



Lawrenceville MUN Team Sweeps Annual Yale Conference



The Lawrenceville School's Model UN Team won Outstanding Small Delegation.

Courtesy of Kim McMenamini

CHRIS DELANEY '20 & ELLIE SHIN '21
NEWS ASSOCIATE

This past weekend, 12 members from the Lawrenceville Model United Nations (MUN) team traveled up to New Haven, Connecticut to compete in the 46th Annual Yale Model United Nations Conference. Competing students were V Formers Anika Bagaria, Chris Delaney, Dami Kim, Arya Singh, and Elaine Wang; IV Formers Chris Crane, Jack Hallinan, Chris Pandapas, Avigna Ramachandran, and Jasper Zhu; and III Formers Ayan Schwartzberg and Maksym Bondarenko. The School earned the title of Outstanding Small Delegation, as well as six individual honors: Bagaria won the first place Best Delegate award, and Hallinan, Ramachandran, Schwartzberg, Singh, and Wang earned the second place Outstanding Delegate award in their respective committees. Bagaria and Kim led the delegation as co-presidents, and History Master Kim McMenamini served as the faculty advisor for this event.

In three days of debate, Lawrencevillians represented ambassadors from a range of nations to solve a variety of world issues, including women's education in underdeveloped areas and the opium trade in Afghanistan. Students left for the conference on Thursday afternoon. Upon arrival, students attended the opening ceremony, in which a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) employee and a Rise Against Hunger representative addressed delegates and advisors. Yale Day took place on Friday morning, during which Model

UN students have the opportunity to explore the Yale campus and attend workshops. Unfortunately, the last day and closing ceremonies were canceled this year.

Topics discussed at the conference encompassed a wide variety. Students were asked to vote on the first topic, prepare opening speeches, participate in moderated and unmoderated caucuses, and finally, vote on draft resolutions. Delegates were ultimately encouraged to form blocs with other member nations that shared similar positions on the issue. In addition, students had to submit position papers describing their country's stance and prospective resolutions in order to qualify for awards.

A returning Model UN member, Singh was in the Tokyo 2020 committee, in which she represented Prince Feisal bin Al Hussein from Jordan and debated the topics of blood doping and transgender athlete rights. This year, Singh found her experience especially interesting. "Someone in my committee was visiting from New Zealand, and [there was] another from Singapore," she said. While her committee last year consisted of around 80 people, she was in a small 12-member committee this year. "I think I liked the small delegation size more because it was easier to create resolutions, and I got to become friends with everyone in my blocs," she said.

Hallinan participated in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) committee and debated the ethicality and systemic issues behind global prison policies. On his main takeaway, Hallinan said, "There will always be difficult people in the way of what

you are trying to achieve, and you can choose to handle it two different ways: you can either usurp them or be more reserved and respectful. At the end of the day, Model UN is about the way in which you handle those around you."

This year was Ramachandran's first time at the conference. She was a member of the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM), within the General Assembly. Ramachandran, along with her 80 fellow delegates, debated the issue of gender equity in access to education and disability rights. She said, "while it was definitely a challenging experience, I was able to develop my public speaking and collaboration skills." Students come from all around the world to attend such gatherings, and "I really enjoyed getting to know and working with [them]," she said.

It's "a combination of luck and skill," Singh said in reference to the awards. "The most important award was the all-school outstanding small delegation because we really compete as a team, and it's exciting to see our weekly practices pay off."

Hallinan added, "I think that MUN is a great way to use some skills, academic or otherwise, that you have accumulated."

Reflecting on the year as a whole, McMenamini said, "We had an incredibly worthwhile and successful showing this year... It's fulfilling to see how this student-run club can take on some of the strongest teams on the international high school circuit. While our squad meets only a few hours a month... some teams are enrolled in a Model UN class at school."

New Initiative to Monitor School's Water Quality

CARINA LI '22
NEWS ASSOCIATE

School's golf course.

To protect the stream from pollutants and high temperatures from the pavement, there are also plans to put in rain gardens. Rain gardens are shallow depressions in the ground constructed along parking lots and other paved areas that are planted with native plants. As rain falls and water flows downhill towards the stream, these dugout areas collect the water. This protects the stream by capturing pollutants that parking lots normally have and allows them to percolate into the soil. "That's preferable; the soil can distribute those pollutants and make them less harmful, as opposed to if they go in the water and they're collecting all the way down stream towards the Delaware River," Laubach said. The rain gardens also protect the stream and pond from reaching dangerously high temperatures when the pavement gets hot by collecting rainwater that hits it.

In the coming months, a new long-term project to study the School's water quality in the campus stream known as the Shipetaukin Creek and to incorporate more sustainable practices in partnership with the Stroud Water Research Center will start. The project is a student-led study with the goal of implementing sustainable practices within the campus stream and monitoring how these new practices affect water quality.

Director of Sustainability Stephen Laubach P'23 noted that there are already specific areas of the stream and pond that the project aims to improve upon. Next to the creek by the fieldhouse parking lot, there's "erosion from the parking lot going directly into the stream [and] there's no native vegetation to slow down the flow of water and the erosion that stormwater runoff can cause," he said. During the summer when the pavement is hot, water that flows from the pavement into the stream can reach temperatures as high as 180 degrees Fahrenheit. "Warm water holds less oxygen, so any high quality wildlife [like] insect larvae, fish, or minnows...can't survive in that water if it's getting periodically hit with water that is that warm," Laubach said.

Stream buffers are one way to prevent erosion, and this stream monitoring can document improvements in water quality from such practices. Stream buffers are five to 10-foot layers of native vegetation planted along shorelines to prevent erosion and provide habitat for native wildlife, such as birds, insects, and turtles. In 2009, a two-foot buffer was placed along some edges of the pond, but with the new project, larger buffers will be planted along all shorelines, especially next to pavement downstream of the pond where erosion is common, and extend all the way up through the

In February, faculty will meet with scientists and educators from the Stroud Water Research Center to survey the site and make plans. In April, environmental science classes will work with them in labs to start monitoring the water quality. "Students will be sharing what parameters they'd like to measure and learn from researchers from the Stroud Center some of the things that would be of importance, like volatile organic compounds from car runoff, nitrogen, phosphorous, pH, and temperature," Laubach said.

"People are concerned about climate change; they're concerned about energy consumption... but another thing in this community that people are really concerned about is protecting the natural beauty of the campus," Laubach said after reviewing a recent survey on sustainability. "I want the community to see that they can be a part of promoting practices that improve things like water quality here on campus... I want people to have some agency."



The School further pursues sustainability efforts.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Brexit: For The Record

Oliver Udy '20 shares his perspective on Brexit.



VonWachenfeldt's Journey to Buddhism

Sara Xu '23 tells the story of VonWachenfeldt's three months of immersion in Nepal.



Girls Varsity Basketball Defeats Hun

Joshua Cigoianu '22 covers the Girls Varsity Basketball victory.





THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at sannamaneni20@lawrenceville.org.

POTW: Lawrentians Honor Holocaust Victims



OLIVER UDY '20

"Ah, you're British, what are your views on Brexit?" has undoubtedly been the most popular question I've encountered over my last four months at Lawrenceville. While I naturally expected such questions—accompanied by requests to recite strange pronunciations of words like "aluminium"—the bemused reaction to my response: "Well, I want Brexit!" has deeply shocked me. The confused conversation which usually follows is worrying. After professing my rejection of the European project, the person I have just met likely sees me as a distinct breed of Englishman; one who is at best anti-immigrant or a Trump supporter and, at worst, a vehement racist. Or perhaps, I may simply be one of the stupid, misinformed voters who was misled by the lies of evil genius Dominic Cummings or the Leave Campaign's 2016 campaign bus that promised an extra 350 million Euro per week for the National Health Service. Alas, such generalizations are merely the product of a myth created by the ill-informed or those who wish to reverse the majority decision made by 52 percent of voters in 2016. Admittedly, the 2016 referendum is far too complex for us to come to some ultimate conclusion about why people voted for Brexit,

While the EU may have begun as an admirable trade partnership, it has morphed into something much more insidious than often portrayed.

since the vote meant something different to each individual person. Instead, I can only speak to what Brexit means to me and why I support it in 2020.

My first major concern with the European Union is the profound lack of democratic accountability of bureaucrats in Brussels. Before the 2016 referendum, around two-thirds of laws rubber stamped by parliament came from an unelected assembly that failed to understand what Roger Scruton

recalled "the peculiar social conditions of Britain." People were, rightly, upset about the inability to control their own laws under an institution that drained large amounts of British taxpayer money. Furthermore, the looming presence of "superior" rulings from the European Court of Justice has often undermined the power of the British Supreme Court, especially when concerning its forced marriage to the European Convention of Human Rights in the form of the Human Rights Act (1998).

Therefore, "The Autocracy Within Britain's Democracy" is with unelected European officials and judges, not, as

In 1984, Neil Postman warned about the dangers of "transforming all serious public business into junk." By this, Postman meant that the new wave of late 20th century media entertainment could eventually come to overtake all aspects of life. With the shift to digitalization, he feared that we would come to treat all subject matter as entertainment and thus, disregard their authentic value. Postman's fears, later published in the book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*,

In the breakneck pace of today's digital world, there is often the temptation for journalists to come treat news as a source of entertainment rather than information.

foreshadowed the modern era of 24/7 news coverage, where a search online reveals a barrage of websites fighting for the viewer's attention.

In the breakneck pace of today's digital world, there is often the temptation for journalists to come treat news as a source of entertainment, rather than information. On Sunday morning, basketball legend Kobe Bryant was killed in a devastating helicopter crash near Calabasas, California. In the aftermath, while rushing to release the news, several highly reputable news outlets made

factual errors: For example, Matt Gutman, the chief national correspondent at ABC News, falsely reported that all four of Bryant's children were killed in the crash. Like many other reporters, Gutman disregarded journalistic standards of promoting the truth for the sake of being the first to release the heavily coveted story. And in doing so, he overlooked the original purpose of news—to inform—and instead looked to its entertainment value.

Even more alarmingly, we have come to expect this from our news coverage. This fall, the Harvard Crimson published an article covering a campus protest against ICE, in which reporters wrote, "ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night." The idea that the Crimson reached out to such a hated institution met intense backlash; student activists demanded that the paper never contact ICE again and that the reporters apologize for the harm that they inflicted. These demands indicate that we have lost sight of the purpose behind responsible journalism; instead, we ask that this journalism be reshaped and staged to suit the requirements of our entertainment.

The issue of transforming serious business into entertainment transcends media. In this "junk" culture, as Postman described, we have come to confuse the joys of entertainment with our education at Lawrenceville. Over the last four years, our solution to this

problem at Lawrenceville has been to create more leisure time for students by reducing the workload. Initiatives like no homework Mondays and Pace of Life days have been instituted into our schedules, and yet, it seems as if nothing of much substance has changed. Students continue to feel the pressures of the rigorous Lawrenceville pace, and it seems as though we have not strayed from the entertainment seeking mindset that we have developed. If personal development and meaningful experience is truly what the student body seeks, then parchment barrier policies that reduce workload is not the solution.

In this "junk" culture, as Postman described, we have come to confuse the joys of entertainment with our education at Lawrenceville.

We have developed a culture in which we are willing to pay far too much for the sake of amusement and meaningful conveniences. Instead, we must attempt to look past the idea that only that which makes us feel good is worth spending our time on and actively choose to pursue meaning in every aspect of our lives—news, education, and otherwise.

- SA

Brexit: For the Record



Samuel Chang '20/THE LAWRENCE

was stated in a recent Lawrence article, with Boris Johnson: a prime minister whose Conservative Party recently secured a resounding 80-seat majority with a "Get Brexit Done" agenda.

This sense of a loss of control extends to legitimate concerns surrounding the rate of mass migration into Britain. Completely free and open borders championed by Europhiles seemed untenable to many. Starting with the New Labour's more relaxed immigration policy in the late 1990s and early 2000s, large swaths of migrants were drawn to the United Kingdom. The hardest hit by growing migration was not the largely educated Remain voters but the working class communities whose wages had been undercut by migrants willing to work at a much lower rate. Additionally, these demographics were disproportionately affected by the squeeze of ever lengthening National Health Service waiting times, social housing pressures, and limited school places. However, it was the manner

in which the liberal elite dismissed such anxieties as inherently nativist that angered many of the 50 percent of Leavers who cited migration as the primary driver in them voting "Leave." Many "Remoaners" have failed to genuinely interact with the issue of immigration despite repeated warnings. Instead, they idealise a frankly unsustainable policy of a borderless world, alienating large parts of the British population outside of London who do not feel they have benefited from the surge of globalisation.

However, this decision made by the British people was not only determined by domestic concerns, but also a rejection of the Union more generally, dismissing the project to create a "United States of Europe." This resistance to a closer union, which had been apparent since the signing of the Maastricht Treaty (1992), was largely driven by concerns that the EU no longer provided a mutually beneficial system in which certain countries within the Union seemed markedly different to that of the UK. A prime example of this was Greece, which received three successive EU and International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts (totalling 330 billion dollars) after revealing its sky-high deficit in 2010. It therefore seems that countries like Greece or parts of the former Soviet Union were developing at the expense of Britain, which technically was equal to such members in the EU assembly.

While all of this was happening, the EU also seemed to be held hostage to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He continues to use the 2.7 million Syrian refugees currently residing in Turkey as a loaded gun, threatening to send them to Greece

or let them walk through Bulgaria to get to Europe. Rather than standing up to this dictator, with his deplorable treatment of Kurds and the use of refugees as human bargaining chips, the EU and previous Prime Minister David Cameron instead suggested the possibility of Turkish membership to the Union. This prospect was strongly re-

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jected by the British people who were unwilling to be subject to the whims of Erdogan, someone who so obviously did not represent Western values.

While the EU may have begun as an admirable trade partnership, it has morphed into something much more insidious than often portrayed. Only time will tell whether the signing of Boris Johnson's withdrawal agreement on January 31 will be either a positive move towards a thriving, sovereign nation or the break-up of the United Kingdom. Nonetheless, the dismissal of the legitimate concerns of the majority must stop if Britain is to have any hope of bridging the ever widening divide within the nation's population.

The Shrinking Moderate Class

How Hyperpartisanship is Slowly Eroding Moderate Politics

CHERIE FERNANDES '21
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

Republican Maine Senator Susan Collins is in trouble. Over the course of her four-term tenure, Collins' careful deliberation has built the senator a longstanding reputation as a "True Moderate" with a hand in multiple bipartisan efforts from the last decade from the Gang of 14's successful compromise to the 2010 repeal of the infamous "Don't ask, don't tell" military policy. Collins is also known as a swing vote in controversial decisions; she broke party lines through her vote to acquit in the Clinton Impeachment trial and stood with other Republicans in her vote to confirm Brett

"In a politically diverse nation, only by finding that common ground can we achieve results for the common good."

Kavanaugh; both times backing her choices with extensive research and explanations. She supports abortion rights and LGBT rights, and she has broken with her party on topics ranging from the environment to taxes to the Affordable Care Act. Historically, this has served her well as Collins enjoyed a 53 percent approval rating in late 2018—recovering from the drop that followed the Kavanaugh hearings—and has consistently won her

re-elections by wide margins. Both the Republicans and Democrats of Maine were pleased with a representative who made an art of straddling the line and taking an admirably deliberative approach to complex situations like the Clinton trial, during which the Washington Post described Collins as "one of the few senators who genuinely has not made up her mind" and pays attention to the proceedings "while other senators are looking at the ceiling [or] at each other."

By 2019, however, Collins' brand as an independent appears to have gone out of style. The slow, careful approach to decision making that once brought her praise is now being decried as inaction as she deliberates voting for witnesses in the Trump impeachment trial, and as of December 2019 she faces a 52 percent disapproval rating, making a representative who was last re-elected with 70 percent of the vote into the U.S.' least popular senator. Senator Lisa Murkowski, another congresswoman who tends toward compromise and moderation is also among the least popular. Collins' critics argue that this plunge in popularity is due to her lack of decisiveness and inability to hold true to her reputation as an independent, but this is particular claim is plainly untrue. While Collins isn't necessarily correct about each choice, she's as consistent in her methods as she is a fixture in Maine, treating her controversial decisions in the Kavanaugh and, now, Trump cases with the same trademark deliberation that was

once applauded. She has also bucked Trump and her party multiple times in the last four years: Her staunch opposition to his National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States being just one example. Rather, the growing dissatisfaction regarding Collins can be attributed to the increasingly thin tight-rope she's walking between pleasing Republicans so as not to be contested for the nomination and appealing to the broader democratic electorate in Maine. Trump supporters don't care for her lack of patriotism: "She stabbed the Republican Party in the back," growled a retired Army major wearing a "proud American" T-shirt. "She hasn't really supported our president." Meanwhile, Democrats object to her tendency to overthink before taking a side. When asked if she believed Elizabeth Jean Carroll's sexual assault accusations against Trump, for example, she answered: "I have no information on it, beyond what she says and beyond what he says. It's an impossible allegation to evaluate"—not the response most were seeking. As the New York Times puts it, Collins' propensity for caution "may be losing its allure...in an era when voters demand brazenness" and thus many partisan groups cannot see Collins' calls for question and compromise as anything but betrayal.

Collins is hardly the only member of congress affected by growing partisanship. Lawrentians will recall that our own school speaker Senator Jeff Flake cited the hyper partisan

atmosphere and lack of agreeableness among colleagues when he retired from politics. Another Republican who won't be seeking re-election is Senator Lamar Alexander, who Politico describes as "the rare senator who is close to both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer" and thus a key negotiator, much like Collins. While Democrats might cheer at the notion of a Republican incumbent stepping down, it is worth noting that Republicans are still slated to retain the seat and likely with a senator who is far less willing to compromise. Similarly, widely admired Senator Olympia Snowe, another moderate Republican famous for her bipartisan efforts, bowed out of seeking what would have been her fourth term in 2014 due to the "dysfunction and political polarization in the institution." In an Op-Ed for the Washington Post explaining her decision, she wrote, "in a politically diverse nation, only by finding that common ground can we achieve results for the common good. This is not happening today and frankly, I do not see it happening in the near future."

Growing hyperpolarization in the U.S. has led to a partisan culture that is increasingly intolerant of moderate views. As Collins noted the endorsement of a conservative Democrat, Senator Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who also faced a highly contested re-election: "There are so few members left in the center." Collins is the face of moderacy in the Senate—

the possibility of her removal and the impending loss of several other representatives who have similarly made moderacy their brand does not bode well for the future productivity of an already snail-slow congress. We often complain about an inefficient legislative body, but Collins' case illustrates how its inability to agree on anything often comes from voters' inability to elect representatives who are willing to reach across the aisle. Politicians aren't a bunch of randoms, after all, they're the people chosen by the people, and thus their competence (or lack thereof) is the result of our choices. We need to be cautious in

Growing hyperpolarization in the U.S. has led to a partisan culture that is increasingly intolerant of moderate views.

our selections: even if it doesn't always support our ideology, a politician's willingness to research and deliberate before defaulting to red or blue in the face of external pressure demonstrates exactly what congressional representatives ought to be—a collection of agents that focus on the public good, not a numbers game that predetermines which of two sides will win. As future voters—and as members of communities that make decisions in general—we ought to beware the loss of voices that advocate for collaboration and compromise.

Equity Management

Analyzing Goldman Sachs' New Corporate Diversity Initiative

JUPITER HUANG '21

This week, Goldman Sachs, one of the largest investment banking enterprises in the world, made headlines because of a new policy refusing to underwrite the initial public offering (IPO) of private companies in the United States and Europe that lacked at least one "diverse board member, with a special emphasis on the representation of women in leadership roles." In other words, having at least one non-straight, white, or male figure on the board is a requirement to be brought into the stock market. The firm has been an influential presence in the financial and economic sectors, only recently pledging to spend \$750 billion on climate transition projects and curbing its relations with the fossil fuel industry. Nevertheless, this new move made by Goldman Sachs has garnered praise for its intention, but criticism for its actual implementation. Although the new directive leans substantially in the right direction, the actual policy feels incredibly forced coming from a seemingly trend-setting corporation, as it does not solve the underlying issues hindering women from taking on managerial roles in businesses, while exempting countries where such behavior is most prevalent.

In issuing this directive, Goldman Sachs seeks to address a substantial problem in the private sector, and being an influential enterprise makes this action especially noteworthy. Despite leaps and bounds made in gender equality, representation of women in the workplace, especially in leadership roles at large companies, has been a persistent problem in the majority of nations worldwide. This trend features most prominently in among venture-backed private business, the very area that the Goldman Sachs policy addresses. Data from recent studies show that 60 percent of heavily venture-backed businesses lack a single woman on the board, and given that only one in five of the board positions in S&P 500 companies are held by women, those companies which have gone public despite lacking diversity seem to remain that way. Equality arguments aside, Goldman Sachs itself issued a statement describing companies that have at least one female director on the board perform "significantly better" than those without diverse representation. With both an economic impetus, as well as a

moral obligation to solve a glaring inequality issue, Goldman Sachs certainly has the initiative to enact such a policy.

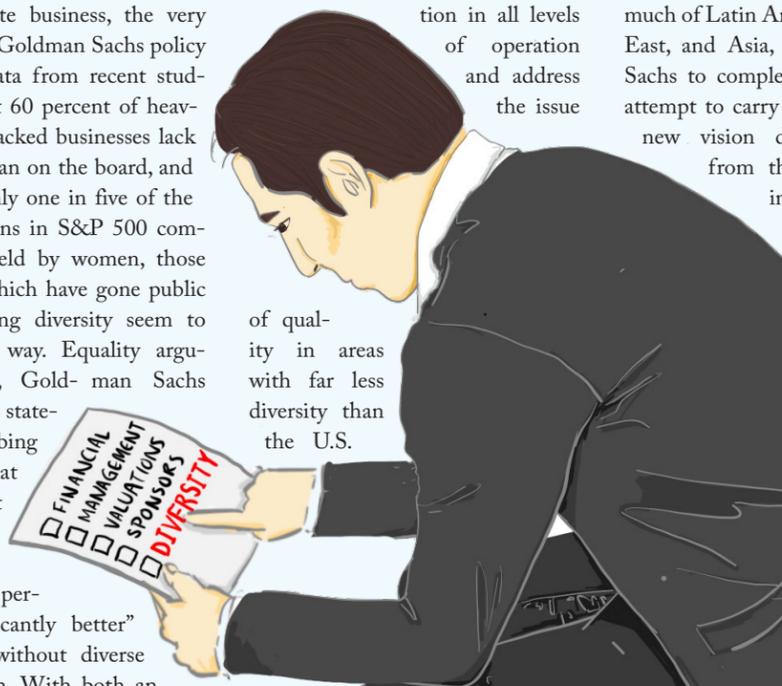
The problem with Goldman Sachs' approach to the policy stems from its extremely surface-level approach to dealing with the lack of diversity in private companies, including a failure to urge cooperation with other investment giants. In addition, the company fails to confront sources of discrimination in all levels of operation and address the issue

of quality in areas with far less diversity than the U.S.

and Europe. Major news outlets have already pointed out two glaring faults in the new Goldman Sachs initiative. Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East harbor the majority of companies with by far the most homogenous leadership, but the investment firm has shied away from swaying financial interests in Asia and Latin America to aid in the creation of more diverse boards. Granted, large cultural divides exist between the United States and much of Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia, but for Goldman Sachs to completely gloss over an attempt to carry through with this new vision definitely detracts from the weight of this initiative. The companies restraint reiterates that such policies are still likely to be swayed by their financial success. In the past, it hasn't been uncommon for banks to back away from social initiative, such as when, in 2015, the company pledged to

move away from fossil fuels, but turned full circle and invested in new coal prospects when confronted with the reality of losing business to competitors. Ultimately, the type of change that Goldman is looking for might eventually culminate in a boardroom rehaul, but making company diversity a requirement for an IPO reduces diversity down to a checkbox. Individual members on a board that would otherwise qualify for IPO under the new standard would still face the disadvantage of being the only diverse member on the board, as these corporations only need to begrudgingly promote sufficient diverse members for the sole purpose of meeting a standard.

The new initiative undertaken by Goldman Sachs shows promise, and the support of a global corporation for much-needed change in the market economy is bound to spur movement in the right direction. However, the leadership at Goldman Sachs, and certainly the rest of the private sector, cannot sit on its laurels thinking that a blow has been struck to the issue of gender inequality in the workplace. There remains much work to be done, as the underlying roots of discrimination and double standards must eventually be tackled directly if the vision of an equal workplace is to be achieved.



Sally Lee '23/ THE LAWRENCE

Impulse Returns to the Stage this Saturday

CHRISTINE CHENG '21
NEWS ASSOCIATE

The Impulse Comedy Troupe will be performing this Saturday at 9:00 P.M. following B Night Winterfest performances in the Kirby Arts Center (KAC). This week's performance will feature around 15 to 18 student performers.

Impulse Co-President Danica Bajaj '21 first got involved with Impulse at the beginning of her II Form year. Although the club almost came to an end that year due to a lack of attendance at shows, during her III Form year Bajaj worked with David Hernandez '19 and Harrison Lee '19 to rebuild Impulse. This year, Bajaj continues to see successes; the last Impulse show, a collaboration with the co-ed a-cappella group Larries, had an audience of around 200 community members.

According to Impulse member Evelyn Dugan '21, "I thought the last performance went really well, and we had a lot of people come watch us to relax. It was really fun because all the topics of our games are made up on the fly by the audience, so it's really exciting to see what they want us to do."

On what she loves most about Impulse, Bajaj said, "It's such a diverse group of people, but we can make each other laugh so hard... The chemistry is really unique and you won't really see something like this anywhere else on campus."

Agreeing with Bajaj, Dugan said, "It's really fun and easy to jump into. Everyone is really open and it's easy to learn to go with the flow because there's no planning at all during improv."

Rehearsals typically take place on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. After starting with a few warm-up games, such as "Try Not to Laugh," students will typically run through and prepare games for the upcoming shows. At the end of each rehearsal, students end by playing the improvisational game "Park Bench," where one actor tries to convince another actor to let them sit on the bench.

"What's so special about Impulse is that everyone who does it genuinely wants to do it. They're there because they want to have fun and perform, and it really shows in our rehearsals. Sometimes I can be having an extremely busy day, but as soon as I get to Impulse rehearsals, all of that goes away because it's such a stress-free environment," Dugan said.

According to Bajaj, "Rehearsing for Impulse can be hard because there's no script for improvisational comedy and you don't get to see this perfect improvement after each rehearsal. There can be some really great days followed by an off-day in the next rehearsal, but we always make it work in the end."

Each show features six improvisational games with a different combination of actors for each game. While the first game and last game stay consistent throughout shows, the games in between will rotate. The upcoming show will feature two games that have never been performed before, "Coworker" and "The Dating Game," and Bajaj hopes that the School community will come support Impulse at their upcoming show this weekend.

Students Celebrate Lunar New Year

SABRINA YEUNG '22
STAFF WRITER
& ELLIE SHIN '21
NEWS ASSOCIATE

This past weekend, people of Asian heritage all over the world celebrated the Lunar New Year, including students on Lawrenceville campus. The Pan-Asian Alliance (PAA) and International Students Association (ISA) partnered with the Dumplings for Dreams club to host a Lunar New Year dinner event for students in the Bath House. Students came together to cook dumplings, eat Asian food, learn about the Lunar New Year, and celebrate as a community.

The ISA has held an annual Lunar New Year dinner only for international students in the past several years, but the PAA reached out to organize a larger event for this past Lunar New Year. Dumplings for Dreams hosted dumpling-making and presented a slideshow about the Lunar New Year. "This past Lunar New Year celebrations were super successful because we had such a large number of students come out to celebrate," PAA Co-President Sydney Chun '21 said.

As a person of Korean heritage, Chun said that "as a boarder, it's definitely more difficult to celebrate Lunar New Year with [her] family." Whereas her family used to eat traditional Korean dinner on Lunar New Year's Eve, now they celebrate over winter break, during the western New Year. On Lunar New Year, Chun uses FaceTime to do the traditional Korean bow for her parents and grandparents. She said, "Even though it's not the same, we still find little ways to

keep the traditions going."

Not only did students celebrate the Lunar New Year at the on-campus dinner, but Chinese Masters celebrated within Chinese language classes as well. Chinese Master and ISA Faculty Advisor Yangyang Daniell said that it's important to celebrate in class "because this is the only Asian language class on campus, and it's the biggest traditional holiday for most East Asian countries." She,

Isabelle Lee '21, Co-President of the Dumplings for Dreams club, said that she believes events like the dinner are important to the Asian students on campus because it "provides more of a home to Asian students on campus, [and] not only that, it... introduces other Lawrentians who are unfamiliar with Asian culture to a really special event."

She added that an event like this shows students "the importance of



Students enjoy Lunar New Year meal in the Bath House. Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

along with the other Chinese language teachers, often bring students to their houses on campus, where they eat dumplings, discuss traditional Chinese celebrations of the Lunar New Year, and watch recordings of the Chinese Lunar New Year Gala. "We celebrate in class so we can learn about the culture, experience it, and share it," she said.

In her family, Daniell keeps Chinese traditions alive by decorating the house with traditional red banners, inviting family and family friends over for dinner, and eating Chinese food.

family and gathering in Chinese tradition".

Looking forward, Chun said that she would like to have more celebrations or more notice around other Asian holidays at Lawrenceville.

She said that there are so many more holidays celebrated by people around the world and by Lawrenceville students that the school doesn't celebrate, "but I think we're moving in the right direction. I'd like to see people move their perception of 'East Asian' from only Chinese, Korean, and Japanese to other Asian ethnicities as well."

Winterfest Showcases A Night Performances

CHRISTINE CHENG '21
NEWS ASSOCIATE

The School's annual Winterfest features 12 student-directed plays with a variety of genres, ranging from comedies to tragedies. Following Winterfest A Night performances this past Friday and Saturday, B Night performances for Winterfest will take place this Friday, January 31 and Saturday February 1, at 7:00 PM. in the Kirby Arts Center. This year's Winterfest features the hard work of 17 student directors and over 70 actors and technicians.

Last week's performances featured six plays, including the comedic *The Processional*, co-directed by Casey Rogerson '20 and Micahel Woodley '20, and the drama *Train to Brooklyn*, co-directed by Jordan Brown '21 and Ellis Adleman '21.

Amelia Roselli '21 played the role of a bride in *The Processional*. On her experience performing, Roselli said, "It was a little scary during the performance. Usually when actors perform [the performances] take place in a proscenium theater where you can't see the audience's faces, but in the black box there are people right in front of you and you can see them clearly...However, it was eventu-



Performers in the A Night segment of Winterfest performed last Friday and Saturday. This Friday and Saturday, Winterfest will showcase its B Night acts.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

ally really reassuring to see the audience's reactions."

After acting in her Freshman Shakespeare production of *Titus Andronicus*, Tesia Thomas '22 decided to audition for this year's Winterfest to pursue her interest in theater. She played the role of a middle-aged woman going through a divorce in *Train to*

Brooklyn. Thomas loved having more creative freedom over developing her own character, whether in terms of body language, costumes, or actions. On how she captured her character, Thomas reflected, "I made a lot of different choices to portray my character, such as making sure her mannerisms were more mature and show-

ing how she became more fidgety when agitated."

This week's performances will feature an additional six plays, including *Now We're Really Getting Somewhere*, directed by Eleni Lefakis '21, and *Murder at Merriweather Mansion*, co-directed by Danica Bajaj '21 and Harrison Abromavage '21.

As a new director, Lefakis decided to choose a short play with a small cast to make finding time to rehearse easier. However, Lefakis reflected, "Scheduling was the most difficult part because everyone had such different schedules. There were always conflicts going on, so during rehearsals we really had to focus and work hard together."

While she has done a lot of acting, Bajaj is directing for the first time during B Night. According to Bajaj, "Working with my cast and co-director has been amazing, and I really love the energy of our group. I think because we've seen the show so many times, we tend to forget that it's funny, so I'm really excited to see the audience's reactions to our show."

Reflecting on last week's performances, Head of Winterfest Emily Matcham '20 said, "The actors and directors were really on top of everything, and the show ran smoothly. We had full houses both nights which was really exciting." She looks forward to seeing everything come together for the upcoming performances.

According to Matcham, "The audiences for A Night were really receptive, and I'm excited to see the same kinds of crowds for B Night."

VonWachenfeldt's Journey to Buddhism

Three months of Immersion: Reflecting on Von's stay in a Nepali monastery

SARA XU '23

On a warm Nepali night during the summer of 2010, Chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department Jason VonWachenfeldt heard piercing noises coming from the nearby monastery. He woke up to screaming Buddhist monks who woke up at around 2:30 AM to watch the anticipated World Cup games. He was staying at a guest house in Boudha, which held a community of Tibetan refugees just outside Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, when the shouts of the monks interrupted his sleep just a couple of hours before they had to get up at 4 AM to begin chanting. Still, the riveting World Cup game proved to be the main priority of their morning.

When pursuing his Ph.D., VonWachenfeldt traveled to Nepal to study Buddhism. Initially, VonWachenfeldt was mostly expecting three months of research and learning. While many of his days consisted of studying Sanskrit and early Buddhist texts at another monastery called the White Gompa, his stay there also became a fully immersive experience in which he had conversations and discussions with many locals and monks and learned first-hand about the lives of real Buddhists.

When VonWachenfeldt was dropped off in the middle of this unfamiliar city from the airport, he realized that he would not be a sheltered tourist: "There wasn't much planning ahead of time and [he] thought they would have more things set up for [him] at the monastery."

Despite this initial setback, VonWachenfeldt was able to find a place and settle into the new environment with the help of a monk who gave him an extensive tour of Boudha. VonWachenfeldt implemented more structure into his time there and filled his days with learning and exploration. For instance, after doing research and work, he explored the busy streets of Thamel and its rural outskirts. He also often entered the village center and interacted with the locals there before returning to study at the White Gompa monastery. He engaged in "a lot of learning about the local customs through just talking to people [and] being willing to ask questions and also being willing to make mistakes."

By exploring the community of locals surrounding him, he gradually picked up a better sense of the customs and bits of the Nepali language. "I'm never going to pass as a Nepali, right? But learning how to blend in as part of the community and not necessarily just a tourist [was vital]," he noted. Although VonWachenfeldt faced hardships such as food poisoning and power outages from the wet monsoon season, learning how to blend in with the culture as a respectful traveler rather than an oblivious tourist was the largest hardship.

Part of overcoming this obstacle took the form of actively engaging with Buddhism while leaving behind his original perceptions of the tradition. For instance, he especially cherished his breaks in the middle of the day where he spent doing koras, a type of meditative practice, with monks at Boudhanath, a grand



VonWachenfeldt posing in front of Tharlam Guest House

Courtesy of Jason VonWachenfeldt

stupa in Kathmandu. One day, as he made his clockwise rounds around the stupa with a monk, he began to ask him questions about his life-

"Perhaps, unlike what we're taught in our religion classes, the ultimate goal of monks is not necessarily to achieve nirvana, but rather to land in a slightly better rebirth the next time around."

style. He turned to the monk walking beside him and curiously asked a question which seemed complete-

ly valid at the time: "How many hours do you spend meditating?" With a pause, the monk looked at him as if he were crazy and continued to explain in amusement that only higher, special monks meditated alone for long periods of time. This experience pointed out that the reality of Buddhist practices contradicted VonWachenfeldt's previous perceptions of Buddhism.

Over the course of the three months, he realized that it was important "not to homogenize groups...[or] to romanticize them either as [a] great ideal." "Perhaps, unlike what we're taught in our religion classes, the ultimate goal of Buddhism is not necessarily to achieve nirvana but rather to land in a slightly better rebirth the next time around," said VonWachenfeldt.

People often learn that followers of Buddhism are strictly devoted to discovering this divine state of enlightenment. However, VonWachenfeldt realized that many Buddhists, and even monks, simply just hoped for a better second life—that "these are just people living their day."

"All religions have different voices and different perspectives and you can't think of any tradition as singular, whether that be Hinduism or Buddhism," VonWachenfeldt added. He continued to state that the realities of certain practices can sometimes "conflict with what you would read or be taught"—teachings that potentially reinforced this singular mindset of a religion. Discovering the realities of practicing Buddhists impacted him on a spiritual level;

the impact ran deeper than his basic understanding of the religion.

For example, earlier in his stay, he had talked on the phone with his wife about Buddhism in relation to Catholicism, the religion he grew up with. He spoke about rituals and traditions that seemed to represent the core of Buddhism and told his wife that these aspects are prevalent in Catholic practices too. He had said into the phone, "I don't need to really identify as Buddhist."

A couple of weeks later, he had the chance to meet with a local Buddhist teacher, who discussed his research with him. When the teacher asked him whether he was Buddhist or not, VonWachenfeldt explained that he did not consider himself Buddhist. However, the teacher told him something that stuck with him even after he returned home: "If you're living your life with impermanence in the front of your mind, I don't care what you call yourself—you're a Buddhist."

He originally arrived in Nepal with the purpose of fulfilling a requirement and participating in hands-on learning about Buddhism. However, he also came back with experiences which challenged his original perception of Buddhist practices and his own spiritual identity.

"Living in Nepal and seeing how the monks lived and how a lot of Tibetans practice made me much more comfortable with recognizing that Buddhism has fundamentally shaped the way I think maybe even more so than my Christian upbringing. And so I would definitely identify primarily as Buddhist," said VonWachenfeldt.



Boudhanath, a grand stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Courtesy of lonelyplanet.com

**Purple Cow
Reopening**

Tuesday, February 4th



**Any Purple Cow house feed
delivered in the month of
February will receive a 20%
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Poetic Passion: 2020 Merrill Poet Maggie Smith Visits Lawrenceville

ISABELLE LEE '21
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

On Thursday, January 30, this year's Merrill Poet Maggie Smith shared her experiences as a renowned writer with the School community at the Edith Memorial Chapel. Author of four books of poetry—*Keep Moving*, *Good Bones*, *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison*, and *Lamp of the Body*—Smith has also earned numerous awards throughout her career, including the 2012 Dorset Prize and the 2016 Gold Medal in Poetry for the Independent Publishers Book Awards. Her collection *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison* was also a finalist for the National Poetry Series and the Montaigne Medal. Perhaps one of her most acclaimed works yet was *Good Bones*, a book and poem of the same name that received international attention after the 2016 Pulse Nightclub Shooting in Orlando, Florida. According to the Blue Flower Arts literary agency, her piece explores the theme of “staring down darkness while cultivating and sustaining possibility,” as it aims to touch the lives of many by consoling them through difficult and turbulent times. She is currently a freelance writer and editor, a Consulting Editor for the Kenyon Review, and a creative writing teacher at Gettysburg College, the MFA program at the Ohio State University, and other nonprofits in America.

Unlike many of her professional

peers, Smith found her inspiration for writing poetry in music rather than in books. A music lover, Smith often listened to artists like The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and other musicians whose lyrics possessed a great sense of depth and meaning. As she has grown older and gained more life experience, poetry has come to define the ways in which she lives. “Even when I’m not writing, I’m thinking through the world as a poet,” Smith reflected, “Even when I’m not physically writing, I’m always writing in my head.” For example, when Smith sees an object, her brain automatically conceives of ways to describe that item and its relation to the world around it.

While the level of her writing has certainly improved throughout the years, most of her poems continue to highlight the same humanistic themes, such as life, perception, memory, time, and loss. Although the content of her pieces regularly fluctuates, “the big ideas behind them are things all of us think about all the time.” At age 19, she truly began to develop her voice as a writer as her poems took on their own unique individuality. Yet, being a poet still comes with many challenges, and it is often fatiguing to maintain the “tenacity, patience, and self-confidence” required of a successful writer. To Smith, “self-censorship is the death of any poem” because if a writer places too much emphasis on what the audience will think, he or she immediately “shuts down the avenue” to a work that



Smith shared a reading of her poetry to students and faculty at the Edith Memorial

Courtesy of Blue Flower Arts

could be raw and authentic.

Writing a strong poem does not require a profound, life-changing experience, but rather, poetic inspiration can strike serendipitous times and come from the most unassuming places. Instead of viewing poetry as a form of therapy, Smith sees writing as a gratifying experience. Often times, the pleasure for her work is simply “the discovery and surprise” of working through something complex and confusing. “It’s a conversation I’m having in my head,” Smith said, and she can never truly understand what she’s doing until she has sculpted the final product. For example, Smith wrote

her poem *Good Bones* in a Starbucks café within a span of 20 minutes; the inspiration for the poem came from solely “being a parent in the 21st century.” At the time it was written—during the summer of 2015—the Sandy Hook shooting had just taken place and her son’s daycare had frequently received bomb threats. The lines of the poem “came out in a rush” and derived from the feeling of “trying to figure out how to explain these things to her children.” While Smith felt the urge to speak the truth, she also didn’t want to “expose them to this stuff too early because there’s also so much beauty and good people

in this world.” When Smith finally completed the poem and submitted it the next day, she only changed one word from the original draft, highlighting that a unique aspect of poetry is also maintaining the authenticity of the work.

Reflecting upon her experience working with Lawrenceville students, Smith commented, “The students are amazing and it seems like such a supportive environment. The sections have been working hard and asking smart questions, I’m really impressed.” Today, January 31, she will work with a number of English classes through live poetry workshops.

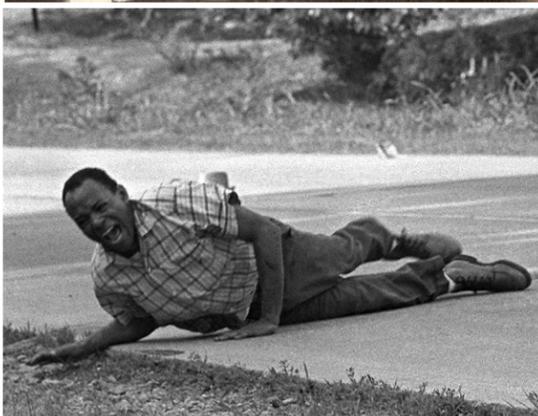
Capturing a Movement: Celebrating the Photography of the Civil Rights Era

ANGEL ZHANG '22
ARTS ASSOCIATE

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. brought to light the injustices of racial inequality with his “I Have a Dream” speech. While King’s captivating oration regularly drew thousands of spectators, it is important to remember that even King relied on other forms of publicity to advocate for his cause.

During the Civil Rights era, the camera was a powerful form of expression and the “weapon of choice” for many in which it would carry lasting memories of events that would come to define the movement. “The world seldom believes the horror stories of history until they are documented via the mass media,” said King.

Known as the “Original Civil Rights Photographer,” Ernest Withers left behind a legacy of an estimated five million photographs in his 60-year career. One of Withers’ most famous works include photos from the trial of Emmett Till, a 14 year-old, African-American teen accused of whistling at a white woman and subsequently kidnapped, beaten, and shot. The perpetrators, two white men, were tried and acquitted by an all-white jury. Withers’ most memorable photo from the incident depicts Till’s great-uncle in court pointing to identify Till’s murderer who sat off-camera to the left. The photo itself was not taken in high quality, yet this emphasized the rawness of the situation, while the horizontal lines produced by the desks, chairs, and window frame direct eye-movement in the direction that the man is



Photography served as an important medium to highlight the struggles and accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement.

pointing towards. Photos of this trial spread quickly and provoked outrage from the black community which drove the Civil Rights movement forward. King referred to Till’s murder as “one of the most brutal and inhumane crimes of the twentieth century,” while Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery city bus one hundred days after Till’s death. As Reverend Jesse Jackson told *Vanity Fair* in 1988, “Rosa said she thought about going to the back of the bus. But then she thought about Em-



Courtesy of Pinterest, *The New Yorker*, *The Clarion-Ledger*, and Duke University

mett Till and she couldn’t do it.” The Montgomery bus boycott of 1956 was another iconic shot captured by Withers. It depicts Martin Luther King Jr. and Reverend Ralph Abernathy riding on the first desegregated bus. Reverend Abernathy looks straight ahead at the camera while other people look out the windows. In the background, a white man is standing, holding the railing, contradicting traditional societal standards, and reflecting a pivotal moment of the movement. Approximately 40 thousand people would go on to join

the boycott.

Jack Thornell, another recognized photographer during the era, won the Pulitzer Prize for his candid photo of James Meredith’s shooting during the March Against Fear in 1966. To capture such raw photographs, Thornell remembered: “We were worried about getting shot too because we were in the line of fire... Meredith was grimacing from the middle of the road, and I took the photograph.” The photo depicts Meredith as the single subject, anguished and with his mouth open, lying on a concrete

sidewalk. Other photographers were also in close proximity to the incidents they recorded. In 1965, James Karales captured his iconic Selma-to-Montgomery March, where protestors walked 54 miles to call attention to racial injustice by advocating for voting rights for people of color. Protestors’ continuous walking for three days called attention to the need for a national Voting Rights Act. In the panoramic photo, men and women walked in line and held the flag of America. The clouds loomed in the sky and pressed down on the figures who marched in unison, creating a somber yet powerful atmosphere.

Public response to Civil Rights Photography helped expose the cruelty of racial discrimination and forced segregation. It pushed forward the Civil Rights Movement, but also caused negative repercussions. For example, sharecropper Albert Thornton’s family was featured in a magazine photo essay, but after the release of the photos, the family was forced to relocate due to heavy white intimidation. In addition, photographers were suppressed by law enforcement through means of destroying cameras and beating reporters.

Photography served as a crucial force that propelled the Civil Rights movement forward. Through their candid portrayal of incredible and significant moments and their ability to depict scenes in ways that words simply could not, photography provided a visual outlet for Americans to witness firsthand the revolutionary movement that was sweeping the nation.

Girls Varsity Basketball Triumphs Over Hun

JOSHUA CIGOIANU '22

This past Saturday, Lawrenceville's Girls Varsity Basketball team defeated The Hun School of Princeton 57-44. This was its first matchup against its league rivals, and the victory improved Big Red's Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) record to 4-1. Despite its previous defeat to Blair Academy and Co-captain Victoria Dugan's '20 absence due to injury, Lawrenceville took care of business in wire-to-wire contest.

Lawrenceville started strong, racing out to a 9-2 lead within the first five minutes. Big Red's collective team defense forced deflections and Hun turnovers, which led to Taylor Simpson '22, Asmat Taunque '21, and Co-captain Heaven Figueroa '20 converting on transition opportunities. Responding to Lawrenceville's quick start, Hun made a short push of its own, but Lawrenceville answered each basket Hun scored and extended its lead to 19-7 at the end of the first period.

To start the second quarter, Hun went on a 6-0 run following some



Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

uncharacteristic turnovers from Lawrenceville. As both sides entered a period of poor shooting, Lawrenceville turned to Figueroa. After a string of great ball movement, Figueroa laid in a nifty, off-balance layup with her off-hand at the rim. Lawrenceville kept feeding the hot hand as Figueroa hit a

deep three-pointer several feet behind the arc as the shot clock expired and then followed that up with yet another off-balance layup to end the first half with a 34-23 lead.

To start the second half, Lawrenceville slowed the pace of the game and executed its offensive

plays. The girls' effort was evident, as Gabby Hemenes '22 recovered a key offensive rebound and scored the putback layup, continuing Big Red's momentum. Though Hun responded with a few baskets of its own, Lawrenceville's offensive prowess kept it at bay. Hemenes aired a full-court pass to Simpson, who subsequently hit the midrange jump-shot. Hun responded to this highlight sequence with one of its own, finding an open three-point shooter that followed a behind-the-back dribble sequence. In the final seconds, the teams exchanged baskets, Hun with a three-pointer and Lawrenceville with a strong putback, to end the third at 43-33.

Throughout the final quarter, Lawrenceville struggled to pull away as Hun's dangerous outside shooting kept it within striking distance. However, Lawrenceville kept every potential Hun run in check and never let the lead decrease to two possessions. With less than three minutes left, a mid-range jump shot near the free-throw stripe and a putback from Taunque secured the 57-44 victory.

Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Grey Simpson P'20 '22 lauded the team's performance and, in regards to the game, said "all five of [Hun's] starters were capable of making threes so we had to be really locked in on defense, and our goal was to really push the tempo and pace of the game because we were more athletic and more aggressive."

Following the emphatic team win, the team sets its sights on upcoming tournament play. Big Red's future competitions include the Warrior Winter Classic Tournament, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament, and the eight Schools Tournament. As for securing the second seed and a first round bye in the team's upcoming MAPL tournament, Simpson commented, "one of our goals [is to] put ourselves in a favorable position for the MAPL tournament at the end of the year." Lawrenceville's Girls Varsity Basketball team will have one more home game this season against The Pingry School on Wednesday, February 5.

MLB Cheating Scandal

JOSHUA CIGOIANU '22

Two weeks ago, Major League Baseball (MLB) dealt the Houston Astros a historic punishment, following a league-conducted investigation into the team's alleged use of technology to cheat by "stealing signs" in 2017, its championship season. Stealing signs includes any illegal use of technology to predict what pitches a pitcher is about to throw, including but not limited to setting up recording equipment, analyzing certain pitchers' tells in film rooms, and wearing buzzers in game. These abuses of technology all undermine the game's authenticity and legitimacy. After the league announced one-year suspensions for Astros' general manager Jeff Luhnow and manager AJ Hinch, removal of 2020 and 2021 draft picks, and a \$5 million fine, it shifted its focus now on investigating another potential cheater: the Boston Red Sox, who have just parted ways with its manager, Alex Cora, who was the Astros' bench coach in 2017.

Similar to recent scandals in sports history, such as Spygate and the Louisville Escort Scandal, these major transgressions will have a serious impact on the MLB going forward and the sports world as a whole. The MLB has mentioned introducing new security measures across baseball stadiums nationwide to ensure no other team has the audacity to attempt to use technology to cheat in any way again. It is notable to mention, however, that by levying such a drastic penalty on the Astros, the MLB is showing that it isn't tolerating dishonesty. This outrageous malfeasance has also left its mark on players throughout the league. Yu Darvish, who is currently a pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, pitched for the Los Angeles Dodgers in their 2017 and 2018 World Series losses. Darvish infamously went from pitching a 3.44 earned run average (ERA), the average of earned runs given up by a pitcher per nine innings pitched, in



Courtesy of The Houston Chronicle

nine starts for the Dodgers during the regular season to 21.60 in the World Series. This completely rocked his self-confidence, convincing him that he was tipping pitches when in fact he was not, and led to his decision to sign for less money with the Chicago Cubs in the offseason because he felt that he let the Dodgers down. Darvish's case illustrates how the Astros' cheating can have disastrous effects such as the derailing of a promising career.

This is exactly the right attitude the MLB should hold against teams whose unethical shortcuts and transgressions undermine the value of skill in the game. To clarify, reading tells is not an inherently bad thing. If a batter has the acumen to notice, in-game, how the opposing pitcher inadvertently hints at the upcoming pitch, that is a positive thing for the sport. It forces pitchers to perfect their skills and breeds batters with strong knowledge of the game. However, what the Astros have allegedly done is unacceptable. Technology should be kept out of the

sport in this way because it takes away the pitcher's power to be unpredictable with his next pitch. If batters use technology in this way, then they'll know exactly where pitches are coming, which pitches to swing at, and which pitches to let go.

After the suspensions of both Luhnow and Hinch, owner Jim Crane rightfully fired both of them. In addition to the Red Sox, the New York Mets also fired their new manager Carlos Beltran, a former Astros player. This is precisely the attitude individual teams should have against cheating in the sport of baseball to ensure executives do not think they can get away with it going forward. While league commissioner Rob Manfred has decided against stripping the Red Sox or Astros of their titles, these teams do not deserve to go down in baseball and world history as champions if they won illegitimately. Going forward, the MLB needs to establish that it has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to ruining the game's integrity.

Bednar '22 Earns Gatorade Honors

JACK HALLINAN '21
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

Since 1985, Gatorade has honored the top high school athletes in football, -cross country, basketball, baseball, and track and field with State Player of the Year awards, which are given to outstanding athletes who excel in the classroom and demonstrate outstanding character. These prestigious awards have been given to former high school athletes who went on to have outstanding collegiate careers, with some playing in the professional ranks in their respective sports. Notable past winners of the state and national awards include LeBron James, Peyton Manning, Allyson Felix, and Breanna Stewart in their respective sports. Charlotte Bednar '22 recently earned the incredibly distinction as Gatorade's 2019-2020 New Jersey Girls Cross Country Player of the Year.

This award capped off Bednar's successful season as a III Former with the Girls Varsity Cross Country team, in which she won the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional championship meet, with a time of 18:00. Following her winning performance at the Northeast Regional meet, Bednar went on to compete at the Nike Cross National championship meet, placing an impressive eighth. Before her excellent performances at the nationally prestigious meets, Bednar won New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Prep State meet, the Mid-Atlantic Prep League meet, the Shore Coaches Invitational, and the Six Flags Wild Safari Invitational. The Gatorade award encapsulates the excellent season Bednar experienced.

Bednar said she feels "honored, fortunate, and grateful" to receive



Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

the award, after "a long season of hard work" in which she worked to progress and improve. In the future, Bednar stated that she would like to achieve a top-three finish at Nike Cross Nationals and recognizes that in order to do so, she will "need to stay focused, committed, and [hard-working]" with a "fairly strict" but balanced schedule between school, training, and other commitments.

As a result of her award, Bednar has the opportunity to gift a \$1,000 grant to a youth sports organization of her choosing. This opportunity comes from Gatorade's "Play it Forward" initiative to support participation youth sports. Annually, Gatorade selects 12 of their Player of Year athletes who have written a brief essay to award an additional \$10,000 grants to further aid youth sports programs.

Having been chosen as the New Jersey Girls Cross Country Player of the Year, Bednar is now a finalist for Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Player of the Year.

Kobe Bryant: The Mamba Mentality Lives On

ANDREW LEE '22
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

This past Sunday, National Basketball Association (NBA) legend Kobe Bryant, 41 years old, and his daughter Gianna Bryant, 13 years old, and seven others died in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California while traveling to her travel basketball game.

The entire NBA and basketball community worldwide has mourned these tragic losses, with players, teams, and fans paying tribute to the "Black Mamba" and his daughter in the games over the subsequent days. Across the league, teams have taken eight-second backcourt violations and 24-second shot clock violations (referencing Bryant's two jersey numbers throughout his career); players wearing eight and 24 on their backs are beginning to informally retire his numbers by changing their numbers. Fans have flocked to arenas wearing Bryant's vintage Lakers jersey. The NBA also postponed a matchup between the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers at the Staples Center, Bryant's former stomping grounds as a Lakers' player. The NBA previously had only postponed games for non-weather reasons after the Boston Marathon Bombings in 2013 and the Kennedy assassination in 1963, thus showing how devastating Bryant's passing was throughout the NBA.

As an 18-time NBA All-Star, five-time champion, two-time NBA Finals MVP, and two-time Olympic gold medalist, Bryant achieved every imaginable ac-

complishment. From scoring 81 points against Toronto up until his grand finale of 60 points and all the incredible clutch plays in between, Bryant relentlessly amazed and inspired basketball fans. We saw that talent and ambition in his daughter, Gianna, as well, who had the potential to play for

on Bryant's legacy, and it's truly heartbreaking now that she will never fulfill these dreams.

What made Bryant so special was that his influence extended beyond the basketball court, as his unparalleled dedication and drive as well as his off-court successes inspired people across the world, regardless of their interest in basketball. Bryant's successes are a product of his "Mamba Mentality," the never-renting drive to be a better version of oneself. He applied this mindset

firm, and he also won an Academy Award for the best short film, titled Dear Basketball, a tribute to his career. He published a biography, titled The Mamba Mentality, and created a children's novel series to promote learning and sports for kids. He found a new passion in storytelling and thus paved a new path for retired athletes outside of sports. But most importantly, his retirement allowed him to focus on family. He dedicated time towards coaching Gianna's basketball team, and when court-side at NBA games with her, he would give pointers to the young star. It seemed like he was finally at peace and able to focus on what truly meant the world to him. He applied his "Mamba Mentality" to his pursuits as a student, a player, a leader, a businessman, a coach, a storyteller, and a father. Although the vast majority of us will never play in the NBA or win an Academy Award, we can honor Bryant by applying this mentality to our own daily lives and long term objectives.

the kindest, most charismatic person, and if people ever had a problem with him throughout his career, it was because he saw more in them than they saw in themselves and pushed them to be better.

For kids like me, he was someone to emulate. Kids around the world looked up to him because of his character. There was simply nothing more inspirational than seeing Bryant lead his team on the floor, night-after-night, always laser-focused on one thing: winning. It was spectacular. It was inhuman. It was absolutely admirable.

After I found out about Bryant's death, it felt like I lost a part of my childhood. Memories of watching and idolizing him as I grew up flooded my mind and shook me to the core of my being. When I heard his daughter Gianna, as well as the seven other fatalities from the crash, I crumbled. For every aspiring, dreaming young boy and girl, Bryant was the ultimate role model for what it meant to love what you do, love the work it takes to be the best at it, and love those around you at the same time.

In that moment, it felt as if my role model was gone forever, but I was wrong. Bryant's death has opened my eyes. First of all, it's amazing to see just how many lives Bryant touched. Just like his life and humanity served as my inspiration, everyone has a Bryant story about his impact.

By changing so many lives worldwide, Bryant's legacy will continue to live on forever. Second of all, life's fragility has never been clearer to me, as one fateful incident tore apart the happy and united Bryant family in an instant: Mamba's death. It's important to love those closest to you and resolve all the hate in our lives. Now I see [that] Bryant will never really be dead; his legacy will live on forever in his records, his stories, and all the people he has ever touched and changed for the better. Now it's up to us to continue honoring his legacy through hard work, love, and embodying the 'Mamba Mentality.'



Sara Chiang '23/THE LAWRENCE

the University of Connecticut's Womens Basketball team and eventually help lift the Womens National Basketball Association (WNBA) one day. Their similarities in talent, skill, and mindset made their relationship special. She wanted to be the one to carry

into his 20-year career with the Lakers as he did not let his infamous "airball game" or feud with Shaq derail his confidence and development, rather he learned from these failures and evolved his game. However, Bryant's "Mamba Mentality" helped him thrive after retirement. Not long after his last game, he launched a successful investment

JOSHUA CIGOIANU '22

I lived most of my entire life before Lawrenceville in Manhattan Beach, CA, a community about an hour away from Staples Center. Kobe Bryant was a hero, icon, and legend in every Southern California community, regardless of if they liked the Lakers or even basketball in general. Bryant was unhateable. He was

Baby Board Picks

	Gabe Gaw Co-Sports Editor	Shreya Kumar Features Editor	Deven Kinney Arts Editor	Jasmine Zhang Copy Editor	Eric Morais Co-Sports Editor	Divya Sammeta Photo Editor	Jeffrey Tao Graphics Editor
What makes you a great editor?	Eric's warming presence	im not	the singing	my grammer mistakes	Gabe's InDesigning	memes	cute factor
Three Words to describe the board	Asians and Eric	Not worth it	my role models	thicc boi hours	"who is Joe?"	reeq's fan club	too many ullus
Mistake you made as a baby	Slept at a weird angle, my head is flat now	ate a marble	falling down those stairs	got stuck in a toilet	was not thick enough	5th grade haircut	not drinking enough milk