



## Allegro Show Goes Virtual!

AUTRI BASU '23  
NEWS ASSOCIATE

This Saturday at 7:00 PM, the Allegro Council, led by Co-Presidents Nolan Lee '21 and Katelyn Ge '21, will be hosting its annual Fall Allegro Show, which will serve as the second Allegro-sponsored music event of the year following last week's Midday Music performances. The performance will be live-streamed over Zoom so that participants and observers can attend from any location.

This year's musical performances have adapted to social distancing requirements by shifting online. Rather than having a live concert in one of Clark Music Center's recital halls, each performance will either be prerecorded or performed live over Zoom, with Allegro Council members Kate Dillard '22 and Ryan Kanungo '22 acting as live emcees to introduce each performer. The show will feature a set of student performances, including Jessica Li '23 performing Kodaklyne's "All I Want," Alistair Lam '23 performing Franz Schubert's "An die Musik," and Grant Shueh '23 performing an original composition titled "In the Dark."

The performers have had to adapt to changes in performance and preparation. Regarding the new format, Shueh said, "The experience of performing live is definitely more special, but there is something nice about not having the possibility of messing up."

Lam agreed, saying that "The virtual option gives you more takes, [which] helps perfect your performance."

With the Clark Music Center's being closed this term, performers have also faced additional difficulties in preparing for the show. "As a boarder, sometimes I'm afraid to disturb my neighbors since the

rooms are not soundproof, so it's really hard to record clearly," Li commented. However, she also added, "I'm extremely excited to perform because it's been so long since I've had the chance to share my music with the Lawrenceville community, and I really appreciate that students get the opportunity to share their talent [even with] Covid-19."

Despite these difficulties, Lee said that the Allegro Council has "been adjusting quite well because...it's easier to reach out and make things happen [online]."

Ge agreed, saying, "[Concerts] become more accessible...It's usually a long way to Clark Music Center, but now people can just log in from their rooms and appreciate the music. The virtual format will also allow us to pave new paths for future Allegro shows by incorporating students who are both on campus and off campus."

Overall, Ge is looking forward to involving more student performers on campus through Allegro events. "We really think it's important to get the chance to celebrate the musical achievements of our community through our shows, so we're excited to bring them back," she said.

Lee is also looking to implement a hybrid model, which would allow "performers [to] perform in person while people can watch through Zoom. This would help especially if the audience is large, or if many students are off-campus."

According to Lee, "The Allegro Council is holding Allegro Shows and Midday Music performances throughout the Winter Term virtually, but will gear towards having a hybrid model again" in the Spring Term. Lee hopes to return to in-person events whenever possible, as he believes the virtual format "takes away from that intimate aspect that...the community really needs, especially during this time."



Allegro Council President Nolan Lee '21. Nolan Lee '21/THE LAWRENCE

## Administration Shares Fall Reflections and Winter Plans



Lawrentians will begin to move off-campus on November 18.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

RICHARD ZHOU '22  
NEWS ASSOCIATE  
& EMMY APFEL '24  
& IAN LEE '24

On November 5, Head of School Steve Murray H'55 '65 P'16 announced that Lawrenceville will remain remote after winter break, citing the resurgence of the pandemic and a limited amount of resources as some of the factors taken into consideration for this decision.

In just over a week, Lawrentians will begin the move-out process. The last day of Fall Term classes occurs on Wednesday, November 18, at which point students who have no Final Exams may return home. Over the course of the next four days, from November 19 to the 23, around 600 students will leave campus, packing up all of their belongings into boxes in preparation for any room changes during the Spring Term.

Following Thanksgiving Break, students will still have two weeks of virtual Turkey Term as well as two weeks of winter break. As Murray shared in his recent email to the community, this trimester, classes will take place from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM EST with the hopes of accommodating global time zones ranging from California to Singapore. Even though the schedule will certainly require some students to adjust their regular sleep cycle, Murray stressed that playing it safe amidst rising cases will benefit students. "Getting everybody to campus for the Winter Term [is like] loading up a 747 and taking off...It's better to be up on the

ground, wishing you were up in the air, than being up in the air wishing you were on the ground," he said.

The struggles and difficulties of the fall heavily influenced the School's decision to go remote. When asked about the challenges of the Fall Term, Murray said, "I know that our faculty and staff have really been through a lot; it's been a really heavy lift this fall and I think they're exhausted."

In addition, Murray believes that the unforeseen circumstances of the pandemic caused many difficulties in fostering student connections on campus. "There's no playbook on this, and I don't have much to compare it to. However, one thing I do want to acknowledge is that the day students have had a tough time...There wasn't the same House connection that they're used to."

However, in light of these difficulties, Murray felt that the mood and camaraderie of the Lawrenceville community has stayed resilient and joyful, recounting "seeing teams out on the turf practicing or hearing laughter coming out of The Bowl."

While the pandemic has impacted many aspects of Lawrenceville life, Assistant Dean of Students Emilie Kosoff H'96 '00 P'19 felt that a big success was "offering up activities that made the [situation] as close to normal as it could be under the [Covid-19]-cautious frameworks," praising Student Council for setting up a multitude of Saturday night events ranging from Spikeball tournaments to movie nights. Kosoff also emphasized that the "Prefects and

House Councils on campus have still managed to make connections within the Houses, with activities ranging from Kennedy campus golf to pumpkin decorating."

Despite Winter Term going virtual, Murray has faith that virtual programming will be fulfilling for all Lawrentians, with the administration creating several initiatives to maintain the Lawrenceville spirit. Murray stated that his main goals for the winter will be to "maintain strong connections among everybody, deliver robust academics, and to make sure that there's a rhythm and a structure to a student's day outside the classroom."

In addition, recognizing the importance of continuing the discussions the community has engaged in throughout the fall term, Kosoff also hopes to create more "community offerings for the winter, [such as] a speaker for Martin Luther King [Jr.] Day, for Women's History Month, or for Black History Month, all so that we have multiple touchpoints as a community to stay engaged in conversation and learning."

As for an in-person spring, Murray hopes to have an equally engaging and entertaining Spring Term complete with the reintroduction of interscholastic sports as well as some form of in-person graduation. Staying optimistic for the future, Murray said, "I want to reiterate the positive attitude of the student body and [its] willingness to take nothing for granted and to just appreciate the little things on campus, and that really has warmed my heart in a big way."

### Joe Biden: A Political Palette Cleanser

Biden is a bit like a spork—not ideal for soups or salads. Maybe that's exactly what the U.S. needs right now.

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### Video Games: The Disregarded Art Form

How music, storytelling, and visual programming reinforce why video games should be regarded as art forms.

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### 2020 NBA Mock Draft: The Class of Flaws

An in-depth prediction for the upcoming NBA draft—diving into the current competition for picks three to five.

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## THE LAWRENCE

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### CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at emorais21@lawrenceville.org.

### Photo of the Week: Quincy Leung '22



## Editorial Bridging the Gap: A Call to Action

Four years ago, in the November 11, 2016 issue of The Lawrence, the 136th Board penned an editorial titled "Bridging the Gap," reflecting on the 2016 election. Following President Trump's victory, Americans across the country, and more specifically, Lawrentians, failed to grapple with the unimaginable and unexpected outcome of this election. As a largely liberal school, students understandably entered a state of shock and denial, but the editorial underlined how our inability to cope with Trump's triumph only highlighted our division from the rest of the U.S. This year, the editorial still rings true. While Biden ultimately won the election, many still wonder how Trump managed to secure over 70 million votes. Perhaps, our astonishment stems from a lack of awareness that our community's political atmosphere does not necessarily reflect that of the U.S.

By living in a liberal "bubble," we assume that the rest of the country shares our political values, such as an emphasis on social issues over economic policies. Nevertheless, this does not mean that all Lawrentians share homogenous viewpoints, especially given the breadth of politically-oriented clubs on campus and the diverse backgrounds our student body hails from. However, it is no surprise that many of us, at least among those who voiced their opinions, entered this election season hoping to elect a president who would better address social issues in our country. However, many outside of our community may not have shared similar sentiments. In a recent Gallup Poll, around 44 percent of citizens prioritized the economy as the number one issue of importance, even over race relations, immigration, and

response to Covid-19. In fact, the poll indicated that only 39 percent and 29 percent of Americans considered race relations and immigration, respectively, to be "extremely important."

Naturally, this begs the question: How do we increase awareness of these political differences? In order to approach the question of "how," though, it is necessary to first address the "why": Why do people hold the views that they do? While we may assume that Lawrenceville's political climate is a microcosm of that of the U.S., this is a false presumption.

Undoubtedly, our student body makes an effort to engage in political discourse, as evidenced by the several events hosted during our Pace and Quality of Life Day: DivCo's "Desert and Dialogue," The First Amendment's post-election discussion, and "Cookies and Conversation" facilitated by Young Democrats and Young Republicans. While these discussions allow us to interact with other Lawrentians, they tend to affirm the beliefs that we currently hold or address topics that the majority of us give special importance to. Consequently, we are not prompted to discuss other issues of significance, which pertain to others in our nation.

Therefore, in order to delve into the "why" question, we must supplement community discourse with a sustained, thorough exploration into the opinions of those beyond our community. This goal can be achieved through a combination of the following: reframing our history classes to focus on the present-day significance of historical events and utilizing club-organized events as an opportunity to analyze political issues through a non Lawrenceville-centric lens.

Both U.S. history classes aim to

provide students with a comprehensive overview of America's history, but the current curriculum seemingly neglects the crucial relationship between our past and present. To address this important link, the spring trimester should be geared towards analyzing the present-day ramifications of significant events covered earlier in the year. Whether that be reading news articles for homework or engaging with current initiatives, such as the 1619 Project—which connects slavery's ramifications on today's America—it is imperative that students draw connections between America's historical legacy and present-day issues.

Outside of the classroom, students may benefit from clubs providing both discussion and information-based opportunities. While clubs have facilitated political discourse in the past, they should also organize informational events, with special focus on topics such as comparing the political climate in different regions of the U.S and analyzing political opinion in swing states. By doing so, students will be able to understand why people in various parts of the U.S. hold the beliefs that they do, and what influences these views.

As the 136th Board wrote, "The fact of the matter is that simply expressing disgust and hatred towards unfamiliar opinions will not change the America we live in today." While we are entitled to our views, simply expressing disgust towards discordant beliefs does not negate their existence and pervasiveness. Therefore, we must take active steps in and out of the classroom to address the "why" question, as this ultimately forms the basis of our nation's political polarization.

*This editorial represents the majority view of The Lawrence, Vol CXL.*

## Eliminating The Electoral College

### How The Electoral College Has Become Obsolete and is Damaging Elections

SAMUEL XIE '24

The Electoral College is a staple of U.S. presidential elections. Every four years on Election Day, voters analyze the different states they must win so that their candidate will receive 270 electoral votes. This system effectively prevents one or two more highly populated states from unfairly influencing the result of an election; however, the Electoral College should not be the sole determinant of who eventually wins. Generally, electoral votes are not assigned proportionally to a state's population—a vote in Wyoming has three times the power compared to a vote in California because electoral votes are determined by seats in Congress rather than population. In light of the 2020 election, it is imperative to acknowledge that the Electoral College is inherently flawed because it is a system that was bred out of fear and is inapplicable to modern times. Not only does it fail to accurately represent the majority view of the nation, but it also decreases voter turnout. Thus, America should replace it with the National Popular Vote (NPV), which would more accurately reflect which candidate the

country supports.

This year, President Donald Trump lost to former Vice President Joe Biden (now President-elect Biden) by over four million votes nationwide, yet Trump still had a chance to claim victory by way of a couple thousand votes in certain battleground states. Theoretically speaking, if a presidential candidate won New York, Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, and North Carolina by one vote, he or she would be deemed the victor. A candidate can win the national popular vote yet still lose the election simply because the Electoral College lends more significance to a few votes in key states. In 2020, for example, the election came down to Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada. 2020 wasn't the first time that the Electoral College sparked controversy in election results.

In total, five presidents have won an election through electoral votes rather than popular votes. It's happened twice in the past two decades. In the 2016 Election, many Americans felt that President Trump had stolen the election. After all, he was a president who did not represent the majority of the people—his opponent Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly three million votes.

Not only does the Electoral College allow a president who does not have the support of the majority to win, but it also decreases voter turnout. The drastic decrease in voter turnout points to another flaw in the system: The Electoral College's "winner takes all" policy decreases voters' enthusiasm to participate in the election. A state

can either be red or blue; it cannot give half of its electoral votes to one candidate while the other to another. However, if a state is on the verge between the two parties, a mere number of votes can turn the entire region Republican or Democratic, discounting the votes of those who did not support the winning party. Moreover, we must also consider the impact that

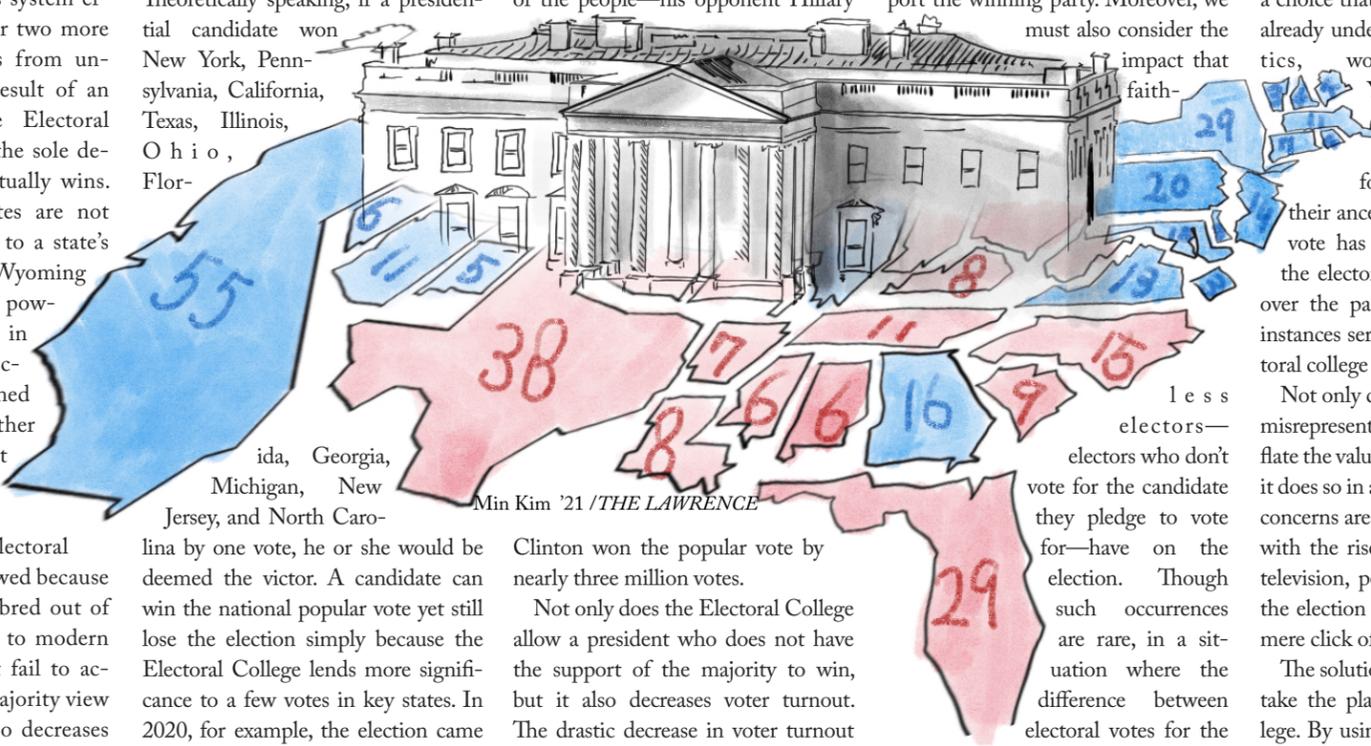
electors—who don't vote for the candidate they pledge to vote for—have on the election. Though such occurrences are rare, in a situation where the difference between electoral votes for the two primary parties is small, one or two faithless electors can sway the entire election.

All of these flaws raise the question:

Why is a system that seems outdated and unfair still being used to select the most powerful person in the country? The Founding Fathers implemented the Electoral College to prevent mob rule—they feared that 18th-century voters, lacking full knowledge of the candidates, could elect a poor leader, a choice that electors, individuals who already understand the game of politics, would most likely not make. Yet modern-day American citizens are much more educated and informed about politics than their ancestors were. If the popular vote has drastically differed from the electoral votes in two elections over the past decade, perhaps these instances serve as a sign that the electoral college is obsolete.

Not only does the Electoral College misrepresent public opinion and inflate the value of some votes over other, it does so in an age where the founders' concerns are no longer relevant—now, with the rise of new technology and television, people can have access to the election and its candidates with a mere click of a button.

The solution is clear: The NPV must take the place of the Electoral College. By using the NPV, a president's election will represent the view of the majority and will not be solely determined by the poll results of swing or battleground states.



Min Kim '21 / THE LAWRENCE

# How to Do Better: Looking Beyond This 2020

## Joe Biden: A Political Palate Cleanser

### VEHICLE OF UTILITY

CHERIE FERNANDES '21  
SENIOR COLUMNIST

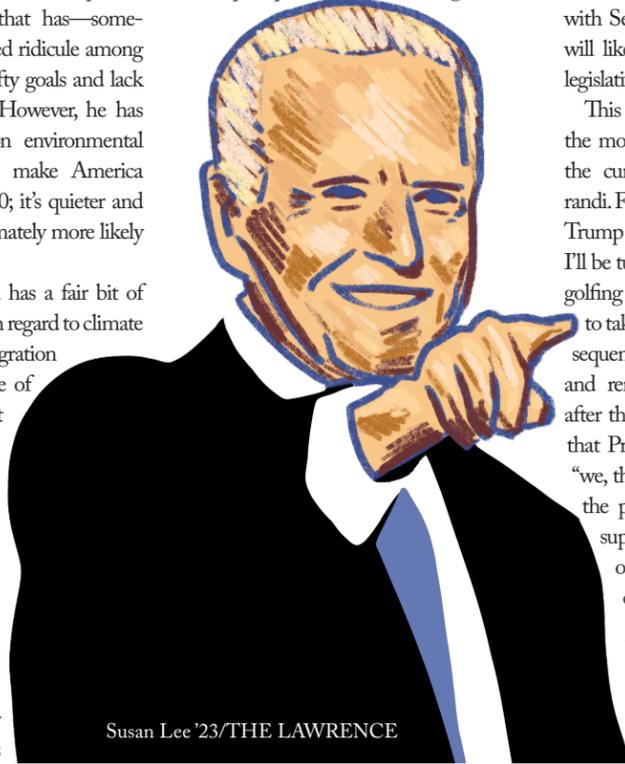
With a warm grin that elicits a “See, he seems like a decent fellow” from my mum, president-elect Joe Biden emerged victorious from a tumultuous election this past Saturday. As thousands pour into the street to celebrate his win over the current incumbent, President Donald Trump, we ought to turn our attention to the question of what, in broad strokes, we can expect from the 46th U.S. president. In my opinion, Biden is a bit like a spork—not ideal for soups or salads (in this case, far-left liberals or moderate conservatives), but also not completely ineffectual in dealing with either. And maybe that’s exactly what the U.S. needs right now.

Biden’s voting record from his years in the Senate suggests that he moves with his party, always squarely in the middle of the Democrats’ ideological spectrum. This willingness to shift is key: it’s indicative of his openness to change. Biden was no bastion of progressivism like many of the other more appealing candidates for the democratic nomination, and that’s the quality that makes him non-threatening to American moderates. Let’s face it: we live in a heavily individualistic democracy, and Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders would likely lose a U.S.-wide

election to Trump faster than you could say “socialism.” With his openness to change, Biden is in a position to gradually, but successfully, enact Democratic legislation without raising alarm. For example, he doesn’t directly support the Green New Deal, a much-championed democratic proposal that has—somewhat rightfully—earned ridicule among conservatives for its lofty goals and lack of substantive policy. However, he has proposed a \$2 trillion environmental plan that pledges to make America carbon neutral by 2050; it’s quieter and more gradual, but ultimately more likely to see implementation.

Furthermore, Biden has a fair bit of room to maneuver with regard to climate change and immigration policy through the use of executive orders. Most political analysts predict that Biden will not shy away from utilizing this tool, which enables the executive to make quick, drastic changes to temporarily steer the country in a specific direction, especially during a crisis, such as when Franklin Delano Roosevelt kick-started The New Deal in 1933 through the Civil Works Administration in order to deal with the Great Depression. *The Economist* Editor-in-Chief Zanny Beddoes states she’s “certain there will be a lot

of undoing of President Trump’s executive orders...undoing in the regulatory area, immigration, [and other] totemic Trump actions.” However, she also predicts that in substantive areas, such as stimulus and infrastructure, he will first attempt bipar-



Susan Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE

change for its durability. As of November 9, it is highly unlikely that the Democrats will close a Senate majority. That being said, Republican Senator Susan Collins, who recently won her election in Maine, has a longstanding reputation for

working across the aisle, as do Senators Rob Portman and Lisa Murkowski. It is simplistic to assume that these senators, among others, will necessarily vote along party lines, especially with a more moderate president like Biden. Indeed, Biden’s history of successful negotiation with Senate Leader Mitch McConnell will likely serve him well in bipartisan legislative endeavors.

This theme of bipartisanship is one of the most pronounced value shifts from the current incumbent’s modus operandi. Frankly, I don’t care how President Trump chooses to lick his wounds, and I’ll be tuning out CNN’s coverage of his golfing excursions. However, we ought to take a practical lesson from the consequences of this individual’s campaign and remain wary of populism. Even after the election was settled, the group that President Trump addressed wasn’t “we, the American people,” it was “we, the people who are unified in their support for his ideology and fear of the elite who threaten it,” and one doesn’t need to be a devoted patriot to see how such a message could sow division. Biden has demonstrated that he won’t do this, not only because of his image as a grassroots politician, but also because his goal of unifying the U.S. again has long been a key aspect of his campaign’s central theme: “Healing” is an obvious allusion to the current administration’s mishandling of Covid-19 and a general call for a return to normal-

cy, but also applies to the task of remedying political divisions among the U.S. public. Accordingly, Biden spent much of his acceptance speech emphasizing, “I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but unify, one who doesn’t see red states and blue states, only sees the United States.” Pretty words can only do so much, of course, but the last four years have certainly shown us the power of rhetoric, and, as discussed above, Biden’s history and character certainly support his professed commitment.

I don’t deny that Biden has many steep hurdles to overcome, particularly the ramifications of a return to an Obama-Biden style economy, the messy task of cultivating bipartisanship in Congress, and most importantly, dealing with the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and recession. Biden also may not deliver all the increasingly progressive policies that are making their way into mainstream politics, but he knows this. In his own words, he is a “bridge” joining “an entire generation of leaders who stand behind” him, a means to restore stability to a country dealing with monumental change, and a multitude of crises. His presidency represents a massive step forward for the U.S.’ handling of the pandemic, role on an international stage, and own inter-party cohesion, and that is worthy of optimism. Maybe in another ten years his pacifism may not be what we need, but after having gone through a tumultuous four years, America needs a Biden in office to quell the unrest.

## Exploring the Double Standards in Media

### TIME TO SHIFT THE SPOTLIGHT

IRIS WU '23

Our main source of information, the news media, is worryingly susceptible to bias. Entire populations are suffering worldwide, yet their media coverage is not nearly enough to inspire change. In particular, the situation in the Middle East has made the region an easy source of headline news, resulting in undercoverage of equally important issues in the United States and China. But the inflation of American news coverage of the Middle East teaches us a worrying lesson about Western media: in order to protect American interests and curtail public scrutiny, it avoids coverage on nuanced issues of greater obscurity that are more uncomfortable for audiences to accept. However, the most enigmatic, or deliberately hidden, injustices, are often the ones that need the most coverage possible.

The secure hold that China has over the American economy causes the Western press to focus less on Chinese debacles. As many American goods are sourced from China, decent relations are necessary to ensure cooperation and maintain a steady flow of Chinese imports. Ignoring China’s

mistreatment of Uyghurs is one way to preserve business interests. Ultimately, China’s global economic power is what allows it to commit human rights crimes and violations of civil liberties without consequences. In addition to its economic strength, China’s diplomatic relations with countries such as Pakistan cause even Muslim majority states to overlook Ugyhur genocide. But simply because China has the authority to behave this problematically doesn’t mean we should divert attention else-

where and move on. The media, particularly American press and news outlets, have a distinct power and social responsibility. Press also has the platform to investigate serious political dialogue through its revelations, such as the leaking of government files by Edward Snowden, which exposed an entirely unknown threat to the safety of technology users. Sending people to internment camps and sterilizing them certainly deserves the same amount of coverage.

In the case of the U.S., a convoluted political system and a wealth of domestic issues mean that certain smaller, but equally important stories, don’t receive due coverage. On the U.S.-Mexico border, even while Covid-19 rages on, detainees under the Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(ICE), a government-run agency, endure severe human rights violations. Beyond family separations, new whistleblowers have come forward with testimony around women being unknowingly coerced into unnecessary hysterectomies, and other immigrants being practically

doused in toxic disinfectants. Despite new accounts of injustices coming forward regularly, the ICE has received strikingly little media coverage and pressure over the last few months. Granted, the U.S. has recently faced a barrage of internal problems, from an uncontrollable pandemic to a messy presidential race. But it is the responsibility of the news media to cover issues that blatantly jeopardize human rights, even if doing so defies the government. From the perspective of news sources, the politicization of American politics makes it far easier to, say, criticize Trump for saying something uncouth or downplaying the current crises rather than to bring readers a niche subject such as

immigrant abuse. Therefore, big media companies place petty political disputes on the front page while ongoing immigrant mistreatment is scarcely paid attention to. As a result, people are trodden upon without recognition, and not only is their suffering not addressed, they receive no justice.

To further understand the issue of bias in American media, we must understand why certain issues are much easier to tackle than others due to the way different regions of the world are portrayed. The U.S. and China want to be seen as frontrunners in our modern world. Economically advanced and diplomatically influential, they seek to serve as models for other countries. On the other hand, the global perspective on the Middle East is blurred by prejudices that have stemmed from the actions of radical extremists who account for less than one percent of the Middle Eastern population. American news sources play into these generalizations by frequently reporting on Middle Eastern terrorism, portraying the entire region as a scene of unbridled chaos. The media’s adherence to such stereotypes not only perpetuates a poor understanding of the region but also steers much-needed emphasis away

from other critical issues, since the belabored connections between terrorism and the Middle East make these conflicts not only simpler to explain, but easier for the public to accept. Thus, articles featuring acts of terror in the Middle East often outnumber articles about the shortcomings of dominant international players such as the U.S. and China. But this disparate coverage only highlights how the media is taking the “easier route” by bypassing uncomfortable topics. Unfortunately, without being held accountable by media reports, both Chinese and American governments have vehemently denied all accusations despite multiple accounts and, in some instances, video evidence. It is the responsibility of the mainstream media to analyze such evidence, yet no action has been taken. Therefore, we must look for another way to hold high ranking officials responsible.

The term “spread awareness” has become grossly overused, a vague mantra with little substance. Yet, the news media’s ability to “spread awareness” is exactly what gives it so much power. Sources such as the New York Times or The Guardian have had a long history of uncovering American injustices, and due to their legacy and journalistic standards, hold much more credibility in actually influencing government policy. We’ve seen this occur on multiple occasions, such as with the Pentagon Papers, Watergate Scandal, and Snowden Archive. But these momentous instances should not just end at Snowden. Current real-world travesties deserve coverage, and the American press and news outlets should live up to their responsibilities.



Sally Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE

## Honor Representative Riener '21 on Fall Term

HELEN LIU '21  
NEWS ASSOCIATE

As Fall Term comes to a close, Student Council's (StuCo) Honor and Discipline Representative Sunjay Riener '21 reflected on his progress in the 2020-2021 school year. His main goals for the year include introducing Honor Representatives to the Circle and Crescent Houses and methods to support students who have received disciplinary infractions.

Reflecting on the fall term, Riener said, "My larger goal [has been] to provide more support for the student body, especially in these unforeseen times, in dealing with the disciplinary system."

While the nature of recent disciplinary cases has been different from past years, Riener stated that his initiatives "aren't really looking to change the honor system at school and the disciplinary responses that many students face." Instead, his platform is designed "to help support the students when they go through the process or before they even get into the process," which he believes is "more realistic to accomplish, [and] a better way to improve the well-being of our community."

Recently, Riener has formalized concrete plans on introducing the role of Honor Representatives to each Circle and Crescent House.

"Dean Eldridge spoke to Heads of Houses this past week, and we'll hopefully have House Honor Representatives elected before this coming break...Students will be in their positions within the first two weeks of Winter Term," he commented. By introducing this new position,

Riener believes that this "personalized form of support" will allow students to discuss honor with a more "accessible, established student" within a more comfortable setting.

As he looks forward to continuing his goals this remote Winter Term, Riener still has high hopes that students will continue to stay true to the Honor Code, even through virtual learning.

"I think that it'll be an interesting challenge. The sad truth that we all have to acknowledge is that the School won't know a lot about what will happen and how students will conduct themselves. But I'd say that most of the students here are going to be doing the right thing the vast majority of the time. How this translates into the disciplinary world, I don't really know yet, but [I believe that Lawrentians will continue to] act in an honorable way," he said.

A more long term goal Riener has is the implementation of an optional break for students under disciplinary review. "Going through a DC is a very stressful time for a student, so I think that reducing mandatory activities might help the student deal with the situation a little better."

For now, Riener asks for the student body to "stay strong" during the last two weeks of Fall Term.

"I really think we'll get through it. We've already done so well staying on campus this fall. We all need to continue following these restrictions, but I think we should also be proud of what we've accomplished so far during these difficult times," he said.

## Sustainability Council Updates!

TIMOTHY FLAHERTY '21  
& JASMINE ZHANG '23

Last year, the Sustainability Council was created as a platform for students to reach out to the student body and raise awareness about sustainability. This year's Sustainability Council members have been working on various projects ranging from introducing Flexitarian Fridays to bringing in speakers on sustainability. To fulfill its goals, the Council has divided itself into different groups.

Sustainability Representative Maia Hawkins-Litvin '21, the head of the Sustainability Council, mentioned that the Council's main focus has been their Recycling Initiative. "We have been making sure that the Houses are following through with sorting the bins and bringing them out on the correct days," she said.

In addition, the Council has also been planning a Flexitarian Friday at Irwin by working closely alongside Director of Dining Services Gary Giberson H'11'18 P'10. A "flexitarian" diet is a vegetarian meal plan that occasionally incorporates some meat or fish. According to Council Member Sophia Springer '22, aside from the "normal food that the dining halls normally serve, they will also have some extra vegetarian options, just as a way for people to try new [options]." She hopes that this new initiative will serve as a way to "raise awareness about the benefits of a vegetarian or flexitarian diet, and [help] students become more conscious about where their food is coming from."

The Council also hopes to invite

a speaker to discuss the topic of sustainability to the student body. This year, the students in charge of this initiative have been working especially hard to diversify the speaker. "We're trying to put emphasis on women and people of color, specifically within the sustainability conservation industry," Lina Olazabal '22 said. The virtual winter term will also allow the Council to more easily connect with speakers. She believes that the current pandemic has actually

tailed sustainability events around campus when we return in the spring." Members of the Council have also been writing articles for the Climate Action Summit website, an organization created by Alex Noviello '23 and Andrew Noviello '23. Hawkins-Litvin hopes that the Climate Summit will be "an initiative that will bring together a lot of schools in our area and across the country to encourage participation in conferences about sustainability."



Sustainability Representative Maia Hawkins-Litvin '21. Ankita Suri '21/THE LAWRENCE

made scheduling speakers a more manageable task, as "it's always harder to get a person onto campus and get all the logistics sorted out."

According to the Hawkins-Litvin, the Council also hopes to plan projects such as the VILLEage Green Newsletter, which will "inform the student body on sus-

Reflecting on her involvement with the Council, Spring said, "Over the summer, I started to become more aware of my impact on the environment and realized just how bad the situation we will be in if we don't make changes to our lives. I wanted a way to do my part and make a change in this world to help the environment."

## Lawrentians Complete First Translations of Squeezes

EMMA KIM '23

This year, students in Latin Teacher Scott Barnard, Ph.D.'s Introduction to Ancient Greek class are translating stone inscriptions in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton. Through this partnership, students were able to look at squeezes of Greek epigraphs, writing that is carved into stone, that have never been translated before. The Institute alone is home to around 30,000 similar epigraphs.

Squeezes are made by obtaining a rubbing of the inscribed stone with a special gel that peels off once dried, which allows translators and students to "obtain the inscriptions on the stone without moving it," said Barnard. These rubbings are digitized to form a squeeze: a three dimensional, mirror image of the inscriptions. Barnard explained how translators can rotate the squeezes at different angles and even alter the angle at which the light hits the inscription, allowing students to get a better look at the Greek characters.

In Barnard's class, Lawrentians are currently participating in the IAS Krateros Project, where scholars are digitizing squeezes of third and fourth century B.C. steles found at historic sites in Greece, Macedonia, and Turkey. The translations that the students complete will make it possible for people around the world to study these writings.

According to Barnard, these stone



Hannah Welsh '21 shared her translations for her squeeze.

inscriptions are "extremely common and are found everywhere, from tombstones to the backs of people's closets." Explaining how the squeezes help shed light on what life was like in Ancient Greece, he said, "What's cool about them is that most of what we read in Latin and Greek [was] written by Aristocratic male authors...However, these stones were carved by a lot of other people. There were poor people and country people. Some of them were slaves, and others were women...It's a way to hear other voices that we don't typically get to."

Nevertheless, students initially found the process of translation hard

to pick up, as Barnard's class is an introductory level course. All of the students relied on their Latin experience to help them learn and translate Ancient Greek, as many of the words are shared between Greek, Latin, and even English. "On the first day of school, no one even knew the Greek alphabet, so we had to spend the first couple days just going over basic information," said Hannah Welsh '21. Barnard also explained that since the squeezes are copies of stone inscriptions, "There are imperfections and scratches that can make it difficult to decipher the letters."

"Everyone's squeeze also looked different from [the others], either

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

because of the person's handwriting or even different time periods," explained Welsh. Her squeeze, for example, is from 3 CE, which means that it is relatively new and thus had some symbol variations.

Additionally, Barnard explained how there are no spaces between the letters or words on the inscription "because those who inscribed the words onto the stone didn't want to waste space," so it was difficult to decipher certain words.

After students figured out all of the word groups on the squeezes by identifying definite articles, they then moved on to a process called transliteration, which Barnard de-

scribed as "the process of translating each Greek symbol into the corresponding English sound or letter."

"This can be difficult because the same symbols can have different meanings depending on where it is used in the word, which is why figuring out the word chunks is really important," said Barnard. Luckily for the students, the vocabulary used in the squeezes is quite simple since the squeezes were written by common people for large audiences, which makes them perfect for a first-year Greek student.

Welsh shared that for all her classmates, getting to translate these squeezes completely changed their perspective on Greek history. "My squeeze is actually a dedication written by a woman, which is super cool because we don't get to see a lot of stuff written by women...It's also really cool because the project gives us a general insight and kind of idea of what the culture was like...It's interesting to see a different side of the ancient world," reflected Welsh.

Barnard echoed her sentiment, emphasizing the importance of reviving ancient voices: "We're talking about people whose voices were totally lost. They're totally gone. And we're literally connecting past to present. 2,500 years later, we're hearing about them again...There's nobody else in the world who's doing this kind of thing...We're really lucky to have this connection with the Institute."

# Griswold Head of House Profile: Hunter Cuniff

ADI JUNG '23

A student knocks on the door leading to Griswold Head of House Hunter Cuniff's apartment and asks for uncooked rice after dropping his phone in the toilet. While this may seem like an odd request—at least for most of us—these situations are not out of the ordinary for Cuniff. From encountering public safety in the house with a student needing to move in at 2:00 AM, to unlocking a student's door after he sleepwalked, he has seen it all.

When Cuniff first came to Lawrenceville as a teaching fellow in 2010, he was immediately hooked. "I knew nothing about Lawrenceville before I came, so right when I stepped foot on campus, my jaw dropped straight to the floor," he said, while speaking of the School's college-like atmosphere. Unfortunately, at the time, the School was not permitted to employ him directly after his fellowship ended, so Cuniff spent the next year teaching at the Riverdale Country School in the Bronx. He couldn't stay away from Lawrenceville for too long, though, and he returned the following year as a Spanish teacher. Outside of the classroom, Cuniff coaches the girls and boys tennis teams, and this year, he will also be coaching House basketball.

After serving as Kennedy House's Assistant Head of House for four years, Cuniff was offered the opportunity to become the Griswold Head of House in 2017. "Admittedly, I was excited by the idea of staying in the Circle since I was most familiar with [it]. I love the traditions as well as the consistency



Griswold Head of House Hunter Cuniff.

of having the same boys in the House for their III and IV Form years, and even as Prefects," he said. Cuniff is currently in his fourth year at Griswold where he lives with his wife Sophie, daughter Linley, six-month-old son Parker, and of course, his dog, Sandy.

According to Cuniff, being Head of House is "a 24/7 job that requires a great deal of communication." He frequently meets with prefects, speaks with adults and families, and chats with underformers; these interactions allow him to ensure the well-being of each student in the House. On the importance of communication in his role, Cuniff said, "The more information I have, the better I can do my job and support the boys in the House. It's important that everyone involved has an open dialogue so we can stay on the same page and tackle challenges together." Nevertheless, being Head of House is not an easy role, and Cuniff has often struggled

to juggle his responsibilities with family time: "This position requires long and unpredictable hours; for example, I may be called away at a moment's notice to take a student to the emergency room. So, the biggest challenge is making sure I'm there enough for my own family."

In order to make Griswold feel like home, Cuniff actively works to ensure that his family and members of the House have a strong relationship. Prior to Covid-19, Cuniff and his family often ate meals in the Griswold pod in Irwin Dining Center, where "Linley would wave 'Hi' to the boys and bring them a banana. "She has this obsession with bananas—everyone has to get a banana—so she made sure to deliver one to all the guys." As Cuniff puts it, "Linley has 42 older brothers."

Griswold's unique traditions also make the House feel like "a home away from home." From go-karting in the fall to reciting "Twas the Night

Before Grismas," he appreciates these special events because they allow members of the House to bond with one another. Beyond these formal traditions, though, he enjoys seeing students watch a game in the common room or play Among Us on the porch. According to Cuniff, "These daily, casual interactions are equally as wonderful because I get to see students in their element: being themselves and coming together over shared interests."

However, it's not all fun and games (and bananas). As much as Cuniff enjoys serving as a parent figure for the boys of Griswold, being Head of House also comes with a great deal of responsibility. "We are your family away from home. [Heads of Houses] are here primarily to ensure your health and safety, and that definitely weighs on me... especially [with] Covid-19," he said.

During these unprecedented times, Heads of Houses are posed with even

more duties, and consequently, Cuniff sometimes feels as if he is forced to be a "disciplinarian." Before the pandemic, his responsibilities were varied and included the following: creating an inclusive and welcoming environment in the House; supporting students both academically and socially; and communicating general reminders ranging from sign-out procedures to Explorations credits. His pre-Covid-19 interactions with students were often along the lines of "Hey, did you catch the Ravens game?" or "Did you PR in your event this week?"

Now, with the added responsibility of ensuring students adhere to the Best For All Agreement, Cuniff feels that his connection with students in the House are more formal than he would ideally like them to be. "Many conversations have been about rule enforcements or take place only when someone really needs [me]. Luckily, with common rooms opening up, we're now able to have more informal hangouts that help me build authentic relationships with the House," he said.

While the pandemic has certainly altered his responsibilities, Cuniff feels especially grateful for his time on campus with the Lawrenceville community and in Griswold. Out of the many life lessons he has learned as Head of House, he places special importance on one in particular—"The little things matter." Whether it be odd requests for uncooked rice or Linley's obsession with gifting the boys bananas, Cuniff appreciates these small moments that unite members of the House, noting that "what comes in as 42 distinct personalities ultimately ends the year as a collective brotherhood and family."

# A Day in the Life of Lawrenceville's Public Safety Team

EMMY APFEL '22  
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

From major holidays to pandemics, the public safety team works nonstop to maintain campus safety and security in addition to tending to student and faculty needs. From Lawrentians' perspective, it may seem as though public safety's primary responsibilities only consist of unlocking our doors and fulfilling work orders. While the team certainly comes to our rescue in these situations, its job goes far beyond surface-level duties, especially during the pandemic. So, what does public safety *really* do? *The Lawrence* went behind the scenes to see what a typical "day in the life" looks like for two members of public safety: Interim Director Joe Montonario and Public Safety Supervisor Michael Burns.

For Montonario, the day begins bright and early at 7:00 AM. While the rest of campus is barely awake, he is ready to go, performing precautionary Covid-19 measures. First, Montonario spends an hour disinfecting the public safety vans and gear, which include flashlights, uniforms, and equipment. Then, he begins to review work orders. On a particularly busy day, Montonario "can spend an hour or two reviewing the requests before [he] can get to fixing them."

He spends the next two to three hours around campus, interacting with the community and checking the facilities of each House. These can



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

range anywhere from squeaky doors—"You'd be surprised [as to] how many squeaky doors there are," he said—to bee infestations, but more common issues include fixing air conditioners, locks, and the plumbing systems.

Montonario's trips around the houses also entail keeping an eye on security "[I'm] constantly trying to keep everything working [well], whether that [be] an alarm or door issue." Nevertheless, he never feels like the volume of work is "so taxing or challenging that [he] can't handle it."

Around 2:00 PM, Montonario shifts his attention to incident reports. These days, incident reports are mostly outsiders coming onto campus without masks, or students who need transportation in public safety vans due to an injury. He coordinates with his team to ensure that all

reports are taken care of on a daily basis in addition to work order requests and general safety checks.

Montonario has certainly been around the block. In his 21 years at Lawrenceville, he has seen quite the shift in his daily routine. "My role is similar, but it's definitely taken on a much more security-focused outlook," he said. He added that technology has made his job much easier over the years, allowing him greater control over the security of campus buildings.

"When I first started, we were leaving dorms unlocked until 11:00 PM. Back then, we walked around every night locking doors and buildings, making sure everyone was secure. Now, doors are locked 24/7 and we have much more control over who comes in and out," he said.

Another member of the public safety team, Mike Burns, shares similar experiences. A firefighter in Lawrence Township for 29 years before joining the School community, Burns has seen it all when it comes to public safety. As an evening supervisor, he typically signs into his shift at 4:00 PM. Around 4:30 PM, Burns checks each building on campus, one-by-one. "Between the hours of 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, I do dorm checks. I walk through each dorm, four dorms an hour, looking for fire violations or leaks," he said.

Burns believes that his biggest responsibilities are to "make sure [that] all buildings are checked and calls are answered." Generally, he and his colleagues "handle different calls, [which include] lockouts,

assisting faculty members, closing windows, and turning off lights." He pays particular attention to issues relating to fire safety, especially when it comes to performing dorm checks.

Both Montonario and Burns's roles have undergone numerous changes due to the pandemic. "For the three months that no one was here, public safety was still here everyday. We had to check for leaks or building issues, train faculty on campus to follow Covid-19 protective measures, and make sure everyone was wearing masks," Montonario said.

"It was extremely eerie," Burns added, "but we're so happy to see everyone back on campus." Montonario echoed Burns's thoughts, noting that "the students and faculty are like nothing I've ever seen before." Lawrenceville's tight-knit community is Montonario's "favorite part about working [at the School]," so he was especially "saddened to be on campus last spring without [the students]."

Day by day, Montonario, Burns, and the rest of the public safety team diligently work to ensure that students and faculty are taking safety and precautionary measures, especially during this time. The public safety team is arguably the "unsung hero" of the Lawrenceville community; whether it be adapting to new technology or navigating a pandemic, the team ensures that our community's needs are met 24/7. As Burns puts it, "If [you] have a problem, [know that you] have a friend in public safety."

# Video Games: The Disregarded Art Form

LUKE PARK '24

Video games are an unsung art form. They amalgamate elements of music, story telling, and visual programming with their soundtracks, story development, and intricate character details. While some may argue that video games solely promote messages of kill or be killed, they're more than the typical assassin game. Their unique, dynamic, creative arrangements of sight, sound, and stories make them worth public appreciation and consideration as a form of art.

For example, by allowing players to choose their unique endings, *Undertale*, a critically acclaimed indie role-playing game (RPG), allows users to craft their own world using their own imagination. The game puts a clever twist on the standard "fight or flight" interaction of typical RPG games. It allows users to control how the game progresses and offers them the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. In doing so, the creators of *Undertale* managed to craft a space where players can develop personalized storylines. The game mirrors reality in the way that, much like how our interactions in the real world impact our social lives, all player actions have results or consequences that impact other characters and the larger communities they reside in. Unlike a painting to be marvelled at on a wall, storytelling is a crucial art form because it captures human emotions and plays

with reality through plot lines. But *Undertale's* artistry doesn't end at the stories it allows users to craft. Using simple pixel art and 16-bit music, the game's design also serves as a love letter to past RPG games where hardware limitations forced a minimalistic approach to visuals and music. In *Undertale*, stellar dialogue and storytelling are maximized by its creative arrangement and design, making it a truly artistic game that transcends beyond the average war game.

Another example of an artistic video game is *Gris*, a platformer game that uses actions such as jumping and climbing to navigate the player's environment. *Gris* is split into five parts, each corresponding to one of the five

stages of grief. Already, its ability to capture real-life experiences and allow users to feel these universal emotions through a screen render *Gris* a unique and imaginative game. Moreover, it is also cleverly designed. For instance, the first stage, denial, is set within an empty landscape with dilapidated buildings. The black and white visuals, combined with the destroyed landscape in the background, do a great job in reflecting the initial

shock that comes with denial. The player's gradual gain of the ability to move, run, and jump excellently reflect the transition from denial to other, more active phases of grief, such as anger and bargaining. The game's brilliant hand drawn animation and music add to its artistic arrangement. These elements—universal message, clever storyline, and impressive music and visuals—together highlight *Gris's*

artistic value and prove it to be more than shallow entertainment.

Finally, there is *LSD: Dream Emulator*, a game in which a player aimlessly wanders around a surreal landscape while interacting with

various objects that serve no real purpose. Players are put into a level with no real beginning or end, breaking conventional game designs. The usage of starkly contrasting colors, various atmospheric sound effects like footsteps or wind, and strange characters create a world so utterly alien, yet familiar enough to possess dreamlike qualities. By virtue of being an abstract, discordant string of objects and realms, the game is a blank slate that leaves boundless space for interpretation. In fact, Osamu Sato, the creator of *LSD: Dream Emulator* reflected, "I find [that] my creations are rather contemporary art using game consoles." By forcing players to make sense of the worlds that they are subjected to, the game allows its player to interpret its true meaning for themselves. It is, in essence, abstract art: vague enough for interpretation, yet clear enough to prompt a search for meaning.

Video games are too often mislabelled as simplistic plotlines that serve no real purpose aside from satisfying personal pleasure. It is easier to find artistic value in the *Mona Lisa* than it is in *Tetris*, a tile-matching game. However, simply because a piece of work doesn't fit the conventional mold of art doesn't mean it lacks artistry. Games, by design, are creative mediums that tie together various arrangements of art, music, and story and thus defined as art, context and production notwithstanding.



Sally Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE

# Superficially Progressive: Elitism in the Art World

KELLY LU '23  
ARTS ASSOCIATE

The art world has always been a place where anyone can create anything and use art as a means of expressing novel ideas; hence, we often think of it as a progressive industry as many social movements and activism have been propelled within this field. However, what we see is only a face-value narrative, and the art community may not be as progressive as we would like it to be.

From the outside, the art world seems to be the place to challenge existing societal norms and social institutions, and it regularly boasts the work of minority artists. For example, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston is famous for its "Women Take the Floor" exhibition. With the motto "Her vision, her voice across a century of art," 200 pieces of art from female artists, such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Ruth Reeves are featured, perfectly giving the floor to artists who have been undervalued in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Furthermore, artists such as Kehinde Wiley and Shepard Fairey use their works to highlight the beauty of non-Eurocentric cultures to show how artists "stand behind the message of love and [are] going to stand behind the

message of unity."

But while the industry has certainly pushed forward many social initiatives, it is still wracked in elitism and discourages many aspiring

ruling class and have family connections, speak three languages, and feel comfortable ordering subordinates around while making polite conversation with curators, collectors, and celebrities." People often think that success is dependent on the artist's originality, creativity, and hard work. However, that is rarely the case. A study by curators Ingram and Banerjee shows that those with more social connections and

different places and cultures, give many members of the upper-class a leg up.

But art has always been an elitist pastime. Throughout history, the consumption of art has also always been something reserved for the rich and wealthy. During the Victorian era, paintings were commissioned by the wealthy, government officials, and anyone with money or power. Even if the standard of living has risen significantly over the past few centuries and more people are able to afford art, the art market is still largely exclusive to the rich. Just last year,

sold for over four times the price for \$450.3 million. Of course, these are two extreme examples, but even the average price of an auctioned piece, around \$30,000, can be too expensive and inaccessible for the average person.

While many artists have tried to initiate social change, the upper-class still largely controls the industry and determines whether or not a novel movement gains traction. For example, the pop-art movement popularized in the 1950s was rebellious and broke stereotypes. Artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol are revered as leaders of this new movement and are known for their work in screen-printing and color-blocking paintings. However, when similar styles are applied through graffiti or street art, mediums usually untouched by the rich and unmentioned by critics, they are deemed illegitimate.

The art world has definitely become more open to a new progressive agenda, these small changes are not long-lasting because its elitist culture often hinders new artists with novel ideas from entering the institution's exclusive bubble. If we do not recognize this problem now, we will only continue to live in shrouded judgment and falsely believe that the art industry is as progressive as it seems to be.



Min Kim '21/THE LAWRENCE

artists from circulating their work.

Contrary to popular thought, the doors to the art world are very selective and not accessible at all. An anonymous artist-educator acknowledged that "getting a job in the art world is much easier if you already come from the

economic privilege are more likely to succeed regardless of their creativity. Aspects such as art school education, financial support to reach a larger audience, the privilege to travel frequently and experience

a sculpture by Jeff Koons was sold for \$91.1 million as the most expensive work sold by a living artist. Even then, this large number pales in comparison to Leonardo da Vinci's painting of Jesus Christ that

# Why Sports Can't Go on with Empty Stadiums

MICHAEL SOTIRESCU '22  
& ADRIAN CARLISI '24

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an obvious effect on the sporting world: fans cannot attend games in person. Season ticket holders and one-time attendees alike were relegated to watching on television, and while the media has discussed the tangible effects of empty stadiums on teams' revenue and the newfound silence, few people have argued staunchly on behalf of fans' emotional interests. We need to reshape the way we think about this crucial aspect of professional sports: the fans who comprise live audiences and the role they play in professional sports. Fans need to return to stadiums not so that owners can sell tickets, but to make sporting events complete: to fill the gaping emotional hole fans once filled.

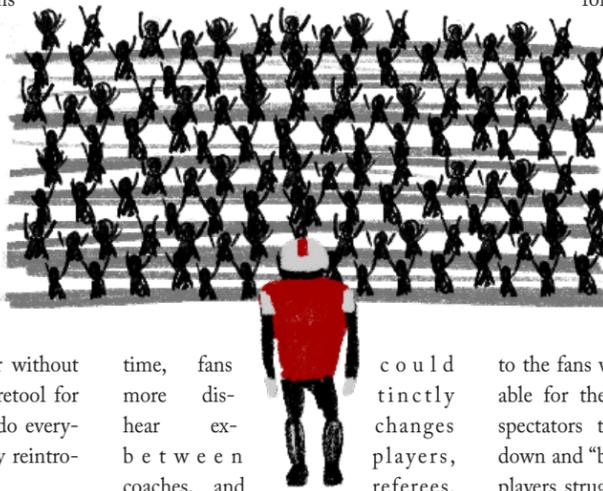
In-person fans are an undeniably crucial asset to any league, and no matter the advancements in virtual fan engagement, the NBA and other leagues cannot readily compensate for the atmosphere they create. LeBron James said, "I definitely love playing in front of the fans. The fans are what make the game...Without the fans, I wouldn't be who I am today." People provide an electric atmosphere that music, artificial cheers, or trash talk simply cannot reproduce. For example, when then Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi

Leonard hit the buzzer-beating game winner in Game 7 of the 2019 NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals against the Philadelphia 76ers, the deafening cheers of the 20,000 fans inside Scotiabank Arena were more than enough to give any casual fan watching from home goosebumps. Imagine if that historic game-winning shot occurred in the NBA Bubble with no fans present. The moment would not have felt nearly as significant. These 2020 play-offs yielded monumental game-winners such as Luka Dončić's in Game 4 of the first round against the Los Angeles Clippers and 2020 NBA Champion Anthony Davis' in Game 2 of the Western Conference Finals, but both felt emptier without fans. As leagues adjust and retool for the new seasons, they must do everything in their power to safely reintroduce fans back to the games.

However, it is important to acknowledge that, with the absence of in-person fans, the National Basketball Association (NBA) Bubble did add a new, enjoyable element to the television experience. Davis of the Los Angeles Lakers said, "We miss the fans. But when you're playing in front of fans, that noise drowns out a lot of the trash talk that goes on out there on the court...You hear everything

from anybody and everybody [now]." The Bubble, however, spotlighted on-court communication, as essentially every player on the floor was somewhat "mic'd up," an occasional media exercise pre-Bubble where certain players would play with small microphones attached to their jerseys. For the first

Susan Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE



time, fans more dis- hear ex- b e t w e e n coaches, and Hearing the on-court talk could develop a whole new level of fan engagement, making us feel like we're actually part of the game. This will not be so easily captured when fans repopulate the arenas, and for this reason, leagues and networks should continue to expand their "mic'd up" programs. That being said, we should not lose sight of the in-person fan's importance.

The lack of passion in the stands applies to other leagues as well, including the National Football League (NFL), where the feeling of playing on the "big stage" disappears with the absence of fans. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said that the silence in the stadium "threw [him] off," and the relative silence in NFL stadiums makes

for strange atmospheres. New England Patriots cornerback Jason McCourty explained that it "felt more like a high school scrimmage" than a typical NFL game. Much of the pressure and excitement that comes with playing in the NFL can be attributed

to the fans who keep players accountable for their every action. Without spectators that cheer at every first down and "boo" at every dropped pass, players struggle to reach the intensity level of previous games. Fans provide extraordinary energy and passion, and while athletes do get paid to play, that energy further motivates and inspires them, be it positively or negatively, to perform.

Simply put, dedicated fans want to return to their home stadiums. Live games offer an infinitely more memorable, sensual experience than watching or listening on the television or

radio. It's an escape from reality where one can make visceral connections with fellow fans, with one's family, and with one's team. When an entire crowd chants, there is nothing else in one's head than the emotion of the moment. The chant, "Olé, Olé Olé Olé," brings people together and rings in the ears and hearts of soccer fans everywhere. When doing the wave, the only thing that matters is making sure that one stands up at the precise moment, hands waving and people yelling with maximum excitement. Those elements shape the unique emotional experience of watching in person, where worries disappear and all that's left is one's rush of adrenaline and pounding heart. Sports were around long before television, broadcasting, and radio stations. Live fans from decades past made our favorite sports relevant and exciting today, something we should never forget or delegitimize.

As many grow accustomed to viewing sports through their electronic screens, one must not forget the emotions that are entrenched in the traditions of all sports. Teams in major leagues can always find a way to make up for lost ticket sales, but nothing replaces tens of thousands of strangers coming together to enjoy a memorable game. The value of sports lies in its ability to connect players and fans to the inherent, shared emotion of athletic competition.

## House Football: Revitalized?

EDAN BLECHER '21  
& ETHAN MARKEL '21,  
SENIOR COLUMNIST

House Football at Lawrenceville has been an athletic institution since 1860, making it the oldest active football league in the United States. Over its history, through winning rivalry games or participating as an active member on an athletic team for the first time, House Football has been the source of House bonding and forming lifelong memories for Lawrentians. In an unusual year for the School, Covid-19 has halted competition for interscholastic sports this fall and has completely rearranged the athletic schedule. Despite unideal circumstances, House Football has still managed to yield some unexpected positive outcomes. With increased participation on account of the switch to flag football, perhaps Lawrenceville should look towards that option as a better way of capturing House spirit for years to come.

Lawrenceville House Football is the oldest high school football league in the country, but despite its historical importance to the School, participation in the sport has decreased over the years. Recently, many Houses have been forced to combine to field full teams, as there have not been enough players to form individual House teams. Multiple factors contributed to this downward trend, and the risk of injury inherent in tackle football is certainly a big one. In particular, that risk has often dissuaded off-season varsity athletes, who would have liked to play House Football otherwise. For this fall season, the Athletic Department

resolved to change House Football from tackle to flag in order to meet Covid-safe policies. While this has disappointed some students, overall participation has risen dramatically, largely because flag football is safer than tackle.

As a result, each Circle House has sufficient players to play seven on seven, and some Houses even have enough players for a full "A" and "B" team. All of this means that the rival Circle Houses can compete for their trophies, each of which has its own legacy and history and is of great import to the Houses and House football's tradition. In recent years, teams that have

and play. I'd rather play for the Crutch [the Kennedy vs. Hamill award] every year than have to combine teams and not be able to play for the trophy," said Kennedy prefect and former House Football player Dare Rolfe '21.

Another upside to flag football is that it creates a more equal playing field. In the past, bigger players could easily dominate the game, running over and throwing smaller players aside. Smaller athletes would often get tackled before they even have the chance to make a play. This term, physicality is no longer a requirement for success, giving players of different sizes the opportunity to be major contributors to their teams. Not to mention, House sports, while competitive, are intended to provide sporting opportunity for all participants, which tackle football does not facilitate as easily as flag football.

Cleve Coach and Math Teacher Etienne Bilodeau noted that, on the whole, House Sports in the Circle and Crescent have always been a great way for Housemates to bond and spend time around each other. However, in the past, the risk of injuries, amalgamation of Houses when forming teams, and rules of the game have prevented some Lawrentians from enjoying the full extent of the experience.

In summary, the switch to flag football has appeared to have breathed new life into House football. If Lawrenceville wants to maintain the sense of Circle House spirit and community House football is intended to instill, the School should consider a departure from tackle football and the permanent installation of flag football.

combined Houses were prevented from competing for their respective trophies at the end of the season. The rivalry game for a trophy is the most important and memorable part of the term, the culmination of the team experience, so it is a shame for House football players to be deprived of the occasion. "Maybe it's not as entertaining as before with all the hitting, but what matters is that we get guys to come



Min Kim '21  
Graphics Editor/THE  
LAWRENCE

## Thanksgiving Football Etiquette

MAC DILATUSH '21  
SENIOR COLUMNIST

Thanksgiving is only a couple weeks away now. That means family gatherings. It also means a big family dinner with turkey, unless you live in California, where they have weird stuff like tofu turkey—"tofurkey"—and something called Quorn Roast. Most importantly, though, Thanksgiving means football. Six National Football League (NFL) teams will face off, including, unfortunately, the Washington Football Team and the Dallas Cowboys. The banged-up Cowboys are begging middle-aged dads to play quarterback (QB) for them, and Washington, well, they don't even have a name. In other words, avert your eyes. Following the NFL action, the true professionals will take the field for some good old-fashioned family touch football.

When you head to the backyard, please, for everyone's sake, remember basic Thanksgiving football etiquette. First, don't run the ball. Your old relatives, especially Uncle Dan, don't want to chase you around while you hog the pigskin. Scoring rushing touchdowns doesn't make you Lamar Jackson, it makes you annoying. Second, don't start barking orders and drawing plays on your chest. You're not Bill Belichick. Belichick only smiles seven times per year, though, so you probably don't want to be him anyway (a real Wall Street Journal-certified stat). Even when he does smile, he resembles the Grinch after sacking Whoville. It's so alarming you'd wish that he'd remained grumpy. So, yeah, pass on the drawn-up plays. No one's going to listen to you regardless. Third, don't try to become all-time QB. Again, no one likes a ball-hog. Plus, you're not Tom Brady, although you probably do want to be Tom Brady. Yes,

I know, he kisses his kids on the lips, but do you know what else he does? Win Super Bowls and make money. Fourth, don't complain that you were "wide open." You were not wide open. Fifth, it's strictly touch, until the in-law nobody likes has the ball. Then, it's tackle.

There's one more rule: After winning the backyard championship, situate yourself in front of the television and watch the prime-time NFL game. Feel free to ignore your family. You'll always have them. The NFL, however, only airs games three days a week for 21 weeks a year. And look, my family's great and all, but Uncle Dan isn't Patrick Mahomes; he can't fetch 25 fantasy points every Sunday. I don't think Mom has ever found the endzone. It's nothing personal, but the NFL just beats family. Drunk Uncle Dan's entertaining, but he's not as entertaining as Aaron Donald tossing grown men around. If you need further proof, imagine your Dad trying to block Aaron Donald.

On another note, because my parents might read this column, it's worth noting that you should give your family some attention as well. I'm a V Former now. This will be my last Fall and Turkey Term. I've started staring at the pond to see if my reflection has answers about the future. He doesn't, but he knows family will be the one constant. They miss and care about you, and they've sacrificed plenty to make this whole Lawrenceville thing possible. So this Thanksgiving, help out in the kitchen. Maybe suffer through the Cowboys game if Dad insists. And let Uncle Dan get a touchdown or two. He needs it. And throw the ball to Grandma in the endzone. If she drops it once, though, stick to your best receiver. The game is too important to risk losing on Grandma's butterfingers.

## 2020 NBA Mock Draft: The Class of Flaws

**JACOB LEE '22**  
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

The lengthened 2019-20 National Basketball Association (NBA) season has significantly altered the National Basketball Association (NBA) schedule. The league has discussed a season opening in mid-December, which gives teams and players that competed in the bubble only two months for an offseason. The relatively weak free agent class of 2020, combined with the financial hit caused by COVID-19, means fans should not expect major action in the offseason. However, all teams can look forward to the 2020 NBA Draft, where some franchises could select their future superstars. While this year's draft lacks a strong, consensus number one pick, Anthony Edwards and James Wiseman are still the favorites at picks number one and two, to the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Golden State Warriors, respectively. As such, the mock drafting process is significantly more interesting after the first two picks. Here's how it could shake out beyond the top two:

**Pick #3: Charlotte Hornets**  
**Lamelo Ball**

Lamelo Ball caught the basketball world's attention as a young teen when his clips went viral on YouTube. From dropping 92 points in a high school game to dropping out of school to play in Lithu-



ania, Ball has made many headlines, mostly the fault of his "globally loud" father (in LaVar Ball's own words). His basketball has generated talk independently, though. Predictably, his draft stock is controversial: many claim Lamelo is a generational talent, others think he's a certified bust. His career could go either way, but Ball has the highest ceiling of anyone in this class. For starters, he is a magician with the ball. He casually fires impeccable passes through the most narrow of defensive openings. He can also launch Curry-like shots from half court or dance to the rim, breaking ankles along the way. His only flaw is that he attempts these miraculous moves too often. In the National Basketball League in Australia, Ball averaged 2.5 turnovers per game and shot a horrible 25 percent from three-point range.



And while these numbers have raised red flags for some teams, his biggest problem is probably his effort. Watch a full game and you can frequently see him standing still on defense or jogging around the court casually. For Ball to prosper in the NBA, he needs to be engaged in all parts of the game. Despite these risks, Charlotte would gladly take Ball if he becomes available at this pick. The Hornets lack talent across the court and have not made the playoffs since All-Star Kemba Walker left, so they will be looking to select the best player available at number three.

**Pick #4: Chicago Bulls**  
**Deni Avdija**

Deni Avdija is one of the most mysterious prospects in the draft, with the potential to become a generational Luka Doncic-



Courtesy of cbssports

type player or an infamous international bust like Mario Hezonja. Once an under-the-radar talent without much following to his name, Avdija has quickly become a tantalizing prospect due to his genius play on the court. He has a natural feel to the game and always looks to make the right play, something you cannot easily teach players. He finds open teammates, shoots the ball well, and expends himself on defense. He is also 6'9" and can play both small forward and power forward, providing versatility useful in the modern NBA. The only knock to his game is his pedestrian athleticism, relying heavily on his savvy to get buckets. He lacks a quick first step to get around stubborn NBA defenders, and while his intelligence and feel for the game may have gotten him this far, he needs to become more

agile to thrive in the league. Chicago has the patience to wait for Avdija to develop into the star many think he will be.

**Pick #5: Cleveland Cavaliers**  
**Onyeka Okongwu**

Onyeka Okongwu was not projected to be anywhere near the top five picks at the start of last year's college basketball season, ranked as the 20th best player in ESPN's 2019 highschool recruiting class and only the fifth best center on the list. Measuring at 6'10", scouts doubted Okongwu's potential on account of his lack of size. After this year's Finals, however, the value of versatile big men who offer more than simple height in the paint, like Bam Adebayo and Anthony Davis, both of whom possess serious offensive and defensive assets, has increased dramatically. Okongwu is a high-motor player that can do everything on the floor. In today's fast-paced league, many teams, such as the Houston Rockets, utilize small-ball lineups and an increasing number of teams might adjust to match this trend. Rare players like Okongwu who play as "point-centers" are becoming extremely valuable with this strategic shift, and the Cleveland Cavaliers will be looking to add more size to the team as well. Okongwu's versatility and skillset will translate perfectly to the NBA, and many will be surprised if his name does not get called in the first few picks.

## Captains Profile: Girls Varsity Tennis

**TIFFANY YEUNG '22**

This year, the Girls Varsity Tennis team is led by V Formers and Co-Captains Petra Kovacs, Lauren McKinnon, and Louise West. McKinnon and West are in their fourth season as members of the varsity program, and Kovacs, who was a new III Former, is in her third season as a member of the program.

McKinnon began playing tennis in kindergarten, first picking up a racket at the courts across from her house. "A lot of my friends and I would go over after school, and it was a fun social event, but it was also a way to get involved with the sport." McKinnon notes that tennis can "create a little bit of a stressful environment," but appreciates that Tennis "is a lifelong sport...and something [she] can see [herself] doing in the future as a social event with [her] family or after work."

West first picked up a racket when she was around four years old: "I started playing every summer with my cousins and my friends... we would just get lessons and it was super, super fun." Her favorite aspect of tennis is that it "is so easy to pick up," adding that "if you wanted to go out with some friends who don't really play, it's super fun to just hit around." Throughout her seasons on the



team, West has seen that tennis, despite being a team sport, requires players to challenge for rankings within the team, making it an individual sport at times. "[It's] definitely a bit more personal as you're trying to move up the ladder on your own."

"Ever since my very first practice when I was eight, I knew that tennis was going to be my sport," said Kovacs. She acknowledged that she "hates it when tennis matches go on forever" on the occasions that they take hours to complete, but at least that length offers some reward. Kovacs concedes, "Tennis teaches you discipline and persistence."

This fall season, with no interscholastic



matches, McKinnon says the captains' primary "hopes and goals are just to prepare the team and get a sense of the ladder for next year, and have fun while doing it." She hopes that Covid-19 does not impede the fall season next year, so this season "[The team] really wanted to focus on...bonding and getting the [IV Formers] ready for next year, while also trying to figure out the doubles lineup for next year."

The absence of matches has allowed the team to focus on things they didn't have much time to address last year, such as "having challenge matches each week throughout practice so girls can still have match play



Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

and push each other to become better," according to McKinnon. West concurred that "this season is a lot about next season," also adding that one of their main goals was "to create a really good team dynamic."

Despite this fall season's irregularity, McKinnon points out that some things haven't changed, like the team's "laughs and how fun and low-stress the environment is." She also mentioned that the team runs and grabbing apples from admissions during the team runs is a memory of which she is especially fond.

For West, her favorite part of the team is "the group of girls...It's a super diverse

team...from different friend groups, different backgrounds, [and] day students and boarders. It's kind of like a microcosm of Lawrenceville on a team, which has been amazing." Kovacs appreciates that "regardless of how bad of a day you had, you're guaranteed to come off [the court] with a smile on your face" after practice.

West stresses the importance of an adage from Head Coach David Cantlay P'07 '09 '11: "chew gum and spank balls," which he says before every match and often during practice. "The whole premise of the saying is just to tell us that...a lot of times we overthink things and we get in our [own] head so...saying it's just as easy as chewing gum, [and] just hitting that forehand or backhand and not overthinking it" really helps players to relax and perform, explained West.

After four seasons on the team, McKinnon reflected on the aspect she will miss most: "Being able to leave classes and know that I'm going to have this fun time with my tennis team and just [have] one... or two hours where I don't have to worry about school or any other stresses...most importantly, I get to spend so much time with a bunch of amazing girls who also share the same passion and dedication to the sport I love."

## Sports Captains Picks

	Boys Soccer Captains	Girls Soccer Captains	Girls Cross Country Captains	Field Hockey Captains	Boys Water polo Captains
<i>Favorite moment of practice</i>	Adrian Carlisi eating a jabanero pepper	Mags showing up with her boom box mega microphone headset	running in the rain while every other sport is cancelled	3 seperate tie games between devils and vamps	Julio showing off at lift
<i>Advice for next year</i>	real g's move in silence like lasagna	Save yourself during shooting range... every man for themselves	Pain is forever, pride is temporary! -ingrid	Put some mustard on it	Don't start Max Blecher or Jack Patel
<i>Quote of the season</i>	"I have contusion" - Hoonsuk Yoon	"Mr. Mook will be passed around" - Coach Mags	"What the cheer again? We are sexy?" - Laney	"NPS" - Claire Rubenstein	"Life is like a sandwich no matter which way you flip it the bread comes first" - Tim Barry