

Thrills and Chills at “The Woman in Black”



Photo of a scene in “The Woman in Black”

ETHAN ZHU '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

This past Saturday, Reach Out To The Arts (ROTTA)—led by art teacher Chloe Kalna and theater teacher Matthew Campbell—brought a group of students to the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton to see “The Woman in Black,” a thriller stage play based on Susan Hill’s 1983 novel of the same name. Having recently closed in London’s West End, “The Woman in Black” is currently on tour in the U.S. Students who attended the ROTTA trip had the opportunity to watch the play’s original actors perform at the McCarter Theatre.

Kingsley Du '26 noted that he loved the play because it “combined humor and suspense really well in the performance and plot.” He found the transitions between “comedic relief and tense silence” to be both smooth and captivating. “In one moment, the actors might be telling a joke, but with the snap of a finger, they can shift the atmosphere entirely,” Du recalled, “all of a sudden, they would dim down the lights and play creepy or mysterious music, and I could hear the entire auditorium fall dead silent.”

Another part of the play Du

felt was very special was its many jump scares. “Jump scares are typically very difficult to pull off, particularly in live theaters, because the audience is right in front, and there’s nowhere for actors to hide,” he said. Throughout the play, Du was “really impressed by how the actors played with [his] emotions and feelings,” and he enjoyed seeing how the other attendees were “fully immersed in the play and invested in the feelings of the characters.”

Mimie Pinpakornkul '25, another trip-goer, echoed Du’s positive sentiments on the play. As an avid fan of monologues and climactic dialogues similar to those featured in “The Woman in Black,” Pinpakornkul signed up for the trip as soon as she received the ROTTA email. However, what stood out to her was not the play’s dramatic dialogue or suspenseful pacing. “Going into the play, I thought that all the actors would be women, but I was surprised to see it was basically a two-man show with the woman in black in the background,” Pinpakornkul said. She noted that “plays with only two characters are rare,” so the uniquely small size of the

cast left an impression on her.

Moreover, Pinpakornkul enjoyed seeing the similarities between “The Woman in Black” and other pieces she had watched and read. “During the show, I would think, ‘Oh, this is similar to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde,’ in the sense that Mr. Hyde is a mysterious figure similar to the woman in the play,” she recalled.

Reflecting on his experience, Grant Askew '26 said that “seeing the reactions of the people next to [him] was entertaining.” Askew noted the effectiveness of the jump scares, as well as the lighting and sound effects that he found “very interesting.” “I was really impressed by the professional use of lighting and sound to create suspense and redirect attention,” he elaborated.

Pinpakornkul, Askew, and Du enjoyed the play and encouraged students to sign up for the next ROTTA event. “I feel like many people around me don’t really know about the program, but it is an amazing opportunity for people interested in the arts,” Du concluded.

Sonia Shum '27 /THE LAWRENCE

A Grand Groovy Grisfest

SOPHIE CHENG '25
&
CHARLES POTTER '25
NEWS ASSOCIATES

This past Saturday, the Griswold House hosted the main social event of the evening: Grisfest. Students from all Forms gathered at the turf fields to play in a Spikeball tournament, enjoy beverages and grilled food, listen to music, and socialize with one another.

In the week leading up to Grisfest, a promotional video for the event was aired during School Meeting, in which members of the Griswold House played an intense game of poker that revealed a final card inviting students to this year’s Grisfest. The Griswold House’s Vice President Ray Taft '25, who edited and filmed the production, believed that the video was “well-received and contributed to building hype around Grisfest.”

Griswold President West Violich Mecklenburg '25 noted that the first-ever Grisfest took place two years ago, and he decided to organize the event this fall in an effort to “keep up with past House traditions.” “As a House, everyone wanted to hold Grisfest as a way to show our house pride and allow people from all forms to meet,” Violich-Mecklenburg said. Taft and Violich-Mecklenburg actually started the planning process over the summer in collaboration with Director of Student Life Ian August and Vice President of Social Life

Grace Chu '24 to bring their vision to life.

Members of the Griswold House Daniel Castro '26 and Amadou Samb '25 called the event “truly amazing” and “absolutely breathtaking” respectively. Reflecting on his and his Housemates’ involvement with Grisfest, Samb said, “our goal was to create an inclusive and inviting environment where everyone from all grades and houses could bond.” Samb was also a participant in the Grisfest spikeball tournament, where he said he “had an exhilarating and joyous time with [his] friends” despite losing the first round. Taft also added that his favorite aspect of the event was “seeing people hanging with their friends while playing spikeball after the official matches had ended.”

Hayley Williard '25, another spikeball competitor, said that she “had an amazing time playing spikeball with people from all sides of campus” despite still being “sore from the event.” “Regardless of our short presence in the tournament, [Alexa Lewis '25] and I had a great time playing just for fun,” Williard added.

Reflecting on the event as a whole, II Former Ceci Mape '27 said, “These Saturday night events have exceeded my expectations, and I am so excited to attend more Circle and Crescent-hosted events in the near future.”



Photo of Grisfest

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

Mysteries and Justice: Nazi Art Plundering

Sonia Ivancic '25 details the art plundering perpetrated by Nazi’s during WWII, and the ways artists have tried to reclaim the stolen art of the past.

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Character and Community at The Island School

Jenny Zhao '25 interviews IV Formers Riley McKibben and West Violich-Mecklenburg about their experience at The Island School this past summer.

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October Baseball in Full Swing

In light of the World Series starting on the 27, Selena Yu '26 goes over all the excitement of the MLB Playoffs so far.

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Editorial

Democracy—If We Can Keep It

Last November, the 142nd Board of *The Lawrence* published, “On Bringing Civics to the Classroom,” advocating to integrate civic education into the Lawrenceville academic curriculum. “As the United States grapples with an ever-polarized political scene,” the editorial read, “one topic has been an underlying theme for many candidates, youth voting and civic engagement, as...nearly all Americans, regardless of ideology, agree with its necessity.” In light of Democracy Day’s sudden cancellation this year, gauging what we lost with Democracy Day’s demise seems difficult. The Lawrenceville bubble, as it often does, distances us, the Lawrenceville community, from what our role in American democracy is. Perhaps this evocative, romantic language of bipartisanship and unity served to legitimize the past editorial’s argument; however, does such an optimistic, harmonious narrative surrounding the state of our democracy really show the necessity for civic engagement then, or even now? Did this editorial even remotely reflect our political landscape?

Hardly not. That same November the editorial was published, voters across the country went to the polls for 2022 Mid-term Elections, where Republican candidates across the ballot pushed the lie that the 2020 Election was “stolen” and openly ran to “fix” the nation’s election system. That October, a New York Times poll found that seven out of 10 Americans saw American

Democracy in peril, yet only seven percent saw it as a top priority. That summer, a string of conservative Supreme Court rulings and corruption allegations sparked nationwide protests as approval ratings for the Supreme Court reached record lows. That spring, televised investigations by the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack presented shocking evidence of a multi-pronged plot, from the fake electoral schemes to the Capitol siege, to keep Former President Donald Trump in power after the 2020 election. Keep in mind that a disinformation crisis, political polarization, a wave of local book bans, and new voter-suppression efforts all loomed overhead. Perhaps Americans never felt the moment our democratic norms began to fade or when America’s backslide into authoritarian sensibilities began, but with each day we all developed a dreadful familiarity for the unprecedented, the feeling that our democracy always seemed to hang in the balance and that America inched further and further into the darkness.

For decades, the traditional message communicating the structure of the American political system—“We the people”, Checks and Balances: those Schoolhouse Rock-type messages—has already imbued a pessimistic perception of American government and our role within it; “American Democracy” conjures up a static, slow-moving political machine that exists externally from us, the people, in the far-off land of D.C. The American

government’s characteristic deadlocks and dysfunction concerning issues like the House Speakership or gun violence are more visceral than ever. Perhaps this frightening apathy for democracy took shape within the liminal space between unprecedented political crisis and political dysfunction. With the already alienating, superficial understanding of our democratic process, our numbness to this political chaos has only situated us further from the democratic structures; we’ve seen our political norms crumble before us, and we feel powerless to act.

Only in moving beyond this superficial perception of the American government, can perhaps our political instability be mended. For this nation’s most profound thinkers and shapers, democratic ideals shaped the larger mode of societal function. “Before 1870,” as Pete Singer told Lawrenceville in a school meeting last year, “the word ‘weekend’ didn’t even exist, and then some folks got together with their coworkers and went on strike for an eight hour work day and 40-hour workweek, and eventually some Jewish workers... wanted Saturday to be the Sabbath and they joined up with those workers. By the 1940’s the 40-hour workweek was signed into law, and we have the weekend because someone decided to co-create our shared world.” In essence, the continued function of the American political machine was driven by civic-minded people, who felt that they ought to take up their civic duties, engage with the marketplace of ideas, and demo-

cratically decide our society’s functioning. In his *Letter From Birmingham Jail*, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to the vital function a democratic ethic plays in creating a more just society. Nonviolent direct action, as he conceived it, “seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.” Of course, democracy can exist in a superficial sense, but injustices thrive when those living in democratic societies are devoid of the civic role to shape society. Only when the people are empowered, to grapple with and deliberate on those injustices with the responsibility of altering or ridding them, can unjust measures be defeated.

In this moment of political pessimism, we’ve accepted that democracy solely exists as the structure of a republican government, and have forgotten the democratic norm that the people can, and must, drive function and rules of society. Here, at this political impasse, do we see the necessity of civic engagement and our preservation of societal civic values in maintaining our democracy. In a society in which civic engagement is emphasized and civic ideals are treasured for the integral role they play, we are taught the integral role civics play in shaping a just, functioning society, and our imperative, as the people, to take on that responsibility and fully realize our role in that society.

Instead of directing us to blithely fit within a tired political environment, democracy has

challenged us to see how we could enrich it. Our conception of the democratic ethic gave room for an intellectually-diverse array of students and championed to take on our civic responsibilities and contribute to the smooth democratic functioning of society. Yet last Thursday, the Student Council abruptly announced that Democracy Day 2024 was canceled. Just as these confounding issues facing our society grow ever more entrenched in our political system, Lawrentians will be preoccupied with the typical demand of school work, and the vital work of civic engagement will fade into the background. Just as American democracy hangs by a thread, Lawrenceville has chosen to reverse course and turn a blind eye.

Our democratic institutions are only as strong as our determination to protect them. As youth, we Lawrenceville students are plagued with the misperception that the American government is some system that works and functions in some space beyond us, which only entrenches us further in our hopeless pessimism, and could extend our democratic decline for years to come. The longer we tend to let the outside world be disregarded for the hustle-and-bustle of Lawrenceville life, the more likely we will pass this civic deficiency to the next generation, and the quicker our democracy will decline.

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

Humanity’s Friendly Ghost

On the Assumption and Absence of Independent Thought

IMANI GASKIN '25
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

“Don’t ask the question if you don’t want to hear the answer.” This refrain was constantly echoed by my father throughout my childhood. It would ring out against any asinine questions of mine like “should I skip school today?” or “do I feel like driving right now?” Of course I knew that I was undoubtedly going to school and that my parents were never letting a 12-year-old behind the wheel, yet there was something deeply enjoyable about imagining I had a choice. My dad’s proclamation would often leave me upset as I reveled in the fun of pretending I had options.

When asked if they have free will, most people would vehemently say yes. However, upon careful consideration, verifying this belief proves extremely difficult. Encyclopædia Britannica describes free will as “the power to make decisions or perform actions independently of any prior event or state of the universe.” In a world where mountains of information are always a few clicks away, people find themselves consuming knowledge at lightning speed.

People may find their opinions being influenced by the wide variety of perspectives fed to them online. In understanding this phenomenon, it becomes quite clear that humans do not exist in vacuums, and as such, we can’t make decisions or act truly independent from outside influences. Yet, people still insist they have free will, and in some ways they are correct. In reality, people’s inability to reconcile these two thoughts is exactly what free will is based on: ignorance. People who do not recognize that any of their actions are truly independent feel more responsible for their actions. Confident in themselves, they create a fantasy where people hold infinite power over their lives and their choices, also known as free will.

Crafting the fantasy of choice is necessary to believe in free will. It is good, however, that free will only exists as a concept, as the idea of free will in its purest form calls for a person to block out all of their knowledge and surroundings when making decisions—a feat which is not only impossible but ignorant in itself. People are naturally informed by their experienc-

es. This process of learning from one’s past is what creates space for growth. If each choice we made was conducted completely independently of prior context, resolutions, and outside advice, people would be unable to learn from the mistakes of

Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

themselves and others. This calls into question the legitimacy of free will as a constructive tool in living a progressive life.

In *The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama

speaks of the American Dream as being “rooted in a basic optimism about life and a faith in free will.” From this notion, it can be understood then that free will is largely seen as a cornerstone of freedom, yet is free will truly conducive to leading a free and positive life? If free will were to actually occur and people were afforded the liberty of completely independent thoughts, no restrictions could be placed on their behavior. Not only would the existence of authentic free will impact society in social and cultural ways, but also the sanctity of rules would become obsolete and anarchy would ensue. A society in which any good, bad or downright heinous thought is one in which you are free to act upon is one in which most people would not be enthusiastic to be a part of. This quality, seen as a pillar of American order and freedom, would lead to chaos. This dichotomy speaks to the deeply complex nature of free will, specifically the difference between free will as an ideal and free will as an implemented system.

The fact that we live in an organized society where there are checks on behavior is proof enough that free will, by its textbook

definition, does not exist. What does exist is free will as an ideal to believe in. The facade of autonomy, which helps people get through the day is as critical to society as the laws and cultural norms which inhibit true free will. The delicate balance of the dream of free will and its reality is what keeps society functioning. The maintenance of the illusion of free will is of the utmost importance to maintaining social order and keeping people happy.

Thus I wish to impart the same advice my father gave to me onto you to apply to the question of whether free will exists. “Don’t ask the question if you don’t want to hear the answer.” Continue to debate the everyday choices and try not to spend too much time analyzing whether your eventual decision was inevitable or not. As much as free will is an illusion, it is one I have enjoyed since childhood and one in which I plan to continue reveling in. Belief in free will, whether justified or not, helps people to step into their decisions with confidence which can only be gleaned from their faith in their own autonomy.



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E Pluribus, None?

A Recent History of the Republican Party

ELLEN JORDAN '26

Head hung low, House Representative Jim Jordan exited Congress in defeat for the final time on October 21. His attempt to succeed Kevin McCarthy as House Speaker had been vanquished, and left the House lacking both a leader and stability. Three times the House had voted on Jordan as Speaker of the House, and three times he failed to unite his own party and receive the votes needed to acquire said position. With each successive vote, Jordan lost more support. Jordan's string of defeats served as the final straw for the GOP who, after the last open vote, chose to drop Jordan as their Speaker-nominee in a secret ballot.

According to *New York Times* journalist Carl Hulse, the Representative was brought down by "rule-followers," which is an interesting, yet entirely accurate way to characterize his downfall. Had he succeeded, Jordan would have replaced the ousted McCarthy, whose abrupt removal was unprecedented and opposed by a majority of Republicans. McCarthy's removal resulted from the efforts of just eight far-right Republicans, led by Florida Representative Matt Gaetz. Jordan's political agenda, along with his undying support of Donald Trump, has led to him being endorsed by conservative Republicans and simultaneously doubted by more moderate members of the GOP.

Jordan's aggressive push to succeed McCarthy, which was accompanied by death threats issued to Representatives who voted against him, alarmed all sides of the political spectrum. Despite Jordan's methods, a small band of moderate Republicans were able to block his attempts at becoming Speaker, with their numbers increasing with each successive vote. As Jordan made his way out of the ever-divided chamber, Republicans were left to make sense of their predicament and to answer the questions at hand: who was going to be their Speaker, and what were they to make of their situation? The current turmoil in the House presents a critical situation for the Republican Party, as the estrangement among its members continues to drive it apart. So perhaps a better question Republicans should be asking themselves is how did we get here?

In less than two decades, the Republican Party has obtained a new identity. A modern right-wing voter is nothing like one from the early 21st century, a scenario reflected in the GOP's evolution of presidential candidates. For example, compare the philosophies of the 2012 and 2020 GOP Presidential nominees—Mitt Romney and Donald Trump. While Mitt Romney has typically been characterized as

being more moderate, the same cannot be said about Trump.

Yet what caused such a massive shift in the GOP was not an event conservative in origin. Instead, a major catalyst for the GOP's transformation occurred as a result of Barack Obama's presidency.

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law (more commonly referred to as Obamacare), seeking to increase access to affordable health insurance. While Obamacare was applauded by the left and had relatively broad popular support, the concept of the Federal government substantially expanding its reach was political anathema in the eyes of some Republicans. Some sections of the ACA appealed to both parties, such as its efforts to protect people with pre-existing medical conditions from being denied healthcare coverage or having to pay substantially more for coverage. Yet despite the silver linings that the GOP found in Obamacare, Republicans still heavily opposed it, with both the 2012 and 2016 GOP presidential nominees promising that abolishing Obamacare was their very first priority. This was easier said than done: while Donald Trump won in 2016, Obamacare remains after its repeal was blocked by a handful of GOP senators in 2017, most notably John McCain.

This, however, was not the end of the story, as in the run-up to the ACA's passage, the far-right of the GOP galvanized into a movement they called the "Tea Party", which wanted a more limited government. The movement originated from an Obama-era policy to assist mortgage holders, which some viewed as an expansion of welfare. On February 19, 2009, while speaking from the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, CNBC commentator Rick Santelli, during a statement harshly rebuking Obama's policies, called for a "Tea Party"—a direct reference to the Boston Tea Party—to halt government intervention in the housing market. The name also served as an acronym for "Taxed Enough Already," a belief that the party itself soon became built upon. Shortly after its release, Santelli's five-minute speech went viral, becoming a rallying cry for hard-line conservatives in favor of lower taxes and less government involvement.

In the 2010 midterm elections, the Tea Party had tremendous power; many of its members made their way into Congress, fundamentally altering the values of the Republican Party itself. Although the Tea Party faded after the 2010 midterms, the movement itself was not lost.

Instead, it evolved.

In 2016, a dark-horse presidential candidate came onto the scene—Donald Trump. Despite his lack of experience in politics, Trump quickly became popular with Tea Party-like Republicans thanks to policies such as striking down Obamacare and cracking down on immigration. Through the efforts of Trump, "Taxed Enough Already" was replaced by "Make America Great Again," or MAGA. Trump's successful appeal to Republican voters resulted in his unexpectedly winning both the Republican nomination as President and ultimately beating Democrat-nominee Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Presidential Election. Trump's presidency ushered in a new era for the GOP, and he soon became the new face of the party. Throughout his presidency, Trump's control of the party tightened, leaving little room for opposition within his party. Many who dared go against Trump quickly found themselves at the mercy of the GOP.

Take Senator Lindsey Graham for example. In 2015, following Trump's clinching of the GOP nomination, he voiced his disapproval.

"You know how to make America great again?" Graham asked. "Tell Donald Trump to go to hell." But since Trump's victory in 2016, Graham has morphed himself into one of the former President's most loyal defenders to remain in power within his own party.

While Senator Graham was able to obtain redemption from Republicans, others were not so lucky. Following the January 6 riots, Representative Liz Cheney was one of ten Republicans who voted to impeach Trump for his role in instigating the event. Cheney's vote lost her House GOP leadership positions, and she was voted out of office in the next election.

Although Trump remains the poster child of the GOP, opposition to his leadership has increased, resulting in increased division within the Republican Party. Today, Republicans find themselves torn between committing to Trump's fanbase and risking the stigma of speaking out against his leadership. The GOP finds itself in an increasingly unfavorable situation, with no clear path ahead. The turmoil in the House is just one example of this, as Republicans scramble to find new leadership in the wake of Jordan's defeat. 165 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that "A house divided against itself cannot stand." This timeless stance is still applicable today, serving as a warning sign for the Republican Party.

Letter to the Editor

A response to "Reimagining Lawrenceville's Work Ethic" published on October 6, 2023

To the Editor:

In the editorial published on October 9, the Board argued that it is not technically academic rigor—"a permanent state of busyness...an endless stream of classes, sports, and clubs"—that demands students to wear themselves out, but Lawrenceville's "toxic work culture"—a shadowy, amorphous, lurking variable. The editorial touched on the effects of this work culture, intimately familiar to most Lawrentians, but lacked a description of its root causes—without which, meaningful changes to the student experience will remain in the realm of wishful thinking.

The fact that such an opinion received a majority vote of agreement from the Board is unsurprising, as there was no argument presented that Lawrentians would find any reason to disagree with. The real contributors to a harmful school culture can and should be debated across campus; acknowledging the unflattering truth that our academic "grindsets" are partially fueled by ego, not passion, is a crucial first step to finding healthier sources of motivation.

In my opinion, Lawrentians are "mentally drained" and strive to assert "dedication to academics and extracurriculars" due to more than just an inherently strong work ethic, as perpetuated by self-selecting waves of applicants and acceptees, aspirants, and alumni. I agree with the editorial when it states that Lawrentians are "equally driven students" who seek to challenge themselves, but it would be incomplete to claim we resist balanced lifestyles solely because of a love of learning: classes' reputations, not just their content, affect our decisions on scheduling day. What too often goes unspoken and un-admonished is the superiority complex some adopt while taking certain Honors classes, something that shouldn't be normalized by a Lawrenceville seeking to create a healthier school culture. Rigor is tied etymologically to stiffness and decay; instead, we should pedestalize learning that is vigorous and energizes us.

Perhaps we students are eager to overwork ourselves—to shine, no matter the cost—because it's a secure source of validation. Maybe we're too scared to admit that the Lawrentian ego feeds on shiny markers of success—a curated LinkedIn profile or an Instagram feed—and that we can't get enough of them. Pretentiousness, coupled with an eagerness to judge quickly and decisively, wreaks havoc on our rela-

tionships with our peers and ourselves. This facet of our culture is embarrassing to admit, but it's nevertheless a barrier, like shyness or unfamiliarity, that gives us pause before sitting with someone new at lunch. This is toxic work culture: an inability to detach our self-worth from the yardstick of three-letter acronyms. The judgment of our peers has become internalized.

In fact, *The Lawrence* may unwittingly encourage such a culture, despite its leadership's best intentions. The fact remains that those who write for this paper are a self-selecting subset of Lawrentians—as stated in the editorial published on February 10, most *Lawrence* writers produce work because "their future with the paper is already clear." Of course, *Lawrence* writership is one example of students only engaging with organizations to pursue a leadership position. Most Lawrentians will never submit to this publication, so whose voices does it really broadcast? The only public space where students can broadcast their opinions to the student body at large, *The Lawrence* has the power to dismantle a toxic work culture by encouraging difficult conversations. In my opinion, these discussions can only occur from the bottom up, with writers who are determined to shape this culture themselves.

Ultimately, Lawrenceville's work culture is defined by its status as a college-preparatory institution: there's a limit on how many Community Days we can take a year, or Saturday classes that can be canceled, because there are standards of achievement we hold ourselves to. As the Board pointed out in the recent editorial, dramatically reducing the academic challenge of Lawrenceville is not a viable solution to our problems, as it would mean trivializing the goals and nature of the School itself.

Something each one of us can do is rebut harmful attitudes: The act of defining what we dislike about the School is a significant step towards solving those problems. The fact is, glorifying an impossible ideal will always divide the Lawrentians who sacrifice personal health and well-being for grades and students who are unwilling or unable to. Willing to be openly critical in order to seek the best for all, we can work to dismantle such a toxic culture.

- ARYA VISHWAKARMA '25
OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

Outside the Bubble President Biden Supports Ukraine and Israel



President Biden and President Herzog

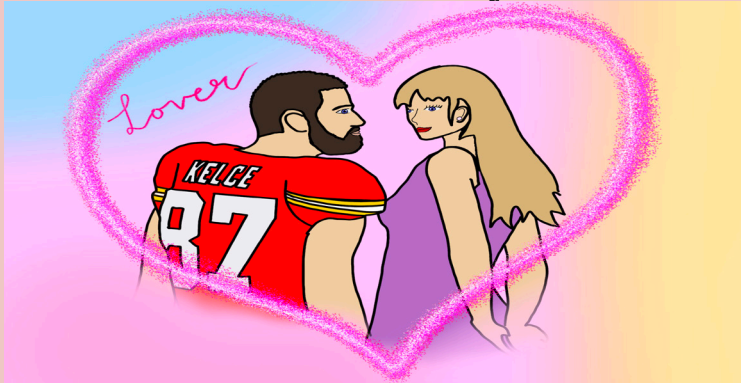
MIRA TRAPPE '26

On October 19, President Joe Biden announced his 100 billion dollar bipartisan plan to fund Israel and Ukraine in their respective war efforts. The plan dedicates a total of 85.7 billion dollars to helping provide both Ukraine and Israel with ammunition and weapons, with the rest of the money allocated to humanitarian aid and border security in these two countries. Further,

Haim Zach: Government Press Office, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license, no changes

President Biden stressed the importance of supporting Ukraine and Israel during this time, stating that “[the support] is vital for America’s national security.” Biden also spoke out strongly against the sudden rise of Islamophobia and antisemitism as a result of the Israel-Hamas War, delivering messages of empathy to both Jewish and Muslim families throughout America.

Travis Kelce Spills on His NYC Weekend With Taylor Swift



Graphics of Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift

SYDNEY WANG '25
NEWS ASSOCIATE

On October 15, award-winning singer Taylor Swift and football star Travis Kelce made separate appearances on a Sunday Night Live (SNL) episode before arriving, hand-in-hand, at Catch Steakhouse in downtown New York for the post-show party. Long-running rumors about a potential romance between the two celebrities are finally settled now that Swift and Kelce were seen going on an official date, where they were reported to have been smiling, holding hands, and displaying mutual affection all night. According to CNN, Kelce ad-

Phoebe Rayner '27/THE LAWRENCE

mitted to being on a date with Swift, and noted that he felt responsible for her safety as the “man in the situation.” He was even heard asking Swift’s security guard to step aside, claiming he had everything under control in regards to taking care of the popstar. Their city date was, however, not the first time the duo had been observed together in public. Swift has been spotted supporting Kelce at multiple of his football games, including the game in Kansas City where Kelce’s team—the Kansas City Chiefs—played against the Chicago Bears, and his game in New York against the New York Jets.

Patrick McHenry and GOP Chaos



Photo of Patrick McHenry

DOROTHY LEE '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

On Thursday, October 19, House Representative Patrick McHenry (R-NC)—who took over as temporary speaker of the GOP after Kevin McCarthy’s removal on October 3—threatened to resign from his position after members of the Republican Party (GOP) pressured him to act as interim speaker and start moving legislation to the House Floor. However, McHenry was unwilling to oblige without an official vote to appoint him as Speaker

of the House. The Republican Party is currently divided on which candidate to vote into this position, as McHenry openly stated his belief that temporary House speakers in the future should not hold the same level of legislative authority as officially-elected speakers. In McHenry’s view, if he were to take on more jurisdiction like his party members have been urging him to, it “could mean that the House wouldn’t need to elect speakers in the future” at all as temporary speakers could simply fill that role, according to NBC News.

What Matters to Me and Why: Deb Miliaresis

ANGEL XIN '26

Last Wednesday, Deb Miliaresis H'22 P'27 of the Bath House Café shared some of her most meaningful experiences and important advice for students at a “What Matters to Me and Why” event hosted by the Religious Life Council (RLC). During the event, Miliaresis showed attendees a photo album that shared deeper insight into her family background, and explained how her upbringing inspired her to become more environmentally conscious throughout her life and at Lawrenceville. The discussion encouraged many students to rethink how community members at Lawrenceville engage with environmental sustainability on a day-to-day basis, while sparking conversation about the importance of family.

Charles Potter '25, a member of the RLC Board, noted that the open dialogue style discussion allowed participants to bond more closely with Miliaresis. “Giving attendants the opportunity to engage in direct conversation with the speaker helped them forge a more personal connection [with Miliaresis],” he elaborated. Potter resonated most with Miliaresis’

advice to “not take [oneself] too seriously,” especially in an environment like Lawrenceville that can feel stressful or overwhelming at times.

Myra Zhou’s '24 favorite part of the presentation was when Miliaresis showcased some of her grandfather’s possessions, as it felt “surreal.” Zhou, reflecting on the experience, said that attending the event gave her “the chance to get to know [Miliaresis] at a deeper level.” While her usual interactions with Miliaresis were

ated the relevancy of the conversation to building a stronger community at Lawrenceville, especially when Miliaresis talked about “how much of a change we could make if we work as a team.” Miliaresis’ focus on community encouraged Zhou to reflect on some of her own experiences at Lawrenceville, specifically how she and her peers grew to become more “compassionate and caring [through] Covid-19 as well as through some difficult times over

The Religious Life Council presents...

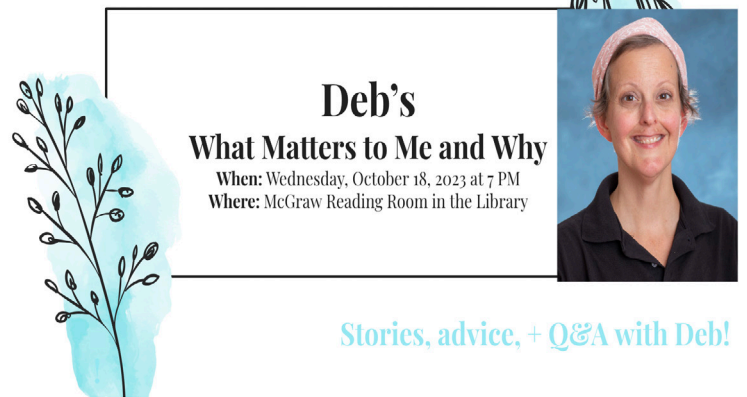


Photo of Deb Miliaresis

Stories, advice, + Q&A with Deb!

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School the past few years.” One suggestion Zhou brought up for future “What Matters To Me and Why” events was for the student body to have more say in the faculty and staff members who are featured.

Changing the Future of Medicine: Megan Kumar

ELLEN JORDAN '26
NEWS ASSOCIATE

In a world where the use of artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming far more prevalent, many fields are looking for areas in which AI can serve new purposes. Take Megan Kumar '24. This year, as part of an independent project in collaboration with researchers at the Mayo Clinic and under the mentorship of Lawrenceville Science Teacher Shinae Park, Kumar applied AI technology to medical advancement. The focus of her project was on gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, a disorder of the digestive tract that could even be life-threatening. Specifically, Kumar created an AI program that can analyze different cases of GI-bleeding and predict their severity and the urgency of treatment.

Reflecting on her original inspiration for the project, Kumar said, “My mom is a gastroenterologist, so when I was younger I would spend my weekends going to the ER, and 90 percent of the time it was for GI-bleeding.”

Throughout her childhood, she was also exposed to some of the hardships of working in the gastrointestinal field, as her mother was often called upon early in the morning to treat patients who were not actually in critical condition. In hopes of minimizing the number of similar situations where doctors are called into the hospital at inconvenient times to treat non-pressing cases—Kumar decided to work on a program that could assess GI-bleeding cases and determine their ur-

gency.

Kumar’s Brazilian background also served as an inspiration for her project. Having visited her mother’s native country on multiple occasions and witnessed first-hand the poverty and lack of access to healthcare in various Brazilian cities, Kumar saw the virtue of a digital GI program that would be more accessible to low-income communities.

“Another aspect of this project is targeting healthcare disparity, because it’s a model which basically copies the mind of a doctor, making it accessible to anyone in the world,” Kumar elaborated. To use Kumar’s program, doctors simply plug in the patient’s vitals and other variables such as heart rate, age, and gender. After this information is entered,

pen immediately,” Kumar explained.

Developing this program, however, was not easy, and Kumar encountered various obstacles during the process. Some difficulties she faced included designing the actual website for the program, conducting online research, and experimenting with different aspects of the code.

While Kumar believes that plenty of ways exist in which AI can be applied within the medical field, she also acknowledges its limits. “I don’t think that [AI] can entirely supplement a human doctor right now, just because it’s so new, and I don’t know if it will ever be able to...but I think that it’s a tool that doctors definitely can use,” she said.

Through her research, Kumar



Photo of Megan Kumar '24

Nicole Halucka '26/THE LAWRENCE

the AI program can then assess the severity of the particular case.

“The model is taking all this patient data on heart rate, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) values, and other variables and predicting the location of the bleeding and whether or not the endoscopy [a method of treatment for GI-bleeding] has to hap-

penes that healthcare tools and new technology have the potential to save lives become more accessible to both the general public and low-income communities in developing areas. Kumar plans to submit her project to the prestigious Regeneration Science Talent Search (STS) competition on November 8.

Mysteries and Justice: Nazi Art Plunder

SONIA IVANCIC '25
ARTS ASSOCIATE

This past month, an emotional but optimistic ceremony took place in the briefing room of the District Attorney of Manhattan that showcased the paintings of Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele. Why was this ceremony held in a New York Courthouse? To answer this question, we need to dive into the years of the Second World War and the complex and extensive network of art looting carried out by the Nazis.

Hitler was a self-proclaimed artist, and after he was rejected from art school and turned his mind

towards politics, he decided that Germany should become a country with distinguished, refined art. His definition of refined art excluded any kinds of modern or expressionist styles, as well as art made by pacifists or Jewish, Black, and Slavic people. He was extremely conservative in this sense and admired more classical styles, especially realist paintings of German landscapes or old German traditional painters. Any abstract art or paintings created by the aforementioned groups of people were deemed "degenerate art." During the well-known Nazi book burnings in the 1930s, degenerate art was burned en masse. Even jazz sheet music, mostly written by Black composers, was added to the flames.

The Weimar Republic controlled

Germany from 1918 to 1933 between the two World Wars. This government's increased freedoms and international outlook led to a thriving cultural movement, including an outpouring of modern and expressive art. Hitler placed Joseph Goebbels, the Chief Propaganda Officer, in charge of ridding the country of Weimar-era art. By 1937, the Nazis had plundered almost 16,000 pieces of art from German galleries and museums. In the same year, they used some of this art to create a "Degenerate Art Exhibition" in Munich, randomly scattering the artworks to ridicule their art styles. This exhibit became the most popular art exhibition in Europe, attracting 2-3 million people in the span of five months. Once the exhibit was over, the Nazis passed a law allowing looted art to be sold and organized an international art auction of these pieces in Switzerland. Initially, many art dealers in attendance were wary of buying the paintings because they believed they would be funding Nazi war efforts. The party promised the money would only go to German museums, but in reality, a third of these funds were used for the war and weapons production. 5,000 paintings that could not be sold were burned.

Hitler had plans to make a grand museum in his hometown of Linz, Austria, called the *Führermuseum*, so that his nation could have a large and grandiose art museum just like Germany's European neighbors (such as France's Louvre). Thus, Hitler started collecting thousands of "refined" art pieces for this museum he had in mind. Other top-ranking Nazis in Hitler's inner circle decided that they, too, should start amassing huge private art collections. Most prominent was Hermann Göring, who had a private collection of 2,000 pieces, 50 percent of which may have been confiscated. Private collections created a huge system of art plundering in the Nazi Party, where officials were responsible for locating, purchasing, and buying art, mainly from large museums, collections, or famous collectors. Later in the war, however, the Party launched a program where soldiers would ransack the homes of families

who were sent to concentration camps and make detailed inventories of every object, auctioning them off to German families.

As Nazi soldiers swept through Europe, they specifically targeted Jewish artists and art collectors, looting their homes and galleries. Since most Jewish people had been forced to death camps, Germany legally considered them "stateless" people who had "fled," giving them no rights to their property and legalizing the plundering of their homes. All of this pillaged art was shipped back to Germany, where the Nazis faced the problem of storage. They needed cavernous rooms that were safe from Allied bombings and had temperatures and humidity conditions capable of sustaining the condition of artworks. Salt mines and churches became the perfect solution. Hitler's collection, intended for his *Führermuseum*, was found in the extensive salt mines under the town of Altaussee, near Hitler's hometown.

The recovery of these stolen art pieces happened in two main ways. First, most of the paintings were found by Allied soldiers immediately following the end of World War II. An Allied team called the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Program, better known as the "Monuments Men," was a select group of historians, architects, curators, and scholars who traveled Europe to identify and protect important cultural sites in the aftermath of war but found hundreds of pieces plundered by the Nazis, such as Michelangelo's *Madonna*. The second way looted art has begun to return to its original owners is through international cooperation. In 1985, nations published lists of paintings stolen from Jewish people by the Nazis. By 1998, 39 countries signed a pledge to compensate those who had lost art in the war, and art pieces began returning to their legal owners, mainly Jewish people. In 1998, the US hosted a conference that catalyzed research into and publication of information about looted art and a worldwide database of lost artwork. Guidelines set up by the Association of Art Museum Directors have led many museums

to look into the sourcing of their paintings, and many museums, such as The National Gallery of Art, have identified hundreds of paintings that may have come directly from Nazi pillaging.

So, how does all this history relate to the NYC courtroom ceremony? The paintings by Egon Schiele in question were the property of Fritz Grünbaum, an Austrian-Jewish cabaret artist who was killed in Dachau, a concentration camp in Germany, during the war. Grünbaum was taken from his home in 1938 after he publicly displayed anti-Nazi acts, and his wife was forced to give their art collection to the Nazis, who would house them in a warehouse. All of Schiele's pieces, with distinct modern art qualities, were regarded as degenerate and sold intentionally to enrich the Party. Grünbaum's descendants have continuously tried to regain possession of the Schieles over the last 25 years. In the 1990s, seven Schieles passed from Austrian museums to American collectors and museums, like the Museum of Modern Art, MOMA, in New York City, through a Manhattan dealer, thereby giving the city of Manhattan jurisdiction over this property dispute. In 2018, a court ruled that Grünbaum had never sold or surrendered his art and that his heirs were the rightful owners. Finally, these museums agreed to return the Schieles to Grünbaum's family after this ruling, and the ceremony in the court briefing room was even more special in the middle of a Jewish holy time of year.

It is important to note that the Nazis were not the only perpetrators of art plundering during WWII; both the Soviets and Americans engaged in this crime on smaller scales. Cases like the Schieles have been frequent in the past few decades as descendants of people who the Nazis looted have confronted museums that house their lawful art. At long last, justice is on the horizon for the thousands of people who were killed, stolen from, and exploited by the Nazi party and global art galleries.



Melina Kyriakopoulos '27 / THE LAWRENCE

Lawrenceville Students are Bred for the Stage



Sofia Carlisi '24 / THE LAWRENCE



Sofia Carlisi '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Look out for the newest segment at School Meeting, which showcases Lawrentians who are bRED for the stage! Thank you to our amazing performers so far: V Formers Eric Han, Claire Jiang, Bryce Langdon, Ian Lee, Henry Metz, Chiedza Mupita, Arya Sreedhar, and IV Former Gray Devine.

Zaheer Ali Interviewed for PBS Documentary

JENNY ZHAO '25

Lawrenceville's commitment to social justice and its vibrant landscape is once again being featured on the big screen. Partially filmed on the School's picturesque campus, the yet-to-be-named documentary, which highlights Islamic tradition, features Zaheer Ali, the Executive Director of Lawrenceville's Hutchins Institute for Social Justice.

A distinguished scholar and teacher, Ali leads the institute in spearheading advancements in social justice through teaching, programming, and experiential learning. Ali proactively guides students in the Hutchins Scholars in Social Justice program and coordinates the School's annual Martin Luther King Jr. observance day to spread social justice principles. Ali's specific area of scholarship lies in the study of Malcolm X. While completing his doctorate at Columbia University, he served as a lead researcher in the completion of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*.

Through this opportunity, Ali has been asked to participate in television programs about Malcolm X that were featured on both CNN and Netflix. Ali also teaches the V Form Interdisciplinary course "Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X."

The new documentary, featuring Lawrenceville's campus, is a project for Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) that will "look at different love stories in the Islamic tradition," according to Ali. Contrary to the popular understanding of love, however, the film covers not just romantic love but a more broad understanding of the concept. Ali specifically focused on the idea of radical love. Intersecting with the popular Lawrenceville V Form English elective "Radical Love in African American Literature," taught by Victoria Stitt, Ali's segment revolved around his idea that "the history of racism in America has worked to undermine family bonds between Black people...the institutions of Black people... [and] Black self-love." The love between two Black people in the U.S. is "not just a sentimental [or]

emotional act," but "absolutely a radical political act," Ali added. Ali emphasized the idea of radicalism and disrupting and challenging "systems that are at the heart of producing harm in communities." Demonstrated by the interactions "between Malcolm X and his half-sister Ella Collins," Ali focused on "what their relationship tells us about love." As a whole, Ali said that the documentary will also examine other historic love stories in Islam and "the different ways love has been expressed in Islam as a value."

While outlining the filming process, Ali explained that the PBS crew reached out to him during the previous year and had an "informational discussion" where he explained his thoughts "on their different angles" and "gave them [his] ideas." A few months later, Ali was contacted again and conducted a "talking head"-style interview in the PBS studio. Based on this meeting, the PBS team wanted to further emphasize Ali's feature in the documentary by using Lawrenceville as a "cinematic setting." On campus, Ali helped



Ali interviewed by PBS

the team identify the Reynolds Fine Arts Reading Room in the Bunn Library as the primary location for filming. The current Hutchins Scholars in Social Justice were then given the opportunity to act as extras to make the segment seem more enticing "from a film storytelling perspective," Ali said. The PBS staff took images of iconic Lawrenceville buildings such as the School's historic Fathers' Hall. From simply "walking past

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

the Hutchins Center rotunda" to giving "bite-friendly answers" to interview prompts, Ali was immersed in the full set of Hollywood-style filming as well.

The documentary will not only highlight Ali's personal knowledge in the subject but also Lawrenceville's dynamic integration of academia and social justice. Set to air in the latter half of 2024, everyone involved in the film's production has high hopes for the piece.

A Summer of Scholars

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

The Lawrenceville School offers four exciting academic scholars programs that students may apply for each summer. These scholarly programs include: the Heely Scholars (Historical Research), Hutchins Science Scholars, Hutchins Social Justice Scholars and Merrill Scholars (Literary Scholarship).

Being selected as a scholar at Lawrenceville is more impressive than simply completing an academic course—it means weeks of a student's summer were dedicated to research and learning more about a given topic. These programs not only give their attendees amazing experiences, but also provide an opportunity to follow a passion.

Heely Scholars, a group of students focusing on "experiential learning," believe that the Stephan archives exist to be used. Through the creation of podcasts, films, as well as exhibits, Heely Scholars produce materials that "facilitate the access and enrichment of Stephan Archives" to the community. These Scholars



Audrey Liu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

learn to analyze primary sources, communicate with others, and explore historical themes. Past projects have researched World War II, cultural trends of the 1960s, and the Cherokee Nation.

Hutchins Science Scholars is another reputable program taking place over two summers

at Lawrenceville. The program allows for summer research, with opportunities in the "U.S., overseas, [and also] provides financial aid to qualifying scholars." Students are able to facilitate scientific research on a given topic of interest, followed by working in a lab to pursue

said research. The work done during the program can be continued through college and beyond, as its impact extends past Lawrenceville's campus.

Hutchins Social Justice Scholars is an exceptional program offered to rising V Form students "seeking to immerse themselves in the multi-disciplinary study and practice of narrative change." This program addresses topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of the main questions leading the group is how the school community can share their "transformative stories" and their connection to social change. The goal of this program is to support scholarship while partaking in experiential learning about social justice. During the summer portion of this program, students study "the role of storytelling [as well as] listening as a part of social change."

Merrill Scholars is a literary research and creative writing program that allows students to "conduct interdisciplinary research in the humanities" by using a variety of sources from Bunn Library's archives. The

program is known to be far more independent than many other programs offered to the community. The guidelines for this program include engaging critically with texts as well as using imagination to research a self-chosen topic. This program is all about taking risks, as its course description emphasizes the importance of "stretching yourself in both directions".

Many upperclassmen have described their personal experiences within these scholars programs to be an eye opening experience. Anushka Chintamani '23 is an alumni of the Hutchins Science Scholar program. She took her passion for her given research topic and continued her journey with it even beyond Lawrenceville. What it takes to be a scholar is a multi-answer question that takes confidence, passion, and creativity. The possibilities of these programs provide so many great opportunities to many in the future. These programs are a great way to make connections, work with new people and explore passions!

Math Club Calculates the Formula for Success

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

Throughout the course of the year, Lawrenceville's Math Club participates in a wide array of math competitions. On Tuesday, October 17, V Former Alec Wang '24; III Formers Brooke Bartlett, Victoria Slavov, and Ethan Zhu; and II Formers, Isabelle Lee, Robert Lee, Sonia Shum, and Eric Xu attended the Delaware Valley Math League competition (DelVal) at the Lawrence High School, placing first as a team. The competition consisted of a one hour, 10 question test. The three highest scores among each school were added to produce a cumulative score for all the schools that participated.

Math competitions help students develop problem solving skills in a unique manner. According to Wang, "competition math is about applying basic concepts and knowing when to use them; it helps me make connections." Math competitions place greater emphasis on logic rather than on specific mathematical principles.



Math Club Meeting

Arya Vishwakarma '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Due to the difference between competition math and math in typical curricula, students at varying levels in Lawrenceville's curriculum can excel at competitions like the DelVal. The Math Club holds weekly meetings on Friday for students to explore competition math.

"We do a lot of practice AMC (American Math Competition) problems whilst walking people through it and just learning that way. It's really helpful, especially with all the kids in the room teaching each other problem solving strategies," mentioned Bartlett. The AMC,

a nationwide competition with multiple grade levels and potential advancement, is one of the larger math competitions that Lawrenceville offers. Smaller competitions like the DelVal have similar questions.

The DelVal Competition also gives students an opportunity to interact with each other, although the competition is technically individual. "There's an atmosphere at math competitions where you know everyone else is working on the same thing as you," commented Wang. Since the test answers are released immediately after the competition ends, students have the opportunity to learn about how others approached problems while bonding with their teammates and waiting for their results. "I got to do it with my friends. Afterwards we got to compare answers and just talk about it and that was really fun," said Slavov. Wang called group competitions "fun and chaotic."

The DelVal Competition is also considered a low-stakes competition because of its smaller scale and scoring

policies. "It's really chill and fun. It's not a big deal and it's very low pressure. It's a fun way to work on your problem solving and practice for a bigger competition like the AMC," Slavov said.

Despite the low stakes of the competition, finding time to attend these competitions while balancing other commitments can be difficult. "Signing up for it was difficult. It was hard to find the time," stated Slavov. Yet many students still enjoy the competitions enough to find time in their schedules. "Maybe I do well, maybe I don't, either way it's a good experience. I'm definitely glad that I did it, and I'm going to do more in the future because it's worth it," mentioned Bartlett. Math competitions provide an opportunity for students to explore math outside of Math Club and interact with other students outside of Lawrenceville. "It doesn't really matter who wins and who loses. You're just there to do math, so it's really fun," added Wang. Regardless of their reasons for participating and the difficulties that come

Character and Community at The Island School

JENNY ZHAO '25

As a respected international research and education organization, The Island School is an institution known by many students on Lawrenceville's campus. Students undergo a transformative period of physical training and academic enrichment while being immersed in the breathtaking landscape of Eleuthera, an island in The Bahamas. Founded by two members of the Lawrenceville faculty in 1999, the institute offers both semester-long and six-week summer programs for high school students, which each year, a handful of Lawrentians attend.

Riley McKibben '25 participated in the program during the summer prior to her IV Form year. Because she was introduced to Island School by a prefect during her II Form year, her interest in attending the program was piqued long before this summer. Reminding McKibben of her "memories at sleepaway camp," she wanted to "emulate something similar in [her] summer experiences" in high school. A key feature of The Island School experience is the technology-free policy. As soon as she landed in The Bahamas,



ISST 22 at the Flag Pole

McKibben was immediately "ready to start" by turning in her phone. She recalls that students were given journals in which they would "write down all of [their] thoughts" whenever they felt the temptation to check their phone. Upon reflecting on her experience, McKibben feels she now "uses [her] phone less" as a result of the six weeks.

West Violich Mecklenburg '25 attended the same session as McKibben. Having had close ties with The Island School, he visited Eleuthera and "had

a sense of the campus" prior to arriving for his program. A typical morning for students on the island, according to Mecklenburg, involved the group waking up at 6:30 AM for "morning exercise," which typically consisted of a run, swim, or a combination of the two.

Mecklenburg had extremely positive experiences in his three classes: "Tourism and Development," "Marine Ecology," and "Sustainable Systems." Reflecting on his experience, he recognized that

Cindy Shum '24 / THE LAWRENCE

"there's a lot of parallels between [what he learned] about how humans impact the environment" and his Honors Environmental Science course at Lawrenceville.

Inside the classroom, McKibben also noticed a strong similarity between Lawrenceville and The Island School's courses. Both Harkness-based, students participated in discussions with small cohorts. With advisory groups structured like those at Lawrenceville, her time at The Island School reminded McKibben "of home and

Lawrenceville," so much so that she doesn't "feel like [she] could decipher between the two."

For McKibben, a clear highlight of the program was the 40-hour solo camp. Alongside other students, she was given only "a tarp, ten liters of water, two bagels, an apple, an orange, and a cup of Cheerios" to camp on the beach alone for nearly two days. Prior to the kickoff, students took a "vow of silence" to not speak with each other during the time period. Serving as the conclusion of her time in The Bahamas, McKibben feels that despite her initial apprehension heading into the solo camp, she had "no distractions," departed being "grateful that [she] was able to take time for [herself]."

Both McKibben and Violich resonated with The Island School's emphasis on teamwork and its commitment to "start as a team, work as a team, and finish as a team." As Violich puts it, "everyone around you has a place in their community and contributes to their community." It's clear that the vibrant community at The Island School was the driving force behind an impactful experience of a lifetime.

October Baseball In Full Swing

SELENA YU '27

12 teams enter, but only one team will be left standing. That's the reality of the Major League Baseball (MLB) playoffs. Let's take a moment to recap the events thus far.

The brooms were out in the American League (AL) Wild Card. Despite the Tampa Bay Rays boasting nine more regular-season wins than the Texas Rangers, the Rangers swept Tampa Bay out of the playoffs, defeating the Rays by a margin of two games to zero. The Rangers' offense proved they're still a force to be reckoned with thanks to Adolis Garcia's game two home run.

Similarly, the Minnesota Twins ended their 21-year-long wait for a victorious playoff series with a 2-0 sweep of the Toronto Blue Jays, breaking an 18-game playoff losing streak in the process. Their pitching staff outperformed Toronto's, allowing only one run across two games.

Shifting our focus to the National League (NL) Wild Card, the Arizona Diamondbacks, a team that barely clinched a playoff spot on the last day of the regular season, showcased their comeback skills. The Milwaukee Brewers had the lead in both games, but the Diamondbacks refused to give in, coming back to win both times. Once the Diamondbacks took the lead, their pitching staff held firm.

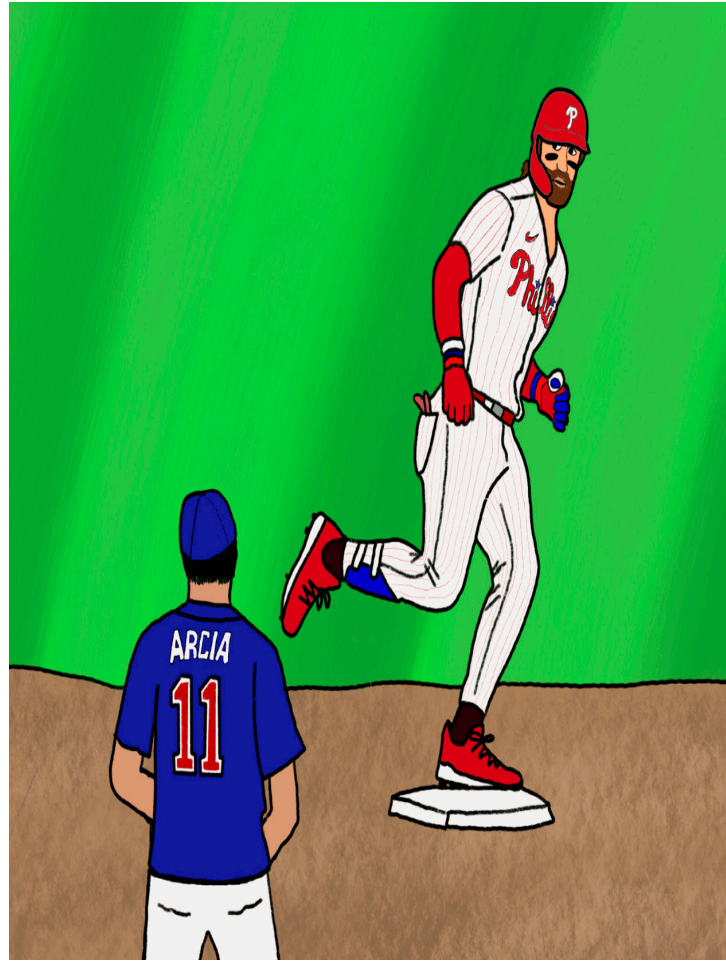
The Philadelphia Phillies, determined to redeem themselves after their 2022 World Series loss, swiftly swept the Miami Marlins. A seven-inning shutout from pitcher Aaron Nola in Game two and five RBIs (Runs Batted In) from second baseman Bryson Scott across the entire series played pivotal roles in this success.

Moving into the Division Series (DS), underdogs continued to provide unexpected upsets.

The Texas Rangers were on a roll, sweeping the 100-win Baltimore Orioles. With this victory, the final

AL East team was eliminated. The Orioles' fourth loss was history-making, admittedly for all the wrong reasons, as it marked the seventh straight loss by an AL East team this postseason, the longest such streak in a single postseason. This fact is made all the more surprising considering the AL

same fate? Of course not. The Astros have made the postseason every year since 2017, and, even more impressively, they've gone to the ALCS (American League Championship Series) every year since 2017. They aren't breaking their streak now. They finished the Twins with a score of 3-2



PheobeRayner'27/THELAWRENCE

East had the best record in the MLB this year with a combined 449-361 record.

The Diamondbacks continued to deftly defeat their opponents, as they swept the Los Angeles Dodgers, another 100-win team. It's a surprise to see a team with a payroll less than half that of their opponents come out on top.

In a similar fashion, the Atlanta Braves, who won the NL East off the back of a 100-win team, lost in four games to the division rival Philadelphia Phillies, who themselves were a 90-win squad. In Game Four, Castellanos became the first player in MLB history to record consecutive multi-home run postseason games, powering the Phillies to an NLDS-clinching 3-1 victory.

Did the other division winner, the Houston Astros, suffer the

in Game four, with help from a Jose Abreu two-run homer in the fourth inning.

ALCS (American League Championship Series) and NLCS (National Championship Series) always produce exciting matchups, and this year is no different.

In the Texan ALCS, the series went the distance with the Rangers dominating in Game seven, a score of 11-4 to knock the final division winner left standing in the playoffs and prevent Houston from reaching their third consecutive World Series.

The NLDS left us with two of the three lowest-seeded NL playoff teams facing each other for the pennant chase in the NLCS. Phillies outfielder Kyle Schwarber made history, tying Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson for the most home

runs ever hit by a left-handed batter in playoff history (18). His efforts were in vain, as the Diamondbacks won 4-2 in the pivotal Game seven in order to move on to the next round.

As this year's baseball postseason unfolds, it leaves us with numerous questions. Why are 100-win teams getting swept? What's the secret to getting hot at the right time? Does a high payroll ensure success? Will Arizona prove that regular-season records mean nothing? Can Texas win their first World Series? We'll have to wait and see!

Bringing F1 to The American Audience

LINLEY FLETCHER '26

Formula One (F1) is the world's most popular motorsporting organization, with races taking place in over 14 countries across 4 continents across the world. Each race is viewed by millions of people globally, but in the United States F1 is greatly overshadowed by most other Major League sports, such as the National Basketball Association (NBA), National Hockey League (NHL), and Major League Baseball (MLB). The United States also has its own, more popular motorsport organization, NASCAR, so why would there be any reason to pay any attention to F1 as an American?

For one, F1 is in the process of increasing American appeal towards F1. Since Liberty Media's purchase of F1 in 2018, viewership has greatly increased within the United States from around 500,000 viewers to 1.4 million per race. Additionally, three of this season's Grands Prix take place in American cities: Miami, Austin, and the new street circuit in Las Vegas scheduled later this year. One team, Moneygram Haas, is based in the States, and the current F1 grid has one American driver, Logan Sargeant, who scored points at this past weekend's United States

Grand Prix in Austin.

In 2019, F1 also created a docuseries on Netflix called *Drive to Survive*. Though the series tends to exaggerate the drama between drivers and teams, it is a great watch for anyone who wants to understand the general premise of F1 racing. *Drive to Survive* has greatly aided the increase of F1 viewership in the United States. When season four of *Drive to Survive* was released, it became the most-watched show on Netflix in 33 countries, including the United States. In fact, *The New York Times* reported that more than one-third of last year's spectators at the Austin Grand Prix listed *Drive to Survive* as their reason for attending.

Furthermore, American viewership of competing motorsport organizations, such as NASCAR, are stagnating. On the other hand, F1's American viewership is only going up. Many NASCAR races have seen minimal increase in viewership, such as the Kansas Cup Series only having a 0.01 percent viewership increase. Alternatively F1 has been setting new viewership milestones, with 2022's Miami race garnering a record breaking 2.6 million viewers. F1 also upholds a reputation of elegance, with the organization calling themselves "the pinnacle of motorsport," whereas NASCAR is often regarded as a tougher motorsport. F1 also maintains an advantage over NASCAR in the fact that F1 is internationally prestigious and by far the more popular motorsport worldwide. Additionally, NASCAR's attempts to broaden its appeal in a similar manner to F1 proved ineffective, as they were reprimanded for alienating their main fandom. By trying to broaden their appeal, NASCAR seems to have lost consistent viewers in the United States, whereas the number of consistent F1 viewers in the United States continues to rise. All in all, F1 is still up and coming in the United States, and it should be something to look out for in the future if you are not a fan already.

"Half The Board" Board Picks

	Jackie Williams Co-Features Editor	Bryan Boanoh Sports Editor	Luke Park Managing Editor	Sofia Carlisl Arts Editor	Nichole Jin Co-News Editor	Garrett Heffern Opinions Editor	Cindy Shum Photos Editor	Emily Pan Graphics Editor
weirdest thing you've overheard in the office	"bring back bazing"	I'm too busy getting pages in late to listen to people	"I'm sick of men being objectified in this culture. When will this matriarchal culture end?"	we only communicate through morse code	Probably Bonilla talking about Freud. Or some of bryan's one liners	Bryan Boanoh	Nichole commenting on Bryan's calves	"i need you to feel my butt i need to know if it's hard or soft"
who's the most tyrannical/authoritarian member of The Lawrence?	William Wang	We run a fair democracy	Anyone asking for snacks	Garrett	William Wang	Tyrants? In The Lawrence?	Sofia Bonilla and her board picks	will wang
who on the board is most likely to come late to office hours?	Me	Everyone	Bryan but he's still the goat	Will O'Reilly	Cindy	Nichole	like everybody other than luke	great question!
favorite song to hear will wang aux?	Any Taylor swift song ever	The Cupid One	Silence	I like it when he beatboxes	Blank space by Taylor Swift	Lalaland Theme	Let it go	from the start by laufe OR super shy by new jeans (its so will-coded)
anything else that's funny?	No	I mean probably	Not me lol	climate change	The meat sticks.	There must have been, right?	the 143rd quote board without context is so dangerous	sofia thinking ill answer these board pick's question on time