



Lawrentians Celebrate Black History Month

RICHARD ZHOU '22
NEWS ASSOCIATE
& ANDREW BOANOH '23

This past Wednesday, Lawrenceville celebrated Black History Month during this week's school meeting, where the School featured members of the student-led Alliance of Black Cultures (ABC), Black Women at Lawrenceville (BWAL), Caribbean Students Association (CSA), and the Pan-African Alliance. Lawrentians spoke about Black history, from the Harlem Renaissance to present day, and also offered reflections on recent issues of racial inequality and justice.

During the school meeting, students organized presentations about Black history at Lawrenceville and in America and also shared performances, from dances to poetry. Jasmine Bright '21, co-president of ABC, opened with a history of the first Black students and teachers of Lawrenceville, and Elizabeth Pierre-Louis '22 continued with a presentation about the Harlem Renaissance. Moving to the present day, BWAL Co-President Ava Conyer '21 and ABC Council member Laila Ritter '21 also spoke about the Black Lives Matter and Black Power Movement. To conclude the reflections, students from the African Students Union (ASU) and CSA finished by talking about Pan-Africanism and its relation to the Civil Rights and African Independence Movements. The event also featured interspersed artistic performances: Corinne Johnson '23, Jessica Peters '24, and Louis offered interpretive dances of "River" by Leon Bridges, "Kukere" by Iyana, and "Freedom" by Shatta Wale, respectively, and Andrew Boano '23 recited "The Hill We Climb" by poet Amanda Gorman.

Even though Covid-19 has thrown a wrench in some of their original plans, leaders of ABC, CSA, BWAL, and ASU are still optimistic of their plans in the Winter Term.

"Obviously we've been virtual this term and it's kind of hard to stay connected with people," said Souleymane Diarra '21, co-president of ASU, "but on the whole, it's important to keep the community close. So I think whether it [be] just checking in individually on certain people or having group discussions, we try to do our best with [what we can]."

Breanna Barrett '21, co-president of the CSA, echoed similar sentiments. "While the virtual term has been hard, a big positive [for Caribbean students] has been reconnecting with our culture. We've been able to reconnect with our parents and life back in the Caribbean... because many of us were able to go back to our respective countries."

Mathematics Teacher and faculty advisor to ABC and BWAL Charise Hall emphasized the importance of reflecting on and celebrating Black history. "I am super, super proud of them because it's difficult talking to a group of people about such heavy topics, but it's even more different when you're on Zoom because you can't really see your audience." She continued to express her pride regarding Wednesday's event: "I just find that these students are just so resilient in educating people and standing up and sharing. It's just phenomenal."

All the clubs involved in Wednesday's event share a common goal. "Within the Black population at Lawrenceville, [various people encounter] unique experiences and struggles," Diarra said. "We want to share these struggles and life experiences in a way that helps us bond and, ultimately, help us become closer as a community."

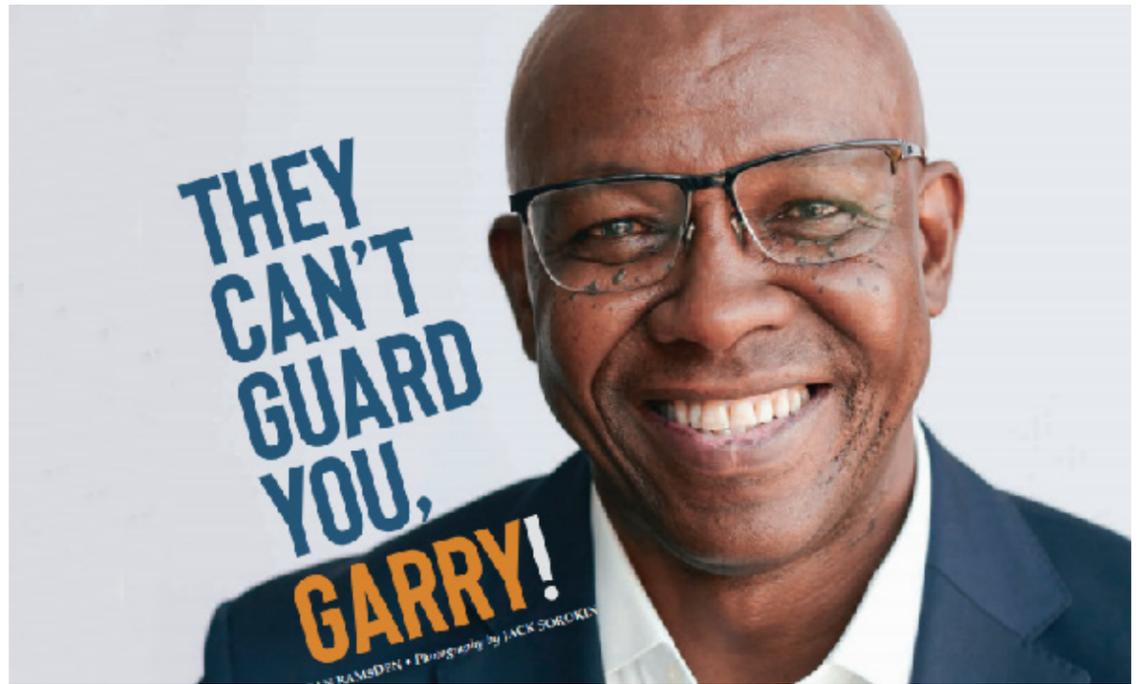
Hall echoed this sentiment, saying, "As far as I'm concerned, I just want to continue to support the kids of color on campus. They're going to make an impact on the student community."



Lawrentians presented during school meeting.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

The Lawrentian Awarded CASE Grand Gold for Profile Writing



Garry D. Howard '77.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

AUTRI BASU '24
NEWS ASSOCIATE
& YEWON CHANG '23

The Lawrentian, Lawrenceville's quarterly alumni magazine, recently received a 2021 District II Accolades Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Its fall 2019 story, titled "They Can't Guard You, Garry!," a profile of alumnus Garry D. Howard '77 written by *The Lawrentian* Editor Sean Ramsden, was honored with a Grand Gold award, one of CASE's highest accolades in profile writing.

On winning this award, his very first from CASE, Ramsden said, "It reflects really well on our magazine, our school, and on Howard, so I feel good about that."

According to Ramsden, "CASE is the gold standard in terms of educational communications" and "tends to [hold] some of the toughest competitions." The organization hosts a variety of prestigious award programs with the aim of recognizing the "best practices in advancement and outstanding people who contribute to the growth and understanding of the advancement profession." This year, *The Lawrentian* was one of just two Grand Gold recipients in its category.

Ramsden first learned of Howard's story from Assistant Head

of School Mary Kate Barnes H'59 '77 P'11 '13 '19, whose husband was a classmate of Howard's. At the time, Howard was about to be inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame, so Ramsden decided to speak to him about the intersection of race and politics in his career as a sports journalist. As they spoke, however, they dove deeper into Howard's story, detailing his upbringing in the Bronx and time at Lawrenceville.

According to Ramsden, only a dozen African-American students attended Lawrenceville when Howard first enrolled. However, he persevered with the support of the administration and his mother; Ramsden felt most moved by how at the end of his first year, Howard began to hold the firm belief that "this place will set me free." Yet from Lawrenceville and beyond, Howard faced numerous challenges due to his race; even with his accomplishments and academic background, he was denied many opportunities across the journalism industry.

Initially, Ramsden was hesitant to cover Howard's story. "It's always tricky, as a writer, to write about other writers, especially one as accomplished as [Howard], because you know they'll be judging you," he said. He especially felt out of place discussing racial issues as a white man. However, Howard quickly put him at ease by praising Ramsden's earlier profile of Direc-

tor of Athletics Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21 '24 and telling him, "I trust you on this one."

Another motivating factor behind Ramsden's decision to write Howard's profile was the greater impact the article would have on the Lawrenceville community.

Ramsden additionally wanted to bring Howard's experience as a black student at the then predominantly white Lawrenceville to light. "I wanted to tell something truthful," said Ramsden, noting that *The Lawrentian* "didn't hide" from the discrimination that Howard faced throughout his time at the school.

In addition, Ramsden also wished to reaffirm Howard's belief in Lawrenceville's long-standing support of its students. "We really want everyone here to succeed, no matter where you're coming from," he said. "If you're in Lawrenceville, you're here because you belong here, you've earned your place, and we want you to do well and will support you."

Moving forward, he hopes his articles continue to inspire readers to bring forward stories of their own, which helps him highlight the impact Lawrenceville has on its students.

"I like the way it gets people thinking," said Ramsden on *The Lawrentian*. "People begin to share their Lawrenceville experience, and I really can't do what I do without people bringing those to me."

Uyghurs in China: A Potential Genocide

From rape to sterilization to indoctrination, is the Chinese government committing genocide against the Uyghur population in Xinjiang, China?



Crosswords with Saint-Cyr!

Soleil Saint-Cyr '21 discusses her passion for crosswords and her journey to becoming the youngest woman to ever have a puzzle published in *The New York Times*.



Why Lance Armstrong Has It Harder than Barry Bonds

The conversation about athletes using performance-enhancing drugs is complex. Why do some athletes receive harsher treatment than others?





THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

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Photo of the Week: Danica Bajaj '21



Editorial Scrutinizing Screen Sports

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted many aspects of the Lawrenceville experience, one of them being athletics. Prior to the pandemic, sports served as an outlet for students to make physical gains, form meaningful connections with teammates, and mentally relax by breaking a sweat after classes. However, during the virtual Spring and Winter Terms, we have not had the opportunity to train alongside our teammates. For many students, the time following three hours of Zoom classes is filled with several hours of homework, often done on the computer as well. Aside from the fleeting moments we get to share with our classmates over Zoom, we rarely have the opportunity to interact with others in our community. While in-person sports successfully fostered team camaraderie and physical health, the same cannot be said for virtual sports. Contrary to what pre-Covid-19 sports achieved, athletics over Zoom is unsuitable for student-to-student interactions, and the programs have had mixed success in helping individuals develop their athletic skills.

The reality is apparent: Zoom makes it difficult for students to cultivate organic conversations unless they are placed into smaller breakout rooms. But, for the majority of the time, they aren't put in breakout rooms. During virtual athletic meetings, particularly interscholastic ones, Lawrentians often find themselves among five to six screens worth of people, with varsity, junior varsity, and freshman athletes all together. Microphones are muted. Video screens are turned

off. How can one begin a conversation when more than 60 people are simply staring at their screens? How can one bond with his or her teammates if three quarters of the athletes are unseen due to the sheer number of participants in the call? At some point, most Lawrentians begin viewing these Zoom calls as another chore in their busy schedules. Ultimately, this mindset naturally prevents students from build-

Contrary to what pre-Covid-19 sports achieved, athletics over Zoom is unsuitable for student-to-student interactions, and the programs have had mixed success in helping individuals develop their athletic skills.

ing team camaraderie.

While students may have the opportunity to approach training through a new lens, the added screen time and use of finite daylight afternoon hours limits the efficacy of Zoom sports. Some programs have included exercising over the call, but most involve some type of film work. Coaches often use this time to show recordings of training techniques and games, leaving students sitting at their desks yet again. At a time when all of us are using computers more than we typically do, non-essential screen time may have a negative impact on our mental health, especially when that

additional screen time carries an opportunity cost of students going outside or actually exercising. If coaches worry about the effectiveness of students' individual training exercises, they could, perhaps, consider providing their athletes with a set of guidelines and activities to complete on their own. This way, Lawrentians have the flexibility not only to exercise wherever and whenever they wish, but also to maintain the productivity of their training session.

Given the difficulties of the virtual term, we must acknowledge that it would be unrealistic for us to expect a similar athletic experience to Lawrenceville's pre-Covid-19 era. However, reflecting upon the efficacy of virtual sports after participating in them for many weeks leaves us with the following conclusion. Our current model of athletic programming largely does not achieve the goals that are fundamental to a Lawrentian's athletic experience. Although in-person athletics seems plausible in the Spring Term, should health concerns ever impede such plans, the administration should reconsider implementing virtual sports and instead, ask coaches to create training guidelines and exercises for students to complete as they see fit. The same applies to those who decide to enroll in the Remote Learning Option (RLO). Ultimately, athletics are an integral part of the Lawrenceville experience. When we return to campus, we must not take for granted the connections we form and the gains we make after weeks on end of practice and competition.

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

Reintegrating Day Students

How Lawrenceville Can Better Include Day Students in the Spring Term

HELEN LIU '22
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, students and faculty alike worked to create a proper Covid-19-safe plan for the Fall Term, and in many ways, the Lawrenceville community succeeded. With what little time we had, the administration and faculty somehow managed to keep our campus healthy and safe for the entirety of Fall Term. However, the management of day students created a definitive divide between day students and boarders. Thus, as the School prepares to reopen, the administration must consider day student needs, starting by allowing day students into common house spaces and academic buildings.

For much of Fall Term, day students were continuously shuttled from one place to another, from the deskless KAC auditoriums and frigid tents to the rowdy Irwin pods, but the central narrative remained the same—sophomore and junior day students were limited to these areas and these areas only. As a junior, I was not allowed in any of the Houses or class buildings (outside of classes themselves) on campus. Frankly, I was barred from far more places than I was welcomed.

While inconvenient, walking the extra couple of minutes to the Irwin

bathrooms—the only bathroom day students could use—or shivering in the Crescent tent were not key problems. I could have chosen to stay within the comforts of my home, Zoom to classes from my room, and eat in my kitchen, yet I chose to come onto campus because it's Lawrenceville. I wanted to chat with my friends in the House common room, bounce ideas Harkness-style for an essay, and eat dinner with a group. However, as a junior separated from the boarders, I couldn't help but feel excluded from the

While part of the issue stems from innocent negligence in planning, the regulations were largely based on the implicit suspicion towards day students and the supposed health risk they brought. Preventing day students from entering certain spaces such as Houses was not simply to limit the flow of people—the flow of people could have been easily dealt with by a simple limit to the number of students in the common room. Instead, these regulations

BFA and its campus-based social life lower the risks that day students pose. Day students will always pose a higher risk than boarders. In the end, however, our students are responsible and do their part to minimize that risk. With infection rates in the hundreds of thousands in the United States, deliberately attending Covid-19 unsafe parties (or simply seeing people outside their immediate family bubbles) means students are consciously putting the Lawrenceville community at risk. No one wants a

wear POMs that enable contact tracing. Greater integration of day students would only slightly increase the risk of Covid-19, and that risk is outweighed by the benefits.

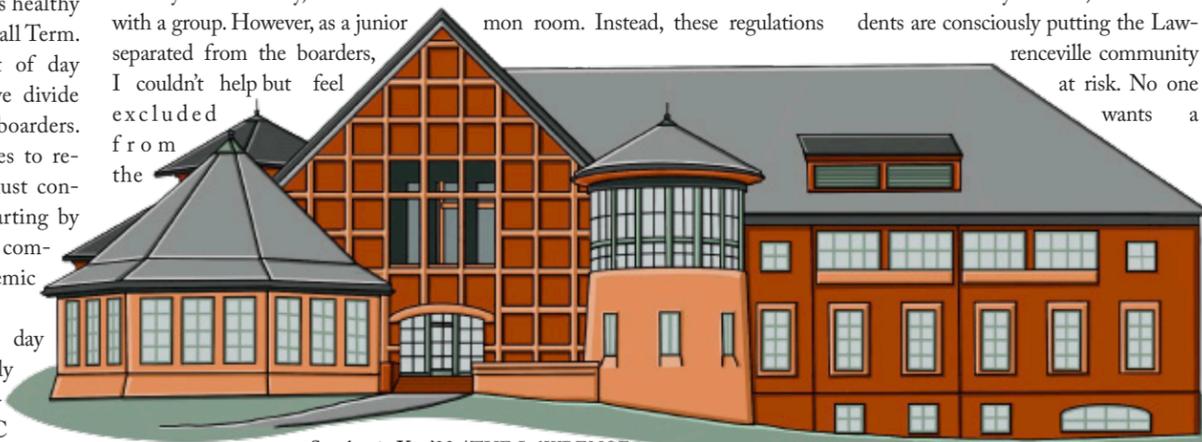
While health is still the primary concern, day students and boarders must be given a chance to mingle, bond, and create social and academic connections in order to maintain some sense of normalcy and unity despite the drastic changes this year. Under normal circumstances, day students spend the majority of their time on campus—most stay until at least 7:00 PM from Monday to Saturday. Thus, the more enticing our campus is for day students, the more time they will spend on campus. Instead of only being allowed into Irwin or the KAC, day students should be allowed to make Crescent and Circle House common rooms their “home bases” once again. Class building areas such as Pop Hall should also open to all Lawrentians for engaging academic forums. If day students are permitted to enter Houses and other spaces, they will pose less of a risk because they will be more securely sequestered in the Lawrenceville bubble.

As Spring Term nears and the community prepares to come together once more, we must learn from both the successes and the failures of Fall Term, modifying the system set in place whilst simultaneously maintaining a safe environment.

humdrum of the Lawrenceville lifestyle. As the days grew colder and outdoor social events became a less attractive option, I found it nearly impossible to see my boarder friends in person—they took their classes and meals in their room, while day students bundled in Irwin. A definitive split formed between day students and boarders on campus, both emotionally and physically.

Ultimately, however, Lawrenceville's were put in place to actively minimize the interactions between boarders and day students because of the day students' ability to leave the safe campus bubble and break the Best for All Agreement (BFA). Throughout Fall Term, rumors, most of them greatly exaggerated or completely false, of day students attending secret parties and ragers ran amok.

Ultimately, however, Lawrenceville's



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

Why Aren't We Talking About This?

Robinhood is Innocent: There is No GameStop Conspiracy

MAC DILATUSH '21
SENIOR COLUMNIST

On January 28, amidst the GameStop mania, Robinhood Markets, Inc., the online brokerage favored by many individual, nonprofessional investors—or retail investors—restricted trading of GameStop and other similarly volatile “meme stocks” such as AMC Entertainment Holdings. GameStop’s stock closed down a whopping 44 percent that day. Some retail investors interpreted the restrictions as an organized scheme to bail out the group of hedge funds that were suffering losses due to GameStop’s rapid rise. Naturally, leftist firebrand Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) had something to say about it. She branded Robinhood’s actions “unacceptable” and vowed to “support a hearing” concerning the trading restrictions “as a member of the Financial Services [Committee].” Then things got weird! Right-wing firebrand Ted Cruz retweeted Ocasio-Cortez’s remarks, adding “totally agree.” Elizabeth Warren and Donald Trump piled on for good measure, likewise asserting that hedge funds and Robinhood conspired against retail investors. Wait, what? Cruz and Ocasio-Cortez agree on almost nothing—so they must be onto something, right? Well, not exactly. So why did Robinhood restrict meme stock trading? The answer involves the reality of brokering on the stock

market, an old mechanism called T+2, and has nothing to do with hedge funds conspiring against small investors.

Stock trades require an extension of credit. Buyers see a price on the stock exchange, tap a button, and instantly receive confirmation that they bought the stock. However, they only get and pay for the shares two business days later. This is called a T+2 settlement. Normally, there aren’t any issues; the buyer and seller agree to a certain price and they both deliver later, regardless of what the stock is currently trading at. However, sometimes things go wrong when significant volatility is present. For example, imagine a stock trades for \$500 on Monday, someone buys a lot of it, and on Wednesday the stock has dropped to \$20. The buyer might try to avoid paying for the stock on

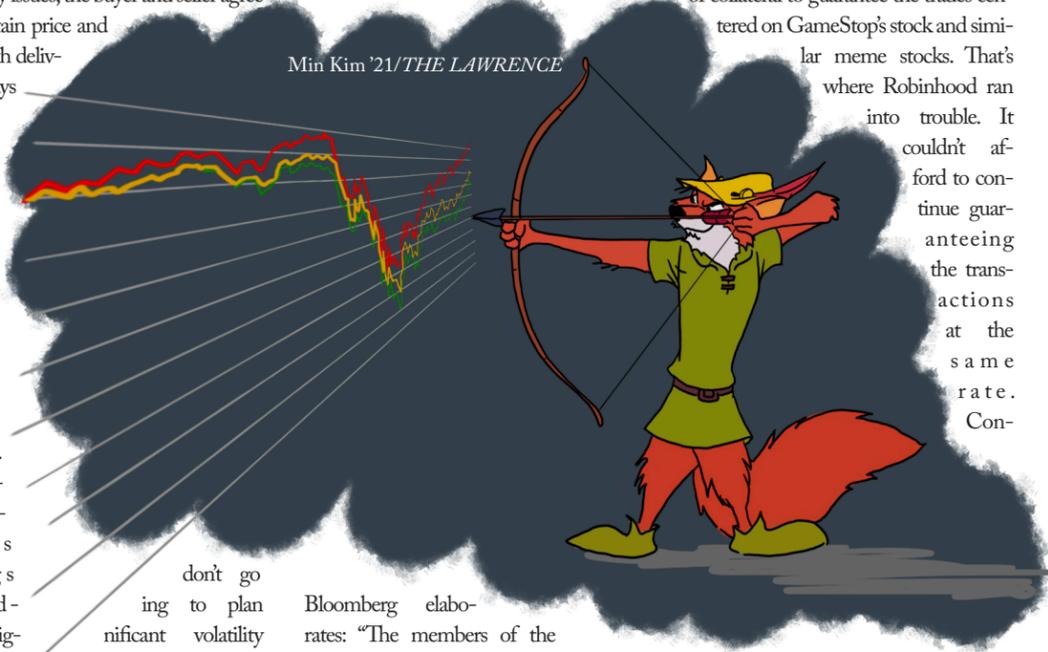
Wednesday because he or she is unwilling to pay the original price for a stock that is now worth far less. He may even be bankrupt (having miscalculated the trade). Thus, the seller assumes a risk that the buyer may be unable to, or refuse to, fulfill his or her end of the deal, and that risk increases as volatility rises.

Stock markets mitigate this risk through clearinghouses. Matt Levine of

all their settlement obligations.” There’s a lot more to it, but essentially brokerages have to post collateral according to the risk of buyers failing to fulfill their end of the deal. Since that risk tracks with volatility, more volatility means brokerages have to post more collateral. GameStop’s stock is wicked volatile—it fell from \$483 to \$112 at one point on January 28. Accordingly, Robinhood has to post a ton of collateral to guarantee the trades centered on GameStop’s stock and similar meme stocks. That’s where Robinhood ran into trouble. It couldn’t afford to continue guaranteeing the transactions at the same rate. Consequently, it restricted the transactions altogether. Bloomberg intelligence analyst Larry Tabb concurred, stating, “It’s not really Robinhood doing nefarious stuff...it’s the Depository Trust Clearing

Corporation (or DTCC, which operates clearinghouses for U.S. stock trades) saying ‘this stuff is just too risky. We don’t trust that these guys have the cash to be able to withstand settling these things two days from now.’” The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Robinhood, Vladimir Tenev, was similarly straightforward. He declared that Robinhood “had no choice in this case,” since the funds needed to post collateral were “about an order of magnitude more than...typical.” In other words, Robinhood didn’t restrict trading due to any wild conspiracy. Rather, it reacted to an integral part of the stock market, which requested that Robinhood post more collateral than the brokerage could afford at the time. And it seems like the DTCC was right to ask for more. GameStop’s stock has cratered from its brief, absurd run in the high 400s; it’s down around \$50 as of Friday, February 12.

America’s politicians are set to make a big show anyways. Some Democrats promised to investigate what role hedge funds might have played in the trading restrictions. Tenev is set to testify before the House Financial Services Committee, which is led by Democrat Maxine Waters. Rest assured, there will be more hand-wringing, more gesticulating, and more unfounded (probably wrong) accusations. But hey! Who knows. Maybe some crazy conspiracy will trickle out of Congress. Maybe everyone really is being duped! Still, I wouldn’t bet on it.



Uyghurs in China: A Potential Genocide

PHILIP PARK '22
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

In May 2018, despite suffering from a severe blood clot, Zia Wudun was sent to the “black room” in her concentration camp, where she was sexually abused by masked men and tortured using electric batons. Her situation represented that of many Uyghurs; since 2017, as many as a million members of this ethnic minority have been sent to Chinese “re-education camps” located in Xinjiang, China. Witnesses report instances of physical torture as well as mass rape and forcible sterilization of women in these camps. Even in the twenty-first century and with the power of social media, these horrifying truths have only recently been brought to light through interviews with escapees like Zia Wudun. However, the gravity of the situation has led former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to declare the crisis in Xinjiang a genocide. Biden’s administration has also launched investigations and so far seems to agree with Pompeo’s decision. There seems to be substantial evidence pointing towards a potential genocide, and it is crucial that action be taken immediately to prevent further damage.

Historically, the United Nations (UN) has classified human rights abuses as genocides if they satisfy two main conditions. There must be a provable “intent to destroy, in whole or in part,” a specific group of people on the basis of their nationality, religion, race, or ethnicity through physical and mental harm against that group of people, such as killing, torturing, and imposing measures to prevent births or remove children from that group.

Though the Chinese government continues to deny evidence of targeted

violence in the concentration camps, there is substantial evidence proving the contrary. The concentration camps are officially labeled as “re-education camps” by the government, and eyewitnesses like Zia Wudun have testified that they do spend hours singing Chinese songs and watching patriotic TV shows that glorify President Xi. However, satellite images of the camps have shown that since 2017, there have been significant developments of dormitory and factory buildings, which are stereotypical of concentration camps. Xi has claimed that Uyghurs were a threat to national security, as evidenced by numerous terrorist attacks on China led by Uyghur militants in 2013 and 2014. When confronted about the camps, President Xi Jinping claimed they were in response to these attacks while showcasing a clear stigma against Uyghurs in particular. Thus, the “re-education camps” conform with a clear government effort to erase the Uyghur culture and spread propaganda in support of mainstream Han Chinese culture. Moreover, leaked government documents that were shared with The New York Times revealed the harrowing truths of the situation. 200 pages of speeches by leaders of the Chinese Politburo, including Xi, and more than 150 pages of directives and reports about the Uyghur concentration camps, have shown that the Chi-

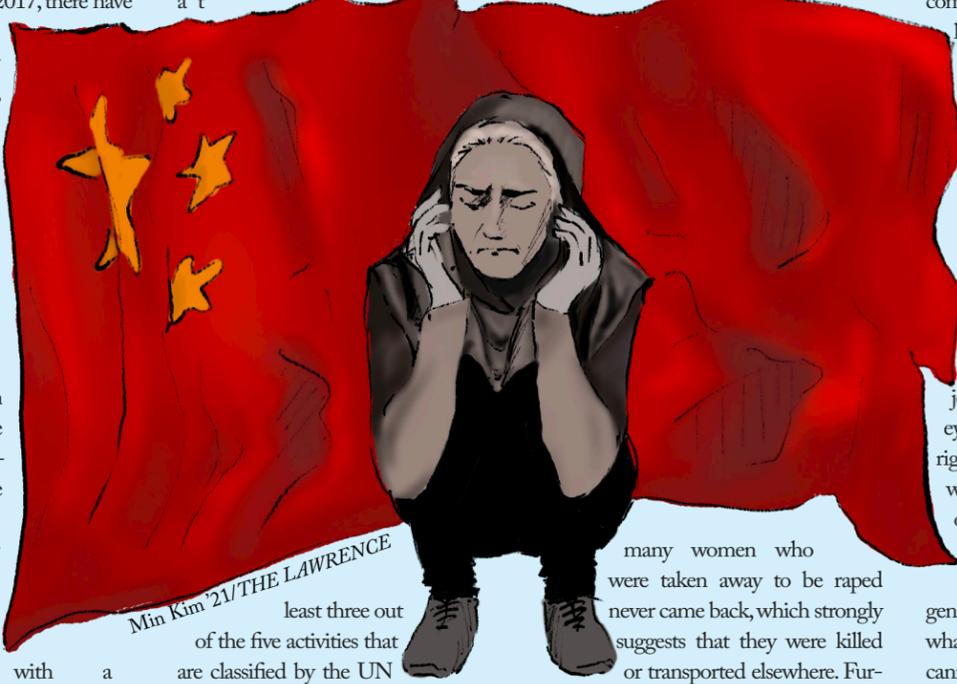
nese government deliberately ordered a “ruthless and extraordinary campaign” that would show “absolutely no mercy” to the Uyghurs.

In line with that mentality, the concentration camps in Xinjiang demonstrate a clear attempt at the physical destruction of the Uyghurs. According to Zia Wudun and several other eyewitnesses, the treatment of Uyghurs satisfy a t

ly inflicts conditions of life calculated to bring about the group’s physical destruction. Furthermore, there is also circumstantial evidence that the Xinjiang concentration camps could also satisfy the remaining two UN classifications, which are killing members of the group and forcibly transferring the children of the group to another group. Wudun, among other witnesses, reported that

age may even be on a much larger scale.

The UN Genocide Convention has very specific conditions for events to be classified as genocides; unfortunately, this led to the failure of genocide prevention in the past. In many instances, such as the killing of Tutsis in Rwanda, the Cambodian genocide, or the disputed persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, the international community responded far too late; millions of people had already been tortured and killed. Moreover, many of the leaders responsible for these atrocities have not been held accountable. Given that the events in Xinjiang could easily escalate, it is crucial that the international community does not delay any longer. China does hold incredible economic and political leverage in our current world, such that even some Turkic or Muslim-majority countries have turned a blind eye to, or even denied, the human rights abuses in Xinjiang. However, we cannot let economic gain or fear of political pushback from China to stall the global community from addressing a potential mass genocide in the twenty-first century; whatever the consequences may be, we cannot stand idly by (as we have done in the past) only to lament the horrific consequences years later. If enough countries take a stand through official condemnations, sanctioning products from Xinjiang, forming an international coalition to exert economic pressure on China, publishing routine intelligence briefings on events in Xinjiang, and withdrawing funding for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the plight of the Uyghurs would at the very least have the recognition it deserves.



least three out of the five activities that are classified by the UN as “physical harm” on a specific group. Uyghur women have been subject to gang raping and violent beatings, leaving many of them traumatized. This qualifies their situation to be one where the perpetrator causes serious bodily or mental harm to members of the oppressed group. Accounts that they are also deprived of food, live in prison cells, and forced to be sterilized also satisfy the conditions provided by the UN that the perpetrator deliberate-

many women who were taken away to be raped never came back, which strongly suggests that they were killed or transported elsewhere. Furthermore, as many as 400,000 Uyghur children have been sent to isolated boarding schools where they have limited contact with their parents (and in the case of parents interned in camps, no contact at all), and are forbidden from practicing Islam or speaking the Uyghur language in order to indoctrinate the children and instill loyalty to the party. Due to China’s restrictions on reporting the government’s activities in Xinjiang, the scale of the physical dam-

PAA and ISA Celebrate Lunar New Year

CLAIRE JIANG '24
NEWS ASSOCIATE

On Wednesday, February 10, Lawrenceville's Pan Asian Alliance (PAA), the International Student's Association, and the Bunn Library hosted a Lunar New Year celebration.

PAA Co-President Chelsea Wang '21 began the meeting with an acknowledgment of the recent hate crimes against Asian Americans, saying, "During the pandemic, anti-Asian attacks have increased throughout the U.S. Within the first three months of the pandemic, 2,100 crimes against Asian Americans were filed. We have a duty to debunk the model minority myth and be vocal and active for the sake of our own community. Here is a reminder to not use anti-Asian hate crimes to justify anti-black rhetoric."

Wang then recapped the origins of Lunar New Year, explaining that "the legend behind Lunar New Year is of a lion-like monster named *nian* who came from the sea to terrorize people and consume livestock. His weaknesses were loud noises and the color red, which is why so many modern celebrations involve fireworks and red decoration."

PAA Co-Presidents Sydney Chun '21 and Rachele Cho '21 continued by listing some common traditions across Asia, including eating traditional foods, cleaning the house, distributing money, and lighting firecrackers.

Next, International Student's Association Co-President Isabelle Lee '21 noted that "[although] Lunar New Year is often associated with Chinese Lunar New Year, it is also celebrated in a host of other countries. For example, in Vietnam it's called Tet, in Korea it's called Seollal, in Tibet it's called Losar,

in Mongolia Tsagaan Sar, and Chunjie in China. It's important to note that the Lunar New Year is not celebrated in one place but is a tradition that many celebrate."

Reflecting on the importance of Lunar New Year, Wang said, "It is a uniquely Asian holiday and the biggest one. It's a time for people to come together with their families and look for new beginnings and connect with others, which has been extra difficult this year."

The presentation was followed by students sharing their Lunar New Year celebrations and pre-recorded musical performances that showcased the cultural backgrounds and identities of students around Asia.

When planning the event, Wang noted the boundaries of a virtual setting. She said, "Lunar New Year and a lot of Asian holidays revolve around food. That's how Lunar New Year celebrations have always been in the past at Lawrenceville. It's usually been a big dinner and everyone comes together... this year, we can't be eating together [but] we still wanted to do something festive and this is where music performances come in."

In addition, Wang explained how planning a Zoom meeting "is especially difficult with different time zones... Half of us are in Asia and half of us are in the states so meetings are never conventional. For us to get together, someone has to get up early or someone has to stay up late. But this is just something we're learning to handle this year," she said.

However, she was happy with the success of the event: "It went so well! People were...impressed by the variety of performances from different cultures and media, and I loved hearing every-

Klarman on Impeachment and Trump

SABRINA YEUNG '22
& TIFFANY YEUNG '22
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Last Friday, February 5, Lawrenceville welcomed Professor Michael Klarman to discuss the topic of impeachment in the context of former president Donald Trump's impeachment. Previously, Klarman had spoken to Lawrenceville as the Weeden Lecturer in 2017 and as a visiting speaker in the Honors U.S. History courses during the virtual Spring Term.

Klarman began his presentation by providing a history of impeachment and how the process came to be defined. The Framers at the Philadelphia Convention initially believed that no removal provisions would be necessary in the Constitution. However, according to Klarman, they soon realized this could result in an unfit or corrupt person holding office, and thus they ultimately came to the consensus that "neglected duty or misused power by the president would result in impeachment."

Klarman then said the Convention believed that those terms were not broad enough because the President could do things that "constituted removal but did not amount to treason or bribery...and so finally, the Convention defined treason, bribery or high crimes and misdemeanors as the basis of impeachment."

Next, Klarman discussed the relevant impeachment provisions in the United States Constitution, contextualizing them to the impeachment of Donald Trump. "The main argument in defense of Trump is two-fold: one is that you can only impeach people who are still in office...and the second is a First Amendment argument," ex-

plained Klarman. Elaborating on the first of two arguments, he said, "Because he's already out of office, [he'll argue] that he simply can't be tried or convicted."

Next, Klarman provided various textual arguments against the first of Trump's two-fold defense, the strongest coming from British precedents. He provided the example of Warren Hastings, a British governor in India who was impeached after leaving office. In Britain, "impeachment clearly applied after the term in office had

the president would almost certainly not be engaging in protected speech." Therefore, he said, "the President of the United States expressing [similar] views ought not to be immune from sanction."

Finally, Klarman argued that even if Trump were to be fully entitled to First Amendment protection, it is unlikely that the relevant case law, the *Brandenburg vs. Ohio* 1969 case involving the Ku Klux Klan in Ohio, would protect him. In the aforementioned case, the court ruled that "the First Amend-



Klarman presented to the School.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

ended in Britain," he said.

Following his discussion of impeachment provisions, Klarman discussed Trump's First Amendment argument, providing three counter responses to this argument. First, he said that "it is not clear that impeachment trials in the House [of Representatives] or Senate are bound by any First Amendment constraint in the same way that a criminal prosecution would be."

On his second reason, Klarman noted that "public officials...performing their jobs are not protected by the First Amendment in the same way ordinary citizens are—a police officer [who] criticizes the president or mulls over the possibility of assassinating

ment does not protect speech 'directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action that is likely to incite or produce such actions.'"

Klarman concluded his presentation with a reflection on why Democrats want to pursue Trump's second impeachment, saying, "As a matter of principle, the President incited a mob to attack the Capitol and try to block the counting of [the] electoral vote count, and the Democrats believe they have to make it clear this is unacceptable; secondly, disqualification from office [is] something that some regard as important...and there is a political reason as well; [the Democrats] want to force Republicans to take a stand on the record."

Ian August Receives NJ Playwriting Fellowship

KYLE PARK '23
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

Lawrenceville School Student Activities Assistant Coordinator and Bunn Library Outreach Services Assistant Ian August recently received a 2021 Individual Artist Fellowship of \$13,000 from the New Jersey State Council of the Arts. In partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the competitive award recognizes artists in different disciplines such as photography, playwriting, screenwriting, and interdisciplinary performance; August is a Playwriting Fellowship recipient. The fellowships are granted based on independent peer panel assessments of work samples. As such, the anonymous review process focuses on artistic quality, and awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their careers.

Reflecting on receiving the award, August said, "It's really nice to be recognized for work that you do that isn't always recognized."

August's theatrical journey has been full of experiences centered around collaboration. In 2016, August co-founded the Princeton-based playwright collective, The Witherspoon Circle, which strives to create a supportive environment for playwrights to interact and expand their audiences through community partnerships.

Explaining the unique name, August said, "We called it The Witherspoon Circle because we met at



Ian August received a \$13,000 fellowship for playwriting.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

the Princeton Arts Council building, which is right down Witherspoon Street in Princeton, and the first table that we sat at was a circle." Since then, The Witherspoon Circle has grown into a community for playwrights to discuss and share their works.

The process of playwriting requires the playwright to consider many different working parts, and, as August explained, "When you are writing a play, you are not writing for a reader to read; you are writing a play for a reader to then perform, direct or design...Writing a play is like writing sheet music but never hearing the symphony until the end

of the process."

As such, August finds great value in workshoping dramatic writing in a group, as it creates an environment where he can learn more about different life experiences and perspectives. During these workshop sessions, people exchange ideas and hone their work through peer critique, allowing August and many others to turn their plays into the best versions. "When I am in group settings alongside playwrights with different life experiences, different writing experiences, different histories, and different perspectives, they can offer me thoughts and ideas that I never would have thought of

before," he said.

This year, August also joined Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) PlayLab—another group that gathers playwrights from New Jersey and New York to foster a community focused on feedback and development of playwriting skills.

Reflecting on his work as a playwright, August mentioned "Brisé"—a one-person play about a professional dancer who suffers from early-onset dementia—to be one of the more memorable pieces in his career. Unlike the conventional structure of a live play, *Brisé* consists of a series of YouTube videos chronicling the protagonist's slow

decline to convey the themes of voice and movement. "The audience gets to watch him losing himself in real time, which makes [*Brisé*] a beautiful piece," August said.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has "laid bare the theatre arts" and live performances have come to a halt. "As a writer of theatre, it has been very challenging. We don't know what our industry will look like when the pandemic is over. We don't know when people will feel comfortable coming back and sitting together in an audience," he said.

Still, the theatre community has managed to make adjustments by utilizing online platforms such as Zoom for play readings and performances. August has also found ways to make the best out of the current circumstances, including writing an interactive play that will encourage audience participation and breakout room features to create unique experiences for each viewer. "We're trying to think of ways we can take the skills that we have developed for live theatre and apply them to the technological world," he explained.

Despite facing many uncertainties, August remains optimistic regarding the future of theatre and is excited to get back to work in person. "I am hopeful that I will be able to be in a theatre space with actors, designers, a director, and an audience again. I'm going to continue writing for the stage with the expectation that someday we are going to find a new normal after the pandemic is over," he said.

Soleil Saint-Cyr '21 Sheds Light on Journey to *The New York Times*



Soleil Saint-Cyr '21.

Ankita Suri '21/THE LAWRENCE

EMMY APFEL '22 & EMMA KIM '23

Student Council President Soleil Saint-Cyr '21 has always had an affinity for thinking outside the box. In eighth grade, her love of sudoku quickly blossomed into a passion for crosswords, as she began solving *The New York Times*' free puzzles. Once her seven-day free trial of full puzzles expired, Saint-Cyr begged her parents for a full-time subscription to access *The New York Times*' crossword—known as the puzzle to solve in the crossword community.

Fortunately, her parents relented, allowing Saint-Cyr to solve puzzles to her heart's content. Although her calendar is packed during the school year, Saint-Cyr tries to solve crosswords as often as she can, describing them as a "welcome distraction from stressful assignments and activities." She currently completes puzzles from two main sources: *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. *The New Yorker*'s puzzles are more relevant in pop-culture references, whereas *The New York Times* features classic clues.

The *Times*' puzzles are published in order of difficulty, with the puzzles increasing in difficulty from Monday onward. "I can finish a Monday or Tuesday puzzle in under ten minutes, so I use them as a study break. With a Friday or Saturday puzzle, though, I often sit there working through it for over an hour," Saint-Cyr explained.

Saint-Cyr is drawn to crosswords, in part, because she finds joy in learning new words and their applications in the real world. One particularly memorable puzzle focused on "trompe l'oeil"—an art technique that takes on the form of an optical illusion—piqued her interest, prompting her to launch a quick Google search on the technique.

Three weeks later, Saint-Cyr found herself in an art workshop, in which employees held up a painting and asked if anyone knew what art form the painting featured. She eagerly responded, "Trompe l'oeil," much to the surprise of every employee. "I was taken aback that I could do something so random in my free time, while still learning practical knowledge and fun facts in the process," she said.

As Saint-Cyr delved deeper into the crossword community, she began to read Word Play, *The New York Times* crossword column, when an announcement caught

her eye. Crossword aficionado Ross Trudeau, a constructor whose puzzles have appeared in several notable news sources, encouraged aspiring, typically underrepresented crossword constructors to reach out to him for instruction. Saint-Cyr, stuck in quarantine during summer break, decided to take advantage of this opportunity and begin exploring the world of constructing.

After direct messaging Trudeau on Twitter, the two scheduled a Zoom meeting in which Trudeau walked Saint-Cyr through the process of constructing and editing a puzzle. As she listened to Trudeau's pointers, she developed a newfound appreciation for constructors' dedication to their unique craft. "People really put a lot of time and energy into these puzzles—they don't just haphazardly throw words in there," she said.

The process of constructing a crossword, Saint-Cyr explained, is tedious. She first picks a theme and chooses a few key words as the starting point for her puzzle. Saint-Cyr then determines the shape of her puzzle and utilizes CrossFire, a powerful constructor software, which tells her possible word choices for a given row or column. She then selects each word based on the clues she has in mind, the theme of the puzzle, and its level of difficulty.

Once she has settled on the basic layout of the puzzle, Saint-Cyr faces the most challenging aspect of constructing: clues. "Clueing often relies on being humorous, having a lot of random knowledge, like quotes, and exercising creativity," she said. From pop culture references and celebrities, to definitions and locations, the clues she incorporates into her puzzles truly run the gamut, enabling her to construct crosswords that are engaging to solve.

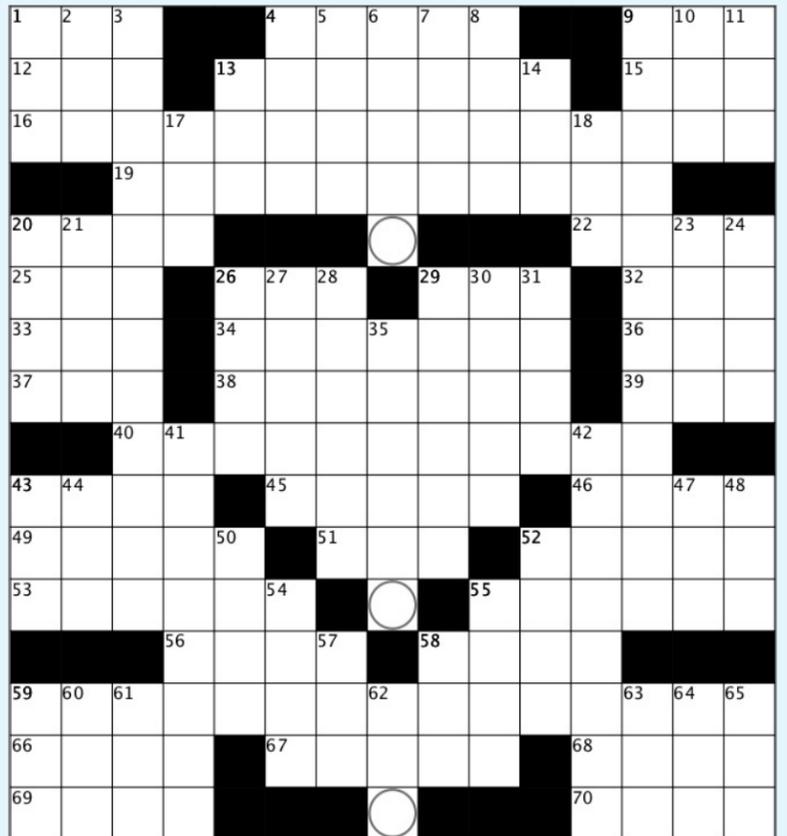
In August 2020, Saint-Cyr collaborated with Trudeau on her first puzzle, a Chadwick Boseman tribute piece. Boseman had just passed away, so it was imperative that the puzzle be completed in a timely manner for publication in *The New York Times*. While Trudeau came up with the terms and configuration of the crossword, Saint-Cyr was tasked with creating clues in just three days.

The title of the crossword, "Wakanda Forever," comes from the movie *Black Panther*, in which Boseman played the starring role of T'Challa, the Black Panther and king of Wakanda—a fictional African nation. Several clues in the puzzle highlighted Boseman's accomplishments and

Solve Soleil's First Puzzle: "Wakanda Forever"

ACROSS

- 1. Scary syllable
- 4. Call of Duty enthusiast
- 9. God, for Rastafarians
- 12. Feels like forever
- 13. Puts in a box
- 15. Manchester United manager
- 16. First Marvel film with a predominantly Black cast
- 19. Unlike history before the Ancient Egyptians
- 20. A hardy laugh, in text-speak
- 22. Trendy source of antioxidants
- 25. For instance
- 26. Award for Kendrick Lamar in 2017
- 29. Travel companion invented by Dr. Gladys West
- 32. Singer/songwriter Rita
- 33. Affirmative votes
- 34. Jefferson's chase?
- 36. Jesse Owens ran the first one in the 4x100 relay at Berlin 1936
- 37. Inker's doing
- 38. American Boy (2008) singer
- 39. Lao-tzu's "way"
- 40. Phrase used to memorialize a person who struggled for justice, represented in today's circled letters
- 43. African mountain goat
- 45. "The stage ____"
- 46. Employer for some 42-Down
- 49. Leaks
- 51. Funny bear of a 2012 film
- 52. "Despicable Me" unicorn lover
- 53. "I ____ do this but ..."
- 55. They're found on the slopes
- 56. ____ bene
- 58. ____ awkward position
- 59. Title-character portrayer in 16-Across



Constructed by Soleil Saint-Cyr '21 and Ross Trudeau.

- 66. Feature of a worn sock
- 67. You may not understand much of it coming from Gen Z
- 68. Jane Austen protagonist
- 69. Popular tablet
- 70. Hot topic for summer 2020
- 13. 2010 Denzel Washington title role
- 14. Lead-in to cone
- 17. Dude
- 18. Bygone air carrier
- 20. Exam for potential Howard Law students
- 21. Poet Angelou
- 23. Length x width, for a rectangle
- 24. Othello's foe
- 26. Imitates
- 27. "Do I have to?"
- 28. Basquiat's occupation
- 29. Reacted uncomfortably
- 30. Bessie Coleman was the first African-American and Native-American one
- 31. Gumbo, for one
- 35. Karate mentor
- 41. Used up, as resources
- 42. Astronaut Mae Jemison, by training
- 43. Black's suffix, on ABC
- 44. "Don't ____ jerk!"
- 47. One way to be, in Madrid?
- 48. Donkey
- 50. Put in the overhead bin
- 52. Members of the first historically Black sorority
- 54. Singer Redding
- 55. Make out, to Britons
- 57. Source of much pain for some athletes
- 58. Son of, in Arabic names
- 59. The Cubs, on scoreboards
- 60. Bunny's unit of movement
- 61. Neighbor of Miss.
- 62. Ex-49ers QB known for his commitment to social justice
- 63. U.F.C. sport
- 64. Theater chain where one may have seen 16-Across
- 65. One half of a 2015 dance trend

widespread impact, but Saint-Cyr also brainstormed unique clues to highlight other important public figures, including Gladys West and Ole Gunnar Solskjær.

While the Boseman puzzle was not published in the *Times*, Saint-Cyr continued working with Trudeau, who posted one of the crosswords the two created on Twitter. The puzzle caught the attention of *New York Times* Associate Crossword Editor Wyna Liu, and she proceeded to contact Saint-Cyr via direct message, offering her the opportunity to be a part of the *Times*' Black Constructors' Week.

When designing her puzzle, Saint-Cyr invested considerable time in developing thought-provoking clues that would shed light on black history in a meaningful manner. "Crosswords are a very important part of history; they were actually popularized in World War II so that people would have something to do in the newspaper that wasn't so depressing, so I made sure to [discuss

the] black experience as a greater part of the American vernacular."

One way in which Saint-Cyr achieved this goal was utilizing fairly common words to describe or allude to an aspect of black history. She included a Malcolm X quote—"Early in life, I had learned that if you want something, you had better MAKE some noise"—as a clue for the word "Make." "Make," a common four-letter word, can be described any number of ways, but Saint-Cyr chose to place it in the context of civil rights activism by way of Malcolm X's quote.

Saint-Cyr did not solely include black historical figures such as Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks for the overt desire to educate people. Rather, she "integrate[d] black people, history, and culture into [her] puzzles to show that these figures and their contributions to American life deserve to be, and should be, common knowledge," she said. "This is information [one] should know—not only as a person who solves crossword puzzles, but also as an American citizen."

Finding a theme for *The New York Times* puzzle proved to be a challenge, so

Saint-Cyr called Trudeau to brainstorm. "At some point during our call he said the phrase 'hive mind,' and I thought, 'Huh, that's a fun phrase,'" she said. "Hive mind," a term derived from the collective consciousness in beehives, inspired her to make the theme of the puzzle "hive," which is alluded to in certain terms like "homecoming QUEEN," "essential WORKER," and "DRONE." Upon completing the first draft of the puzzle, Liu and Saint-Cyr sat on Zoom for hours making revisions, preparing for publication in the February 1 issue.

Saint-Cyr hopes that by being both a black constructor and the youngest woman to ever have a puzzle published in *The New York Times*, she can invite a diverse group of people into this niche community.

"The number of texts I've gotten saying 'Hey, I'm really interested in doing this, how do I get started?' has been amazing. Showing not only black people, but also young people and women, that they too can contribute in this space, is very significant and meaningful to me." Saint-Cyr said.

Homogeneity in Pop Music? A Critique on Love Songs

GRANT SHUEH '23
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

During the counterculture era of the mid-1960s, musicians like the Beatles and Bob Dylan openly reflected in their lyric on diverse topics such as poverty, racism, war, and politics. Nowadays, popular music seems to be mostly focused on love. Some see modern saturation of love songs as a homogenization of music, while others disagree and claim that this perception is a product of cognitive bias, suggesting that the past often appears sweeter in retrospect. Is modern pop's apparent lyrical homogeneity a product of our time or of our propensity for imagining the past too fondly? I think it's a bit of both.

The increase in corporatization of music might be to blame for the rise of seemingly homogenous lyrics. At the height of the counterculture movement, many record labels competed for the best talent and for chart space. Prominent labels included CBS, Warner Brothers, RCA Victor, Capitol-EMI, PolyGram, MCA, Motown, A&M, and more. By the 2000s, many of these labels disappeared or consolidated into three major corporate record labels: French-owned Universal Music Group, U.S.-owned Warner Music Group, and Japanese-owned Sony



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

Music Entertainment. Now, labels no longer compete for the best talent with the same fervor as they did in the 60s. Instead, talented individuals often have to compete for coveted record deals, giving corporations enormous power and influence. Music has become globally commercialized, often marginalizing small, innovative genres that deviate from executives' preconceived ideas of what will sell or stream. A time-tested formula for good sales is a song about love. Love is universal. Love songs allow artists to express emotion without being alienating or unappealing to the average listener. Thus, aspiring artists may feel pressured to stick

to this formula.

Cognitive bias plays another role in the way we perceive modern music as thematically homogenous. We tend to imagine the past as more thematically diverse in music because we focus on songs that are more historically relevant and impactful, but not necessarily representative of the whole music scene at the time. We remember the 60s for its counterculture-inspired songs, but on a larger scale, the era was not any less homogeneous: love songs were the most prevalent. For every "Revolution," I could name about half a million Beatles songs that were about love. Doo-wop also

peaked in the 60s, and I can't name a single Doo-wop song that isn't about love. Chair of the Performing Arts Department Keith Roeckle gave insight on the popularity of love in music throughout history, focusing on opera. He mentioned that operas almost exclusively revolved around love (or revenge... that was probably because of love). Hindsight can cloud our ability to compare eras objectively, creating a common perception that modern music has become more homogenous.

Whether as a result of corporate control or public perception, love songs seem to dominate the modern music industry, making it seem homogenous. Yet in reality, there is, and has always been, a balance between popular themes such as love and thought-evoking themes like politics. Though operas were mainly themed around love, a few operas did incorporate other themes, just as some pop songs do today. Verdi produced many political operas that found great commercial success. He cloaked political narratives through different settings—about his opera *Aida*, Roeckle commented, "We all know it wasn't actually about Egypt." Similarly, though most pop songs address love, a few do get political, especially with the rise of rap. Much of rap is inherently political. As Trevor Noah says, who would want to listen to NWA's

"No Opinion on the Police?" Through rap, artists like Meek Mill, Kendrick Lamar, and J. Cole are able to discuss politics openly in mainstream music.

Further deviations from a thematically homogenous music industry can be expected as technology steadily evolves. In an era of streaming and bedroom pop, the power of expression is returning to the artist. With high-speed internet and digital audio workstations on every laptop, Roeckle believes we're approaching more of a balance between corporations, artists, and consumers. Legal avenues of high quality streaming are readily available for the average listener, bringing profits to all. The independent artist can now record, mix, master, and distribute their music from their bedroom (hence the name bedroom pop). Technology has created more of a meritocracy that allows for more creative and lyrical freedom on the part of the artist. Increased corporatism from streaming services like Apple's iTunes may stymie some creativity, but technological advancement is a chance for musical artists to convey their own messages without being pressured to fit into a specific song-writing formula. As the music industry evolves, power seems to be returning to the artist, once again.

Insufficient Female Representation Through Art

KAJAL DONGRE '22

The phrase "art imitates life" is used all over the world by artists, singers, musicians, and those who draw inspiration from the world around them to create works of art. Art immortalizes moments, captures emotions, and continues to tell stories years after the events have taken place. However, when examining art pieces that depict important figures such as war heroes, great scientific thinkers, political leaders, or artists and authors, women are often left out of the narrative. If you were to walk around Central Park, you would see 73 bronze statues or sculptures that capture important moments or figures. However, only one of these statues would be of real women.

On August 26, 2020, 167 years after the opening of the park, the first sculpture depicting real women was unveiled. In the sculpture, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth are shown sitting at a table working together. These three women were historical figures who advocated for female suffrage through protests, conferences, and education in the late 19th to 20th centuries. The non-profit organization Monumental Women installed the statue to increase awareness of female leaders in history. Female suffrage was ratified in 1920, but it has taken a century for this statue to stand in Central Park. What does this delay say about how we represent and honor women through art on a grander scale?



Photo of the Central Park Women's Rights Pioneers Monument.

Courtesy of Smithsonian

Historically, women have always been disproportionately portrayed in the art world in comparison to their male counterparts. This is not to say that there has been no female representation in art at all. We often see artistic portrayals of fictional characters such as Snow White or Sleeping Beauty. There are also numerous other pieces, ranging from the Louvre's treasured Greek sculpture *Venus de Milo* to the swan princess Odette in Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*. However, most historical depictions of female figures are based on fantastical, idealistic views of women that focus on beauty rather than the importance of these figures themselves. Real, pioneering women have not been celebrated

on the same scale as men have. Nationally, out of an estimated 5,200 public historical statues, only 400 are of women. Paintings like *Portrait of Galileo Galilei* by Justus Sustermans exist to honor the scientific achievements of prominent scientists, yet important female scientists like Marie Curie are nowhere to be seen. While William Shakespeare has been depicted by various artists in many different settings throughout the years, literary phenomena like Jane Austen or Emily Dickinson are only known for their one portrait.

It is even more difficult to find examples of historical women of color represented in art. Initially, the new Central Park statue showed only Susan B. Anthony

and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, leaving out Sojourner Truth, a woman of color. All three of these women fought hard for female suffrage and are the first who come to mind when thinking about female voting rights. However, the statue had left out Truth, the woman of color. Female representation through art has been severely whitewashed, further showing how the art world fails to fully honor important, pioneering women.

Today, female representation through art is increasing. Various female-empowerment groups, as well as the media, are raising awareness about understated female heroes. For example, *The New York Times* posted an article on August 19, 2020 showing pho-

tographs of Black female activists leading protests, rallies, and meetings concerning women's rights. These efforts are encouraging the usage of art to uplift women who defy the status quo. However, the existence of representation is not enough. It's also equally important to confront *how* women are portrayed. Art industries are known to be exceedingly harsh when portraying influential females, including artists, on social media. They often use villainizing terms such as "manipulative" or "calculated" instead of positive terms like "strategic." Female artists are often examined as a source of drama, and their shortcomings are broadcasted over their artistic accomplishments.

Accurate representation of women in art is critical. Young girls around the world deserve a platform where they can be treated equally for their accomplishments. The stories of women who fought for liberty and those who have made advancements in all fields deserve to be told just as much as the men who dominate our history. "Art imitates life" is certainly true, but only to a certain extent. After all, if barely 8 percent of the United States' public history statues are of women, how accurately can we say that "art imitates life?" If we invest in spreading the stories of these women, memorializing them in art and portraying them in the respected light they deserve, we will begin to see a rise in young female leaders who can look up to these women and see possibilities for their own potential.

The Varying Perceptions of PED-Users

ANDREW LEE '22
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

What's the deal with performance enhancing drugs (PEDs)? The public can't make up its mind—different athletes receive different responses from fans for the same crime. For instance, in professional bodybuilding, anabolic steroids, testosterone, and human-growth hormones are unofficial prerequisites for athletes to compete, so fans see no problem with it, but the cyclist Lance Armstrong, perhaps the most notorious doper, does not get a public-pass for taking Erythropoietin (EPO) despite the fact that “it was completely and totally pervasive” among cyclists in the '90s, as Armstrong stated. Armstrong lost all of his accolades and sponsorships and was universally castigated by the sports world. Yet, Barry Bonds's accomplishments are still accepted, and he's officially recognized by Major League Baseball (MLB) as baseball's home run king, despite many of them coming from when he was “on the juice.” National Basketball Association (NBA) players get caught for PEDs every year, but none of them have lost their careers to the extent that former Olympic track stars Ben Johnson and Marion Jones have. So, what's going on? Why do some athletes get a pass while others do not?

Context always matters. Middle-weight Champion Canelo Alvarez and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter Yoel Romero get passes for failing drug tests because they have legitimate excuses: tainted supplements and foods. As a result, commissions are more lenient towards



Lance Armstrong (left) and Barry Bonds (right), two athletes who used PEDs, but have received different treatment in the media. Courtesy of nytimes.com

fighters who make honest mistakes, and the majority of fans are willing to accept that. So it must be the intent that matters, right? Yes and no. As much as fans like to judge their favorite athletes on the merit of their character, morality is second to winning. According to ESPN analyst Max Kellerman, “The history of baseball shows, it's not about the cheating, it's about the efficacy of the cheating.” Barry Bonds had a Hall of Fame career before he started juicing, and so in fans' eyes, PEDs had little effect on his status as an all-time great. Mark McGwire's career, on the other hand, was built and sustained on the juice, and thus, he gets no love from baseball fans. At second glance, Kellerman's philosophy applies to sports in general. McGwire's career hasn't been destroyed to the extent that Jones's, Johnson's, or Armstrong's have. Runners, cyclists, and swimmers that get caught doping don't receive the same luck from commissions and fans, and we can

attest to the perceived efficacy of their cheating.

The individual nature of sports like track and field, swimming, or cycling makes it harder for their respective athletes to get away with any cheating scott free. The perceived efficacy of an individual athlete's prohibited drug use is greater in an individual sport than in a team sport because the athlete has greater influence over the game's circumstances in an individual sport. An individual athlete cheating in an individual sport could be likened to a whole team cheating in a team sport—just ask the Houston Astros, whose infamous sign stealing campaign, in which many coaches and players participated, won them MLB World Series Title, how that went. Though the Houston Astros were not stripped of their illicit 2017 title, the fans and league players alike have not forgotten the Astros' crimes. In comparison to an individual, the Astros' case is like Sun Yang, an Olympic gold-

medalist and star Chinese swimmer, who received an eight-year suspension in 2020 from The Court of Arbitration for Sport for tampering with drug tests. At the time of suspension, he was 29 years old, effectively ending his professional swimming career. Because the individual athlete taking such PEDs provides such a tremendous effect on the individual competing party, the individual athlete takes a harder fall than if he played on a team.

Sports like track and field, swimming, or cycling are “pure-athleticism” sports—they're less technique and strategy-based and more focused on raw speed, strength, power, and endurance. Of course any swimmer, runner, or cyclist will tell you that there's a great deal of technique, precision, and strategy to their sports. For example, sprinters must have swing their arms at a specific angle, distance runners must strategize their position among the pack, swimmers must meticulously count their strokes per

lap, and cyclists need to maintain proper cadence throughout races. However, it wouldn't be far-fetched to say that there are fewer strategic components—at least conspicuous components—in those sports compared to team-sports like soccer or football. As a result, an athlete's performance in track and field or swimming is more heavily dependent on one's physical capabilities; Usain Bolt's Olympic achievements are predicated not on his technique but rather his elite genetics, the basis on which his refined technique and physical training rest. Because “pure-athleticism” sport athletes are so dependent on natural athleticism, altering one's physical makeup and limitations through PEDs in those sports can be seen as heavily meddling with the balance of competition. The perceived efficacy of their cheating is high, so fans are more outraged when they hear when someone like Armstrong is caught.

It also doesn't help that sports like cycling, track and field, and swimming aren't widely viewed, so the general public does not have a fond appreciation of those athletes. Any athlete that knowingly uses PEDs to get ahead is in the wrong, but as sports fans we're too focused on wins, gold medals, championships, and first-place finishes. Perhaps if Armstrong were doing EPOs on a soccer pitch, he'd still have a public career, or if Johnson took steroids while on the gridiron, not the track, he'd still be relevant, or if Jones just kept steroids for her basketball career, she'd save herself from public ostracism. But as we know, efficacy, not ethics, plays a role in our perception of these PED cheaters.

LeBron James Is Right about the All-Star Game

MICHAEL SOTIRESCU '22
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

Before the season started, the National Basketball Association (NBA) announced that they would not hold an All-Star Game, but recently, the NBA struck an agreement with the National Basketball Players' Association (NBPA) to hold an All-Star Game on March 7 in Atlanta, leaving players without the previously promised five-day break. This new decision allows the NBA a chance to regain some revenue after suffering hefty losses over the past year from the Covid-19 pandemic. The All-Star Game will also serve as a fundraiser, as it has in recent years, for both Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and Covid-19 relief, although the league is still finalizing the precise details of this. With the pandemic and other factors, the timing seems inopportune to say the least. Additionally, due to the All-Star Game's steady decline in viewership and popularity over the past two decades, it would've been in the NBA's best interest to keep the All-Star Game off the agenda as they had originally planned.

The decision to hold an All-Star Game has received much criticism from fans and athletes alike, with many notable players speaking out against the sudden change of plans. Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron



LeBron James, who has averaged 25.5 points per game this season, has been a vocal critic of this year's All-Star game. Courtesy of forbes.com

James, widely regarded as the face of the NBA, told the media: “I have zero energy and zero excitement about an All-Star Game this year... [It's] a slap in the face” (per ESPN). James cited the short turnaround between the end of the NBA bubble in October 2020 and the commencement of this season just two months after in December as one reason why the All-Star Game wouldn't be a good idea. The five-day break that was initially

scheduled would have served as a prime opportunity for players to rest and spend time with family during this chaotic season. Now, the All-Stars will spend this break travelling and participating in events.

James also pointed to the Covid-19 pandemic as yet another reason to not hold the All-Star Game; it poses a unique threat as players from multiple teams will travel to one location and then back to their home cities just a

few days later. If there were to be an incident of exposure, the players would most likely bring the virus back to their teams, initiating a potential multi-team outbreak and a league nightmare.

Considering the pandemic-related factors that James identified, the timing is not right to hold an All-Star Game. Additionally, the declining popularity of the All-Star Game also prompts the question of whether the NBA should even preserve the tradition at all. The 2002 All-Star Game drew 13.1 million viewers, whereas the 2019 contest attracted only 6.8 million (per Nielsen via ShowBuzz Daily). The 2020 contest was an outlier from this declining trend, as the game served as a tribute to the deaths of Kobe and Gianna Bryant. Nonetheless, the NBA clearly needs to take steps to revitalize the declining tradition. The clear culprit of the decline is the lack of competitiveness in the games themselves. The NBA attempted to address this problem by switching from the traditional East vs. West format to a team captain format in 2018. This change only marginally increased the quality of the game, so it was a step in the right direction, but the game's lack of competitiveness remains a problem. The larger issue at hand is that the games are less physical and less defensive than they were just 10 years ago, resulting in many wide-open dunks and shots, extremely high scores, and overall boring basketball.

The truth is, players don't want to get injured in a ‘meaningless’ game, so they don't put 100 percent of their effort into the game as they would during a regular season game - a more difficult issue for the NBA to address going forward. Long story short, the All-Star Games of recent years (excluding last year's) have been uninspiring. Exasperating the lack of inspiration for participating athletes, this year's contest will take place in a near-empty arena, as Covid-19 will heavily restrict admittance. This will drastically decrease the in-person energy level, which is one of the few things that has remained constant over the past two decades. The 2021 season provided the NBA with the perfect opportunity to take a year off from the declining tradition and reconsider how to improve it moving forward, however the NBA did not hesitate to pounce on the opportunity to recuperate recent revenue losses.

In the past few years, the NBA has attempted to improve the quality of the All-Star Game, however it's still not up to par with the more intense, nail-biting contests of old. Additionally, due to the pandemic and other factors, this year's All-Star Game is shaping up to be more of an ordeal rather than an honor, and with players already speaking out against the NBA's change of plans, holding an All-Star Game is clearly not the right move for the NBA right now.

2021 Midseason Premier League Update

KYLE PARK '22
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

The halfway mark of the English Premier League (EPL) season is here in what has been another nail-biting and entertaining season. We've seen Manchester United thrash Southampton with nine goals, defending champions Liverpool FC concede seven goals to Aston Villa, and Chelsea FC fire their manager Frank Lampard, a beloved former player. These past few weeks have been a testament to the intensity and unpredictability of the Premier League. Have no clue what I'm talking about? Here's a review of the EPL's season to help you out.

West Ham United Off to Strong Start
Criticism was thrown at David Moyes's West Ham United before their Premier League campaign even commenced, with the selling of young talent Grady Diangana leading to accusations from the fans of a lack of ambition. Yet, the club's pair of signings from the Czech Republic have greatly contributed to the team's overall productivity; newcomer Tomáš Souček has already netted eight goals, five of which were headed goals, and West Ham has clinched a clean-sheet victory every time defender Vladimír Coufal has started. Moreover, with the arrival of Manchester United loanee Jesse Lingard, who scored two goals on his debut against Dean Smith's Aston Villa, the future looks bright for a team that has always been regarded as subpar. If the Hammers are consistent in their performances, they have a great shot at qualifying for the



Courtesy of Skysports

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Europa League at the end of the season.

Sheffield United Struggles

Despite signing promising British talents like goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale, winger Oliver Burke, and left-back Max Lowe this summer, Sheffield United sits at the bottom of the table with a goal difference of -22 and 11 total points—one of the worst starts to a campaign in Premier League history. The Blades have shown hints of potential, including a victory against Ole Gunnar Solskjær's Manchester United, but whether they can keep their place in Europe's most competitive soccer league is still a massive question. Sheffield United successfully claimed a top-half finish last season, finishing 22 points above the bottom three; the team prided itself on its exceptional defensive ability (conceded only 39 goals in their 38 matches) and unique style of play that uti-

lized overlapping center-backs. Yet Chris Wilder's side is suffering the 'second season syndrome,' hindered by a lack of firepower upfront and an unstable defensive line. Despite Wilder's role in promoting Sheffield to the Premier League, his role at the helm is now under increasing scrutiny; the upcoming weeks will be crucial in determining the club's future.

Player Spotlights: Thiago Silva & Rúben Dias

Thiago Silva made the move to Chelsea on a free transfer and has stabilized a youthful Chelsea squad. Despite being 36 years old, the experienced defender has adapted well to the quick-paced nature of the Premier League and has served as a role model for many on the pitch. Notably, the Brazilian has played a vital role in mentoring 21-year-old Reece James, who now is Thomas Tuchel's first choice for the right wing-back position. Partnered with Antonio Rüdiger and Cesar Azpi-

licueta, the former Paris Saint-Germain player has adapted well to Tuchel's back three. Silva's aerial dominance and his outstanding work ethic on the pitch are unmatched, and the entire Chelsea squad feeds off of his calm and confident energy.

Centre-back Rúben Dias, who signed from Portuguese club S.L. Benfica, has become a mainstay for Manchester City. Dias's passing accuracy and quick transitioning abilities from defense to attack have been crucial for the 'Pep Project'—an ambitious plan overseeing the development of new generation players. The Portuguese defender has also made an immense impact on teammate John Stones, who has been a player reborn this season. The defending duo Dias and Stones form an imperious partnership—warranting comparisons to the great duo of Nemanja Vidić and Rio Ferdinand. Their statistics are exceptional: When both of these defenders started, City has secured 14 wins,

13 clean sheets, and only conceded two goals in 15 matches. Dias will continue to be essential for Manchester City as the club aims to win their seventh Premier League trophy.

Leicester City Joins the Title Race

While Manchester City remains at the top of the league in phenomenal form, Leicester City deserves applause for their season so far. After missing out on UEFA Champions League qualifications by a slim margin, Brendan Rodgers's side came back hungrier. Despite star left-back Ben Chilwell's departure to Chelsea, the Foxes have seemingly found perfect additions to compensate: defenders Timothy Castagne and Wesley Fofana. The recent structural switch to three at the back has paid dividends for the club, creating more attacking opportunities for the strikers. Like Leicester City's title-winning 2015-2016 season, Jamie Vardy has been the main man leading the attack with 11 goals and five assists. Vardy continues to impress and threatens the opponents with his incredible pace and goal-scoring abilities. If Leicester can keep this momentum going, they have a chance of pushing for the title.

The Premier League is no stranger to dramatic endings and unexpected victors; that is precisely what makes the EPL one of the greatest leagues in the sporting world. Regardless of the teams' current forms, it's too early to tell which teams will come out on top, qualify for European competitions, or part ways with the Premier League, but the final weeks will certainly bring excitement.

Why Freestyle Skiing Goes Unnoticed

JACOB LEE '21
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

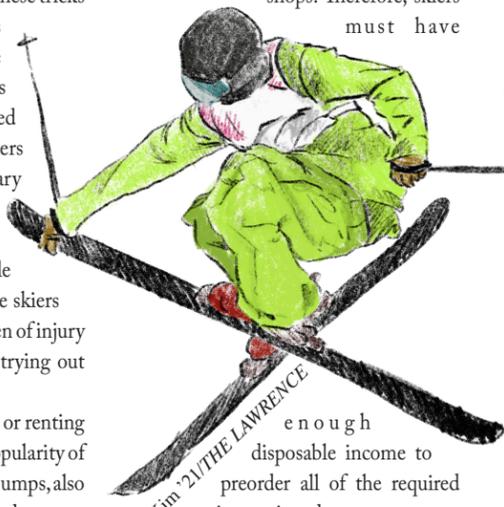
Freestyle skiing, though an official Olympic sport since 1988, has failed to garner the attention required for significant growth over the years. Although the introduction of slopestyle and halfpipe skiing to the Olympics in 2014 has helped to increase its popularity, the sport is still far from being as popular as alpine skiing. While there may be several other reasons for freestyle skiing's lack of growth in participation, the three most obvious ones are the dangers of the sport, the gear it requires, and the scarcity of freestyle terrain parks globally.

Freestyle skiing is one of the most dangerous winter sports, if you couldn't already tell from the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Nearly half of all aerial skiers reported an injury, and three of the top five sports with the most injuries were categories of freestyle skiing at the event. While performances

of a Double cork 1080s or Rodeo 540s can be jaw-dropping and exciting to watch, the skiers undertaking these tricks usually experience numerous falls and bruises to master these tricks. Debilitating injuries and even deaths have occurred within the sport, so beginners must strictly follow necessary guidelines before attempting any tricks. As with most sports, learning the basics in freestyle skiing can bore and discourage skiers from continuing, but the burden of injury can also play a major role in trying out the sport.

The difficulty of purchasing or renting freestyle skis also affects the popularity of the sport. To safely take on ski jumps, also known as "kickers," skiers need proper gear such as twin-tip skis, shorter ski poles, and ski helmets. While the sport does not require many items, the total cost may equate to hundreds of dollars. Unlike

alpine skis, freestyle twin-tip skis are also not readily available to rent in many ski shops. Therefore, skiers must have



enough disposable income to preorder all of the required equipment in order to even attempt the sport, making it so that freeskiing suffers from a lack of "try before you buy" opportunities for those interested. This extra level of effort and expenditure

necessary makes freestyle skiing an aloof world.

Unlike alpine skiing, freestyle skiing requires specialized landscape, which most ski resorts do not provide. Much like the gear, freestyle terrain parks and half pipes are only available in select ski resorts, especially outside the U.S. While more ski resorts worldwide are trying to build more parks and halfpipes, the process requires extensive time, effort, and money. In countries where skiing does not have massive popularity or people do not have access to the sport, freestyle skiing is impossible to do. Thus, to freestyle ski, many people need to drive long hours or even take a plane ride to their nearest ski resort. If more resorts provide proper parks or halfpipes, the sport could become more popular, but public interest in freestyle skiing must increase first to make the investment worthwhile.

While teaching beginners safe ways to

freeski, making the gear more accessible, and building more parks and half pipes would all help increase freestyle skiing's popularity, these methods are highly impractical as it would require significant money and effort. Therefore, the best option may be to use social media to promote the sport. The Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS) hosts a number of freestyle skiing competitions every year such as the Freeski World Cups, and other events like the X Games are popular among fans as well, but highlights from these contests rarely headline news and social media platforms. FIS or national ski teams encouraging Instagram accounts like House of Highlights or ESPN to post freestyle skiing clips more often could increase the sport's viewership and ultimately its popularity. The sport has room to grow, and if it ever wants to capitalize on its Olympic and X Games viewership, freeskiing needs to find ways to increase accessibility.

Winterfest Picks

	Calli Colvin	Eleni Lefakis & Lucrezia Di Vincenzo	Ashley Gelber & Katie Li	Lily Hooge	Jordan Brown & Ellis Addleman
Who do you look up to?					
Greatest Fear	the fans on my computer during zoom -- they work so hard	Assistant Director/IT Icon Autri Basu	charlotte bednar's hand acting	"The directors who know what they are doing"	last year's directors of the exquisite play train to brooklyn
Best rehearsal moment	spiders. maybe eleni.	Lucas forgetting to wear pants to tech week.	minh having to chug redbull to get through the performance	Tech week.	eric's new haircut
	"hey guys so im currently making mac and cheese but its fine it can wait til after the scene"	"Does comedy é-xist?"	calling 911 by accident. they called back	Spending four hours trying to figure out how LED lights work...and still failing	we don't rehearse