Therefore, we should consider measures to engender healthy relationships to be preemptive. We must destigmatize and normalize talking about relationships that are both sexual and non-sexual in nature, even if seems like hookups are not as prevalent on campus as we once perceived them to be.

Within their data, presenters have also emphasized the great number of students who hook up for the right reasons. Rather than be satisfied with this statistic, however, we should pay more attention to those students who hook up for dangerous or unhealthy reasons. Assuming the trustworthiness of the survey

results, enough students reported these motivations for their responses to not be an anomaly. That anyone engages in sexual activity because of social status or because of a perceived obligation is unacceptable. These students' experiences should prompt further administrative efforts to teach students to identify power dynamics and how to deal with them. Those that tend to wield power in certain relationships would benefit from guidance and education, like the student-facilitated workshops on consent, that will teach them how to foster a safer and more compassionate community.

The School should resist adopting tunnel vision and focusing on only positive statistics.

This will take more than updating the Sophomore Seminar curriculum. Administrators should also take note of student initiatives from groups such as Students Advocating Gender Equality (SAGE), whose five-page proposal for the Weisman meetings contained all the

reforms I have mentioned and numerous others, and the Committee on Respectful Relationships, whose members have been developing solutions for these issues since last spring. Since both of these groups are student-run, they can provide an intimate understanding of Choate culture that no survey result can hope to replace. These student-led initiatives should have primacy in the discussion around reforms and deserve the support of the administration in all their endeavors.

To its credit, the School has amassed an impressive amount of data regarding the experiences of its students. However, many are anxious to observe how this information will translate into concrete change. The School should resist adopting tunnel vision and focusing on only positive statistics. Many student voices have raised concerns over the many changes that have yet to be made. These voices must be met not only by ears willing to listen but also by people intending to affect change. Only by working together can the Administration and Choate students seek to reap the fruits of their recent labor.

Anselm Kizza-Besigye is a sixth former from Oxford, England. He may be reached at akizzabesigye17@choate.edu

DUTERTE'S REGIME: BRUTAL BUT EFFECTIVE

By **Nicole Weinrauch '20**
Opinions Writer

I will not defend Duterte's words. I'll defend his actions. The things he says, at least the words that get reported internationally, range from ungentlemanly to despicable. I don't especially care. Bluster is exactly that: bluster. Real change – making tangible improvements to ordinary lives – is what counts in leadership, a lesson Americans would've done well to learn in the past eight years. If words offend you, the fault is your own.

Duterte is the Filipino president, not a diplomat. I look at what he's accomplished on the ground at home: stability, efficiency, lower and middle classes who for the first time believe they have a shot at a quality of life. I did not expect a guy with high-brow speeches and lofty ideals or talk of change that never happens. This is the opposite of elitist politics the usual Filipino way. Duterte is a street fighter, a colleague of Manny Paquiao, a rough-hewn commoner. Nobody said he was finely educated or had any understanding of history, in the East or the West. Yes, he's a rabble-rouser. Yes, he may eventually turn dangerous. Yes, he has instituted fundamental change in his society in a way that scares the corrupt elite as they see their selfish grip on power slowly slipping away.

are what we, in America, take for granted, but they represent significant change to the daily lives of people in a country accustomed to having 25% of the population in poverty, vast inequality, and government controlled by the wealthy. Suddenly, bureaucracy is trimmed and efficient; enormous lines at banks, public offices, and airports are disappearing as the new government ensures its workers fulfill their duties. Millions of people who never had any idea of how their untrusted government worked can now watch the first ever dedicated TV channel broadcasting from the country's congress. Free public Wifi is expanding in all cities, a boon that cannot be understated in a country with basically no alternative telecommunications or information access. With such dire prospects and strife at home, more Filipinos work overseas than in any country except Mexico – close to 15% of the population. Duterte has implemented huge changes, prioritizing more efficient processing of documents and reduced fees for this overseas labor, a pillar of the economy.

But most important to the masses, and apparently most objectionable to Westerners, is his harsh approach to establishing peace and security. It may not have made the front page of *The New York Times*, but before Duterte's presidency, violent crime, fueled beyond any doubt by drug proliferation, was even more rampant in the Philippines. Duterte appealed to the masses about this issue and is now delivering the goods. Just two months into the new administration, nationwide crime is down 49% from a year ago. This is hope and change to believe in. The safety of Davao City, once the only oasis of calm when Duterte was its mayor, is spreading everywhere. There's no confusion among ordinary people about the connection between drugs

Yes, extra-judicial killings are abhorrent to our society – because we enjoy civil society.

What has he done in his first five months? I'm not talking about state dinners and fancy receptions. I mean the things that count to his people. Some



Photo courtesy of the EPA

Drug dealers and addicts alike languish in an overcrowded cell in Manila.

and crime. The recent crackdown on dealers and addicts, regardless of whether anyone thinks it is excessive or inhumane, has brought welcome stability to the streets and schools. An overwhelming majority of Filipinos will tell you that the people who died before Duterte's inauguration were the victims, and those dying now are the perpetrators. Blood in the streets is never pretty, but for the first time, the Filipino people are looking at the results of an efficient and less corrupt government – and the people like it.

Yes, extra-judicial killings are abhorrent to our society – because we enjoy civil society. The Philippines never reached that stage; in truth, it has been an impoverished, crime-infested hot mess where only the wealthy are insulated and the masses lie low. If you want to demand a more careful and restrictive legal process against local drug trade, what you may

really be saying is that you're okay with the persistence of rampant crime. Ask the ordinary people. Ask why only corrupt politicians, drug lords, and the ultra-rich (the third often related to the first two) are speaking out against the president. The people's love for this man is still growing. The lower classes feel all changes on the ground are to their benefit in a country whose government has never served them before. The middle class believes security and anti-corruption will allow them to build new businesses beyond the clutches of government-supported industries. Ask the people about extra-judicial killings and they'll tell you that all they know is that in their neighborhoods and villages there are suddenly fewer rapists, killers, and drug-pushers. They'll tell you children play in the streets for the first time and that universities are no longer synonymous with rape.

Ask these people if they care about their president's disgusting street-vocabulary, misogyny, and rants about global issues he knows nothing about. They may be embarrassed, but safety and efficiency are prizes they value above all else. The rest is just background noise. Liberalism isn't automatic; it is built on stability and a government that responds to the needs of the many, not just the privileged few. The Philippines found a leader who, for better or worse, is producing results on these basic conditions. The results, not the methods, are what the Filipino people care most about. They will wait for improved methods later, because they know that without Duterte, their nation's status quo would never have changed for the better.

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

ELECTION 2016

Election Countdown:
11 Days



Photo courtesy of Chad Batka

On October 23, 2016, *The New York Times* published a list of insults that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has hurled through his Twitter account since June. The list consisted of 281 people, places, and things, including "presidential candidates, journalists, news organizations, nations, a Neil Young song, a lectern in the Oval Office," and, of course, Rosie O'Donnell.



Photo courtesy of The Guardian

With 11 days until election day, both campaigns are busy as ever. Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton hit the trail with Senator Elizabeth Warren in New Hampshire, while Republican nominee Donald Trump and Senator Tim Kaine, Clinton's running mate, were in Florida.

Violence Has No Place in Our Nation's Political Pantheon

tack is inherently anti-American and absolutely unacceptable in every way.

One of the central principles behind America is freedom of expression. The founding fathers believed that everyone should have the right to safely voice their political views, even writing this belief into the Bill of Rights. Ever since its birth, our nation has stood for democracy and freedom. Acts of political violence such as those in North Carolina go against everything this great country stands for.

Republicans in North Carolina will now view Democrats as intolerant and violent.

Regardless of party affiliation, it is wrong to attack others simply because they have opposing political beliefs. Although you do not have to agree with someone's viewpoint, you should under no circumstances threaten violence against them because of it. As North Carolina's governor Pat McCrory said, "The firebombing of a



local political headquarters in Orange County is clearly an attack on our democracy. Violence has no place in our society – but especially in our elections." Every American should have the right to express his or her belief without fear of being harmed, and as such, acts of political violence undermine our democracy.

Political violence is not only harmful, but also unproductive. By waging partisan attacks, people only further aggravate the divided political climate. Especially in 2016, Republi-

cans and Democrats are fiercely polarized enough. Those who threw the firebomb into the GOP headquarters in North Carolina have done nothing but worsen relations between the two sides. Many Republicans in North Carolina will now view Democrats as intolerant and violent and will be less likely to listen to them in the future. In turn, Democrats will view Republicans as unwilling to cooperate with them, and a vicious cycle of partisan distrust will be created. Instances of political violence only portray the per-

petrators in a bad light instead of advancing their cause. For true political change, members of political parties must engage peacefully with the other side.

Fortunately, the response to the North Carolina bombing has been mostly bipartisan. The Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton tweeted in support of the North Carolina GOP, commending a GoFundMe fundraiser organized by Democrats that raised over \$13,000 to rebuild the headquarters; the North Carolina Democratic Party issued a statement saying they "strongly condemn" the attack. Although there have been some confrontational approaches (Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's declaration that "animals representing Hillary Clinton and Dems in North Carolina" were responsible for the attacks), the reactions on both sides of the aisle have largely been inspiring for the future of American politics. One hopes the horrific attack in North Carolina will prompt Democrats and Republicans alike to realize that violence has no place in our democracy.

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



State of the Nation

By **Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18**
Columnist

The 2016 presidential race has been one of the most polarized and tense elections in American history. Distressingly, this tension has permeated the nation's climate and set off politically charged acts of violence. One such incident occurred recently in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

On October 16, the Republican Party Orange County headquarters was firebombed by an unknown perpetrator. While the attack did not injure anyone, it caused extensive damage to the building and its interior. The bombing has instigated outrage from politicians on both sides of the aisle – and for good reason. This type of senseless political at-



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

During the third and final presidential debate, on Wednesday, October 19, Donald Trump said, "I will look at it at the time," when asked if he would abide by the election results should he lose on November 8, reiterating allegations that the presidential race is being "rigged." Trump added, "I will keep you in suspense."



Hillary Clinton @HillaryClinton

While Donald Trump is assaulting our democracy, millions of people are standing up for it – registering, voting early, volunteering.



Hillary Clinton @HillaryClinton

The president takes an oath to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution."

Does Trump know what's in it?



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Wow, just came out on a secret tape that Crooked Hillary wants to take in as many Syrians as possible. We cannot let this happen - ISIS!



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

"If you can't run your own house you certainly can't run the White House" A statement made by Mrs. Obama about Crooked Hillary Clinton.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FACES STORMY SEAS

By **Jack Bergantino '18**
Opinions Writer

It was clear that after Donald Trump became the Republican nominee, the GOP had two options: unite behind Mr. Trump or break out into a state of disarray. After months of Trump, an embarrassment to Republicans, parading around as their presidential candidate, the latter has occurred and now the GOP faces an uncertain fate. The rise of Trump has made many Republicans question their beliefs; his nomination, though, was necessary for reform in the party.

The party is currently composed of four different factions: the moderates, Libertarians, the Tea Party, and Christian conservatives. Over the last twenty years, these groups have drifted ever farther apart. After former

speaker Newt Gingrich sought to improve Congress's reputation by compromising with President Bill Clinton, the GOP began to build up an anti-establishment base. The Tea Party, in particular, became more extreme, while many moderates were alienated. Now, many of the Republican members of Congress are not only unwilling to compromise with the Democrats, but also are unwilling to come to accord with the greater Republican party.

If Mr. Trump wins, the Republican party will be given yet another chance to unite behind one leader. Although he has been incredibly controversial, his leadership and large following will have the chance of reinvigorating the Party. As of now, despite having a party chairman and the seat of the Speaker of the House, the GOP is largely leaderless. Current-

ly, there is no clear direction for the party; it has digressed into an organization composed of people who simply agree to disagree with liberal ideologies.

For the underlying belief of the Democratic party is that government action is needed to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all. Yet, Republicans lack their own code of central beliefs. Indeed, it seems that when I say I am a Republican, I am categorized as "from the other party"; however, that does little to clarify my ideals. I might be a Libertarian who believes it is the responsibility of the individual to satisfy one's own needs or a conservative evangelical who believes government must intervene to prevent people of the same sex from marrying or women from having abortions. Therefore, though some beliefs

will inevitably always differ within both of the parties, Mr. Trump has the potential of establishing unity that the party so badly needs.

If Mr. Trump loses – which he seems destined to do – the existing state of disarray will likely result in a breakdown or at least a complete restructuring of the Party. Though Mr. Trump has undoubtedly hurt the Republican Party's reputation through his offensive comments directed towards females and people of other races, his loss will provide the Party with much needed time to regroup and reconfigure its place in modern-day politics. The Party's outcome remains much less certain if Mr. Trump loses, yet it may be exactly what the party needs. The humiliation and immense anger that have accumulated in the party over the last several years is reach-

ing a point of implosion, and Mr. Trump's loss would serve as the catalyst to bring on the collapse and eventual reformation of the GOP.

Putting aside the argument of whether or not Mr. Trump is a suitable president, his loss is the best possible outcome for the GOP. If he wins, Trump will likely only push off the GOP's eventual demise by establishing a false sense of unity. Many individuals are calling for an overhaul of America's current two party system; Trump's loss would likely serve the Republican party and the country well by acting as a source of restored faith in American politics.

Jack Bergantino is a fifth former from Cromwell, Conn. He may be reached at jbergantino18@choate.edu

Choosing Special Program Speakers: A Special Process



Photos courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Jordan Ellenberg, Mr. Bob Woodward, Dr. Tricia Rose, and Dame Evelyn Glennie.

By **Kristen Andonie '17** and **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Staff Reporter and Reporter

Most students' understanding of how a special program speaker is selected may likely be summed up by Mr. Kevin Roger's, Choate's Director of Studies, humorous explanation: "We reach out and negotiate and then ba-da-bing-ba-da-boom we have a speaker." But, of course, "ba-da-bing-ba-da-boom" takes tremendous resources, time, and effort to achieve.

Inviting a Speaker

The Special Programs Committee is tasked with selecting speaker candidates and arranging the corresponding programs. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Rogers and consists of the various directors of individual programs, Coordinator of Special Programs Ms. Leigh Dingwall; Dean of Faculty Ms. Katie Levesque; Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley; and representatives from the Heads Office and Development Office.

The speaker selection process often begins a year in advance. According to Mr. Rogers, the Committee has to consider "what the mission is, how much money we have to spend, and then, usually the hardest part, meshing speakers with a date that will work."

There are many ways a potential speaker can be brought to the Committee. Sometimes program directors coordinate with department heads to brainstorm ideas. Other times, a student, alumnus, or family with connections suggest speakers or help lower costs.

Candidates are evaluated by the Committee for their societal contributions and their level of fame. Speakers who are too well-known are notoriously expensive as a result of their high de-

mand. Mr. Rogers said, "I think that people would be amazed at what someone gets paid to speak for an hour. Whether it's Hillary Clinton or George W. Bush, you're talking about a quarter of a million dollars. We don't have those kinds of resources."

Charles Krause '51 Fellow in Rhetoric

This lecture series is part of a fund provided by Mr. Charles Krause '51, who was a debate captain while at Choate. The program is run by Mr. John Connelly and Ms. Lorraine Connelly. According to Mr. Connelly, each year, an academic department invites a speaker to campus "who has made a distinguished contribution in his or her field and whose personal example may inspire others."

The Krause series brings speakers from all walks of life to campus. In 2014, the arts department hosted Dame Evelyn Glennie, a deaf percussionist, who spoke about listening and demonstrated her skill with a myriad of instruments.

This year, the science department is inviting environmentalist Dr. Bill McKibben to speak on April 18, 2017.

Ambassador S. Davis Phillips '61 Family Lecture

Founded in 1996 by Choate alumnus and parent Ambassador S. Davis Phillips '61, this lecture series invites speakers who have demonstrated considerable leadership through their contributions to the greater community.

Often, these speakers relate to then-current events. For example, during the 2000 - 2001 academic year, Choate hosted a debate among political operatives and media correspondents involved

in the 2000 presidential election. These included Ms. Andrea Buchanan, the campaign chairperson of Mr. Pat Buchanan; Ms. Susan Bysiewicz, the Connecticut Secretary of State, who represented Mr. Al Gore; Mr. Rich Lowry, the editor-in-chief of the National Review, who represented President George W. Bush; and NBC reporter Ms. Doby McDowell '78, who served as moderator.

Because the purpose of this series is fairly broad, Choate has been able to invite a wide range of speakers, ranging from professors to architects to Pixar animators.

Thalheimer Educator-in-Residence Program

Mr. Joel Backon is the director of this lecture series, which is funded by the Thalheimer family. "Initially, the requirement was that the speaker speak on an issue that had to do with Judaism, Israel, or the Middle East," explained Mr. Backon. However, the family has recently broadened the scope.

A speaker is invited biannually, and so far, eight Thalheimer speakers have come to Choate. A ninth, Mr. Nicholas Kristof, an op-ed columnist for the New York Times, will come later this year.

In recent years, beginning with Mr. Bob Woodward, an investigative reporter for *The Washington Post*, who came in 2015, the Committee adopted a new format for the special program. The speaker now lectures for only 15 minutes and then a few students interview the speaker with prepared questions, followed by a question-and-answer session with the student body as a whole.

As for the "educator-in-residence" portion of the program, Thalheimer speakers are generally required to spend the entire day at Choate, meeting with classes and groups of students.

Adlai Stevenson '18 Lecture

This lecture series is endowed by Mr. Martin Koldyke, a Choate parent who started the fund in 1976 to honor Mr. Adlai Stevenson II '18. Mr. Stevenson had a successful career in politics and public service, including serving as the governor of Illinois.

Every year, the HPRSS department selects a speaker, called a "Stevenson Fellow," who, like Mr. Stevenson, has a distinguished career in public service and is involved with politics. Last year, for example, the Stevenson Fellow was Mr. Matthew Dunne '88. Mr. Dunne has a diverse background; he has served in the Vermont State Senate, worked for Google, and been involved with the AmeriCorps VISTA program, a national service program designed to alleviate poverty.

This year, HPRSS Department Head Ms. Amy Foster and HPRSS teacher Mr. Charles Hopkins will collaborate to choose the next Stevenson Fellow.

In addition to a speaker, a Choate student is selected as a Junior Fellow to give a brief overview and analysis of the life of Mr. Stevenson before the lecture.

Of course, these programs are only a sampling of those in place. Over the years, speakers have encompassed a wide variety of backgrounds, such as college professors, war veterans, architects, and writers. Despite obstacles, the Committee, with the help of generous donors, never fails to present speakers who deliver dialogue-inciting speeches.

Kristen Andonie and Samantha Stevenson may be reached at kandonie17@choate.edu and sstevenson19@choate.edu, respectively.

FLASHBACK FRIDAY: ELECTION BLUES

As the 2016 presidential election draws to a close, some cannot help but wonder, are all elections this crazy? On October 29, 1976, *The News* ran a piece titled "Election Blues." Here is a condensed version.

On Tuesday, the American electorate will decide the direction to which our great nation will head in the next four years to come... Although marked by the first Presidential debates since 1960 and by the first Vice Presidential debates ever, this year's campaign has not proved to be too fruitful.

The Presidential debates epitomize the lack of constructiveness in the campaign. Both candidates have given almost "programmed" responses to most of the questions posted by the reporters. In addition, these confrontations have been rather fruitless, for Ford and Carter have spent too much time dealing personal insults to one another. Good examples... would be Ford's blaming of Carter for the mistakes of the Democratic Congress and Cart-

er's attempts to link Ford with the Watergate scandal.

Therefore, the best way to describe this year's race for the Presidency might be "negative." Once again the majority of the American people are faced with the choice of deciding between the lesser of two evils...

What is there to look forward to after 1976? Capitol Hill is undergoing a major change in this critical election year. One can expect new faces in 1980. The most unfortunate illness of Senator Humphrey, together with the political "retirements" of Vice-President Rockefeller and former governor Reagan, as well as the resignation of the Speaker of the House and Senate leaders, all indicate that the era of Vietnam and Watergate is nearing its end.

As a slight consolation, one must realize that at least Ford and Carter are both "democrats" in the true sense of the word. Even a Georgian victory would most likely dispel all possibilities of the realization of George Orwell's most frightening prophecy.



Crossword Clues

Down

- Choate physics teacher
- WhatsApp, WeChat, _____
- A step above gustar (noun)
- Care for, as a garden

Across

- _____ as a pancake
- Frost on a car
- Soon, presently
- Geek

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

The solution for this puzzle can be found online at: thechoatenews.choate.edu

What is Family? Three Students Share Their Stories

As told to Jessica Shi '17. Interviews condensed and edited. Additional stories may be found at thechoatenews.choate.edu



Photo courtesy of Sebastian Chacon

Sebastian Chacon '19 is a two-year sophomore from Lawndale, Calif.

I live with my grandmother, two uncles, and younger brother. Until age four, I lived with my mom and dad, but my dad wasn't the nicest guy, as some dads can be, and my mom had to leave. She went to go live with her mother and father, my grandparents.

I remember going out to play baseball with my grandfather. It was a time when I felt that being a kid was really fun. He was passionate about baseball, and he got me hooked on it. He was just someone that, as a whole, I had great memories with. One year, my grandfather got sick, and he passed away at age 54.

Later, there was a fire in our house, and we had to move. When we got to the new home, complications occurred between my mother and grandmother. My mother was young when she had me and my brother, and she didn't always make the best decisions; my grandmother, being much older, did. We decided to stay with her.

My grandmother is just a strong lady. She really is. She always laughs even when times are tough, which is why I can, too. Whenever she falls, she gets back up, and that is something that a kid just picks up.

Financially, it was tough for my grandmother to support us (as well as one of my uncles who didn't work because of a mental condition). So her oldest son decided to move in and help out.

When he came, he definitely took the position of a father figure. He understood what I was going through because his dad left his mom when he was younger. And so, with my brother and me, he definitely said, "I don't want this to happen again with these boys." I felt very lucky because some children don't ever get that.

When I left for boarding school, my family was still in a rough time with my mother and custody stuff, which stressed me out. Growing up, I definitely felt that I had to protect my brother from what people were saying about our family, but one thing that I found optimistic about leaving was that he got to learn how to be more independent.

I never questioned why I couldn't have a mom and dad because I always had a grandmother and grandfather and uncles there for me. And sometimes I got along with my mother.

I'll always love them, because they have always loved me. They'll always be there for me. To my family, I say two things: thank you, and I love you.



Photo courtesy of Liv McCulloch

Liv McCulloch '17 is a three-year junior from Sunderland, Mass.

I have two moms, but what's even cooler, I actually have ten moms because all of my moms' friends live in our town, and none of them have kids. I was pretty much raised by all of them.

Julie, who goes by Mommy, is my biological mom. She has always been really, really close to me. She's been here for me if I just needed a friend, which is awesome, since as an only child family life can get kind of lonely.

Deb, who goes by Mama, is my other mom. She's probably the most loving person I have ever met, and she also pushes me really hard — in the best way.

When I was five, Massachusetts legalized gay marriage, and I got to go to my moms' wedding. At the wedding, all of their friends and I filmed a version of *The Wizard of Oz*. I played Dorothy. That year, my moms went to eight weddings

because all of their friends also got married.

Just before I came to Choate, they all got matching shirts that said "The Village," because that's what they call themselves. They threw me a surprise going-away party and all sang "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," meaning that they'd come and help me if I ever needed it.

When I come home from school, I don't go and see my best friends — I go and see my moms. They really are my family, and all of them care about me so much, and I care about them so much.

One of them is a librarian, and she's really, really intelligent. I can go to her with any sort of topic I want to talk about, and she'll talk to me. Another one is incredibly successful in the sense that she's worked hard all her life and is now on the board of a prestigious insurance company.

I often think about how different my life would be if I had a dad. But because I'm so comfortable with the situation that I'm in, I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything. Yeah, I've always wanted to know what my biological father is like, because I have absolutely no idea (all I know is that he's a six-foot tall athlete of Scottish or German ancestry), but I think what I have is perfect.

My moms have shown me that I can be whoever I want to be, and no matter who that is, I'll get their support. They're all just so loving.



Photo courtesy of Tristan Jamidar

Tristan Jamidar '18 is a three-year junior from Guilford, Conn.

I have a dog named Bella, an 11-year-old black lab. My brother Chris is 17 and in his senior year of high school. My dad is a doctor in New Haven. My mom mostly took care of our home, but she also worked as a librarian a few years ago. In April 2013, she died of pancreatic cancer.

I have a pretty weird family. My dad is Indian and Kenyan, and my mom is Eastern European. That's kind of a cool mix of cultures. But during family vacations, there was always conflict. When you picture a normal family, that wasn't us.

My mom fought stage three pancreatic cancer for two years. I didn't know she had cancer until about six months before her death. I was just told that, "There's something growing inside her that's not good."

My main reaction was, 'Oh, she's sick, but my dad's a doctor, and she'll get better.' I

thought the illness was equivalent to a cold.

For the last six months of her life, she had to be moved into hospice care in our house. It was very difficult for her to walk or move around on her own, so how she carried herself was different. But she had the same spirit, and her happy disposition stayed.

The night she died, it was like, "Oh, my mom's dead." It was tough, but in my mind, I didn't feel as bad as I felt I should have. Even at the funeral, I had to be my brother's shoulder to cry on. I had to be this emotional rock for my other family members, who were kind of losing it.

But over time, you have these moments, where you go, "Hey, Mo—" And then Mom's not there. And you just have to move on.

I loved her a lot, and she loved me. I could talk to her about anything. She was someone you could go to and be soft and vulnerable with. I was a sensitive kid growing up, so I was kind of really attached, but you can probably say that about all kids with their moms.

Now, with one less member in the family, our ties have gotten stronger. My brother and I fight a lot less. With my dad, I've opened up a lot more.

My mom's death has definitely left a hole in my heart, but it's just that, a hole. It isn't a chasm. I don't know if that's just a mental block I made for myself, but, well, yeah.

On Key with Kaki Su '19



By **Namsai Sethpornpong '17**
Staff Writer

Pianist Kaki Su '19 and her friend violinist Annett Ho '18 dazzled the Choate community with their *Franck Sonata in A Major* duet during the school meeting on Wednesday, October 12. Immediately after the last note played, the entire audience stood up, applauding the two students with exuberant whoops and cheers, and the performers bowed to the entire school in pride, gratitude, and slight relief.

It was Su who came up with the idea to perform a duet during a school meeting, and the outstanding show was the product of hours of hard work. "Annett and I have been practicing a lot before the performance — almost every weekday since the beginning of school. After orchestra practice, we stayed in the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC)," said Su. "This piece wasn't that hard technically, but musically, there were so many possible interpretations. I also had to match with Annett, which is very hard."

"Matching" refers to the interaction between the two musicians that enables them to make a piece of music their own; it is the interplay between two instruments that makes each performance unique. "We talk and listen and discuss what we think. We keep eye contact and even watch each other's breathing," said Su.

Su has been playing the piano for more than 12 years, having started at the age of four. She visits Yale University twice a month to get lessons.

Su, to the dismay of Orchestral and Jazz Ensemble Director Mr. Philip Ventre, is not enrolled in the Arts Concentration program. "I applied to the program during freshman win-

ter, but right after the audition, I decided that I didn't want to do it. I wanted to do sports, even though I wasn't very good at them. When I came to Choate, it wasn't piano that I wanted to focus on. If that were the case, I would have applied to a conservatory. I wanted to experience the different aspects of Choate and playing sports was one of them," Su continued. "Mr. Ventre wasn't very happy about that at first, but he understands because I still perform with chamber music groups," laughed Su, "It works out really well."

Ho said of Su, "Her best known skill is sight reading; she has the ability to play anything very well just by looking at the notes. When I'm working with other musicians at Choate, we're focused on getting the notes, intonations, and rhythms right. But when I work with Kaki, we can both do all of that relatively quickly," Ho explained. Both Ho and Su's expertise allow the musicians to elevate the quality of their piece, interpreting it and making it their own.

The thing about being a musician is that you never arrive — you're constantly growing — and Kaki has an insatiable appetite for this growth.

Ms. Kalya Yannatos
Director of the Arts

Ms. Kalya Yannatos, Choate's Director of the Arts, remarked of Su, "She is an incredibly talented young woman who has so much potential and who is working really hard to fulfill that potential. It's very exciting to watch her grow as a musician. The thing about being a musician is that you never arrive — you're constantly growing — and Kaki has an insatiable appetite for this growth. I hope that her drive will help her to realize her great potential, which would be a gift to the world. For now, she's a gift to us and a gift to the Choate community."

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Wallingford Symphony Orchestra at the PMAC



Mr. Philip Ventre conducts the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra during a performance in celebration of Independence Day.

By **Jeanne Malle '19**
Staff Reporter

From the opening second, a delightful ambiance filled the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) as Mr. Philip Ventre guided the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra (WSO), accompanied by Mr. Rob Zappulla. Mr. Zappulla, who has been called "one of the greatest interpreters of the Great American Songbook," came to campus on Saturday, October 22, to perform.

Mr. Ventre explained, "Wallingford Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1974 when a commission asked the people of Wallingford to make suggestions of how we could honor the bicentennial of America, and celebrate Wallingford. Terrence Netter and I went downtown and spoke to the committee and said, 'let's have a symphony orchestra of Wallingford.' Some people didn't like the idea at all, but the majority of the people on the board loved it, and that's how the Symphony Orchestra was formed."

Mr. Ventre has conducted the Symphony ever since its establishment, and, in over 40 years, he has only missed one of their shows.

Ms. Kalya Yannatos, Director of the Arts, said that the

Orchestra performs frequently on campus to a warm reception. "They do about five concerts a year, always under the baton of Maestro Ventre. It is sort of his baby, if you will," stated Ms. Yannatos.

The Symphony is composed of the best professional musicians in Connecticut, including those who play in different Connecticut orchestras and some musicians who teach at Choate. Choate's piano instructor Ms. Susan Cheng and Wind Ensemble director Mr. Craig Hlavac are two such musicians. Mr. Ventre explained, "We either audition people or have a personnel manager who is also the manager of three other orchestras, so we're sharing all of the same people." He continued, "I know all of the members of the orchestra personally, and we even have one original member of the orchestra playing with us from 1974. Janice Zetzer is an original member of the violin section. In addition, there are some Choate graduates in the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra."

Although the Symphony rehearses two or three times for most of its concerts, the members only rehearsed once for the show performed October 22. "These are professional

musicians, so I tell our students to come to the rehearsal of the Wallingford Symphony and to see that when I tell the Symphony something, they write it down and play it perfectly because they're the best musicians in Connecticut."

We're bringing the greatest classical and the greatest symphonic and Broadway music and performing them at the highest level.

Mr. Philip Ventre
Orchestral Ensemble Director

During the show, it was clear that this group of musicians are not only talented but also have an exceptional understanding of each other because the music they played sounded like it could have been rehearsed for months. Mr. Ventre's pride in WSO is incredibly well deserved, not only for their technicality but also for how easily they grabbed the audience's attention. The featured singer, Mr. Zappulla, sang, as Mr. Ventre stated, "22 songs with his band, the best big band in Connecticut. He has the origi-

nal arrangements of Frank Sinatra, Vic Demone, Tony Bennett, all the great singers, including Stevie Wonder. It's a mixture of all the great songs from the last 116 years. It's totally cool."

One of the best parts about this performance was the unexpected lineup. The musicians did not play any classical music; they only played jazz-themed songs, most of which were very famous. Being able to sing along to the famous songs helped capture the attention of viewers of all ages. Mr. Ventre's passion in directing his Symphony could be felt from anywhere in the auditorium. Furthermore, Mr. Zappulla sang along to the songs all the while moving around the stage and occasionally dancing.

Of his enthusiasm, Mr. Ventre added, "My favorite part is that Wallingford has a symphony orchestra, and you cannot say that about many other places in Connecticut anymore. It is a wonderful thing. We're bringing the greatest classical and the greatest symphonic and Broadway music and performing them at the highest level. The audiences love it. The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra is our cultural jewel."

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ARCHIVES EXHIBIT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BUTTONS

By **Camila Borjesson '17**
Arts and Leisure Editor

If you venture past the Library Reading Room and into the computer room, you may stumble upon a glass case containing a colorful collection of campaign buttons. The assortment represent classic Americana pop art and depict slogans and images of presidential candidates from the late 1890s to the 2008 election. They are part of an array of election paraphernalia that belongs to the Choate Archives.

Archivist Ms. Judy Donald said that the political campaign buttons collection was donated to the School in stages by alum Charles M. Scotland '52, who passed away in May. Ms. Donald explained that Scotland "loved the School and he loved the history of the School, so if you have a sharp eye, you will see little bits of Choate Rosemary Hall history."

At first sight, Scotland's collection displays a chronology of political movements, but upon closer inspection, one might observe that Scot-

land has allocated his love for his alma mater in the cultural and historic aspects of his pin compilation. For example, according to Ms. Donald, Scotland was fascinated by the connections between Choate and

Howard Taft's wife, Helen Heron Taft, was a Rosemarian.

The pins illustrate the evolution of politics in the twentieth century because they force the viewer to remember a time when political discourse was

the history of politics, but also a few cultural themes going on at the time. It's an obvious thing to put on display right before the election," explained Ms. Donald.

Ms. Donald added, "The presentation is truly Scotland's in every way — he designed how all those buttons were going to appear." Scotland had more than a thirst for preserving the past — he had an artistic eye.

Donald explained that the collection was not receiving as much attention as it deserved in a corner of the reading room, so it was moved to an area where it would be more frequented by students and faculty alike. The next time you walk by the computers in the library, make sure to stop by and admire this valuable, ever-changing exhibition, as the pins are switched out regularly before returning to the security of the Archives.

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A few of the buttons in the collection come from 1970's campaigns.

politics, including both Adlai Stevenson's '18 and John F. Kennedy's '35 races for president, and the fact that William

more amicable and campaign buttons and fans were forms of social media. "It is a beautiful collection not just showing

Death of a King, Death of an Artist



By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter

On October 13, 2016, Thailand was met with the great loss of the beloved King, Bhumibol Adulyadej. His legacy of grace, devotion to his people, and practical way of life still remains a fresh memory in Thai minds.

Having cultivated an interest in the arts since he was a child, His Majesty self-studied the saxophone, and showed talents on the piano, the clarinet, and the trumpet. Often titled "The Supreme Artist," he orchestrated 50 compositions, a three-movement ballet showed in Vienna, and other movements that, even to this day, remain classics and are often heard in Thailand. Whether heard in malls, train stations, or on the streets, his music inspires Thais in their day-to-day lives. Two of his most well-known classics are "Falling Rain" and "Candlelight Blues."

Many Thai Choate students were inspired by the king. Annett Ho '18 stated, "When I was young, every time I went home to Thailand, I would often play in charity concerts. A lot of the pieces I studied were composed by Nai Luang, the King. He was definitely a big part of my musical career, but his music also touched me as a Thai."

King Bhumibol Adulyadej imported elements of European culture and music to Thailand, translating it into tunes that Thais could all connect with. His compositions united the people. Everyone, from the young to the elderly, from street food vendors

to executives, from educators to students, enjoyed his music and felt enraptured. His work connected the Thai society to the monarchy; art was the translation of his hopes and a part of him that could be shared freely. His work changed the course of Thai music. It brought exposure to Western instruments, which produced a new sound.

Jazz Band member Ploy Chirathivat '18 recalled, "Ever since I was young, I've always seen the pictures and videos of the King playing his saxophone and I thought it sounded beautiful. It was unlike any instrument that I have ever heard. When we had to choose instruments to play in middle school I chose to play the saxophone. The image of the King stuck with me; I was touched by the beauty of the music."

King Bhumibol Adulyadej was also a gifted painter, and would spend most of his free time oil painting. Between 1959 to 1967, His Majesty produced more than 107 pieces of art. His passion for art was never-ending. Even when his duty drained him of time, a camera could always be found around his neck. In 1965, King Bhumibol Adulyadej was presented an Honorary Doctorate in Painting from Silpakorn University. Following the event, Bangkok's Bicentennial Celebrations exhibited 47 of his paintings. His works greatly influenced the later generations of Thais.

The Rama IX Art Museum Foundation, established twenty years ago, holds a display of 200 pieces of art created by 150 different artists, including several of King Bhumibol's paintings. Titled The Art of Rama IX Reign, it is considered one of the most significant Thai exhibitions of the modern era. The exhibition aspired to showcase the talent of the Thai people and the inspiration that was their Supreme Artist. Even with his passing, his art and music will continue to inspire.

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TOWN LIBRARY HOSTS VARYING INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

By **Nicole Yao '18**
Staff Reporter

Nearly every other week, the Wallingford Public Library hosts a presentation on one of the various topics pertinent to the lives of the citizens in the town of Wallingford.

Ms. Beth Devlin, the Head of Community Activities at the Library, briefly described her role in bringing these presentations to the Library. "My job is to bring a variety of programs geared to adults," she said. "There are some general topics that I try to hit on, including literature, science and technology, environment, music, art, history, and health." The presentations aim to educate the public about these subjects; for example, the Library is currently hosting a series of environmental films and discussion and another series of lectures on the American Revolution. "These lectures are all pre-

sented by vetted presenters," Ms. Devlin noted. "They're either professors or historians of some sort."

In addition, the Library also hosts stand-alone programs with topics ranging from "solo" traveling to entrepreneurship.

The library offers educational programs in addition to programs purely for entertainment, such as cooking demonstrations and musical performances.

"We consider our mission to be able to bring to our community a wide variety of information," explained Ms. Devlin. "We have a great community of lifelong learners, so a lot of us are just always going to be students."

Regarding the process of finding topics and presenters, Ms. Devlin stated that many people give recommendations as to what they would like to see in the Library next. "I have people calling me all

the time," she said. "There's always people interested in getting their messages out to the public." The Library also partners up with various local organizations — such as the Wallingford Police Department, several restaurants, the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW), and Masonicare, a local nursing home — to coordinate and run these programs.

We have a great community of lifelong learners, so a lot of us are just always going to be students.

Ms. Beth Devlin
Head of Community Activities,
Wallingford Public Library

"This library has always been involved in programming these events," Ms. Devlin said. "But I think that it's

been taken from a new level from the interest that we get. We usually get an excellent crowd."

These presentations, as Ms. Devlin made sure to emphasize, are all free and open to the public. People are welcome to look and register for upcoming events online at the Wallingford Public Library's website.

According to Ms. Devlin, Choate students are also more than welcome to come to and even host these programs. "In years past, I've actually worked with Choate's a cappella groups," Ms. Devlin said. "We've had them perform here — I'm always open to that. And if you represent a club and you'd like to do a presentation here to the public, I'd be really interested in working with you on that as well."

Nicole Yao may be reached at nyao18@choate.edu

Show Your Support: Boys' Varsity Football vs. Suffield Academy • 10/29 • 3:00 p.m. • Maher Field

FIELD REPORT

Saturday's Games

Boys' XC (4-2-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 23-34

Girls' XC (2-3-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 17-41

Field Hockey (8-3-0)
falls to Hotchkiss, 0-4

Football (5-0-0)
beats Worcester, 41-7

Girls' Soccer (11-0-1)
beats Hotchkiss, 1-0

Girls' Volleyball (10-2-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 3-0

Boys' Water Polo (12-2-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 19-7

Boys' Soccer (9-3-1)
beats Hotchkiss, 1-0

Wednesday's Games

Field Hockey (8-3-0)
beats Miss Porter's, 8-1

Boys' Soccer (9-3-1)
beats Kingswood, 2-1

Boys' Water Polo (12-2-0)
beats Williston, 14-6

AFTER SPIKE IN CONCUSSIONS, RECOVERY ANALYZED

By Joseph Coyne '19
Staff Reporter

Concussion prevention has been receiving nationwide attention lately, as brain injuries are becoming more commonplace in a variety of sports. Already, there have been seventeen reported concussions on Choate's campus this fall. Around this time in 2014, there had only been eleven. In 2015, this number fell to seven. As a result of this year's increase in brain injuries, concussions have become a critical talking point within the school community.

In order to discuss concussions at Choate, one must first understand what a concussion is. Dr. Christopher Diamond, Director of Health Services, said the cause of a concussion is a sudden movement of the brain, then an abrupt stop. He elaborated, "The brain moves within the skull, so if the skull stops, the brain takes another moment to stop and there is this reverberation, or impact, upon the brain." So far this year, concussions have been reported on the water polo, football, and soccer teams. Water polo has suffered more concussions than the others, with the most common cause being freak accidents. The way in which each water polo player was concussed is uncommon and, in at least three of the cases, the player was not anticipating contact. Examples include a flying elbow to the head and the ball unexpectedly rebounding.

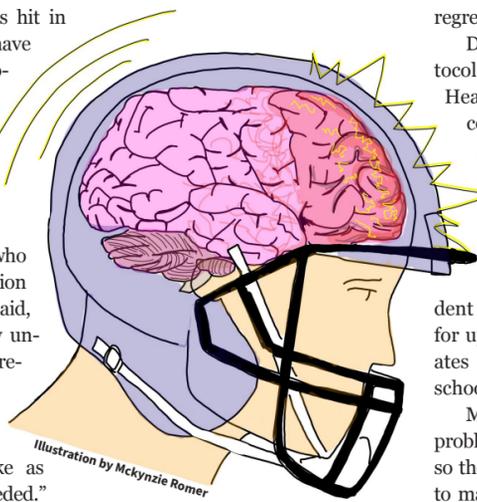
First-year teacher and new Boys Varsity Water Polo Head Coach, Ms. Brooke Rea, said, "I err on the side of caution. As

soon as a player gets hit in the head, if they have any concussion symptom for more than a couple of minutes, I encourage them to go to the Health Center." Varsity player Oliver Chessen '19, who suffered a concussion earlier this term, said, "Coach Rea was very understanding. She appreciates that personal health comes before water polo, and told me to take as much time off as I needed."

Dr. Diamond consistently emphasized that concussions need to be taken seriously. He said, "Everyone needs to err on the side of caution because if you don't, the recovery can be incredibly long."

Ongoing research into head injuries means that the world of sports must constantly adapt to protect players as well as possible. In particular, the high-risk sport of football has had to adopt new safety measures, especially after work done by Dr. Bennett Omalu and the National Football League revealed a connection between in-season brain trauma and later-in-life chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a progressive degenerative disease similar to dementia. As new information continues to emerge, high schools are facing increased pressure to protect their student athletes.

One might expect half of a school's concussed students to be football players. Yet at Choate, their risk is at or below that



regress to the previous step.

Despite this meticulous protocol, Dr. Diamond and other Health Center employees are constantly examining the process to make sure it is as safe and effective as possible. Dr. Diamond said, "The problem is that even with our very good protocol, the student may not be back to health for up to three weeks. That creates all sorts of problems at a school like Choate."

Missing school is certainly problematic for Choate students, so the Health Center works hard to make this disruption as small as possible. Dr. Diamond said, "The main thing is to monitor what is being missed: to identify which classes they must focus on upon their return, what homework needs to be done versus what they should and should not be assessed on."

Despite the Health Center's best efforts, missing school will inevitably affect students. Rohin Shivdasani '18 said, based on his own experience, "Every night you're doing two nights of homework to catch up. At Choate, one night's worth of homework is already a lot." This sentiment was echoed by Wesley Fang '19, who got a concussion earlier this year. Chanan Kitjatanapan '17, who is currently undergoing treatment for a concussion, explained that his situation is especially unfortunate because the concussion caused him to miss out on a period of time that is necessary to complete one's

early applications for college.

One thing that the Health Center is currently changing is the way that baseline IMPACT tests are done. The baseline test is a computerized assessment of one's verbal memory, visual memory, reaction time, and motor speed. A student first takes this test when his or her brain is uninjured, so that a suspected concussion can later be identified when he or she retakes the test and receives a different score. Dr. Diamond said, "This year we began with the varsity and high-risk sport athletes getting IMPACTs." He plans to start conducting baselines with new students soon.

Students have identified other aspects of concussion protocol that they believe could be improved. Shivdasani mentioned, "When you have a concussion and you're not going to classes, you can only rest at the Health Center, which is very inconvenient." He reported that constantly walking between the Health Center and one's dorm is not only time-consuming, but also mentally straining due to the prolonged exposure to bright sunlight. Kitjatanapan added that one aspect which could be adjusted is "just keeping the patient informed. I wasn't really educated about the stages of the concussion, but my coaches were." Although certain aspects of the process may not be optimal for students, all of the subjects interviewed believed that the Health Center did an excellent job handling their case.

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BOYS' AND GIRLS' CREW

BOARS TAKE ON HEAD OF THE CHARLES

Continued from Page 1

Ross Moseley '17, Alex Overmeer '17, Alexander Paolozzi '17, David Herman '17, and Martin London '17, and, representing the girls, Arsh Sekhon '19, Lila Kirchoff '18, Antigone Ntagkounakis '17, Libby Wilson '18, and Gabby LaTorre '17. Tapering for the race began soon after lineups were announced.

After Choate's experience at the Charles last year, both teams returned to Boston with something to prove. The girls had heartbreakingly lost their bid for this year's eight-person race after narrowly failing to place in the top half in last year's race; thus, the four-person event was a chance for them to prove themselves and reestablish Choate Girls' Crew as a formidable team. On the boys' end, after a spectacular finish in 2015 of 6th place out of 85 teams, the team was hoping to improve their results and hopefully earn some medals—a right reserved for the fastest five crews in the event.

"We definitely came into this with some high expectations because of how well we did last year," said Ross Moseley '17, the stroke seat of the boys' four. "But we've been working hard

all season, so we're happy to see that all finally come together."

Stroke seat of the girls' four, Sekhon, commented, "We were really nervous, too, because of the chance to re-qualify for next year. We also definitely wanted to leave some kind of legacy for the future of the team."

We really wanted to leave a legacy for the girls next year, so we were excited to see our results.

Gabby LaTorre '17

Both teams' crews, as well as spare rowers Stewart Egan '18 and Mackenzie Morehead '17, headed up with the coaches on Saturday the 22nd to set up boats and explore the course. All the while, races in the masters' and alumni categories were already in full swing. Spending the night in a hotel, the two crews woke up the next day ready to race.

Despite the girls' youth fours event beginning at 8:53 AM, and the boys' at 11:33 AM, each boat launched onto the river out of the boathouse at Community Rowing Inc. (CRI) about fifty minutes before their race began. A bus of spectators from Choate ar-

rived at the Charles at about 8:00 AM, with ample time to settle before the races began.

After a hard-fought 4,800 meters, the girls' team coasted across the finish line with a time of 21:22.671. They soon learned this would place them in 32nd out of 85 teams—well within the margin for requalification in 2017.

In the midst of victory celebrations among the girls' team, the boys took to the start line themselves. With the weight of last year's performance on their shoulders, the boys finished the race in 18:38.004, securing them 9th place out of 84, with the added benefit of beating out their spring rowing rivals from the Belmont Hill School.

"Even though I'm sad that it's my last fall race at Choate, I'm still beyond happy about how we did," said LaTorre. "We really wanted to leave a legacy for the girls next year, so we were so excited to see our results." Wilson and Ntagkounakis added, "There were a lot of tears after the race."

On the boys' side, coxswain Martin London '17 said of the race, "We were pretty happy about how we did—we've been working hard all season. We're just excited to come back in the spring even stronger and make a good showing at NEIRAs."

With the Charles behind them, both teams have already begun preparing for the next big competition: the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association Championships in May. The countdown clock is already set: only six months until race day.

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Chin and Chang: The Yin and Yang of Girls' Thirds Soccer

By Grace Stapelberg '20
Reporter

This week, reporter Grace Stapelberg '20 sat down with the Head Coach and Assistant Coach of girls' thirds soccer, Mr. Deron Chang and Mrs. Kristin Chin, respectively. They reflected on their overall coaching experience and on notable memories with the team.

Grace Stapelberg '20: What's it like coaching with (the other)?

Kristin Chin: Coaching with Chang is great. He's super organized, very knowledgeable, and has a great ability to interact with the girls on the team. He makes it very fun but educational at the same time.

Deron Chang: I think the key element with Chin is that we clearly connect well with each other, and that helps the girls a lot on the field. The other thing is that I can tell Chin, "Oh, this is what we're doing," and she'll know exactly what I mean without me having to explain it.

GS: Are there any coaching memories that stick out to you?

Chang: Two seasons ago, I think we won two games. For one of those I wasn't actually coaching. It was Chin and the Headmaster, and that's why we won.

Chin: The Headmaster loves coming to our games, and the girls play better when he's there.

Chang: We've had so many little moments, as well.

Chin: What about when Larissa [Owusu '17] tripped over the ball and fell on the ground?

Chang: There are so many Larissa moments, where she would have breakaways and then fall.

Chin: And we would just laugh. One time, somebody else scored a goal off of Larissa's falling and we missed it because we



Photo by Natalie Pontier/The Choate News

The girls' thirds soccer coaches strategize on Ayres field.

were laughing on the ground.

Chang: And last weekend, we were playing... Who?

Chin: Andover.

Chang: Oh yeah, that small school. So an Andover midfielder had just released a ball deep into our zone. Our stopper and our sweeper were back there, and the ball was not coming at a high rate of speed. Our stopper ran up to kick it [Chin and Chang laugh] and she missed. She completely missed. Then our sweeper came up and also missed. [Both laugh again.] Then an Andover wing came up from behind and scored. It was the most painful thing, and the parents were all like: "Oh! OH!" You know, they got the double groan going! That one is going to be hard for me to forget.

GS: How would you describe your coaching technique?

Chang: Technique? You know, clearly, our goal is not to win because otherwise, we would have been fired long

ago. Our goal is just to teach them how to be better players than they were when they first stepped onto the field. There's a lot of room for improvement for kids who haven't played the game before, and I think that is what's so fundamentally satisfying to us as coaches and also to the girls who get to see themselves improve.

GS: What characteristics do you think a player on your team should have?

Chin: They really just need to be willing to learn, to try new things, and to be part of a team. That's it.

Chang: Another thing I just want to mention: Chin and I are at a new field this year that we don't want to leave because it is such a beautiful field. It's close to the X and everything. If you put this in the article, it will be harder for them to kick us out next year. Just wanted to add that.

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Photo courtesy of Hannah Price

The girls' crew powers through the Charles River, beating out 53 other rowing squads.