

Creating Community at Homeland Stories



Photo of Homeland Stories Workshop

ANGEL XIN '26

Homeland Stories, Lawrenceville's official creative writing club aims to cultivate independent thinking and open-minded discussions through student-led writing workshops on topics ranging from Flarf to Ekphrasis. Last Wednesday, September 20, Claire Jiang '24, president and founder of the club, held Homeland Stories' first meeting of the year on found poetry. Through examining "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks and "The Golden Shovel" by Terrence Hayes, two works of free-verse poetry, the workshop explored the art of composing poetry using preexisting texts, which echoes the club's mission of fostering a community where people build on each others' creative energy.

During her III Form year, Jiang came up with the idea for her project after participating in a two-week creative writing workshop. She believed that the skills she cultivated during the program could be applied at Lawrenceville, where she

aimed to establish a community that "connects people who are just as excited about writing with each other." Though Jiang initially faced many obstacles, from the difficulties of starting a new club at school to her personal apprehensions about whether Homeland Stories would be truly impactful for the community, she is glad that she took on the challenge. Jiang hopes for other students to continue the legacy of her club so that Homeland Stories will "continue to inspire" students and writers.

Claire Pei '26, who joined Lawrenceville this fall, was amazed by the "authenticity" of the discussions taking place at Homeland Stories. She described the community as a "safe space for writers looking to explore their limits," and one that encourages student writers, regardless of how experienced they might be, to "express their voices." Although Pei is not new to poetry, having performed poetry numerous times herself, the found poetry workshop "broadened [her] perspectives on poetry as a

whole." In particular, the session served as an introduction for her to blackout poetry "I will keep on attending their meetings to discover more potential in myself," Pei said.

Churan Xu '25, who will be taking over club leadership along with Xavier Penn '25 and Angel Xin '26 next year, describes Homeland Stories as both a "safe space" and a "learning space." She noted that Homeland Stories is unique in that it focuses on "the raw writing process itself" rather than just the quality of the final product. Xu's goal is for Homeland Stories to continue grappling with the obstacles that many writers face during the writing process, while also diversifying the media the club will focus on to include "documentaries and plays." She is excited for the club to host more faculty-led workshops and poetry readings. Like Jiang, Xu expressed her goal for Homeland Stories to continue to "inspire students through meaningful conversations," both this year and in the future.

Claire Jiang '24/THE LAWRENCE

French Film Festival: Un Peu de Magie!

DOROTHY LEE '26

On Sunday, September 17, the Lawrenceville Language Department hosted a trip to the French show *Portrait de Ludmilla Dabo en Nina Simone*, showcased as part of *Seuls en Scène*, the 2023 Princeton French Theater Festival at Princeton University.

The production was performed in the Wallace Theater at the Lewis Center for the Arts. According to Chair of the Language Department Brian Jacobs, the blackbox theater housed a "minimalist" scenery for the show, consisting of "two chairs, an electric guitar, an amplifier, a ukulele, and a white dress on a dress form" with English subtitles displayed on a monitor above the stage. The translation, Jacobs said, provided an opportunity for non-French speaking students to "experience the language and culture," while those who do study French could immerse themselves in the language "outside of classes."

Portrait de Ludmilla Dabo en Nina Simone began with a short introduction, followed by an hour-long show. It revolves around the life of historical figure Nina Simone, played by actress Ludmilla Dabo, highlighting Simone's rise to fame and her role in the Civil Rights Movement. The play likens Simone's experiences as an African-American singer to Dabo's as a Black ac-

tress in France, and by the end of the play, the two womens' stories appear to merge together. "There were many interesting parallels between Nina Simone's activism and Ludmilla Dabo's activism, which were perfectly woven into the play," Jacobs elaborated.

For Rezi Paricsi-Nagy '25, these connections were what "made the story heartwarming." This trip allowed her to learn about the Civil Rights Movement "in greater depth." Paricsi-Nagy also believes that Simone's story reflects an "encouraging" message for young generations. "Even though [Simone] couldn't become a classical pianist," Paricsi-Nagy explained, "she became one of the most famous jazz singers of her time."

Overall, Jacobs described the performance as "mesmerizing." Specifically, he noted how Dabo truly "embodied the part of Nina Simone" and led the audience through a "rollercoaster of emotions." "It was so natural, it felt as if she was just talking to the audience," he said.

In the future, Jacobs hopes that there will be more trips centered around cultural learning like the one to the *Seuls en Scène* theater festival. "We are so lucky to be so close to Princeton," he says, "and to have the opportunity to take advantage of cultural experiences like this [one]."



Students at the French Film Festival

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

The Perils of Plastic

Leo Mahe '26 expounds on the necessity of plastic bans in the U.S.



Headphones down, heads up

Lily Lanzetta '26 looks into how new technology policies have impacted student's day-to-day student life.



Prime Time in Colorado

Nikhil Dhruv '26 recaps the Colorado Buffalo's start to the season under the leadership of head coach Deion Sanders



OPINIONS

Editorial

Who We Are and What We Love

Imagine an hourglass, the sand inside fine and delicate. Now, envision turning the glass over and watching the grains funnel from one end to the next. Over and over again, see one side empty and the other become full. The sand must go where gravity commands and can do nothing but feel itself be pulled down by a more significant entity.

For many, the Lawrenceville experience is a kind of hourglass. We start our high school careers full of sand—individual interests and hobbies. As children, we use these passions—the books we love, the sports we play, the music we listen to—as reference points for determining who we are. We define ourselves by the things we love. Maybe this definition is merely a child’s attempt at understanding herself, but it does create a sense of self that allows us to start interacting with the world as individuals, with thoughts and minds of our own.

As II Formers, we had ample time and freedom to develop these hobbies outside our classes. We loved writing, so we spent evenings crafting tall tales and poems. Maybe we cooked delicious meals for our families each night or devoted entire afternoons trying to juggle a soccer ball 100 times in a row. For many, these unique interests are what landed us admission into Lawrenceville in the first place.

However, from the very second we become Lawrentians, we begin learning how to capitalize on these hobbies.

This moment is when the hourglass tips.

We love to write, so we sign up for as many publications as possible, hoping to one day become an editor. We audition for the orchestra, so that maybe one day, we could be the first-seat cellist. Over and over again, our sand tips from our own side of the hourglass into the School’s

collection of talent and prestige. Arguably and inevitably, we will continue pursuing our passions as upperclassmen, especially at a place like Lawrenceville, which is dripping with resources. This means that while the School provides the resources allowing us to develop our hobbies and gain real experience in the fields where we could foresee ourselves making a living, being the best is the only way to achieve this experience. Only the best writers become Editors-in-Chief, the best cellist’s the first seat, and what was once an enjoyable pastime becomes a pressure cooker in which only the most talented survive. Joy might still exist in the simple action of these activities, but the underlying need to succeed leads us to wherever we go.

What happens to the hobbies on which we cannot capitalize? For many, they become the forgotten joys of our childhoods. Our cookbooks are replaced with

textbooks, and our novels are left on the shelves collecting dust. Where we were once individuals with exciting passions and interests, we now all take on the burden of a Lawrentian. There simply is not enough time in the day to simultaneously be a Lawrenceville student and someone who exists outside the parameters of school. If something we love to do cannot be used to make us a more successful Lawrentian, then why not just leave it behind entirely?

Time and time again, we see the sand slip further from our end of the hourglass and lose the things that once made us who we were. We are no longer defined by what we love but by how accomplished we are at our passions and interests.

We will only be Lawrentians for a few years of our lives; a mere fraction of all that we will see and accomplish happens in high school, but this mentality might

follow us well after our graduation. How will we define ourselves when our definitions are no longer outlined by Lawrenceville’s standards? Will we ever relearn how to paint for enjoyment, read for relaxation, or play the cello simply for fun?

All hope is not lost. Juniors still play on JV even though they might never make the varsity team, some students show up to club meetings and social events simply for a good time, and other students pour hours of their time into performing, because the joy of theatre is well worth the late nights of tech week. We can find ways to steal some of our sand back into our own halves to restore our pots to what they once were. So that when we leave this place behind, we can still remember who we are and what we love.

This Editorial represents the majority view of The Lawrence, Vol. CXLIII

The Big Red Reality

Lawrenceville in the Eyes of a New III Former

CLARE PEI ’26

Lawrenceville was Barbieland. There were ponies jumping over rainbows and there were green rolling hills and the blue of the sky was a bit too artificial and everyone was so, so happy. Every person had their own purpose and every purpose worked alongside everything else. I could almost hear Barbie speak through a strained smile, “It is the best day ever. So was yesterday, and so is tomorrow, and every day from now until forever.” From the moment I was accepted, Lawrenceville was my Barbieland, and not only did I feel a need to make all the money, time, and lifestyle changes this fairytale had cost be worth it, but I also hoped that someday, what I saw could really be my life.

Upon arriving on campus, I realized Lawrenceville was not Barbieland. I spent the days of orientation in disarray. There were school meetings, orientation classes, House meetings, and athletic practices. Later, there were specific dinners to attend and awkward social gatherings that included a progressively greater number of people. I felt ever smaller as the number of people around me grew ever larger. Then, after each long day of activities had sapped the best of my energy and attention, I would fall onto a couch back at the House and try my best to internalize the long list of House and School rules that put everything at stake. There were so many things to do, so many people to meet, and so much to know. I was on an adrenaline high sprinting a 100-meter race when I knew I’d still have a marathon

to run. Day after day, I felt exhausted, drained, and increasingly terrified. How would I ever catch up to everyone else? How would I ever match their speed? How would I ever be part of this group?

“How were classes today?”

“Well, I had a good day! It was great! Tiring—but super exciting!”

The smile plastered across my face barely held as I stumbled into check-in. I felt my responses becoming curt. Everyone else’s smiles were still wide as if drawn on with a permanent marker. I didn’t want to stay in the room a minute longer than I had to.

“How about you sit with us for a little while?”

No. “Sure.”

Despite my initial uneasiness, I gradually spent more time downstairs in the common room than up two floors with my door closed in my own room. At first, I forced myself to be social, to face this group of strangers who all stared at me so intently. Yet, as the days wore on, I found myself wanting to spend time with others. Even if I didn’t know what to say, conversations always included me and helped me gradually relax and have fun. During the first few days of classes around the Harkness table, people wanted to contribute, ask questions, and were even willing to make mistakes. Surprisingly, I found

myself contributing to the conversation, not for a grade, but because I wanted to build off other’s ideas and learn from them. People seemed to genuinely care about the community. If there was one thing that struck me about Lawrenceville in these past four weeks, it was how their goal of a strong community actually seemed to be a reality.

Long before my move-in day, I felt the pressure to be the amazing, brave,

pant and crass, and a surprising number of unacceptable incidents occurred in a short time. And so, I realized that Lawrenceville was a high school, just like the high school I attended my freshman year. Hundreds of miles and thousands of dollars later, I was still receiving emails about reckless behavior and police coming onto campus. I still saw teachers at a loss over students’ behavior. I still heard complaints about the teachers and the school.

Not everyone knew what they were doing, and the energy and eagerness I had seen during the first few days did not always make it into the classroom or just into daily life at all. This imperfection had not been advertised to me. Attending an elite private boarding school far away from home, I just attached perfection to Lawrenceville’s name and expected an ideal from it. My first few days shattered that ideal.

There were many things that I expected coming in. I knew I would have a rigorous workload that I would struggle to manage. Four weeks in, I’m studying for almost the same amount of time outside of study hall as I do during the two hours each night. Among my classmates, I’ve heard many voice their wish to drop classes, and I can completely empathize with their sentiment. Adjusting to this

environment has been draining mentally, physically, and emotionally. It’s hard to imagine how I will feel after many months, weeks, and years at this place. However, I can see how people can survive and thrive here. The norms at Lawrenceville are different from any other place I’ve been. The norm is to say “hi” to someone you’ve barely met and introduce yourselves. The norm is to bring loud and proud House spirit and hype up even the new kids who have no clue what everyone is shouting for. The norm is to go to consultation and connect with teachers even if there are no apparent questions on the material. The norm is to try something new, put yourself out there, and strive to become your best self. The norm is to make mistakes. It’s crazy to me how hard these first few weeks have been, but it is also crazy how fun this all is. The community and environment at Lawrenceville seem designed to push people to their limits so that, in the end, they are left completely exhausted but also incredibly fulfilled.

It has been four weeks since my move-in day. I know the rules, the names of buildings, and the general routine of life here. It feels like months have passed, but I also feel like I’m only just getting started. Lawrenceville still leaves me with some uncertainties and unknowns. However, I have realized that this is a real place with unique highs and lows. And with that, I think I’m beginning to see Lawrenceville for what it truly is.



Anastasia Fabian ’26 /THE LAWRENCE

previously-flawed-but-now-flawless warrior I illustrated in my application essays; Lawrenceville was the ideal, and I always felt I had to blend into this ideal so as not to blemish it. However, after moving in, I began to see the people of Lawrenceville, and not just the pretty picture on the postcard. The people were clever, caring, determined, and fun, and I would come to learn how accomplished they were. Yet, the people were also messy and rash and, at times, flip-



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A Polemic on Plastic

LEO MAHE '26

Plastics are a staple of humanity, but they are not a harmless convenience. Through advertising campaigns, front organizations, and faulty education, the plastics industry hides the detrimental impacts plastics wreak on humanity. This is by design. Decades of advertising campaigns have made it so when people see a Sprite bottle on a beach, they don't attack Coca-Cola for making it; they attack people for littering. It is frightening how well the plastics industry has lied to the world.

To understand the scheme of the plastics industry, we first must establish the hazards of plastics. Plastics are synthetic polymers made from petroleum or oil; they come from labs, not the natural environment. Every type of plastic is horrible for the environment. Global plastic production emits 1.8 billion tons of greenhouse gasses each year, almost 80 percent more emissions than the United States transportation sector. Moreover, plastics are far more insidious than other emitters because almost nothing can chemically decompose plastics. Instead, broken down through oxidation, sunlight, or friction, plastics in nature slowly become smaller and smaller particles. Plastics remain in our environment forever, gradually turning into dangerous microplastics.

These microplastics travel everywhere, including to your dinner plate. The average person globally ingests about 52,000 microplastic particles every year. That's 5 grams a week, which is the weight of a credit card. Humans also breathe in around 7,000 microplastic particles a day, according to one University of Portsmouth study. Microplastics latch onto deadly chemicals around them before making their way into food. Once in the body, microplastics can cause cancer and damage human cells. There are likely dozens of other issues still undiscovered because of the complexity of microplastics. As was the case with DDT, a now-banned substance, it is hard to compare people with and without microplastics in their bodies because it is nearly impossible to find someone without them. Plastics are in the soil, the air, beaches, oceans, and even Antarctic ice.

But today, most people would simply disregard the problem of plastics because of a novel invention: recycling. After all, recycling turns used plastics into new plastics, a solution that protects the environment and lets companies continue to manufacture their products. We live happier than ever without the plastic problem and can use the convenient material as much as we want. We put plastics in the recycling bin, tell kids to reduce, reuse, and recycle, and plastics are no longer a problem.

But those microplastic rates aren't from 1972; although recycling gets advertised as the ultimate solution to the plastic problem, statistics show that it is an abject failure. In the United States, just 5 percent of plastics produced get recycled. Instead, half of all plastics end up in landfills, a fifth gets incinerated, and the rest is left unmanaged in streets, forests, and oceans.

Often, low recycling rates are attributed to a common disinterest in recycling. But laziness is not the main problem. Most plastics that make it to material recovery facilities (MRF) are not recycled. Directly after plastics get put in recycling bins or taken off of beaches, MRFs collect, separate, and prepare recycling materials for recycling facilities. However, the US recycles just 22 percent of PET-type plastics that reach materials recovery facilities, and PET is the most recyclable type of plastic. Outside of HDPE, which has a recycling

rate of 12 percent, all other plastics get recycled less than 5 percent of the time. As a whole, plastics in America are not recycled, regardless of whether or not someone puts them into a recycling bin.

One cause of low recycling rates is the lack of recycling capacity. The United States has so little recycling infrastructure that it used to export plastics to be recycled elsewhere. However, China, previously the largest importer of plastics, closed its doors on our trash in 2018 and most other countries have done the same. These export bans have decreased the U.S. recycling rate from nine to five percent, revealing that the US only has the infrastructure to recycle about five percent of its plastic.

But the biggest flaw of recycling is the process itself. Plastics must be sorted and cleaned extensively and are often discarded for being too dirty. There are two options for recycling plastics which are clean enough: mechanical and chemical. Both are overwhelmingly unsustainable.

Mechanical recycling, the most common form of recycling, only delays plastics' inevitable journey into landfills. Plastics are either ground into flakes or formed into pellets which are melted down and turned into new plastics. This process destroys the quality of plastics—on their own, most can be recycled just once before becoming unusable. Thus, during mechanical recycling, new plastics are injected into the old. Still, plastics can only get recycled two to three times before becoming worthless. Although mechanical recycling is relatively accessible and inexpensive, all plastic produced still ends up in landfills or the environment.

While chemical recycling can retain the quality of plastics, this comes at a cost. Only 1 to 14 percent of the plastic material is recycled into new products, and the process could be up to a 100 times worse for the environment than simply producing new plastics.

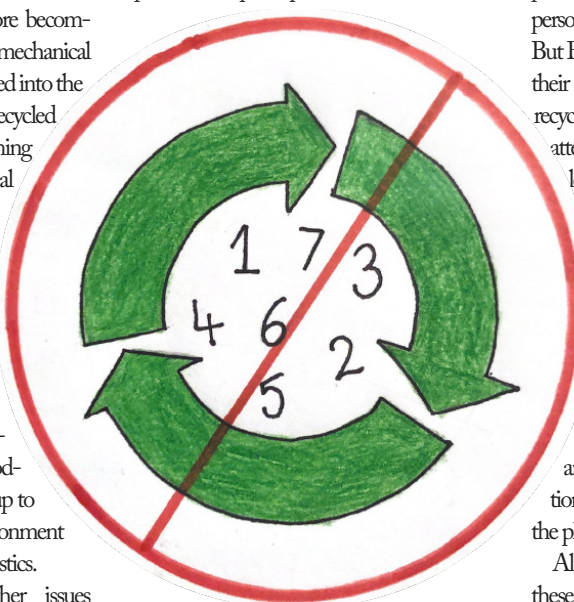
There are numerous other issues with recycling. 25 percent of plastics are thermoset plastics—unrecyclable mechanically and only theoretically recyclable chemically. Recycling likely also contributes to microplastic pollution. For instance, a study found that 6 percent of plastics admitted to a recycling facility were released as microplastics into wastewater; without proper safety precautions, the statistic jumped to 13 percent released into the environment. Plastic recycling is also not economical: most private recyclers can only afford to recycle PET and HDPE. All other types of plastics cost more money to recycle than the recycled material sells for.

Ultimately, all this shows that people are not the reason recycling rates are low. Limited recycling infrastructure, continued increases in plastic production, and inherent flaws with the recycling process are the real culprits. Recycling, at its heart, is an impractical mitigation tactic. It cannot halt oil drilling for plastic production, nor can it even recycle most plastics. It is not just America with abysmal recycling rates; Germany, the world's leading recycler, only recycled 5.38 million tonnes of plastic in 2020, even though they produced more than 18.5 million tonnes. Globally, the plastic recycling rate is 9%. Even a 100% recycling rate would be ineffective; it just means that all plastics are recycled, on average, once, doubling their life cycle before they end up in a landfill.

So why do people love recycling so much? Much of the information I have presented so far is supported by major news outlets; *NPR*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and

more have published articles condemning plastic recycling. But no one goes out of their way to learn about recycling. Most "common knowledge" on the subject comes from the U.S. education system, which heavily favors recycling. Starting in kindergarten, I learned to "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." While my school gave no way to reuse or reduce, there was always an easily accessible blue bin to recycle plastics. The convenience of recycling has allowed it to gain a foothold among Americans, 94 percent of whom support recycling.

But why did the U.S. support recycling in the first place? As with a lot of things, it starts with the oil industry. Plastics make up 10 percent of annual oil use, making them a vital source of income for oil companies. These large oil corporations founded the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI), which became one of the strongest advocates for recycling. The organization has a long history of advocating for plastic production against public interests, and its members include many large corporations reliant on oil and plastics like Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola, and Toyota. In 1988, SPI created the "Council for Solid Waste Solutions" to promote plastic recycling to the public and lobby American municipalities to expand plastic waste collection



Chloe Needham-Potts '25 / THE LAWRENCE

programs. The council attempted to increase plastic acceptance, and popularizing recycling was the most effective avenue for their goals. Instead of building recycling facilities, they funded ad campaigns to raise awareness about recycling and reduce concern about plastic production. Larry Thomas, former president of SPI, even told *NPR* that "if the public thinks that recycling is working, then they are not going to be as concerned about the environment."

As stated by the Science History Institute, "It was the plastics industry that offered recycling as a solution." Environmental organizations, such as Greenpeace and Earth Day, consider plastic recycling nothing more than oil propaganda. Companies like Coca-Cola have taken the wheel, spending millions on blue bins and the occasional recycling plant. Coca-Cola's personal recycling goal is to use recycled plastics for half of plastic products by 2030. Today, Coca-Cola produces 3 million tons of plastics annually. Even if Coca-Cola were to halt growth, which is unlikely, it would still produce 1.5 million tons of new plastic waste a year. Plastic producers popularized and continue to utilize recycling to ensure they do not receive the public outcry against oil companies, even though the two groups are deeply intertwined.

But recycling is just one of many campaigns fueled by the oil industry that undermine systemic change. An older example is "The Crying Indian" advertisement campaign run by Keep America Beautiful,

an environmentalist organization backed by Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola, and, once again, the Society of the Plastics Industry—now renamed the Plastics Industry Association. The 1971 ad, with its motto that "People Start Pollution. People can stop it," promoted anti-littering efforts, and its message is still popular today. Unfortunately, picking up plastic trash, while a nice concept, doesn't solve anything, nor would it come close to "stopping pollution". Picking up plastic only moves the environmental damage out of people's sight; it does not create any environmental action and focuses attention on personal change instead of systemic action. Launched on the second Earth Day, the award winning advertisement turned public discourse away from plastic producers and onto consumers, helping oil corporations avoid the full force of the Earth Day movement.

A modern example of oil companies pushing for consumer action is "carbon footprints". Coined by a major oil corporation, British Petroleum (BP), carbon footprints are a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by a particular person. By showing people that they contribute to carbon emissions, the campaign encourages individuals to "reduce their carbon footprint". It sounds great in concept—some personal reduction is better than nothing. But BP did not coin the term to go against their bottom line. As with littering and recycling, carbon footprints are another attempt to turn an oil production problem into a consumer waste problem. These measures make people think that their consumer actions, such as their lack of recycling or massive carbon footprint, are the problem instead of the corporations actively trying to increase plastic production. People don't make significant changes due to these personal pleas and blame themselves for a lack of action instead of the companies producing the plastic.

Although most companies supporting these activities are glorified by the public, these glorified ad campaigns have successfully helped increase plastic production without public pushback. Currently, plastics make up 10 percent of global oil use. While renewables and electric cars are slowly killing the oil industry, one of the few remaining areas of growth is plastics, and the oil industry is going all in. Plastic production is estimated to quadruple by 2050 and won't peak until 2100.

Plastics are bad for the world. They emit carbon dioxide, cause cancer, destroy cells, and kill millions of animals every year. Recycling, the supposed solution to plastics, doesn't work. Plastics, as vital as they are to modern society, need to go.

Because plastics are so vital, it is necessary to first change the culture surrounding plastic. One way to do this is by attacking companies' profit motive. In 2022, an EU "plastic tax" was levied on non-recycled plastics to make using recycled plastics more reasonable. While the EU still isn't prepared to renounce recycled plastics, it is willing to tax recycled plastics to encourage other options.

Further, plastic taxes will make the cost of plastics equivalent to the cost of sustainable materials. For example, a 30 percent tax on PET plastic would make the material the same price as aluminum. Unlike plastics, aluminum can get recycled indefinitely, making it much more sustainable; around 75 percent of aluminum ever produced is still used today. Glass can also make a comeback, particularly in replacing single-use plastics. From the 1920s to the 1950s, when glass was commonplace, bottle companies implemented deposit-

return systems: every beverage sale included a deposit for the bottle itself, which would be paid back when one returned the bottle to the company. Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and other bottlers could implement similar systems with high deposit fees incentivizing bottle returns. These bottles could be reused without recycling, reducing costs and reducing waste.

New materials have also been proposed. Bioplastics made from alternatives such as bamboo or cacti could become mass-marketable. Along with taxes, subsidies for eco-friendly materials can be implemented, increasing their market share. And while bamboo straws currently cost 40 cents each, mass production could significantly decrease their prices. Subsidies would incentivize plastic producers to research plastic-like materials, and plastic taxes would force them to switch to those alternatives.

However, to completely eradicate plastics, plastic bans are necessary. These bans would be scheduled years in advance and would not immediately encompass all plastics. Plastic bans can be placed on items like bottles, labels, and containers, forcing industries producing plastics to switch to alternative materials. Although corporations might fearmonger about going out of business, plastic producers like Coca-Cola will not just let themselves die; they will figure out a way to work within the new system to maintain profits and increase the value of their stock. Whether that means bioplastics, glass, or other materials, is up to the free market. In a positive cycle of innovation, banning certain plastics threatens manufacturers and would strongly incentivize further development of plastic alternatives. Funding from the government would further these actions.

The current method of first inventing alternatives, then banning plastics, has proven unsuccessful. An unrestricted free market (with heavy government subsidies and funding) worked somewhat for renewable energy and electric vehicles, which have rapidly become economical alternatives, but these methods cannot reduce plastics. Plastics are far too cheap and accessible to compete against. Instead, taxes and eventual bans are necessary. Most plastics are used to increase profits, at the expense of the environment and public health. Plastic bans will lead to more reusable containers, plastic alternatives at larger scales, and a much healthier and more sustainable society.

But what can you do to help? It took 20 million people on the first Earth Day to create climate action, but just talking about plastics with friends and family could help a lot. Conversations raise awareness, and if Earth Day can be revitalized, it could force the government's hand. Also, most plastic misinformation comes from ad campaigns and schools which promote recycling over reusable materials and using sustainable options. Advocating for curriculum changes in your local community could help future generations break out of the continuous cycle of recycling myths. When possible, support environmental groups asking for legislative change financially or by volunteering.

But realistically, most people aren't going to try and stop plastic consumption. In that case, just remember that plastics suck. If financially reasonable, choose the environmentally-friendly option.

Finally, don't stop recycling. If no one recycled, the percentage of plastics recycled would be zero, not five. While not very significant, it still helps. Just like reducing your carbon footprint or picking up garbage, recycling does help the environment, even if it is used to protect oil companies.

Outside the Bubble

Auction of Rare \$10,000 Bill Dating Back to 1934



Photo of \$10,000 Bill Courtesy of PICRYL, Sourced from The Bureau of Engraving & Printing, Public Domain

SIENNA MORA '25

In 1969, the United States government discontinued many high-denomination currency bills due to their minimal usage. A rare \$10,000 bill, dating all the way back to the Great

Depression in 1934, was auctioned off at a price of \$480,000 last week by Heritage Auctions, a Dallas auction house. This \$10,000 bill was certified by Paper Money Guaranty (PMG), a professional pa-

per money grading business, and received an "Exceptional Paper Quality" grade,. This means that the note had not been chemically, physically, or materially altered to restore it to better condition.

Hurricane Ophelia

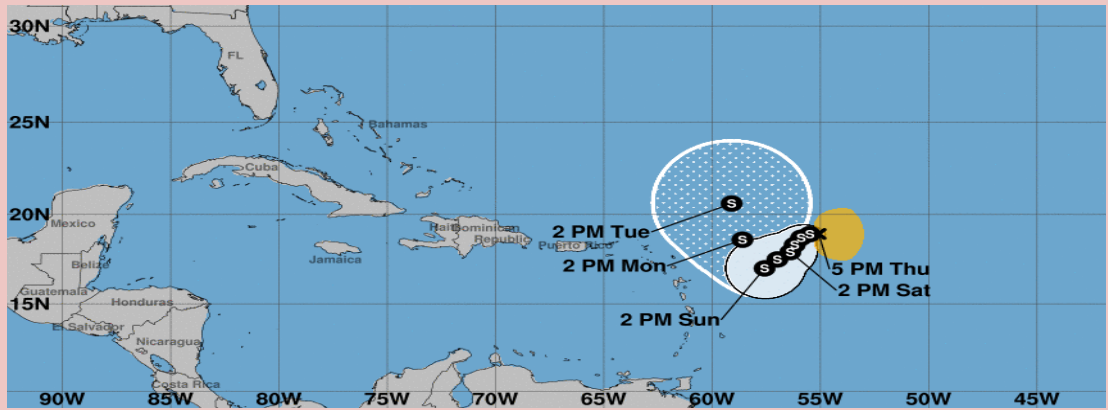


Photo of Hurricane Ophelia

CHARLES POTTER '25

On September 23, Hurricane Ophelia, the sixteenth storm system tracked by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) this year, hit the coast of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. As the week continued, the once-intense storm

Courtesy of National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center transformed into bouts of heavy rain, heading up the coast towards southern New England. Forecasters predict that Ophelia could dump up to a month's worth of rain on states in its path this weekend. Copious amounts of rain affected large metropolitan areas, including Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and, as some may remember, Lawrenceville. Another storm—Tropical Storm Philippe—formed this past Sunday, September 24, in the Atlantic Ocean, and is expected to weaken as it makes its way up the Eastern Seaboard.

Hearing Student Voices at Open StuCo



Students at Open StuCo Meeting

Sienna Kulynych '26/THE LAWRENCE

MIA KINCADE '25 & ETHAN ZHU '26

This past Tuesday, September 26, Student Council (StuCo) led their first Open StuCo meeting to hear from the student body about pressing issues and relevant topics at the Lawrenceville School. Student Council President Bryce Langdon '24, along with the other representatives of StuCo, facilitated the discussion between the students in attendance and prompted them with questions.

Langdon explained that this meeting was "designed with the intention to give students an opportunity to talk about whatever is on their mind." Students who came to the meeting were welcome to share any opinions, ideas, and feedback regarding life at Lawrenceville. "The more student voices that are heard and amplified, the better of a job StuCo is doing," Langdon remarked. His goal for the meeting was to provide "a chance for the Student Council and administrators to hear what's at the forefront of students' minds at Lawrenceville."

By collaborating with Wellness Representative Cassie Dillard '24 and Dean of Campus Wellbeing Rae Chresfield, Langdon came to the conclusion that "this meeting would serve as a trial run to see how people felt about 'town hall' types of meetings." Open StuCo meetings were an important aspect of Langdon's presidential platform, and he hopes for StuCo to plan more of these events

to help maintain transparency between the student body and StuCo. After hearing different students speak up about important issues on campus, Langdon explained that the Student Council will need "to go back to the drawing board and evaluate what [they] can do as students to meet the needs of the student-body, [anticipating] that the adults in the room [would] do the same."

Shailen Zimmerman '25, who attended the meeting, noted that "the meeting primarily highlighted some of the imbalances between the boys' and girls' culture and lifestyle here at Lawrenceville." However, Zimmerman felt that the meeting would have "gone a bit better if there was more structure to it." Though StuCo intended for the meeting to be loosely organized, he found it "hard for everybody to pay attention" at some points because of this lack of structure.

Eloise Galante '25, another attendee, emphasized that the meeting was a "great way for the students to communicate directly with StuCo." "It can sometimes be difficult to communicate with the [student leaders] at Lawrenceville, but this was a great way to do so," she added.

In the future, Langdon hopes to hold more Open StuCo meetings in order to give students more opportunities to express their viewpoints while also being transparent about the initiatives StuCo and the Administration are working on.

Biden Pledges Military Aid to Ukraine



President Biden and Zelenskyy ELLEN JORDAN '26

Courtesy of The Executive Office of the President

On Thursday, September 21, United States President Joe Biden declared that the U.S. would be supplying Ukraine with an additional \$325 million in military aid. The announcement arrived following Ukrai-

nian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Washington, D.C., where he met with various administrative officials and members of Congress. The security package will include ammunition, artillery, anti-tank weapons, and

other equipment. The U.S. package will certainly play a key role in aiding Ukraine following the launch of its long-awaited counter-offensive in the war against Russia, as the conflict nears its two-year anniversary.

Sweater Weather Cinema: Five Fall Films to Enjoy

ANTONIO ESPOSITO '26

The time for colored leaves, pumpkin-flavored hot drinks, and sweatshirts is upon us. Fall has arrived. With the changing seasons come curling under a blanket for a movie night and preparation for the best holiday of the year: Halloween. Did you miss that feeling of relaxation? If your answer is yes, prepare a cup of hot coffee, grab some snacks, and take a breath of the fall air as this article takes you through these five movies to watch during this beloved season. From light horror movies that will please the “spooky season” lovers to romantic films that touch the sweetest souls, there is something for everyone on this list!



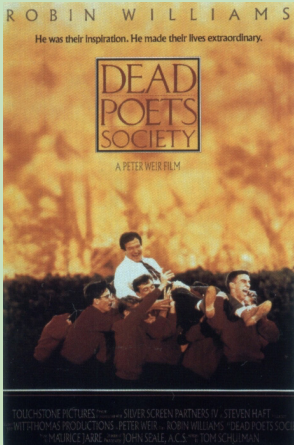
Courtesy of Wallpaperuse

Coco

Coco is an animated movie by Pixar Animation Studios. The film takes place during Día de Los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday where the living and the dead are reunited through offerings from a family to their ancestors. This movie tells the story of Miguel, a kid whose family has forbidden him to listen to or play music. However, his passion causes him to disobey his parents, leading him on an incredible journey. If this is not enough to pique your interest, just know that *Coco* is a perfect movie to watch in company. Its bright colors, beautiful setting, and songs will take you on an adventure you won't easily forget. Also, the spooky nature of this story makes it a good viewing for Halloween night!

When you hear Robin Williams' name, what is the first film that comes to mind? For many, the film would probably be *Dead Poets Society*, and let me tell you, there is a reason for this. This movie tells a dramatic story in an all-boys boarding school in Vermont called Welton Academy. When John Keating, played by Robin Williams, joins the English department, he brings a new wave of passion for literature and the arts to the school. His “alternative” ways of teaching will open the eyes of many of his students, leading to a dramatic epilogue in what can arguably be considered one of the most touching endings in the history of movies. This story gives a beautiful visual representation of the Fall Term at an American boarding school similar to Lawrenceville but relatively stricter.

Dead Poets Society



Courtesy of Flickr

Autumn in New York



Courtesy of Flickr

Well, what other movie could be one of the best to watch in the fall if not *Autumn in New York* itself? The name explains it all: this film will use romanticism and drama to take you around the magnificent autumnal New York, where love and magic can be felt in the air. Its plot develops around Will Keane, played by Richard Gere, a wealthy man in his middle forties who falls in love with Charlotte, played by Winona Ryder, a much younger woman. If you like romantic movies and you are looking for something to watch that will bring you fall vibes, no movie could ever be better than this one. You might cry a little bit in the end. I did, at least, but it will definitely be worth the tears.



Courtesy of Flickr

17 Again

A classic “back-to-school” movie, few other films can entertain you like *17 Again*. The movie follows a middle-aged man in crisis who suddenly wakes up drastically younger as his 17-year-old self. By going to the high school he attended as a teen, he tries to fix his life and help his children face difficult life moments. However, he won't be able to do it as a father, but as a friend! With a light-hearted and funny story, this movie is worth seeing if you are all looking for a good time without following a complicated or dramatic plot.

Interview with the Vampire



Courtesy of Flickr

Starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise, *Interview with the Vampire* is not a simple vampire movie. It is the vampire movie. Even 30 years after its release, this movie can still take your breath away, capturing an intriguing story spanning the late 1700s to the end of the 20th century. It's a dark, elegant, and romantic story that is perfect to watch on Halloween, especially if you are not a fan of horrors or slashers and don't want to sacrifice your sleep. In simple words, this film will not scare you to death, but it will be scary enough for a proper Halloween.

Setting the Stage with Periwig's Tech Crew

SOPHIE YANG '26

Amélie, the Periwig Club's 2023 fall musical, will come to life on stage in less than a month. While the actors' preparations are well underway, working hard behind the curtains of the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) are the technicians responsible for creating the set and props that will pull the entire production together. The musical's “tech crew” meets regularly for build nights, where they carefully hack away at the tremendous amount of stairs, platforms, windows, and doors slowly piling up in the sawdust-covered KAC workshop, carving out a small portion of the final set day by day. While the woodworking process is extremely complicated at first glance, it is surprisingly easy to pick up. The main ingredients include 12-foot-long strips of lumber, which are ripped down to the proper width using a horizontal table saw and cut to the correct length using a circular arm saw. Then, it becomes a matter of gluing and stapling all the pieces of wood together to create a coherent shape that then gets shipped off to be back-painted, similar to building a life-sized city of Legos based on the instructions

in the Lego manual. However, this assembling process has definitely proved itself to be the most significant challenge; even a blunder as small as a lumber piece being one-sixteenth of an inch too short could cause the entire set piece to come crumbling down. As co-head of tech and a co-president of the Periwig Club, Sonia Singhal '24 said, “The most difficult obstacle has definitely been working around technical aspects, such as the doors not fitting with the rest of the set, which means we have to improvise mid-set pieces or even just scrap the project and find a way to save the wood.” For every platform built, another is being broken apart with hammers and reconstructed. Despite having to constantly try again and again up until the very last rehearsal, co-head of tech Luke Park '24 explained that “Rome was not built in a day, and neither was any musical worth its weight. Seeing the tech crew collaborate to build impressive pieces of scenery will always remind me that despite the struggles involved, tech is more than worth it at the end of the day.” Though the process can be quite stressful at times, Singhal describes her experience working in tech crew for the past years as “exhilarating... especially this year.”

She is extremely honored to have the opportunity to lead “such a talented group of technicians,” and she feels “so beyond proud of every single underformer and senior alike and how patient they have been.” She especially looks forward to the on-stage rehearsals that will begin in less than two weeks. “There is something so rewarding about seeing the acting and technical pieces come together because it gives you an insight into the actual show and everyone's hard work and preparation,” she said. On the other hand, Park has some aces hidden up his sleeve. “I'm mostly looking forward to working on a few projects laid out for me by Mr. Scott,” he says, “from my understanding, *Amélie* has a lot of cool technical components running under the hood, so I'm particularly excited to show audiences what surprises the tech crew has in store.” But most importantly, build nights are not just hours of grinding sawdust and pulling out misplaced staples—they are also great ways to meet other people who share the same love of working behind the scenes, be it playing with saws or watching musicals play out right in front of your eyes. For Park and Singhal, the people who show up to build nights every week are what

makes the monumental task so fun and rewarding, and they are the reason that they keep returning to build nights every year. “I simply love seeing people working together to create something greater than themselves,” Park said. Singhal added, “I have to say, officially, my

favorite thing about build nights is the people. It's been amazing to meet different underformers each night who have been super helpful, funny, and kind. And unofficially, I always look forward to a candy and or ice pop raid with everyone... afterward.”



Technicians building the set for *Amélie*

Courtesy of The Periwig Club

Headphones Down; Heads Up

LILY LANZETTA '26

The start of the new school year has come with the implementation of several new rules, most notably to the dismay of music-obsessed students, the rule banning headphone usage in public. The new rule encourages students to stay off their phones while walking to classes or eating meals, encouraging students to engage with their peers. Emma Walling '26 agrees that “during class hours [the rule] makes sense while students are actively in a class and participating in group discussion/work.” Although Walling believes that “if a student is not in the 50-minute time slot of a class or is doing an independent assignment, the rule is obnoxious.” Walling feels as though students should still have the option to wear headphones when outside of class. Jillian Retzler '24 shares a similar perspective to Walling. Retzler believes that “there are times when people want to disengage and not speak to anyone, but

through this rule, people can no longer do that.” Retzler believes taking away the option to wear headphones will “cause students to want to wear headphones more since they are not allowed.” Yet the rule has been accepted differently across the campus. Simon Fassberg '27 shares that “at [his] old school [they] were allowed to be on [their] phones and have [their] headphones [on] at all times besides for class.” The stark change has caused certain struggles for Fassberg, as he’s had to adapt to the new rules, a feeling students across the campus can relate to. Yet Retzler also sees the benefits to the new rule. By “not having headphones in the hallways and around the house” Retzler believes the new rule “allows [for] more communication between students and engagement with their environments.” Without the distraction of music, students are more likely to stop and greet each other in the hallways and be more talkative around the house. Another contentious execution of the rule is for headphone

users who have faced retaliation when wearing headphones in the gym. Walling describes that “the gym is a safe place” for many students including her. But unfortunately, many students have felt as though “that safe place has become one...[they] no longer want to go because of the school’s new regulations.” Music has become a way for students to combat the high-stress environment that is

fostered around Lawrenceville; with the new rule in place students must look for another way to de-stress and reset between classes. Students across campus can relate to the frustration felt when teachers tell students to get off their phones and put away their airpods, which can be annoying to Fassberg since “sometimes you just want to chill and watch TV or listen to music.” Walling proposed that

students should be allowed to “wear headphones while working out, doing independent work in class, and before the academic class period officially starts.” Retzler agreed, stating that wearing headphones “should be a choice,” but should “not be allowed in the classroom.” These suggestions are similar to the rules in place last year, but then again, was there really a problem to solve in the first place?



Anastasia Fabian '26 / THE LAWRENCE

Vivian Teeley '24

Stephens House prefect Vivian Teeley '24 is the daughter of Bernadette Teeley P'24, the Dean of Academics, and previous Head of the Carter House. Having lived on campus since she was seven (in the McClellan House and, more recently, Carter) Vivian Teeley is an experienced “fac-brat.” Sadly for the Carter “birds,” however, she claimed to “not miss [Carter], since it’s nice to be a day student and get away from the other students.” The newfound freedom she enjoys since moving into the faculty neighborhood at the edge of campus is perhaps the reason why, despite her ten years on campus, she has yet to venture into every House—all but Haskell and Raymond. As captain of the Girls’ Varsity Water Polo and Girls’ Varsity Crew teams, Vivian Teeley has been coached by her mother for almost four seasons—an experience she is forever grateful for. The rower guessed, however, that it would be an entirely different experience to have her mother as a teacher at the Harkness table. Five years ago you might’ve found Vivian Teeley in the Irwin mail room with the other fac-brats, but you can now spot her in the library being intensely “productive.” She also enjoys spending time in the Stephens House common room talking with “awesome people.” In the future, make sure to keep an eye out for Vivian Teeley and her prefectees in the Tsai Commons.

Inside the World of Fac-Brats

JENNY ZHAO '25

Amidst the diverse student population of The Lawrenceville School hailing from near and far, exists a small but special population of faculty children. You might have seen them roaming around campus and blending in with the rest of the students—whether intentional or not, they do a pretty good job! Endearingly called “fac-brats” by the rest of the school, a few of them have really stood out from the crowd. Let’s get to know them!



Clare Pei '26 / THE LAWRENCE

Rebecca Streeter '26

A new fac-brat to the Crescent, Rebecca Streeter '26 is both a writer for *The Lawrence* and an athlete on the Girls’ Junior Varsity Soccer team. The Kirby House day-student has been on campus for nearly a decade, residing in the McClellan House with her father, science teacher Jeff Streeter P'26, and the rest of her family. In true fac-brat fashion, Rebecca Streeter’s interactions with the McClellan students peaked post-Halloween, when she would bring candy she did not like, giving it “out to the dorm and all of the kids there.” Having plenty of experience around campus, Rebecca Streeter felt that her II Form year experience was “a little bit less [stressful]” than that of her peers especially in her “first” days in the dining hall—knowing small things like where the silverware was kept. Being familiar with the faculty prior to Rebecca Streeter’s first year was also beneficial, since “they already [had] a first impression of her.” With a “personal at-home [ICAPS] tutor,” more widely known by Lawrentians as Mr. Streeter, Rebecca Streeter’s journey in III Form science is likely to be smooth-running as well. Interestingly, she does not take after her father’s academic interests, preferring “other subjects over...science.” On the athletic front, both father and daughter are involved in track at Lawrenceville. While graduation is still a long ways away for Rebecca Streeter, she does believe that post-graduation, she will continue to “go on walks” around campus and make friends with younger students.

Adrian Jordan '24

The veteran of the bunch, Adrian Jordan '24, has earned a respected position among the fac-brat community. Having lived in Lawrenceville’s faculty neighborhood at the edge of campus for 17 out of the 25 years his father, Religion and Philosophy Chair Phil Jordan P'24, has taught at the School, Adrian Jordan is well-accustomed to the nooks and crannies of the campus, including his favorite spot: TJ’s. One of the unique perks of being a fac-brat is having a family friend as a teacher, which Adrian Jordan can attest to. These relationships have made his experience as a II Former “easier” because he was “already comfortable around [his teachers].” According to Adrian Jordan, he is excited for the opportunity to enroll in one of his father’s courses in his V Form year, but is unsure how he will react to Phil Jordan “using him as an example” in class. Additionally, both father and son are associated with the Griswold House—making meetings at check-in quite frequent due to how their schedules “match up coincidentally.” To his friends, however, Adrian Jordan would like to disclose that persuading him to relay a message to Mr. Jordan about boosting a certain student’s grade “does not actually work” and their grade, unfortunately, “would not change.” Reminiscing on his positive experiences at Lawrenceville, Adrian Jordan believes he will come back often to visit “under-formers [and] see how they’ve progressed.”

The Guide for Tour Guides

LUKE PURICELLI '25

As a new academic year begins at Lawrenceville, the school's Admission Office is already thinking about enrollment for next year and preparing for the many applications to come on January 15, 2024, the admission deadline for applications and scholarship aid. For prospective students considering joining Lawrenceville's community, their experience touring Lawrenceville is an important factor in their decision to enroll. Tour guides help prospective students throughout the school year at many times during the school day, with some Tour Guides touring prospective students during their free periods. To be a tour guide, you must be able to overcome a variety of challenging conditions and variables. Whether it's arriving at Mackenzie in the morning for a tour or spending a free period touring instead of studying, tour guides must manage their time wisely. However, giving tours is very rewarding, as guides help nervous candidates navigate

the enrollment process. Price Donaldson '24, a two-year member of the Tour Guide Council "always double check[s] the email [Patricia MacKinnon] sends, so [she] knows what [the prospective student's] interests are," allowing her to customize the tour by taking "them to places that they are probably interested in seeing." Tour Guides will always need to have smiles on their faces during tours, making the students and families that Tour Guides are touring comfortable and welcome in their visit to Lawrenceville. Donaldson believes that a true hallmark of an experienced tour guide is their ability to answer questions confidently. "I make sure that I tell the applicants lots of personal stories and anecdotes, so they can fully get the Lawrentian experience during the tour," says Donaldson. As prospective students and parents will be curious during the tour, it is vital to know of the proper Lawrenceville facts! Natalia Cisneros '24, a two-year member of the Tour Guide

Council, says, "I love showing the bronze statue in the Pop rotunda, as it acts as a perfect segway to talk about small but equally impactful Lawrenceville traditions, like rubbing the foot before a hard test!" For Cisneros, an experienced tour guide, touring is a piece of cake, as she truly loves Lawrenceville. She exclaims that, "Lawrenceville is more than a high school; it is a place with a vast amount of history where traditions like this have been passed on from generation to generation, and it's always nice to feel like something bigger than yourself." Most importantly, you mustn't feel obligated to act like someone else. It is necessary that you are your true self with applicants, as they want to talk to someone who is passionate about their extracurriculars and classes, the things that make tour guides all-around Lawrentians. Cisneros also gives the key advice that "no matter how nervous you are, the applicant you're touring is 100,000 times more nervous. Relax, be yourself, and show an



Tour Guide Training

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

abundant amount of excitement about Lawrenceville!" From balancing being a Tour Guide with academics and athletic commitments to making sure

prospective students and their families feel welcomed, tour guiding is most definitely a challenge, but it is a worthwhile experience if you just be yourself.

Food for Thought: Eating Sugarless at Lawrenceville

SOPHIE BILANIN '26

Everyone loves dessert. From the sublime bliss after that first bite of ice cream to when getting into that melting, gooey center of a cookie, you can do nothing but close your eyes and thank God for sugar. Whether it's a scoop of Moon Rocks at Melba, a Gingered Peach cinnamon bun, or a heated chocolate chip cookie from the Bath House, sugar can feel almost impossible to resist: or is it? III Former Victoria Slavov would beg to differ. For the entire month of September, she and I challenged ourselves to a no-dessert-or-processed/added-sugar-diet. What madness drove this decision? According to Slavov, "The goal is to see how I feel at the end of the month and whether or not my sugar cravings have gone down." She expressed the short and long-term benefits of the challenge, saying that "cutting down on sugar has forced me to turn to healthier alternatives, especially fruits," with the goal of "willingly choos[ing] these non-processed options in the future, instead of going for dessert right away." Slavov explained that while she tried the challenge last year, she only managed to stay on the diet for two days. She now believes that "having a partner makes it easier because you [...]



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

can hold each other accountable." Slavov said that "although it's hard, and at times, downright painful, at the end of the day I feel better about myself and happy knowing that I'm focused on improving my long-term health." Slavov and I are still going strong, and with only a few days left, she is already dreaming about October 1, the day our sugar-free eating ends. Slavov said that her cravings vary by day, but she mostly longs for "a scoop of butter pecan ice

cream between two chocolate chip cookies, sandwich style." We plan to celebrate at Melba on the first day after the challenge, before focusing on slowly incorporating sugar back into our diet so as to not transition back to unhealthy eating habits right away. As of now, our friends are wishing us good luck and congratulations as we near the end of this challenge. For other students, this one-month challenge is a lifestyle. Sofi Keith '25 has been eating nothing

processed or refined since 2020, explaining, "when my grandfather died of Alzheimer's, my mom got really into how diet can help prevent neurological diseases. My mom has always been very healthy, and she got the family into functional medicine and using diet as medicine." Keith has been dieting for three years and has noticed various benefits. She feels she has way more energy and motivation. She has noticed her skin and hair feel healthier, and her nails feel stronger.

She also observed she has been thinking about what she eats more consciously, so she is much more mindful when it comes to food. But as a boarder with Tsai Commons' food as her main option, keeping up the diet is difficult. Keith says, "When I'm restricted to Tsai, I like to build a bowl that hits all the food groups: veggies from the salad bar, protein from the main area, and healthy fats from nuts. Truthfully, I go grocery shopping at Trader Joe's and Whole Foods and cook in the Carter [House] kitchen about three times a week, but I know that's not accessible for everyone." For those interested in trying her routine, Keith also offers this important piece of advice: "I do big meal preps on the weekends, or when I have free time on Wednesdays, and store it in the fridge so I can have quick and accessible meals later on in the week." In an age where dietary restrictions and allergies have become so common, we easily overlook how much time and effort go into planning each meal and the challenges associated with eating healthy. Lawrenceville students could work together to create a safer and more supportive environment for those with restrictions and maybe even find a partner to eat in a more nourishing and a more healthy manner.

Is Colorado Ready for Prime Time?

The Impact of Deion Sander’s Appointment as Colorado Head Coach

NIKHIL DHRUV ’26

On December 3, 2022, it was announced that Deion Sanders would take the position of head coach of the Colorado Buffaloes, the football team at The University of Colorado Boulder (Colorado), on a \$30 million five-year contract. In order to truly understand the significance of this appointment, we need to dive deep into the background of Deion Sanders. Sanders, born in Florida, had an extremely successful career in the National Football League (NFL), where he played for numerous teams and earned numerous accolades including two Super Bowl championships and an NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1994. He also played baseball professionally, which, in addition to his football ability, earned him the nickname Prime Time. He retired at the end of the 2005 season and took a short break before he became

a sports broadcaster. In 2020, he became the head coach at Jackson State University (JSU). In his first season, which was shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanders led the team through a mediocre season, ultimately ending with a 4-3 record. The following year Sanders bounced back and led the team to a successful 12-1 season. At the end of the 2021-22 season, Prime Time was offered a lucrative deal, and since then, everything has changed

Sanders did not come to Colorado alone, however. Numerous other players were enthused at the idea of being coached by Sanders, which led to 53 players, including nine from JSU, coming to Colorado via the transfer portal—the transfer portal allows athletes to place their name on an online source, which shows coaches that they are open to a transfer to a different school. This move left the world of college football in shock, and should have proved to everyone

that Sanders was to be taken seriously as a coach. While there certainly are numerous people who see Sanders as a person who has influenced the football community in a positive way, there are also a fair amount of haters. Some people believe that



Sonia Singhal '24/THE LAWRENCE

Sanders is more of a brand name rather than a coach, and his Colorado team will not be legitimate contenders in the college football scene because of this. This sentiment has even been shared by people within the college football landscape, with University of Oregon’s coach, Dan Lanning claiming that “[Oregon] are fighting for the clicks” while “[Oregon is] fighting for wins.”

The contract that Colorado gave

to Sanders was the most the college has ever given to a head coach, and the deal was a huge gamble for the organization, but they had no other option. Colorado had a very unsuccessful football program and was not taken seriously before Deion arrived, winning only one game in the 2022-23 season. If they wanted to rejuvenate their football program there would have to be numerous huge changes. Bringing Sanders over gave Colorado fans hope for a good season, but only time can tell how well this plan works out.

So far this season, the Buffaloes have won three out of their four games, already a higher tally than the singular win the team amassed last year. Star players such as Travis Hunter, Dylan Edwards, and Deion Sanders’s third child, Sheduer Sanders, have already stepped up for the team. Travis Hunter has been a phenomenal two-way player as he had 11 catches for 119 yards on offense to go along

with an interception and three tackles on defense in his first game of the season. Dylan Edwards is leading the team in receptions, yards, and touchdowns as he has been a reliable target for Sheduer so far this season. Sheduer has been playing himself into Heisman-award conversations. Sheduer’s best performance so far came in a victory against the TCU Horned Frogs, where he threw for 510 yards and four touchdowns. The team’s immediate success has led to excitement amongst fans all over the country as they seem to be on the headlines every week thus far. Overall, the program has gone from a team that was rarely talked about to a powerhouse with seemingly unlimited media coverage, thanks to changes both on the field and the sideline. There is unprecedented excitement around Colorado football this year thanks to Coach Sanders, and the whole nation is eager to see if the team is ready for Prime Time.

The Best of Times, the Worst of All Times

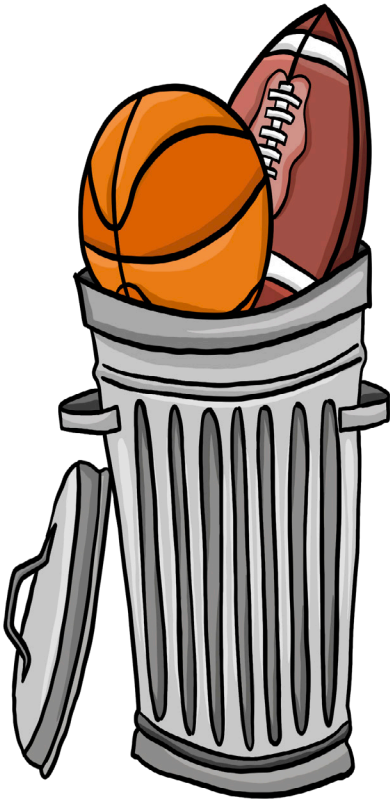
Appreciating the Worst Professional Sports Teams of All Time

ELLIE DUFFY ’26

In today’s world, most people tend to focus on the greatest teams and players of all time, like Tom Brady and his New England Patriots dynasty, or the Yankees winning numerous World Series. Athletes like Simone Biles and Tiger Woods are crowned with the title of being the greatest of all time, and the overall category of “being the best” is rightfully put on a pedestal. The problem with this is that many categories of sports become overlooked, one of which is what I like to call the “WOAT” or the worst of all time. We all know the Dallas Cowboys and the Boston Celtics as some of the GOATs in their respective leagues, but do we know the Mr. Irrelevants of the NFL Drafts or the players with the worst batting average of all time? Looking at the MLB, NBA, and the NFL the WOATS will be decided according to the record books and the teams at the bottom of the leaderboard will finally earn the recognition that their record-breaking accomplishments deserve.

Of all professional sports, it’s very hard to argue against football being the most hallowed of them

all. Talented teams like the 1976 Pittsburgh Steelers or the modern-day Kansas City Chiefs are celebrated across decades, whilst up-and-coming superstars like Patrick Mahomes and Joe Burrow are routinely praised for their record-breaking statistics. We are all aware of these household names, but football’s worst teams rarely receive the same acknowledgment. So, in an effort to fix this issue, the Detroit Lions are formally being recognized as the WOAT of the National Football League (NFL). After analyzing the statistics of all NFL teams that were established before 1976, the Lions have established only 579 wins since they joined the NFL in 1930, whilst racking up 703 losses in the process. The Lions have not only had an astounding losing record, but they have also played in exactly 0 Superbowl games. So far the Lions have kept their streak at the bottom of the NFL leaderboard and we will have to see if they continue that streak this year. After three games to start the NFL 2023 season, the Lions have a record of 2-1 beginning with Jared Goff starting strong as this year’s quarterback for Detroit.



Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE

Just like its pro-football counterpart, the NBA is full of legendary players like LeBron James and Kobe Bryant along with legendary franchises like the Boston Celtics and the Philadelphia 76ers. NBA teams like Nikola Jovic’s Denver Nuggets or

the Stephen Curry-led Golden State Warriors are celebrated for their championship titles and mesmerizing winning records. Yet one NBA team has been underrated for its place in the record books. The team with the unfortunate title of being the NBA’s worst team of all time is the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Timberwolves have struggled ever since they became part of the NBA in 1989, with only 1,091 wins out of 2,712 games after this past 2023 season. This Minnesota team has not only barely won any games, but they have also had a record low of only 58 playoff games and zero NBA championships. There is a slim chance that the Timberwolves will climb up the standings this upcoming season, led by Anthony Edwards and Karl Anthony-Towns, but as it stands right now the Minnesota Timberwolves are the WOAT of the NBA.

The final WOAT comes from America’s favorite sport, baseball. In terms of baseball, everyone loves stadium snacks and fan-favorite teams like the New York Yankees or the Boston Red Sox hitting home runs all day with players like Aaron Judge and Babe Ruth. We know these

highly decorated teams and stars but one MLB team has not deserved its true credit. The title of WOAT in the MLB (Major League Baseball) since the 1876 founding of the league, is the Seattle Mariners. The Mariners have a total of only 3510 wins after 46 years of being in the MLB, one of the worst records of all time. The Seattle Mariners have struggled for almost 50 years and they have yet to reach a World Series, remaining the only team to never attend the all-time classic championship. Overall, the Seattle Mariners may have been part of the MLB for almost 50 years yet their record has only gotten worse cementing their title as the WOAT of the MLB.

Overall, this article has helped teams usually overlooked at the bottom receive a level of recognition they aren’t used to having. The Detroit Lions, the Minnesota Timberwolves, and the Seattle Mariners earned their true titles as some of the worst sports franchises in history and we will see if they continue their streak of being at the bottom or if they turn the tide and maybe one day strive to become the GOATs or at least not the WOATs.

StuCo Board Picks

	Bryce Langdon	Daphne Volpp	Conan Chen	Cassie Dillard	Liza Strong	Rayce Welbourne
most exciting initiative for this term?	Can't reveal that and jinx it. Fingers crossed that it goes through!	honor council drop-in lunches!	Academic weapon of the week	Therapy sign up on sentinel :)	helping sports teams organize community service events (ex: soccer teams teaching local children how to play)	Media Day for all varsity interscholastic athletes
how many tardies has Dean Davis had to clear for you so far?	Only a few.	he only clears his own	I'm never late	0	0	Only one so far!
who on stuco is most likely to be out of dress code?	Absolutely Rayce Welborne. No question.	Bryce Spice	Ian loves wearing his crop tops too much	Bwyce spyce	Bryce	Bryce
best lville merch?	Let's ROLL merch, obviously. Dickinson Patagonias are a close second.	exclusive kirby scarf	speedo	Generic lville sweatshirt	Girls Varsity Tennis merch!	StuCo ROLL shirt (totally unbiased)