

Hopping Across Houses: Lawrenceville's First House- Hopping Event



Photo of House Hopping Event

EMILY MENG '26

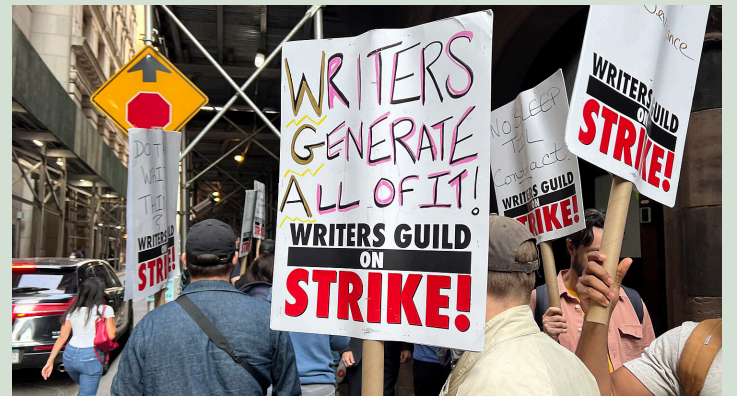
This past Saturday, the Student Council and the Social Council organized the first Circle and Crescent house-hopping event. Each House hosted their own House activity, which students then voted on at the end of the night to determine which House would earn House points for having the best activity. In the Circle, Cleve, Dickinson, Griswold, Hamill, Kennedy, and Woodhull House organized bubble ball fights, an Eggo Waffle bar, street hockey, mini golf, homemade s'mores, Wii sports, and grilled cheeses respectively. In the Crescent, the McClellan House hosted McClellan Milkshakes and spikeball, Stanley House offered a night of dancing with "Dance Dance Revolution," Stephens House set up a nacho bar, Carter House organized pumpkin painting with apple cider

donuts, and Kirby House hosted open ping pong. Annabelle Yao '26 noted that she "really enjoyed" the house-hopping event as it gave her the opportunity to "spend quality time with friends outdoors" while also meeting new people on campus. For Yao, the highlights of her night were eating homemade s'mores at Hamill and trying McClellan's famous milkshakes. Echoing Yao's sentiments, Olivia Codjoe '26 remembered "especially enjoying McClellan's milkshakes as they were very creative." Another highlight of the event for Codjoe was "being part of the enthusiasm at Cleve's bubble ball fights." For McClellan House President Alexandra Raymond '25, the planning process for the event was "stressful and chaotic but really exciting at the same time." Raymond, along with the McClellan House Council, worked together to run

the milkshake operation, which was a "great bonding experience." "Milkshakes are a staple for McClellan, and spikeball is a fun game that is also...easy to learn," Raymond elaborated in regards to the McClellan House's choice of events. When Kirby House President Ella Fessler '25 first heard the idea for a house-hopping event during a Social Council meeting led by Vice President of Social Life Grace Chu '24, she thought the idea was "super cool and interesting." "It had never been done before, and there are not many things that happen on campus that we haven't seen before," Fessler said. She noted that the planning process for the event involved "lots of meetings with the Kirby Heads of House." "We finally decided on cornhole, an easy activity, and chips for the sake of staying covid-safe," she elaborated.

Sienna Kulynych '26/THE LAWRENCE

Outside the Bubble Hollywood Writers' Strike



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HELEN CHANG '26

Since May 2, members of the Writers Guild of America (WAG)—later joined by actors and actresses from the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA)—have been on strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), demanding higher pay along with safeguards for their jobs due to the a variety of reasons, including the decrease in pay, the toxic work culture, the lack of opportunities to become involved

in production as a writer, and the rise in the use of artificial intelligence in screenwriting. The strike has halted various Hollywood productions, including both movies and television shows. Recently, board members of AMPTP met with the WAG union leaders and agreed on a tentative agreement that declared the strike officially over as of last Wednesday, September 27. The new agreement outlined a minimal increase in pay and new bonuses for the writers and actors, as well as a number of guidelines regarding the use of artificial intelligence.

Google Antitrust



Google Antitrust Anthony Quintano - This File Is Licensed Under The Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic License - No changes were made

DOROTHY LEE '26

In October 2020, the Trump Administration filed a lawsuit against Google accusing the company of taking advantage of its ninety percent of the United States search engine market share to illegally restrain competition. On September 12, this suit, the first antitrust trial in over twenty years, began. The Justice Department argues that Google violated the United States' antitrust laws by illegally orchestrating its business dealings with Apple and other phone-producing companies, so that it is the "first search engine people see when they turn on their phones and web browsers," according to NPR. Google, however, attributes their boom-

ing success to high-quality products instead of an agenda to stomp out competition. Google cites Microsoft as an example, claiming that the company still remains a competitor because of their recent investments in artificial intelligence (AI) and their work towards incorporating AI into their search engine. Many compare Google's trial to that of Microsoft in 2000, when the company was accused of unjustly limiting competition by setting its web browser as the default on all Windows computers. The outcome of this recent trial against Google will address this long-standing question: do antitrust laws that were effective in the 1980s still make sense in today's corporate environment?

The Future of Fashion

Lious Park '26 gives a run down of the fashion week and the expected fashion trends of next year.



Operation Varsity Blues

Learn more about the recent SCOTUS decision on Affirmative Action and Operation Varsity Blues.



A New NBA Dynasty?

Shailen Zimmerman '25 goes in depth about how the recent Damian Lillard trade to the Milwaukee Bucks impacts the rest of the NBA





THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact lpark24@lawrenceville.org.

Dogs of the Week Bran and Teddy

Ella Kennedy '24 and Maddy Widener '24



Editorial Reimagining Lawrenceville's Work Ethic

In the past year, Lawrenceville has seen its fair share of changes in regards to academic life. Some were relatively minor changes, such as reducing the Monday homework load from four subjects to three and more strictly adhering to the nightly homework limits for each class. The removal of Saturday classes last Spring Term, on the other hand, was a dramatic change from the decades during which Lawrenceville has been having classes on Saturdays. The common theme underlying the Administration's academic initiatives has been ensuring that students spend less time on assignments, a change that has resulted in a reduction of the School's academic rigor.

Life at Lawrenceville is meant to be challenging, but it is not meant to leave students mentally drained, and the root of this issue is not the academic rigor or students' extracurricular time commitments, but rather the work culture at this school. A difference exists between rigor and toxic work culture.

Less homework and fewer classes means more time for us to relax, socialize, and generally do things that make us happy; rarely do you see students on campus complaining about less homework and no Saturday classes. However, is making academics less rigorous the only way—or, rather, the right way—to make students happier? At the same time, do students not come to this school for its academic rigor? We choose to travel across the country or across the globe just to come to this very institution. We studied for the SSAT, worked hard for straight As in middle school, and spent hours finalizing application essays just to walk these very grounds—a place that we knew would be academically rigorous.

What is it that makes all these

hours worth it when most of us could have just attended our local high schools down the block? We choose to come to a school where we know we will be spending half of our Saturdays in a classroom and most of our school days in class, at sports, or grinding away in study hall. Students here forfeit the "typical high school experience" for the unique resources they have access to at Lawrenceville. Yes, classes here are difficult, but they are difficult because they follow advanced curriculums taught by exceptionally qualified teachers. Yes, students here run from their last classes to their sports practices, but they do so because Lawrenceville has the coaches, sports complexes, and exercise machines that give them more opportunities to participate in co-curriculars. Yes, students here have club meetings and play rehearsals, but only because they are surrounded by equally driven students who push their peers to explore their passions. We came to this school not because we were looking for an easy four years, but because we were searching for a challenge.

While the demanding work culture here—which drives students to stay up past midnight perfecting their essays and wake up at dawn to review for tests—is representative of the multitude of resources we have access to and the strengths of Lawrenceville students, the work ethic can also perpetuate the harmful idea that academic performance and getting ahead in the college admissions race is more important than mental health. Feeling pressure from others, students may feel the need to push themselves to show a similar level of dedication to academics and extracurriculars, even if this drive and hustle contribute to a decline in their mental well-being. When given a choice between taking a 500-level or a 400-level course, many students will pick

the higher level, not necessarily because they are interested in the subject. Seeing their peers select the "Honors" option and hearing college counselors preach the importance of 500-level courses on a transcript, they feel that they must take the harder class. At any school, mental health should be a first priority. At Lawrenceville, students can easily lose sight of this priority when people are in a permanent state of busyness, juggling an endless stream of classes, sports, and clubs. The issue with this busyness, however, arises not from lengthy assignments or daily practices, but from students who find themselves struggling with this heavy course load and advanced material deciding they must simply work through it. Rather than switching to a lower-level class, many continue to struggle in silence for the sake of conforming to Lawrenceville's work culture.

Our goal as a community should not be to push for more academic leniency and easier workloads; Lawrenceville's rigor is what sets students up for successful college and even workplace careers. However, we should strive to redefine the culture within our community, to support each other more, and prioritize wellness before performance, to become a school that works hard and plays hard rather than one that just works, works, works. There is no doubt that this realignment of priorities is easier said than done in a world that parallels, if not even exacerbates, the work culture at Lawrenceville. By simply taking on a mindset of support over competitiveness and being willing to extend a helping hand to our peers when we see them struggling, we can work towards cultivating a less demanding work culture.

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

A Call to Keep

How "Smartphone" Usage Combats Restrictive Phone Policies

ANDREW PARK '25

This year, Lawrenceville announced drastic changes to its student handbook and phone policies. Phone use is now prohibited in academic buildings as well as during study halls, and the Bunn Library has placed limits on collaborative work in order to stop students from congregating in order to use phones. The School's rationale for these policies is valid: phones cause major distractions to study, and Lawrenceville aims to create a motivating, focused environment. Moreover, phones have the potential to prevent students from having a healthy school experience, since technologies such as phones can cause addictions and disconnect students from offline social interactions. However, I believe that the current phone policies excessively limit the use of technology, which does not correctly fix the root of the problems that Lawrenceville students face.

To unplug students from their phones, Lawrenceville created two major rules: 1) every student must turn in their phones during study hall, and 2) working at the Bunn

Library will be limited to specific times and spaces, contrary to a system of work that was once completely free last year. Thus, it is evident that Lawrenceville considers phone use a problem.

While the current phone policies effectively hinder technology use during times that require the students to concentrate, the policies do not effectively address the root of technology overuse: the lack of self-control. While the #WinAtSocial event, an attempt at monitoring and rewarding reduced phone usage, had attempted to instill a sense of self-control over technology within students, this program was too indirect and non-interactive to affect an individual decision to use phones. Merely showing pictures, messages, and statistics about the danger of technology abuse will not shift student attitudes toward phone use. Besides the programs listed, Lawrenceville does nothing to properly

educate its students about ade-

only address the symptoms, not the root cause of why students use phones.

Moreover, adequate phone use has the potential to bring positive benefits to enhance student life.

Students in the past years have seemed to perform well in classes despite limited restrictions on phone use. In addition, phones have the potential to serve as aids to student education, rather than distractions. Students frequently communicate with each other in group chats for classes in order to work through complicated problems. The banning of phones this year has made it difficult for students to

collaborate with a peer in a different House, I ended up wandering around the circle for 30 minutes because I did not have a phone to communicate with my peers. Considering the stress-relieving leisure that social media and gaming bring, a justified amount of phone use, even during study hall, also aligns with what Lawrenceville expects from a healthy student life. Phone usage can allow for a balance of academic rigor and rest. With the right education on self-control, students could use phones for their educational and social benefits.

In this technology-sensitive time, Lawrenceville actually is in a good place to fight the problems that other schools are facing with phone use. The policy only needs some changes to fit with educating the students about what they have to do, a solution that could lead the school into a better place. Since the current School initiatives unintentionally restrict technology with immense potential for good, the School must loosen up the policies and focus on implementing programs for students to behave themselves.



Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

quate phone use besides taking the phones away. Thus, these policies

work together; while methods for collaboration such as meeting at other Houses in person still exist, these efforts are difficult to coor-

Introducing the Northern Irish PGs

ETHAN ZHU '26

This year, through the Protégé for Peace program, Lawrenceville is hosting two Post-Graduates from Northern Ireland—Victoria Maguire '24 and Lucy Browne '24. Irish Scholars is a selective program based in Northern Ireland that gives two students who have just graduated high school the opportunity to spend a gap year at Lawrenceville on a scholarship. Maguire and Browne were chosen after a lengthy nomination, interview, and application process.

"It was a bit of a big shock for me because I initially had no intention of moving a large distance for school," Maguire said, having originally planned on attending a university in England. However, after being nominated for the program, Maguire knew instantly that "it was such a good opportunity, especially when [she] looked online and explored Lawrenceville, its resources, its community, and its campus life itself."

At Lawrenceville, Maguire seeks to share new experiences with her peers and develop new skills. Through the program, she has the opportunity to spend another year taking "classes that [she]



Photo of Lucy Browne '24 and Victoria Maguire '24

Nicole Halucka '26/THE LAWRENCE

is specifically interested in," and "seeing if pharmaceutical sciences [was not] the only course that piqued [her] interest."

For Maguire, Lawrenceville has been a "wonderful experience" so far. Though she was initially apprehensive about experiencing a "whole different way of life" and not being able to find a sense of belonging in a new environment, Maguire has found the Lawrenceville community

to be "really welcoming and helpful." "On the first day, I was never lost [because] there was always someone to show me the way to class," she said, "I didn't expect it to be so large and lively, either...I'm never bored, and there's always something new."

Apart from her appreciation for the diverse community and vibrant campus life, Maguire noted that her favorite part of Lawrenceville was its class structure. She

loves the Harkness system and enjoys "being able to not just sit behind a desk every day and listen to the teacher talk, but instead participate in the conversation and listen to others' opinions."

Browne, on the other hand, had "always been interested in attending an American university." The Protégé for Peace program gave her the opportunity to make her dreams a reality, which she was "incredibly excited"

about. Like Maguire, Browne had already been accepted into a European university, but said she could not pass up this "amazing opportunity" to study abroad. At Lawrenceville, she hopes to learn in a new environment and immerse herself in a new culture while "gaining some advantage to [her] career when applying to jobs."

Browne noted that Lawrenceville is "very different" from her school in Ireland, and that "it's really got something special." In particular, she "[loves] the layout of the School and the teaching style, especially Harkness." "In other schools, it's more like one person dominates, one person doesn't say anything, and one person just can't be bothered to say anything... here, it's completely different," Browne said.

Both Maguire and Browne feel that they have found an inclusive community and a "home away from home" at Lawrenceville. "As much as I am homesick, it's been one of the best times of my life, and it's only been a month," Maguire said. Browne echoed a similar sentiment, noting that "[Lawrenceville] has definitely exceeded my expectations, and I'm so happy that it has."

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Mooncake Making

CATARINA CORREA '26

Last Friday, on September 29, the Tea Club, run by Gwyneth Deng '25 and Aki Li '25, hosted a mooncake making event in the Abbott Dining Room to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. The event hosted over 50 members of the Lawrenceville community, bringing students together to celebrate the traditional Chinese Mid-Autumn festival. Led by Deng, Li, and Miu Baholyodhin '26, students were given step-by-step instructions on rolling, filling, and wrapping the mooncakes. The traditional desserts were made with lotus and red bean filling, and wrapped with homemade pastries that the Tea Club leaders had pre-made. Traditional Chinese tea was also provided as a refreshment for those participating in the event, as well as other students who arrived to celebrate the festival. Comedic but informative animations were shown on screen, depicting the traditional legends associated with the festival, such as the story of Chang'e and Hou Yi and the legend of the Jade Rab-



Photo of Mooncake Making Event

Aki Li '25/THE LAWRENCE

bit.

For Claire Pei '26, the event was a means for her to celebrate with others what was usually a traditional family holiday. She felt as though she had "a lot of fun making mooncakes," and that the event provided a way for her to celebrate a familiar cultural holiday "even without being around family." Pei thought the event was "thoroughly en-

joyable" and that she would "definitely come again next year" were the event hosted a second time.

Sophie Yang '26 echoed Pei's positive sentiments, saying that she initially came to the event because she was "just interested in the tea", but stayed after seeing "so many different people come together for the same reason: to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival." She also

added that she "had lots of fun," and that she especially found the Mid-Autumn festival informational videos to be "very funny and amusing".

When asked about goals for this event, Deng remarked that it was "a great opportunity to provide a hands-on opportunity to make mooncakes". Li added that "this event was definitely significant in sharing

Chinese culture with the Lawrenceville community," and that "it allowed students on campus to learn more about these traditional practices." Additionally, both Deng and Li noted that "the event went better than expected," and that "even though [they] had little experience in making mooncakes, with the help of [Baholyodhin], a highly experienced baker, and with support from faculty including [Director of Student Life Ian August] and [Yanhong Zhang H'17], [they] were able to make this an overall successful event." They noted that they are both "really happy at how this event turned out" and "hope to host more events like this in the future".

Through the Tea Club, the Mid-Autumn mooncake making celebration gave students the opportunity to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival on campus, allowing them to practice traditions that they would usually celebrate with their families at home, as well as to celebrate and share their culture and traditions with others who are unfamiliar with the festival.

In Her *Lover* Era: The Budding Relationship Between Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce

MELINA KYRIAKOPOULOS '27

Something wonderfully peculiar is happening this football season: our Miss Americana has found a new Heartbreak Prince. Football fans, Swifties, and all those in between are coming together in the name of a sweet new relationship between Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift. Kelce, number 87 for the Kansas City Chiefs, is a two-time Super Bowl winner and widely acknowledged tight end. Swift, who needs no introduction, is a 12-time Grammy-winning pop singer, storming the charts with every album she releases. With such a super-couple appearing seemingly out of the blue, no wonder social media and news outlets are buzzing with the news of this wholesome pairing.

The effects of this new relationship can even be seen from a statistical standpoint with Travis Kelce jerseys, specifically in women and youth sizes, selling left and right. At the Bears vs. Chiefs game on September 24, when Swift made her first public appearance with Kelce's mother, the

game experienced a 63% viewership jump in women. This relationship brings attention to the power of global artistic superstars like Taylor Swift and how they can affect the world from outside the studio.

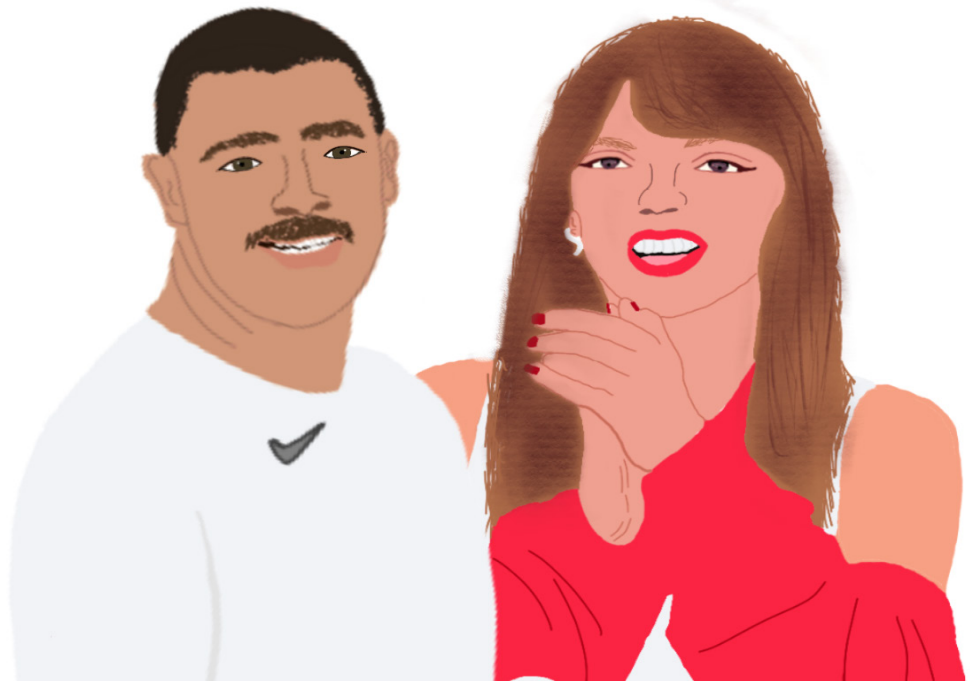
With many hoping to glimpse the cute couple in action, fans fed into the frenzy by buying merchandise and tuning in to Sunday football on ESPN. This Swiftie spending spree isn't uncommon for fans, as we have seen Taylor Swift cause significant financial effects before. In fact, it is estimated that Swift has the power to generate almost five billion dollars for local economies through her fan's consumption in relation to The Era's Tour, just in the U.S. alone.

Money is not the only thing that speaks, though, because globally known artists have also been credited for having a large grasp on the social climate of the modern world and pop culture within it. Take Swift again, who has reinvented herself with every album she has released. In *Lover*, Swift's seventh album, she took a stand to support the passing of the Equality Act, creating a petition that she then promoted in

the music video for "You Need to Calm Down," which amassed more than 300 million views. Through this music video, she got more than 850,000 signatures on her petition to date, more than eight times the signatures needed for a response to be required from the White House. But this artist has also paved the way for activism in other parts of

her *Lover* album and in each of her eras, speaking on gender equality, the pressure of fame, mental health, and many other topics important to people across the globe. Her actions and the response that followed proved Swift's fame could be used for good, influencing the world around her, both through and outside her music career.

Whether starting a Heinz condiment frenzy, causing the internet to sell out of a jersey, speaking out on a socially debated topic, or even just dating a new person, the star power these globally famous artists have is nothing to laugh at. More than anything, we hope that Swift has finally found the one she can marry with paper rings.



Sonia Singhal '24/THE LAWRENCE

The Future of Fashion

LOUIS PARK '26

Fashion is the fastest and trendiest way to showcase individual expression and the current pop culture. Seasonal fashion trends begin in the streets and on the runways. Predicting fast-paced trends born from the streets may be challenging, but street fashion promotes the most accurate preview of trends, about around six months before the actual season begins. Over the past month, luxury brands and ready-to-wear designers have offered previews to consumers of the SS24, or the Spring Summer 2024, for fashion trends during New York and Paris Fashion Week. For those who want to spend this fall more stylish than anyone else, here are the SS24 fall fashion show analyses by the most prominent brands and predicted trends based on these collections.

The biggest theme seen in the Gucci collection is "simple luxury," which focuses on simplicity and faithfulness to the basics. This collection impressed critics despite lacking colorful or lavish designs, which Gucci is known for. The outfits presented were stylish, classy,

and simple, and designers instilled personality and vitality by matching unique shoes and accessories or unbuttoning shirts.

The standout trend in the Louis Vuitton Collection was the utilization of the midriff.



The outfits were refined with oversized jackets, high-waisted pants, and a belt to emphasize the models' waistline and silhouette. Using pants and belts to draw attention



to the waistline was also a significant design that caught the eye of critics at the Prada Collection in Milan.

In Italy, the Versace Collection was heavily inspired by the late 60s, with bold white frames, short sleeveless dresses, and knee-high boots, pursuing minimal decoration while keeping up the classy aesthetic.

Last but not least, Balenciaga's campaign attracted attention not only because it featured the executive director Demna's mother but also because it elevated the trending monochrome look with what Demna called "rough, not polished" designs. These looks resembled Balenciaga's original iconic color scheme. Balenciaga also utilized upcycled materials like vintage pieces of material or deadstock leather spliced together.

Brown and black were the prominent color palettes of many collections, but unique and vibrant colors were often used to catch the viewers' eye. For example, the Ferragamo Collection showcased red as the primary color for many of the looks. Every imaginable type of red appeared throughout the collection, with bright, vivid red at the center of the collection.

On the other hand, brands like Isabel Marant and Alexander McQueen highlighted shades of

red with less chromaticity, similar to burgundy or wine. The Moschino Collection, in contrast, introduced black as their primary color in the form of classical designs, showing a more unique side to styles that have walked the runway for years. These blacks were neither chic nor minimal but more of a gothic kind that even gave unconventional vibes. It's collections are in good harmony with the quiet luxury trend, characterized by the basic black collar and classical style of the designs.

Although each brand expresses its individuality and identity in a unique way, analyzing the overall fashion weeks could predict the common trend of the upcoming seasons. Comfortable and trendy oversized looks will be a common trend, and classic attires like knitwear, jackets, padding, and coats will appear through layering. In addition to the color of gothic black, bold colors such as red, green, and yellow will also be used to give vitality and fun to fashion. In addition, various materials and unique patterns will help emphasize one's personal sense of style and identity. Predicting the styles for the upcoming season through fashion week is indeed entertaining, but let's not confine our fashion senses to the trends!

Sophie Yang '26/THE LAWRENCE

Don't miss Main Street's Fall Arts Festival, happening from 12-4 PM on 10/7!

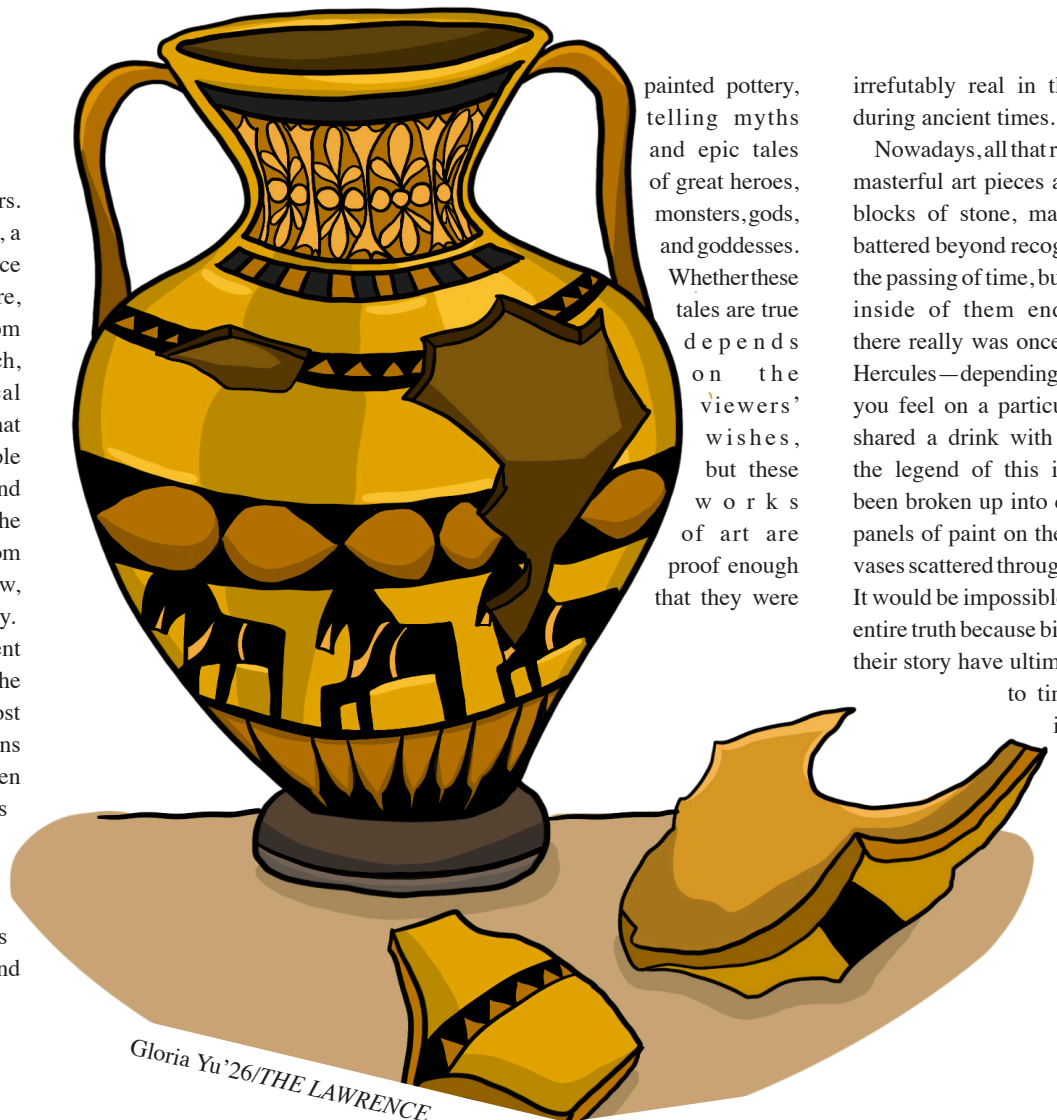
Brushes with History: The Ongoing Impact of Greco-Roman Art on the Modern World

SOPHIE YANG '26

Art comes in many different flavors. Art is a painting, an empty canvas, a black-and-white photograph, a slice of cheese, a copper bowl, a sculpture, and a piece of pottery made from hardened clay. As a figure of speech, art expresses feelings, political opinions, and cultural identities that cannot be conveyed through simple words. Art tells stories that transcend the wear and tear of time. Some of the last remaining pieces of evidence from Ancient civilizations exist in art; now, it is time for them to tell their story.

The most renowned and ancient of these art pieces date back to the Greeks and Romans, two of the most influential and powerful civilizations from thousands of years ago. Even now, in the modern age, the Greeks and Romans' influence continues to hold solid and define politics, culture, and history as we know it.

These two civilizations' stories were told mainly with sculptures and



Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE

Painted pottery, telling myths and epic tales of great heroes, monsters, gods, and goddesses. Whether these tales are true depends on the viewers' wishes, but these works of art are proof enough that they were

irrefutably real in their own way during ancient times.

Nowadays, all that remains of these masterful art pieces are washed-out blocks of stone, marble, and clay battered beyond recognition through the passing of time, but the memories inside of them endure. Perhaps there really was once a Heracles or Hercules—depending on how Roman you feel on a particular day—who shared a drink with Athena. Now, the legend of this interaction has been broken up into delicate, single panels of paint on the sides of wine vases scattered throughout the world. It would be impossible to recover the entire truth because bits and pieces of their story have ultimately been lost

to time and spread in museums across the globe. Even if you

wanted to discover the whole story, you would have to run around the world searching for broken pieces of pottery. However, you would still only be left with conjectures.

But, if the Earth is ever invaded by aliens who understand nothing of humans, these works of art, these relics of time, would be the first step to understanding the human race's long, complicated, ugly, yet beautiful history. Looking beneath the clay exterior, pottery goes far beyond just a decorative item or a wine jug—it is a puzzle piece connected to millions of other puzzle pieces that, combined together, tell the world's story.

Art itself is not immortal, but the memories and stories encased within an artistic piece continue to speak for themselves. As long as fragments of the past survive to see the modern day, the story of our predecessors will always be passed down, whether through word of mouth or in glass boxes displayed in museums. Even if the empires themselves have long since fallen, the art pieces remain a testament to their former grandeur.

The Importance of Secondary Characters in *The Bear*

LAUREN WILLIAMS '24

FX's *The Bear* centers around a well-loved, albeit run-down sandwich shop in Chicago called The Beef. The shop fell into

the hands of its current owner, Mikey's younger brother, Carmen, following Mikey's untimely death. Mikey's brother, Carmen "Carmy" Berzatto, portrayed by Jeremy Allen White, leaves the world of fine dining and Michelin stars and enters the grimy and disorganized The Beef. Throughout the first

season, Carmy works to earn the respect of his coworkers, who are largely unimpressed by his status as a Michelin-retaining chef, with the exception of Sydney Adamu, played by Ayo Edebiri, the restaurant's chef-de-cuisine and certified fan of Carmy—that is before she meets "food and wine's best new chef" in real life. Nevertheless, while coping with the trauma of his brother's death and the abuse he endured as a chef at high-end restaurants, Carmy makes progress in managing The Beef.

The first season ends with the entire cast of characters sitting around a makeshift dining table, enjoying the classic Berzatto family spaghetti. After eight episodes of The Beef's belligerent, militant workings, the camaraderie of the last "family" meal is a breath of fresh air.

This Last Supper seems a precedent to the show's outstanding second season, which earned a stunning 100% score on Rotten Tomatoes. Released in June 2023, *The Bear's* sophomore season sees the restaurant undergo a significant change, changing its style altogether. The Beef's rebrand isn't the only risk the show takes. In

Season Two, *The Bear* zeroes in on its cast of secondary characters—a risk that has paid off immensely. *The Bear's* showrunners demolish the notion that a show's protagonist, in this case, Carmy, should have the most fleshed-out storyline that trumps the rest of the characters.

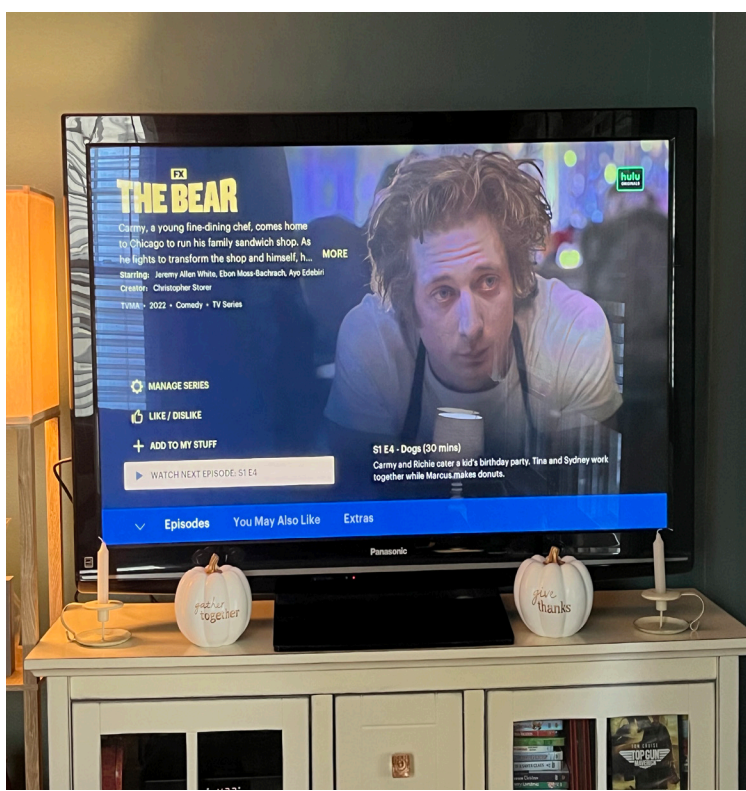
In *The Bear* Season Two, each character and their story is treated with the utmost care, with most characters getting an entire episode dedicated almost entirely to them. For example, The Beef's baker, Marcus Brooks, played by Lionel Boyce, travels to Copenhagen to learn from skilled pastry chefs and create three new desserts for the restaurant.

Against beautiful shots of Chicago and its various restaurants, viewers see Sydney Adamu sample food to gain inspiration for The Beef's new menu. The objectionable Richie Jerimovich, played by Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Carmy's unofficial cousin and a chef at The Beef stages (spends time in a different kitchen to learn new techniques at a higher-end restaurant) and develops a passion for serving people. Ebra, played by Edwin Lee Gibson, and Tina Marrero, played by Liza Colón-Zayas,

the restaurant's respective cook and sous-chef, attend culinary school and, surrounded by younger students, see a new angle of their jobs after years.

"Fishes," the show's longest episode at a whopping 66 minutes, dives into the dynamics of the extended Berzatto family, including its unofficial member Richie. While Season Two hosts a number of celebrity cameos, from John Mulaney to Olivia Colman, Jamie Lee Curtis proves herself a star in "Fishes" and again in the show's finale. Curtis plays Donna Berzatto, the mother of the Berzatto siblings, acting out her heartbreaking relationship with her son Carmy and daughter Natalie "Sugar" Berzatto, played by Abby Elliott. Natalie also emerges as a standout character, becoming the new project manager of The Beef.

While Carmy remains the show's main character, the increased focus on the secondary cast rounds out the show, and its success proves what you can get from taking a risk. With stunning cinematography, a perfectly crafted soundtrack, and a star-studded cast, *The Bear* Season Two is the best and most daring TV release yet of 2023.



The Bear Season 2 on FX

Sofia Carlisi '24/THE LAWRENCE

"And I might be a dreamer, but it's gotten me this far, and that is far enough for me."

- Amélie

Next week, The Periwig Club's Fall Musical, *Amélie*, will premiere in the Kirby Arts Center on October 12 and 13.

Inside Report: Acacia Restaurant on Main Street

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

Main Street and its lively business are a vital part of the Lawrenceville campus and community. From Starbucks to The Gingered Peach, each business has something unique to offer. The restaurants provide students with a break from dining hall food and may also serve as a close getaway for special occasions.

Acacia, an American restaurant, has been located on Main Street across from Lawrenceville for decades. Lauren and Chris Voigtsberger, the owners of the restaurant, have been running the business for the past ten years. The restaurant's name, Acacia, comes from a species of trees known for its fern-like leaves and clusters of flowers. "We decided to keep [the name Acacia] because...it was in the community for a very long time and we wanted to honor that," mentioned Lauren Voigtsberger, "it's been sort of a pillar of the community for a very long time before we were even a part of it... we love this community."

The Voigtsbergers bought the restaurant after only a few years after graduating from their

universities. Lauren Voigtsberger has a business and hospitality degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her husband Chris Voigtsberger attended culinary school and has additional degrees in business and finance. "My husband and I both have a background in hospitality... this came as an opportunity to us, and we decided to go with it and buy the restaurant," said Lauren Voigtsberger. As the owners of the restaurant, the Voigtsbergers handle the daily operations, menus, and ordering ingredients together. They each also have their individual duties. Lauren Voigtsberger deals with hiring new employees, overseeing the current ones, and handling the daily finances. Her husband picks the weekly specials and works as a chef.

Acacia prides itself on its locally sourced, fresh ingredients features in its seasonal menu. As a chef, Chris Voigtsberger "tries to take those ingredients to come up with something creative that... would do well," explained Lauren Voigtsberger. Some of their most popular dishes remain on the menu regardless of the season. These staples include homemade pastas, the

Acacia SmashBurger, and the sweet and sour calamari. "I would have to say the burger is definitely one of my favorites or our spicy vodka rigatoni," Lauren Voigtsberger mentioned.

Ambiance and community are as much a part of running a restaurant as serving food is, according to Lauren Voigtsberger. "One of my biggest job roles is being connected with our customers... I think one of my favorite things is being able to provide something where people don't come back just for the food but for the overall experience." Community has been an essential part of running and maintaining the restaurant. Schools, including Lawrenceville, generate significant business for restaurants on Main Street like Acacia. Support from the local community had helped Acacia get through the pandemic.

In addition to the typical dinner and lunch, Acacia can also host events. From baby showers to weddings, Acacia is available as a venue or for catering. Lauren Voigtsberger in particular loves being part of and planning these events. "I enjoy being able to bring someone's vision to life through



Outside of Acacia

Cindy Shum '24 / THE LAWRENCE

the food, through the atmosphere, through the little special touches. I really enjoy making their day a little less stressful," she stated.

Running a restaurant can be difficult, but Lauren Voigtsberger says she enjoys "the chaos of it all...I've always kind of liked doing something that's not your

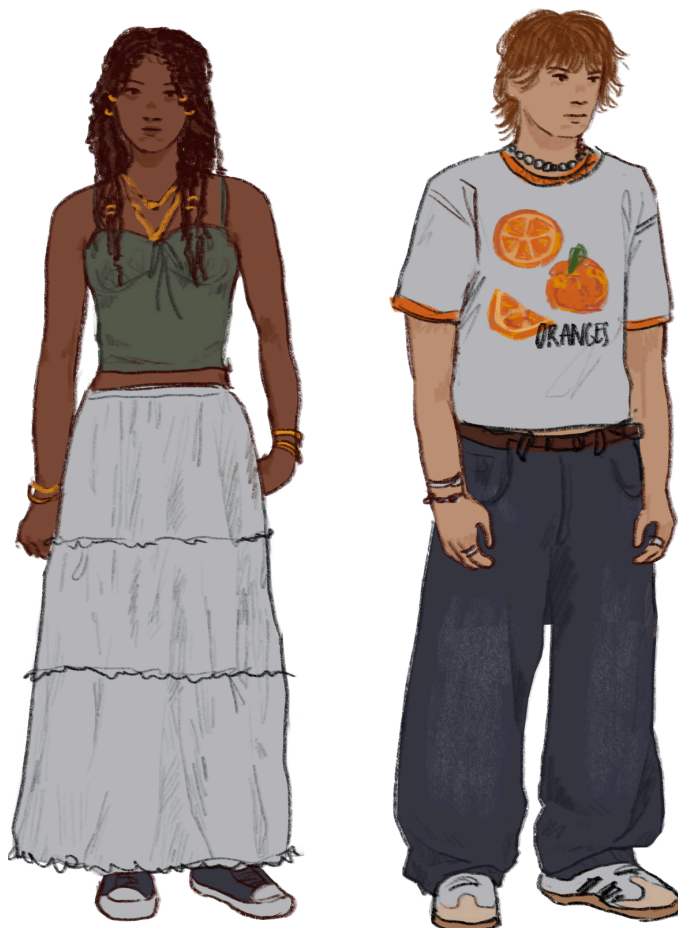
typical 9:00 AM.m to 5:00 PM.m regular hours. I kind of like being pushed on my feet and I like the idea of being connected with people." Main Street is full of restaurants like Acacia that Lawrenceville students can easily visit and enjoy.

Addressing the Dress Code

MARIAM DZIDZIKASHVILI '25

Lawrenceville is filled with diverse students who express themselves in distinct ways across all aspects of school life: through the art they create, the poetry they write, the stories they tell, and the various characters they play on stage. Many students also opt to use their fashion style and clothes to express various facets of their identity. A multitude of students use fashion as a medium to express their emotions and convey a message about themselves to the world—but what do these students do when the freedom of their style is challenged?

Rules surrounding student clothing are of significant debate at almost every school around the globe, and dress codes can divide students and faculty into opposing halves. Dress codes aim to promote a professional, inclusive, judgment-free environment to help students focus on their studies. On the contrary, some say dress codes can be too restrictive at times, especially discriminating against girls by



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

strictly prohibiting them from wearing certain articles of clothing and not allowing students to have the basic freedom of choosing how to express themselves.

Charise Hall, the McClellan Head of House, advocates for the implementation of school uniforms across all Forms. She believes that "it would level the students out" by making the school environment more equal and inclusive. She also believes that students would not worry about what to wear each morning. Lawrenceville could offer sets of clothing with various styles, and the school could even have the students design the uniforms so that they would be wearable for students.

Other Lawrentians agree that the dress code is not a significant problem, believing the new rules are reasonable to follow and that the dress code does not hinder their means of self-expression. However, initial backlash followed the disapproval and implementation of the "no graphic tees" rule, as most students believed it was excessive. Cira Sar '24 expresses concerns about the rule's impact on returning students, particularly

in terms of fairness and extra clothing expenses to meet dress code standards: "I really do think it's unfair for returning students, when all of a sudden the school is telling students that the clothing they wear is not allowed and is instead an equity issue. Students may have to spend extra money for the clothing they wear at school... it's hard to find clothes that fall under the dress code standards." Some Lawrentians believe the dress code is reasonable and accommodating to self-expression, while others were initially unhappy with the "no graphic tees" rule, seeing it as needless.

Both students and teachers have mixed opinions on the dress code; some are not in favor of it, and others believe that it's fairly reasonable. The debate over dress codes at Lawrenceville reflects the broader societal discussion about balancing individual expression while fostering a beneficial learning environment. Finding a middle ground that respects students' ability for self-expression while still upholding our school's values remains a complex and ongoing challenge.

Operation Varsity Blues & Supreme Court Decision

ELLEN JORDAN '26

For decades, the United States has been acclaimed for holding the most elite system of higher education schools? institutions? in the world. Looking at global university rankings alone, the United States holds a stark majority of the top slots, and its universities continue to draw the world's most ambitious and prestigious scholars.

A study published by Statista revealed that as of 2019, 62 current world leaders had received higher education from the United States, a number higher than that of any other country.

Perhaps a situation that also demonstrates the popularity of American schooling concerns the education of the daughter of one of the U.S.'s most bitter rivals: Chinese President Xi Jinping. Yes, even Xi's daughter received an American diploma, having graduated from Harvard in 2014. This information further cements the argument that the United States is home to the world's most coveted and sought-after universities.

Yet even including all the glory these institutions hold, American universities, specifically its system of college admissions, have recently been subject to much scrutiny.

In 2019, the FBI uncovered the biggest college admissions scandal in history, infamously dubbed "Operation Varsity Blues" (OVB) by investigators. This June, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action programs at two prestigious universities, the University of North Carolina (UNC), and Harvard University. These two landmark events continue to dominate headlines and have forced elite American universities to completely rethink college admissions. The time since the scandal poses the question: What has changed in the American college admissions process following the occurrence of both of these unprecedented events?

Ironically enough, a completely unrelated investigation triggered the FBI's involvement in the uncovering of the OVB scandal. Yet once news broke of "Operation Varsity Blues," it soon became a nationwide scandal that shockingly involved elite U.S. universities, billionaires, and celebrities. In total, fifty wealthy adults were charged for involvement in the scheme, and the ringleader of the operation, Rick Singer, was sentenced in January of this year to 44 months in prison. Singer's operation involved using bribery and fraud to illegally arrange to have students admitted into some of America's most prestigious institutions by posing them as elite athletes. The ironic part of the scandal was that many of the students who posed as athletes had little to no experience playing their respective sports. The universities involved included many that held high seats in the national rankings, such as Yale (#3, tie), Stanford (#3, tie), UCLA (#20, tie), and USC (#25, tie). Although the scheme came to a close a few years ago, the college admissions process continues to face its repercussions.

California's system of higher education is one of the most esteemed in the nation, but the program took quite a tumble when one of its schools,

UCLA, was caught up in the scandal. Following the investigation, UCLA's men's soccer coach, Jorge Salcedo, was sentenced to eight months in prison for receiving \$200,000 in bribes from Singer to facilitate the admission of two students—one through the school's women's soccer program, and another through his own. In response to the humiliation that ensued following the scandal, the University of California system has pledged to take greater measures to ensure that those admitted into its schools through athletics are deserving of admissions. The UC program has done this by requiring that three athletics officials examine an athlete's file before forwarding it to admissions officers.

Yale University's prestigious name was tainted post-OVB, which involved Yale's "winningest coach" in the school's history, the former women's soccer coach, Rudy Meredith. The investigation unearthed that Meredith had been working with Singer since 2015 and was charged with accepting bribes in exchange for offering students admission into Yale as recruited athletes. One of the students Meredith recruited to his team had never even played competitive soccer. Similar to the University of California system, Yale now requires student-athlete prospects to provide three references to confirm their athletic ability. In addition, sports coaches are now required to report all "athletic-related income" not paid directly to them through Yale.

Stanford's former head sailing coach, John Vandemoer, was the first person charged for participation in OVB for accepting donations tied to Stanford's accepting two students who had no actual sailing experience. In the wake of the scandal, Stanford released a public announcement that confirmed that some changes to its admission process had been introduced. Some of these changes include the implementation of a second-level review process to determine the athletic abilities of recruited student-athletes. Stanford also claims to have developed controls concerning its "gift acceptance" process in response to the money Stanford received during the scheme.

The University of Southern California (USC) was the only university to have multiple athletic personnel take part in the scandal. The involvement of so many staff in the scheme undoubtedly was a source of great shame for the university, and in 2019, through a statement of its own, USC announced the policies that the institution has adopted in response.

Like Yale and the University of California system, USC has required every student-athlete prospect's file to be reviewed on three levels—by the head coach of the sport, the senior sports administrator of the sport, and the Office of Athletic Compliance. Following this inspection, the file is then delivered to the Office of Admissions for review. Some other forms of protocol have also been introduced, such as the requirement that each USC head coach confirms in writing that the student is being recruited on the basis of their athletic ability and that all undergraduate



Anastasia Fabian '26 / THE LAWRENCE

prospectus must sign an attestation certifying that they submitted their own application and that the information it holds is factually correct.

As convictions for those involved in OVB continued to develop, American universities once again were shoved into the spotlight, through the nation's highest tribunal. On June 29, the Supreme Court struck down affirmative action at UNC and Harvard, yet decades prior to that decision, the Court argued the opposite during the landmark case of Grutter vs. Bollinger. In 1997, a white student, Barbara Grutter, was denied admission into the University of Michigan's law school. In 2003, she challenged the institution's use of race as a factor in college admissions, arguing that the decision violated the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In a narrow 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the University of Michigan, thereby deciding that affirmative action was indeed constitutional. The issue of affirmative action was again discussed during the 2012 case of Fisher vs. University of Texas at Austin. Fisher, a white student who was denied admission into the university in 1997, argued a case reflective of Grutter's. Yet once again, the SCOTUS ruled that affirmative action was indeed lawful, by a vote of 4-3.

Over a decade following that case, the argument of whether or not using race as a factor in college admissions was constitutional was once more brought before the Court in late June, via the cases of Students for Fair Admissions Inc. vs. Presidents & Fellows of Harvard College, and Students for Fair Admissions Inc. vs. University of North Carolina. The case, like that of Grutter and Fisher, also argued that the use of affirmative action at the universities involved violated the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Once the case was brought forward, the Court thoroughly examined the admissions process

at both universities and discussed to what extent race genuinely was a factor when deciding which students should make up the applicant pool. On June 29th, with a 6-3 majority, the Court ruled that both Harvard and UNC's use of race as a factor was not constitutional, and the decision effectively overturned the cases of both Grutter and Fisher. "Both programs [Harvard and U.N.C.'s] lack sufficiently focused and measurable objectives warranting the use of race, unavoidably employ race in a negative manner, involve racial stereotyping, and lack meaningful endpoints," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the statement for the majority. The SCOTUS decision, which is just among a string of recent controversial decisions and rulings, sent shockwaves across the nation and divided Americans. Yet regardless of one's opinion on the decision, the Court's striking down of affirmative action forced American universities to adjust and re-examine their processes of college admissions.

Shortly after news of the Court's decision broke, both Harvard and UNC released statements. While both universities pledged to comply with the Court's ruling, the universities promised to uphold its dedication to diversity. "Carolina remains firmly committed to bringing together talented students with different perspectives and life experiences and continues to make an affordable, high-quality education accessible to the people of North Carolina and beyond," UNC Chancellor Kevin M. Guskiewicz stated. Even institutions that were not involved in the case made statements. "...diversity is essential to the excellence of this University and to the future of our country and the world. Princeton will pursue it with energy, persistence, and a determination to succeed despite the restrictions imposed by the Supreme Court in its regrettable decision today," wrote Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber.

American universities are finding other ways to acknowledge the Court's

decision. In the application essay, Sarah Lawrence College is now giving undergrads the creative opportunity to write about the affirmative action case by asking in one of the available prompts, "Drawing upon examples from your life, a quality of your character, and/or a unique ability you possess, describe how you believe your goals for a college education might be impacted, influenced, or affected by the Court's decision."

Both Operation Varsity Blues and the SCOTUS' striking down of affirmative action raised many questions about the U.S. system of college admissions, and these events undoubtedly have led to massive shifts in how U.S. universities approach applications. It remains to be seen whether the changes will stop there, or if more change is to come.

Specifically, other aspects of U.S. college admissions are now being scrutinized, in particular legacy admissions (which has been deemed as "affirmative action for the rich") and the advantages given to applicants who play what is referred to as "aristocratic sports." Changes to address these admissions are already arriving: for example, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has scratched legacy admissions completely, while the University of Virginia (UVA) took the more gradual step of eliminating the ability to check a box confirming historical ties with the university while retaining applicants' ability to refer to any legacy status in their narrative essay.

It's no secret that college admissions are becoming increasingly competitive, and hopeful applicants are having to do more and more to distinguish themselves from their counterparts. So the question remains, just how perfect really is the U.S. process of college admissions? And will the changes that have arisen from both Operation Varsity Blues and the end of affirmative action help or hurt the highly-acclaimed "American way" of admitting applicants? Only time will tell.

A New NBA Dynasty?

The Ramifications of Milwaukee's Trade For Damian Lillard

SHAILEN ZIMMERMAN '25

For almost 12 seasons now, Damian Lillard has been a premier player in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Averaging 32 points (PTS), five rebounds (REB), and seven assists (AST) last season, the seven-time all-star has defined himself as one of the greatest point guards in the modern NBA. Since joining the league in 2012, Lillard has carried the Portland Trail Blazers to the NBA playoffs eight times but has no finals appearances to show for his efforts. The team that he had been loyal to for the past 11 years made no effort to build around their star player, which took a toll on Portland's and Lillard's success. With his desire for a championship and his disappointment in the Trail Blazers at its peak, Lillard demanded a trade. On September 27, Lillard found himself on the Milwaukee Bucks through a blockbuster three-team trade that also sent Center Jusuf Nurkic, Small Forward Nassir Little, and Shooting Guards Keon Johnson and Grayson Allen to the Phoenix Suns, heavily changing the power dynamic of the league as a whole.

In exchange for Damian Lillard, the Portland Trail Blazers received Jrue Holiday, Deandre Ayton, Toumani Camara, and an unprotected 2029 Bucks first-round pick. Putting up averages of 19 PTS, five REBs, and seven AST last season, Jrue Holiday is a solid contributor on the court but does not hold nearly the same value and impact that Damian Lillard has. Even with the unprotected 2029 first-round pick in their hands, the Trail Blazers still have a massive talent gap in their roster with the loss of Lillard. Deandre Ayton, who averaged 18 PTS, 10 REB, and two AST, is, again, a solid contributor on the court, but does not bring the significant value that would fill the hole in the Trail Blazer's roster that Lillard left. Finally, Toumani Camara is a second-round draft pick who is yet to prove himself

in the league, so unless he ends up being one of the best forwards in the NBA in his first year, Portland loses this trade in the long run.

On the Phoenix side of things, Jusuf Nurkic was underwhelming at best as the starting center for Portland last year, averaging 13 PTS, nine REB, and three AST per game last year. In terms of the exchange for Deandre Ayton, Nurkic's trade

averaging 10 PTS, three REB, and two AST last year, but even with each of these combined prospects, Phoenix still failed to fill the hole left by Ayton, just like how the Trail Blazers failed to fill their talent gap.

Although they weren't present in the trade, the Miami Heat also lost as a result of the three-way trade. Miami had had their eyes on Lillard for the past year, considering trading Tyler Herro and future unprotected first-

of Lillard mean to the future of the Bucks and the power balance in the NBA? The fact that Lillard, an all-time talent, is teaming up with one of the best forwards in NBA history, Giannis Antetokounmpo, brings immense optimism in regards to the Buck's future. Averaging 31 PTS, 12 REB, and six AST last year and leading Milwaukee to a nearly 60-win season, Antetokounmpo was one of the front runners in the MVP race. In the playoffs, however, the Bucks were unfortunately eliminated in the first round by the Miami Heat. But with Lillard on the team, this could change. Antetokounmpo's power and strength, combined with Lillard's innate skill and vision, make a recipe for success. Similar to how Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant dominated the NBA in the early 2000s, the skillful guard and strong big

man combination can lead to success. With other great teams in the

Eastern

Conference, such as the Boston Celtics and

Philadelphia 76ers, success may not be as guaranteed as some may assume. But, if the combination of an unstoppable force and an incomparable skillset works out, these teams may have a tough time slowing down the Bucks offense. Milwaukee's new roster depth may usher in a new dynasty in the NBA; a future of greatness is most certainly ahead of them, and maybe even a championship.

Audrey Liu '26 / THE LAWRENCE



value is well below Ayton's trade value, even though both are role players at best. Nassir Little, a rotational player averaging seven PTS, three REB, and one AST per game, doesn't add much value to the exchange with Ayton, and neither does Keon Johnson, who only averaged five PTS, one rebound, and two AST last year. Grayson Allen adds the most amount of value to the trade behind Nurkic,

round picks for the Portland guard. Lillard had been interested in the team as well, even taking multiple visits to Miami. The prospect of teaming up Lillard with Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo would have most certainly, in Miami's view, lead them to a championship. But, with Lillard in Milwaukee, Miami's dream cannot be made into reality.

Finally, what does the addition

Girl's Varsity Tennis Triumphs In MCT

ARYANA IYER '27

Our Big Red Varsity Girls' Tennis team recently competed in the Mercer County Tournament and proved that Lawrenceville can dominate the tennis scene. Coming into the tournament, every player on Big Red's roster was ranked in the top five in the tournament player standings, giving them an advantage against the top teams in the county. The girls dominated the tournament, finishing in the quarterfinals at first singles, the semifinals at third singles, and the finals in both second singles and first doubles. Each player's performance allowed the team to take home the championship in their first official tournament of the season, an amazing accomplishment all around.

Throughout the competition, the team totaled 23 points after blowout wins against numerous top schools such as Notre Dame, West Windsor Plainsboro, Princeton Day School, and Princeton High School, to name a few. Their depth and strength as a team, in addition to their strong mindset, even in tougher sets, helped them stay competitive even amongst a very strong playing field. Their positivity and mental toughness allowed them to be successful through the end. According to Kim McMenamain, the coach for the Girl's Varsity Team, "The team win can be attributed to our depth. Our second doubles team is really close in skill and experience to our top singles, so when we went up against [other] teams, that helped almost all our teams advance. It was a team win in that sense." Grace Weekes '27, one of the team's top doubles players, reiterated the importance of maintaining a positive mindset to stay successful in the heat of the moment. She states "Because I was playing doubles, keeping my teammate positive was important. Making sure that she stays comfortable and confident keeps us in the match because we're working together."

For the entire Big Red Community, this accomplishment ties us all together. It is great to see a powerful team of young girls accomplish something recognized throughout the entire county. McMenamain explains "It sends a wider message outside our community and it is a proud moment for our School to come out on top when the field is so strong. I think it ties Lawrenceville to Mercer County in a way." This was the first time our School was in this tournament, and we were able to leave a lasting impression on our opponents and on the court.

By winning the tournament, our Big Red team proved that Lawrenceville can compete with anyone.

StuCo Board Picks

	Chelsea Lim '24	Grace Chu '24	Sofia Carlisi '24	Ian Lee '24
				
most exciting initiative for this term?	heritage month senior stories!	sandwich challenge	fall into the arts :)	Watering the plants
best lville merch?	girls varisty lacrosse grey sweatpants	sweatpants	ROLL shirts!	Envi Sci Waders
who on stuco would you trust to aux for a road trip?	me	chelsea lim	Bryce's folk playlist	Bryce Spice
who would win in a fight: dean davis or dean eldridge?	davis	dean davis!	def dean davis	Dean Doug