



Andrew Boanoh '23 Elected School President



2023 Student Body President-Elect Andrew Boanoh '23

NICHOLE JIN '24

This past Wednesday, the Lawrenceville community voted for its next School President: Andrew Boanoh '23. In his platform, Boanoh presented initiatives and adjustments directed towards improving all aspects of Lawrenceville student life—academic, social, and co-curricular.

In terms of social life, a notable part of Boanoh's platform was his proposal for the establishment of an on-campus social center specifically tailored to the student body. Additionally, rather than just having a Hill Day as in previous years, Boanoh brought up the idea of a Hill Week, which would be entirely dedicated to increasing school spirit, organizing social gatherings, and preparing for the big day. Another strategy to boost school spirit was to have House Olympics in both the fall and the spring.

From an academic standpoint, Boanoh advocated for extending the amount of time in the evening that students have access to WiFi and proposed that College Counseling begin reaching out to IV Formers starting in the Fall Term rather than the Winter Term.

Of course, with all the different ideas on his platform, Boanoh plans to prioritize a few goals. He feels that one of the most crucial aspects of his platform and his most urgent initiative to start working on is to create a designated student center

in the new Tsai Field House. "It is the number one thing that I think people unanimously agree on... We don't have a lot of free time here, and I want to create a place for people to just chill," he said. He also wants to implement over the summer a Spring Term House Olympics over the summer so that people can "have something to look forward to" upon their return next year. Additionally, Boanoh wants to work on reforming the current visitation system, an idea not specified on his platform. "You have to go through a long, laborious process to go to a friend's room... there is room for Lawrenceville to trust us more with [what] we do behind closed doors," he said.

To facilitate more effective communication between the administration and the student body, Boanoh plans to hold Town Hall meetings once every term so students can voice their concerns and share their ideas. He also understands the importance of having productive and engaging conversations to create meaningful change, leading him to include the restructuring of Big Red Conversation Groups in his campaign.

Boanoh initially decided to run for president because of his love for the school. "I remember walking into Raymond [House] my [II Form] year, and the moment I saw all these people around me, I knew I liked this place," he said. Since then, Boanoh has spent a lot of time pondering how Lawrenceville can be improved to be a better school environment

for both students and faculty. With "so much going on between the students and administration" this year, he felt especially motivated to run for School President and be able to play a role in enacting the change that people had been discussing.

Boanoh said that his favorite part of campaigning and the election was the speeches. "I really liked getting up there, and even if I didn't end up winning the presidency, I was so glad to be able to get up in front of all those people and speak my mind," he said. After communicating with a variety of different students and faculty members on the changes they would like to see at school, Boanoh came up with a platform he felt encapsulated the most important aspects of life at Lawrenceville and highlighted areas that most needed change. "It's one thing to get ideas from your own head and put them down—I'm not representing me, I'm representing Lawrenceville"

Upon finding out he had won the election, Boanoh felt both thrilled and nervous. "I'm excited to get to work, but I'm a little bit nervous about what's to come," he said. With so many ideas as well as Vice President elections on his agenda, he wants to start working immediately to implement his ideas as soon as possible. Boanoh concluded, "I know it's going to be a long year ahead, but I'm excited to take on the challenge."

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

This is Not a Drill: Bomb Threat 2.0

ARYA SREEDHAR '24

It was April 18, 2022. During B period, all phones across Lawrenceville's campus and beyond began buzzing with messages, emails, calls, and voicemails issuing a campus-wide Shelter-in-Place order. Students and faculty were caught by surprise with the following words stating that the order was not a drill.

After receiving the notifications, Lawrentians were on edge, worrying about the situation, but teachers were assured it was not incredibly serious. Math teacher and former Dean of Students Nancy Thomas H'01 P'04'07 said, "I was not too concerned about the alarm because it was not an active shooter order. I knew that because the email specified that the alarm was a shelter in place, and so at that point, I felt that we, being in this classroom, were safe."

After the Shelter-in-Place was ordered, Dean of Students Devondra McMillan informed the community of a bomb threat the school received. Eric Suh '22 noted, "A lot of the people in my form were here for the first bomb threat, which happened our II Form year, so nobody really took it seriously." During the first bomb threat in Suh's II Form year, students had to walk from Lawrenceville to Bristol Myers Squibb. This year, Lawrentians remained on campus. However, Lawrentians like Jalen Lespinasse '23 were initially thinking, "I saw [that the email] said that this is not a drill. So I was thinking, 'What in the world? What is about to go down? Why is this not a drill? Are we about to blow up?'"

In the Bath House, Deb Milaresis witnessed the event occurring through the windows. She said, "My main concern is always how I can help protect the students and my coworkers around me should

there ever be an emergency on campus."

After the commotion in the classroom had settled down, Thomas shared, "I believe in taking advantage of every opportunity, and so it was a good opportunity to help [my B period students] stay focused and use this time wisely."

However, some were not so fortunate to have adult supervision during the Shelter-in Place order. Delaney Musgrave '22 remarked, "I was the only one in the House, and McClellan is closest to the [Health Center], so my mom was a little spooked. She was freaking out about it. But the email that [McMillan] sent about the threat not being credible made me feel a little better." To make the most of the moment, Musgrave decided to designate herself as the scribe for the Student Council and McClellan House, documenting the event up close through the McClellan House windows.

Although there was much worry among students and parents, there were also fun and games. Lespinasse said, "I started an Instagram live during the entire situation, so I documented it. There [were] a lot of Lawrentians joining and commenting." In the Noyes History Center, Suh said, "Once my classmates and I figured out that it was at the Al Rashid Health Center, we started goofing off. For example, we started drawing on the boards, playing card games, and singing karaoke."

Because Lawrenceville's administration had previously planned drills in the fall to better prepare students and faculty for situations like this, all students and faculty agreed that the administration handled the situation extremely well, with many commending the clear communication between administration and the community.



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

Catholicism, Joy, and Easter Eggs

Alice Kizilbash '25 explores the progression of her relationship with family and religion throughout her life.



Senior of the Week: Makysm Bondarenko

Creator of a Ukrainian Grammarly, Bondarenko is *The Lawrence's* Senior of the Week.



State of the School Survey

Fill out the State of the ESA survey, a short and completely anonymous questionnaire of campus life.





THE LAWRENCE

Class of 1968 Fund in Honor of Edward A. Robbins H'68 '69 '71 - Nicholas G. Ifft '44 Fund
- The Princeton Packet Fund (Denise L. and James B. Kilgore '66) - Michael S. Chae '86

Autri B. Basu
Editor-in-Chief

Kyle Park
Managing Editor

Yewon Chang
Iris Wu
Opinions Editors

Andrew P. Boanoh
Sports Editor

Kelly Lu
Arts Editor

Adi Jung
Emma Kim
Features Editors

Claire Jiang
Copy Editor

Luke Park
Copy Editor

Sally Lee
Noah Trupin
Web Editors

Cindy Shum
Photo Editor

Stephanie Xu
Graphics Editor

Grant Shueh
Associate Editor

Faculty Advisors

Mrs. Elizabeth Buckles

Ms. Margaret Ray

The Lawrence, the weekly newspaper of The Lawrenceville School, is published during the school year except for the periods of Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks, by the students of The Lawrenceville School, 2500 Main Street, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648, with offices in room 027 of Father's Building.

Typesetting and layout is by the students of The Lawrenceville School. Printing is by Epoch Press, Inc. Opinions expressed on the Opinions pages do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Lawrenceville School or The Lawrence. The Lawrence reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and opinions.

Readers interested in subscribing to The Lawrence should contact the Editor-in-Chief at abasu23@lawrenceville.org. Letters to the editor should be mailed to the address above with C/O Elizabeth Buckles or emailed to lvllawrence@gmail.com. The Lawrence may be accessed online at thelawrence.lawrenceville.org

CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at kpark23@lawrenceville.org.

Photo of the Week (Greenery) Claire Jiang '24



Editorial A Very Lawrence Love Letter to the Easter Bunny

Santa Claus: a child-stalking hardline moralist. The Tooth Fairy: a trespassing home invader who frequents the rooms of unconscious minors. Adults force a multitude of collective delusions onto little kids (including me). Only in retrospect can I understand the eeriness of these fictions.

In the spirit of the season, I would like to recognize the one folkloric childhood character whom I still respect: The Easter Bunny. I mean, what can you hate about a rabbit who runs around distributing candy? Sure, the original German Lutheran version of the Easter Bunny only gave candy to those it deemed "well-behaved," but I would rather a bunny judge my character than some old man already driven halfway to insanity by his insular life in the North Pole.

I'll admit, I never gave the Easter Bunny much thought before this term. My preoccupation with the concept of this mythological hare is a recent development. After attending Reverend Morrow's Good Friday service and watching my siblings scamper about in an Easter egg hunt, my weekend was overtaken by Easter-induced joy. Then I saw him. With his hideously long teeth bared in a heavenly smile, I saw an artistic rendering of the Easter bunny on my Instagram feed. Some ineffable feeling overcame me.

In Christian doctrine, the transcendent appears before humanity as the "mysterium tremendum et fascinans"—the awe-inspiring mystery that inspires fascination and religious fear. That concept comes closest to describing my feeling upon gazing at this distant rodent-cousin. I realized, as if struck by a religious epiphany, that the Easter

Bunny parallels our relationship with the Lawrenceville School.

British folklorist Christina Hole wrote, "The hare was the sacred beast of Easte, a Saxon goddess of Spring and of the dawn." How fitting for this moment. Spring and dawn commonly symbolize renewal, and spring in particular often symbolizes Messianic resurrection. Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus.

In this week's school meeting presidential speeches, both candidates promised sweeping change and a resurrection of pre-Covid Lawrenceville. Newly elected School President Andrew Boanoh '23 emphasized that Lawrenceville faces a critical juncture as we return to post-pandemic life. In particular, he emphasized the importance of our first day back at Lawrenceville, the day in which the "resurrection" of Lawrenceville begins. He plans to messianically usher in a rebirth—much like the Easter Bunny.

The Bible did not initially include the Easter Bunny as part of the Easter holiday; there is no folkloric rabbit to be found in the Bible. Instead, the Easter Bunny we know today originated from an intersection of German Lutheran, Pagan, and American influences—diverse forces intersecting to inform a single magnificent cultural icon. Andrew "Easter Bunny" Boanoh likewise has no precedent for leading our next year at Lawrenceville—never has Lawrenceville had to recover from a pandemic. Andrew described how the most important trait of a leader was the "ability to listen." He has no traditional rulebook to follow; instead, outside, novel sources (the student body) must come together to inform his vision for a new Lawrenceville. Together, as a student body and a Messianic Easter Bunny leader, we must shape our vision of Lawrenceville's

resurrection.

In his article "Beware the Easter Bunny," Charles Colson, former Special Counsel to President Richard Nixon, claimed that the Easter Bunny was a catalyst for the demise of Christianity. The "fluff" of the Easter Bunny would distract children from the true Christian origins of the holiday. Children would fail to reaffirm their faith. Likewise, naysayers opposed to Lawrenceville's resurrection may question sweeping changes and departures from tradition. "Lawrentians traditionally need no social life! Lawrentians have always had Saturday classes! Lawrentians need five hours of homework per night!"

Students of Lawrenceville, heed not the Charles Colsons of our world. Charles Colson pled guilty to obstruction of justice and was incarcerated for his involvement in Watergate. Obviously, he's not a trustworthy man. Those who insist that tradition and change are incompatible fail to understand that the Easter Bunny and Jesus do not play a zero-sum game for attention—rest assured, I love both Jesus and the Easter Bunny. The old and the new can coexist; even further, they can work hand in hand. During this spring and the upcoming school year, we can work to drastically improve post-pandemic school life while preserving the essence of Lawrenceville.

As our upcoming student leader of The Lawrenceville School has said, Lawrenceville has reached a critical juncture. In spring, the season of returning life, the first maskless term, the proof of our upward academic trajectories, we have a chance for renewal.

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

Joyous, Joyous Days!

Loving Religion From A Non-Religious Perspective.

ALICE KIZILBASH '25

It's the morning of Christmas Eve, and the smell of Bisquick waffles rises up the staircase to gradually wake each of my family members. Bursting with excitement for the yearly holiday traditions to commence, we all venture down to the freezing first-floor kitchen. After we eat breakfast together, distant relatives begin to flood into the room. I don't even know some of their names; others, I haven't seen

I was seeking happiness in religion, but it was my being with my family during Catholic practices, not my devotion to God, that brought me joy.

since I was a baby. Yet I talk with them for hours and hours until the end of the night, when the children all gather and open their presents. Then people start to leave in large groups, giving us hugs that will have to suffice until next year. After the remaining group of adults have departed for Midnight Mass, my brother and I spend the rest of the night with my grandfather eating mountains of junk food. As I go to bed basking in the joy of being with family, I finally realize why

I love the holidays so much: they uphold long-lasting traditions that bring me closer to my family and give me pure, simple joy every year.

My parents had always raised me to figure out a unique and enjoyable way of practicing religion. Some trial and error followed. For one, there was the brief period in which I practiced religion more "traditionally." I planned to attend an all-girls Catholic middle school and tried to make a habit out of studying Bible passages until I realized that those customs didn't really interest me in the first place. I was seeking happiness in religion, but it was my being with my family during Catholic practices, not my devotion to God, that brought me joy.

Even though I've begun to identify as agnostic since that period, the traditions and close relationships that religion fostered continue to entice me. My favorite part of the various holidays my family and I celebrate would have to be the buffet-style dinners, held in a big dining room table filled with every single traditional family recipe that you can imagine. Yet it was the close, tight-knit dinner atmosphere that brought so much excitement to my family. Sure, we would say grace

before we ate and acknowledge the fact that "we're all here thanks to God," but the very core of these religious sayings consisted of our appreciation of being around one another,



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

together. I could never wipe the smile off my face; being with my family made me feel warm inside, like I was in a constant hug. This feeling was my unique form of happiness, and I only truly felt it in the rare moments in which my family, who I don't see all together very often, gathered in full over these holidays. In short, the environment that the holiday dining room table creates is the very part of religion that matters

to me the most.

Yet it was when the Covid-19 pandemic came into the picture that I understood the necessity of this holiday joy in my life. Quarantine and social distancing measures prevented my family from getting together for the holidays. During Easter of 2020, I could already feel the emotional and physical distance widening between me and my relatives. There was no Easter egg hunt with all of our grandparents filming (or more so making fun of us), and there was no big Easter dinner with roasted ham, carrots, potatoes and popovers. We called our relatives over the

Despite the few bumps along the way, I've loved my journey with religion. It not only allowed me to prioritize and build my

Sure, we would say grace before we ate and acknowledge the fact that "we're all here thanks to God," but the very core of these religious sayings consisted of our appreciation of being around one another, all together.

relationships with my family—ones that bring both me and my relatives the visible, pure happiness of being together—but also appreciate the versatility of religious holidays themselves. We all attach different significance to these holidays, but we are unified in that we enjoy them together, no matter the main reason why we celebrate them in the first place. Every holiday is like one, joyful family gathering; everyone's experiences with religion will be different, but at the end of the day, brings us some warmth and joy that we can bask in.

It's Time to Talk About...

The Prep of Privilege: The SSAT Fallacy

SABRINA OTTAWAY '25

After the Covid-19 outbreak, many secondary schools followed in the footsteps of colleges and universities to institute test-optional policies for their 2021-22 admissions cycles. Consequently, Lawrenceville's Class of 2025 was the first in recent history to be exempt from submitting standardized test scores. Yet the response to this change in policy did not spark the heated dialogue that the optionality of the SAT and ACT did in 2020; despite the SSAT and ISEE's resemblance to those tests, not many educators or experts mused about the true significance of standardized testing in high school admissions. This dialogue, however, is long overdue.

I have always had a rather complicated relationship with the SSAT. During seventh grade, I prepared to take the test in order to apply to junior boarding schools and quickly became consumed by the process. Determined to help me achieve a "good score," my family took on both temporal and financial burdens to allow me to attend an expensive, two-hour-trip-away tutoring service every Saturday and Sunday. Two years later, when I returned to take the SSAT for my applications to secondary schools, my ambivalence towards the test only grew. As I poured hours and hours of work into tutoring sessions, I began to feel as though the SSAT didn't reflect my ability to apply

the actual knowledge and skills that I developed at school, but rather my ability to draw upon memorization habits and test-taking strategies that tutoring services instilled in me. Simply put, I felt as though the SSAT served more as a measure of how privileged an applicant's test preparation period was rather than of their academic ability.

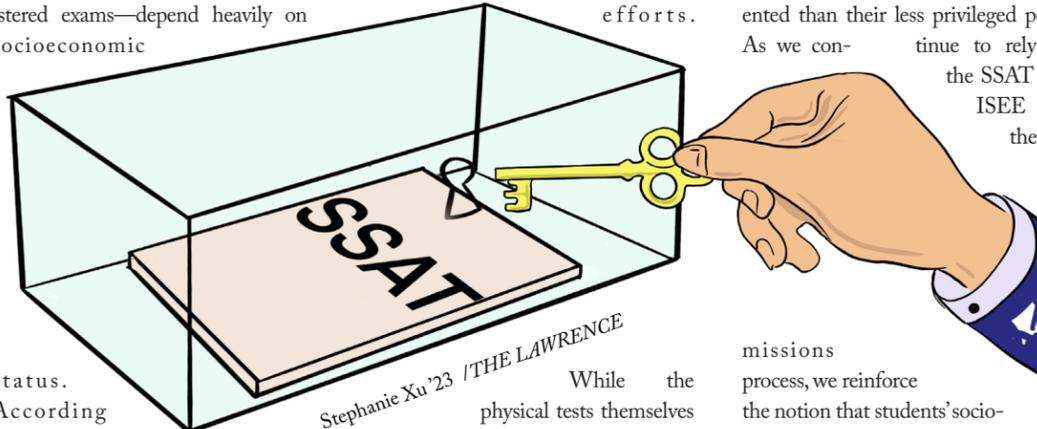
My middle-school suspicions, however, are far from revolutionary. Various studies have already illuminated that high scores on any standardized test—whether it be the SAT or state-administered exams—depend heavily on socioeconomic

tests, and one-on-one tutoring will be far more prepared for standardized tests than the students who cannot. Meanwhile, a 2013 Teachers College Record report found that students residing in "wealthier" suburbs of Boston had a "significant" advantage over their peers who lived in lower-income urban neighborhoods. Again, students who have access to well-funded, high-quality public or private schools will only further their advantage by having a comprehensive and rigorous education as a base for their preparation efforts.

admissions. When schools uphold the SSAT as a measure of academic aptitude, prospective students and their families begin to internalize that belief. Those who earn higher scores easily win the image of intelligence and talent; those who receive lower scores will not. When we fail to acknowledge how disparities in students' access to preparatory resources and baseline education affect these scores, we unconsciously push forward the false narrative that more privileged students are more inclined to be more intelligent and talented than their less privileged peers. As we continue to rely on the SSAT and ISEE in the ad-

venues other than standardized tests;

While the physical tests themselves are technically standardized, the playing field of the tests are far from standardized; high-income students have the privilege to propel themselves to the top, while low-income students are left at the bottom.



status. According to a 2014 investigation by *The Washington Post*, students with annual family incomes greater than \$200,000 averaged an SAT score of 1714 out of 2400, while students with annual family incomes less than \$20,000 averaged a score of 1326. These findings aren't exactly shocking; it's logical that students able to afford preparation books, practice

While the physical tests themselves are technically standardized, the playing field of the tests are far from standardized; high-income students have the privilege to propel themselves to the top, while low-income students are left at the bottom.

Yet the implications of this relationship between standardized test scores and socioeconomic privilege go far beyond the territory of preparatory school

missions process, we reinforce the notion that students' socioeconomic advantages matter far more than their personal traits and work ethic.

That being said, there exists a simple solution to this problem: preparatory schools' admissions teams, such as that of Lawrenceville, should make their test-optional policies permanent. Students are more than capable of demonstrating their academic ability through

even a mere sample essay or project would be a far more holistic reflection of one's academic potential. Even more importantly, a test-optional policy would curb our inclination to associate intelligence and academic interest with privilege. It would allow Lawrenceville to dismantle an unconscious but nonetheless deeply entrenched system of prioritizing students' socioeconomic status over their ability to succeed in the academic environment in which they work. With a more equitable admissions process, Lawrenceville will be able to construct a more equitable school and students will finally be free from the shackles of standardized testing.

When Politically Correct Isn't Quite Correct

HELEN LIU '22
CO-OPINIONS EDITOR OF THE
141ST BOARD

As an Asian-American, I consider myself fortunate to be living in a time and community where inclusivity is an accepted norm. At Lawrenceville, faculty and students alike strive to create an environment with the intent of supporting and involving everybody regardless of their identities. While created with benevolent intentions, this environment also fosters a certain expectation of speech that discourages students, especially those unfamiliar with such standards, from expressing themselves. While Lawrenceville's standards of inclusivity help create an environment where bigotry is unacceptable, they ultimately breed even more disconnection by discouraging genuine dialogue on campus surrounding such issues.

While Lawrenceville's standards of inclusivity help create an environment where bigotry is unacceptable, they ultimately breed even more disconnection by discouraging genuine dialogue on campus surrounding such issues.

Political correctness, or PC for short, is defined as "the avoidance of

forms of expression or action that are perceived to exclude, marginalize, or insult groups of people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against." The term was originally used to describe peoples' use of inclusive language in order to avoid offense. In theory, PC culture intends to help facilitate dialogue, allowing people to communicate regardless of their differences by signaling sincere respect.

However, the concept of PC has been heavily misconstrued. Despite intending to en-

force respect through the use of inclusive language, PC has evolved in recent years into a practice that strictly enforces specific political beliefs, particularly liberal stances. These positions have become the standard set of "right answers," ironically stifling a culture of acceptance and diversity. When we glorify a certain set of beliefs, we also halt all productive conversation around them. Discussions are shut down, because after all, why should we debate an accepted truth?

Even if people disagree with these

popular opinions, few are willing to risk the backlash that they would face if they were to speak up. Those who oppose affirmative action or support the anti-abortion movement rarely speak out in fear of being immediately labeled as racists and sexists, even if they do believe in racial and gender equality. The pressure to adhere to PC culture is enormous; we condemn nonbelievers as if they are morally skewed bigots. We are

Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

We are exceedingly careful to maintain this delicate, all-inclusive, all-positive community framework; so much so that anybody who even questions PC beliefs is deemed unacceptable and evil.

exceedingly careful to maintain this delicate, all-inclusive, all-positive community framework; so much so that anybody who even questions PC beliefs is deemed unacceptable and evil.

What we need to realize is that questioning a belief does not necessarily indicate opposition. In fact, questioning a position is crucial to building a holistic and foundational understanding of any issue. In Lawrenceville's attempts to promote respect and inclusivity, the School

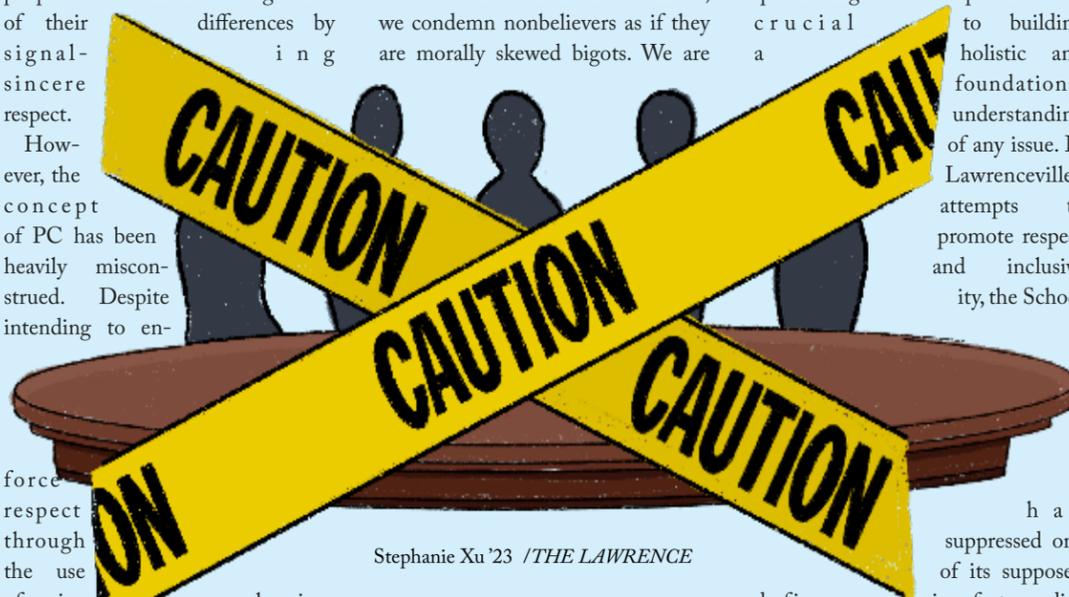
has suppressed one of its supposed defining factors: dialogue. Without disagreements, there is no dialogue and with no dialogue, the Harkness method is nothing but a façade. Imposing a specific set of beliefs goes against everything Lawrenceville stands for; it's hypocritical. When we protest against oppression and how society clamps down our voices, we fail to notice others in this community who find it difficult to raise their "politically incorrect" voices. Although their ideals may be completely different from ours, shutting out their voices

Unless Lawrenceville helps foster an environment where debate and contradictions are encouraged, we will not be prepared to defend our stances outside of campus.

simply because they do not conform to our norms is in no way constructive. This form of PC becomes just as restrictive to dialogue as the usage of derogatory terms does.

People have different opinions. They always have and always will. Whatever single-minded utopian bubble Lawrenceville creates for us will pop once we graduate. Once we are thrust into society, how will we be able to converse with those we disagree with? Unless Lawrenceville helps foster an environment where debate and contradictions are encouraged, we will not be prepared to defend our stances outside of campus.

I do not condone bigotry. There are people who mock the concept of political correctness to downplay discriminatory behavior against disadvantaged groups, and I do not condone those acts. I do, however, hope for more open and honest debate. As long as it is held with dignity and respect for each other, I believe that we can only benefit from such conversation.



Programming Club Represents Lawrenceville at Hackathon

HELENA CHEN '24

This past April, members of Lawrenceville's Programming Club went to The Hun School of Princeton to attend the 2022 MEGA Hackathon. Students worked either individually or in groups to fulfill the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2022 MEGA Hackathon is an annual competition where students work on a topic of interest and submit a project within a span of 24 hours. There were both in-person and online workshops designed to assist students of all experiences in creating their final projects. Various forms of submissions are allowed in the competition, including apps and business plans; the variety of formats permits many students to participate in the competition. The MEGA Hackathon serves as a platform that encourages students to brainstorm great ideas in order to create projects that will benefit the greater world. No prior preparation is required due to workshops held before the Hackathon; these workshops provide students with a solid foundation on topics such as web development, app development, and machine learning before they start creating their project.

Vice President of the Programming Club Sally Lee '23, who was also one of the main



Students at The Hun School of Princeton for Hackathon

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

organizers of the event, said, "We got a chance to connect with the other student organizers of the schools in attendance." Furthermore, Lee explained that the Hackathon was a great opportunity for those interested in the field of computer science—even beginners who have never coded before. "[The] Hackathon is a really valuable opportunity because there are so many students that share the programming interests there, and we all had the chance to ask for advice from

each other. Even though it's a competition, students were very cooperative during the Hackathon!" Lee said. By the end of the competition, there were more than 50 project submissions.

Lee emphasized the large amount of preparation needed to host the event and how it taught her the importance of collaboration. In organizing the mobilization of people from Lawrenceville to Hun, including transportation and the accommodations of an overnight

trip, she "learned the importance of collaborating with other people to host big events like this, because such tasks can't be accomplished individually." Lee enjoyed the experience and was thrilled to see new students learning about programming through the competition. Lee plans to host more Hackathons later in the year. In addition, she is planning on hosting other in-person events that require more intensive programming skills so that experienced students can have an opportunity to engage

as well.

Reflecting on the event, attendee MyAnh Hisaeda '24 said, "I've been interested in programming for a while, but I haven't really gotten the chance to actually learn it." With the encouragement of Lee and the workshops available to interested students, Hisaeda decided to participate in the Hackathon. "Since no one of my group knew how to code, we decided to work on a business plan, making a prototype using a specific app. Our goal was to help make education more accessible and convenient to the majority, so we designed the app so that students can match up with the best course that fits them," Hisaeda said.

The Hackathon seeks to inspire students to pursue programming even after the competition. Lee said, "While there are really not many people who are interested in such an intimidating subject like coding, I hope that [the] Hackathon can help encourage and give more opportunities for passionate students to develop and apply their skills in this area." Fortunately, the Hackathon's success is apparent in students like Hisaeda. "After [attending] this event, I found JavaScript very interesting." Hisaeda concluded, "I'm looking forward to starting to learn this new coding language."

Dancers Step Up to the Barre with Philadelphia Ballet Professionals

OLEKSANDR MYKHANTSO '23

On Friday, April 8, Lawrentians who were a part of the Lawrenceville School Dance Collective (LSDC) and Advanced Lifetime Dance got an opportunity to join a ballet master class taught by Philadelphia Ballet students and Demi Soloist Pau Pujol. The ballet class is the second event of Lawrenceville and the Philadelphia Ballet's partnership established by Director of Dance Derrick Wilder.

Back in December, selected student dancers went to the Academy of Music, where they watched the production of Balanchine's *Nutcracker* and afterwards conversed with the principal dancers of the ballet.

Although Lawrenceville dancers were nervous to perform in front of professional dancers, they were also excited to learn from such competent and skilled dancers. President of the En Corps Council Elizabeth Pierre-Louis '22 said, "I was so excited, but I also knew it was going to be challenging in the best way possible after seeing *Nutcracker*."

Lawrenceville Dance Team (LDT) and LKR3W member Yee Xin Cher '22 agreed, say-



Dancers with Philadelphia Ballet Demi-Soloist Pau Pujol

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

ing that she "was a bit nervous since [she] didn't know what to expect but didn't...worry about feeling embarrassed or shy since [she] was surrounded by many supportive friends."

Despite her initial concerns, Cher shared that the masterclass was about "the same difficulty level as the regular ballet classes [and she] could feel the focus in the room, [which] was much more intense because students wanted to make

the most of the opportunity and push [themselves]."

Pierre-Louis added that even the "simple things [she] thought [she] knew how to do perfectly, like tendus, still had room for improvement and extension."

LDT and Tour de Force member Maansi Sharan '24 found the presence of two Philadelphia ballet students to be a great advantage. "They were really amazing, and I

enjoyed learning from them how to perfect certain steps and overall technique," Sharan said.

Looking back at their experience of dancing in the same room as ballet professionals, all of the Lawrentians left with extremely positive impressions and motivation to continue improving. Among the many things she took away from the masterclass, Cher believed the most important thing is

that "we must treat times at [dance] class with the same focus and energy as when we are on stage because it is only through practicing posture and facial expressions or pushing our legs and jumps to go higher that we can really improve our dance technique and performance quality."

Reflecting on the partnership between Lawrenceville and Philadelphia Ballet, Sharan said, "It's definitely a positive influence. Having such role models who dedicate their whole life and career to professional dance in front of us will definitely inspire us to continue following our passion."

After finishing both the barre and center parts of the master class, LSDC gave Philadelphia a sneak peek of its full company dance, a throwback to Wilder's dancing origins. After practicing for a long time, the dancers put on a great performance that received a huge round of applause from their peers and guests alike.

The April Dance Series on April 30 will also feature this dance and many others. Come and support all of the incredibly talented and hard-working dancers of Lawrenceville!

Roeckle's Swan Song: The Spring Orchestra Concert

OLEKSANDR MYKHANTSO '23

Last Thursday, April 14, the Lawrenceville community was treated to its very first unmasked in-person orchestra concert since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Taking place right after a severe storm, the concert still managed to have full seats in the chapel while a rainbow shined above campus. A total of five large instrumental pieces were played by campus orchestra groups: the first three by Collegium Lawrenceville, and the final two by Lawrenceville Philharmonic, both of which are the school's primary orchestral groups.

As a person fortunate enough to attend the concert, I was absolutely blown away by the beauty of every single piece. Though I initially intended to go get Purple Cow ice cream instead of the event, I have zero regrets about going to the orchestra. The music played that night gave me something better than ice cream—food for the soul and thought. For me, the most memorable piece was probably the last one: Chorale and Shaker Dance composed by John Zdechlik and re-arranged by Director of Instrumental Studies Keith Roeckle. Roeckle began working on the arrangement before the pandemic in February 2020. "The piece itself is a standard of band works. However, I've looked around, and I found no orchestra arrangement of it. So I wrote to the publisher and asked if I could do that," he explained.

All of the pieces were performed seamlessly, attesting to the tremendous amount of practice that happened before the concert. Each orchestra collective began rehearsing weekly after the winter break in hour-and-a-half sessions. Sydney Jackson '24, a clarinet player for the Lawrenceville Philharmonic, described each rehearsal as "very productive, where [they] took apart the sections of every piece little by little." Despite the general busyness of everyone at Lawrenceville, "everybody was always on the same



The Spring Orchestra Concert

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

page, wanting to get this and that done," Roeckle shared.

As an audience member, I could not help but wonder how each performer felt under the spotlight in the middle of the Edith Memorial Chapel. Praachi Chakraborty '23, bassist of the Collegium, shared her impressions: "I feel like there was a bit more pressure to do well this time. As a bassist on stage, it feels like everyone can see you, and every little mistake you make is on full display. At times like that, you really just have to trust your practice and hard work and play like it's just any other rehearsal." Frances Hsu '23, a viola player for the Collegium, agreed with Chakraborty, adding that "[she] really wanted to do well, as it is Roeckle's last performance before

he leaves."

Tiffany Wen '23, Collegium's flutist, said that she "noticed a lot of people tearing up or sniffing not only because the seniors with whom they rehearsed since freshman year were leaving, but it was also Roeckle's last concert here." Even though it was Roeckle's last concert on the Lawrenceville campus (at least for a while), he felt different from the students on the day of the performance. "During the concert, I was just focusing on how to get out there, do the best you can, and get everything done, but it's funny how I think only now it really hit me. It's a good thing it went so well—it was a good one to go out on," he disclosed.

Even though every Collegium and Lawrenceville

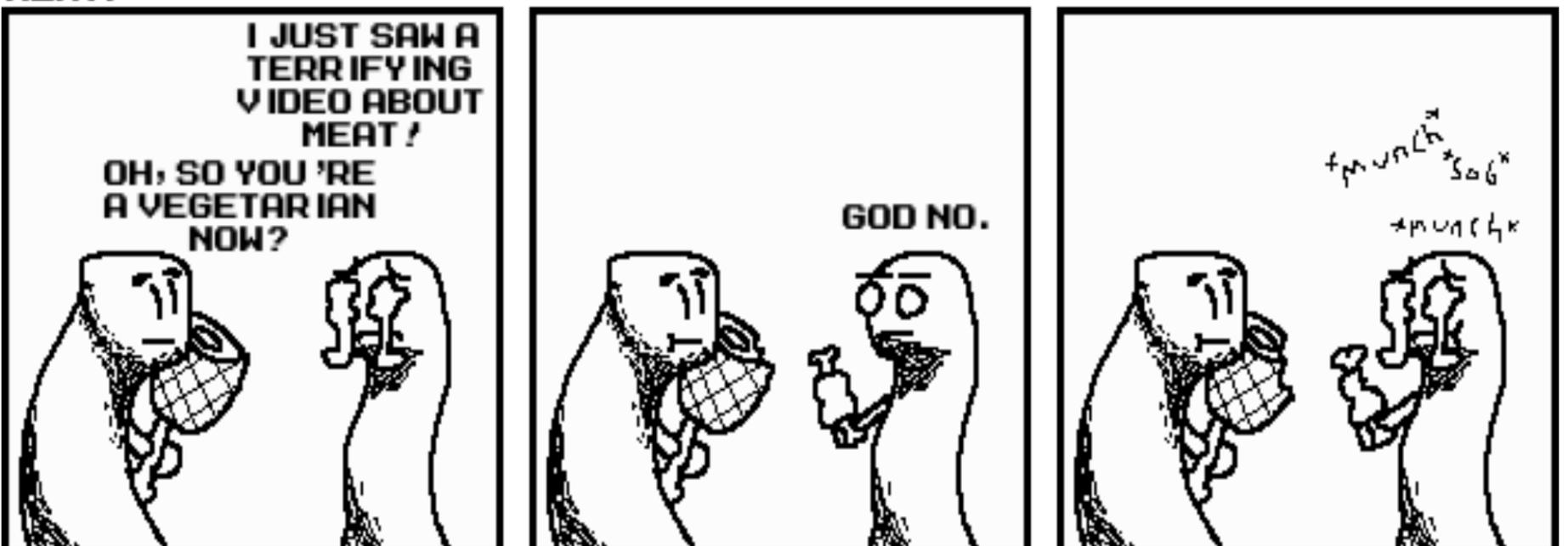
Philharmonic member, in one way or another, expressed sadness with their conductor leaving, they do not intend to halt their music careers now and are willing to continue bringing melodious masterpieces to the Lawrenceville community.

"Each conductor brings a different dynamic to the orchestra and I think Roeckle's leave will definitely change how the orchestra feels, but knowing the people in the orchestra will stay the same gives me reassurance that it will be just as fun in the future," noted Chakraborty. Wen, despite finding the change in conductors to be difficult, says that she is "excited to see what the new [II Form] class will bring to the orchestra next year and see how together [they] can shift and grow."

Reflecting on his past decade spent in Lawrenceville Performing Arts Department, Roeckle best describes it as "a rollercoaster, in a good way." When asked to offer a piece of advice for the current and forthcoming instrumentalists, without hesitation, Roeckle said that "It's never about who is in the front. It's about everybody, all 60 people in there who play, and it's about their relationship to the art that they create. That's the most important thing to remember, I think."

Since Roeckle is moving on from Lawrenceville to pursue his Ph.D., we all would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his tremendous contribution to Lawrenceville Performing Arts Department.

MEAT.



Comic strip by Zachary Kalafer '24

The Faces Behind Olla Podrida: Gage Urbach '22, Birney Sherard '22, & Tiffany Yeung '22

WILLIAM WANG '24

Down the staircase of Pop Hall is a room with 12 brightly colored iMacs, 48 members, a near 140-year-old tradition, and one goal: Producing the Olla Podrida (Olla Pod). Led by the three Editors-in-Chief, V Formers Birney Sherard, Gage Urbach, and Tiffany Yeung, the Olla Podrida documents each academic year through its seven sections: Senior Pages, Sports, Residential Life, Parent Advertisements, Faculty, Clubs, and Photos.

“Olla Podrida is a mix of everything on campus, from student life, sports, to faculty, all put together in one yearbook,” said Yeung. Originally focusing mainly on V Formers, the yearbook has expanded to include the entirety of campus in recent years. “The privilege of technology also enabled us to do a lot more,” added Sherard. According to her, one of Lawrenceville’s favorite parts of the yearbook are senior superlatives and signatures which “would have been impossible without the technology, computers, and software we have today.”

Each year, the Olla Pod decides on a theme, that defines the visual style of that year’s yearbook. “The word ‘theme’ is super misleading,” said Sherard. “For example, last year we had a very tangible theme. It was a scrapbook. Yet like many other years, this year isn’t as concrete, it’s more of a visual style.”

While deciding the theme for 2021-22, the club visited the Bunn Library during the Fall Term and compiled the elements into a master document. “We don’t have an exact theme. We are going for a clean and simplistic look throughout the entire book,” said Urbach.

The team puts hours of work into every detail, from the style of the page numbers to the color of the borders. All the minute details and stylistic elements “add to the style of the book,” said Sherard. Olla Pod’s

faculty advisor Pierre Sardain P’20 helps students with the layout and organization of the yearbook’s design. Sardain also teaches students how to work with InDesign, the software used to design the Olla Pod.

As the yearbook approaches its deadline on April 15, Olla Pod has been focusing more on formatting rather than producing content such as photos. The club takes photos of sports teams, faculty, and clubs beginning in the Fall Term, but the club’s office hours and designing begin in the Winter Term with nearly two hours devoted to design every weekday. “One year we had to stay until 9:00 AM. We didn’t stop working until school started. We were horrified,” said Sherard, “But thankfully it looks like that will not be a reality for us this year.” “[Although] the past few weeks we’ve been putting in a little more work than our scheduled office hours.”

Urbach sees the role of the Editors-in-Chief as “the umbrella over everyone else,” saying they help “whenever [they’re] needed.” The Editors-in-Chief focus on facilitation, whether that be contacting coaches for a photo or reviewing the work of team members in regards to roster or design constraints. The Editors-in-Chief emphasize both the sacrifices and rewarding work Olla Pod requires every year. “When people are hanging out in the library, it is hard to [go and work]. It’s our last year, that was our last winter with our friends,” said Sherard. Yet despite the time commitments, the club views their work as both rewarding and relaxing. “It becomes more of a routine than a tax. It doesn’t really feel like extra work. There’s food, we’re playing music, we’re having fun,” said Urbach.

The editors emphasized not only the relationships built between members of Olla Pod, but also the ones built through interact-



Olla Pod working hard!

Hadley Flanagan '22/THE LAWRENCE

ing and meeting students in different clubs. “We’ve all gotten so close at this point. The parent ads team is here every night...we’ve made so many unlikely friends,” said Sherard. “There’s a lot of people that I probably would never have talked to unless it was for Olla Pod, and now I’m sitting down with them at a desk talking to them for 20, 30 minutes, helping them work on a page,” Urbach added.

As April 15 comes and goes, the responsibilities of the 139th Olla Pod Board will begin. The 138th Olla Pod Board’s next focus is picking the candidates for the Editors-in-Chief position. Yeung stressed the importance of team members’ showing up to office hours. She notes, “It’d be super helpful for the EICs to know when a page is done and they can finalize it. It’d also be

fun to get to know the other teams.” While Olla Pod is a significant time commitment, the editors stress that divided among the many sections and 48 members, students are at most responsible for eight pages.

Olla Pod documents the legacy of the school year, continuing its near 140 year tradition. Urbach said, “We can control what our book looks like and how our year was remembered. We create a lasting impact that we can leave on campus life. That book will always be made by us.”

As the school year draws to a close and a new class of students enters, Yeung and the rest of the Olla Pod urge students “to notice and be grateful for all the different events and groups of people that defined this year at Lawrenceville.”

Lawrenceville Team Spirit: Psychs on Campus

JACKIE WILLIAMS '24

Girls' Varsity Soccer

While Lawrenceville’s Girls’ Varsity Soccer team has its own on-field game day traditions like warming up with a special game day ball or walking onto the field with their warm up partners, psychs also play a vital role in their traditions. Ranging from the simple but classic uniform red-out psych to the less common mix and match or blazer psychs, Alexis Tarumianz '22 said that the team always “goes hard with [its] psychs.” Tarumianz also mentioned two former players, Bella Ricardo '21 and Noelle Rustico '21, who wore “literally every accessory they could find.” Although their commitment “set the bar high,” current team members Amelia Jerge '24, Maddie Rygh '23, and Mandy Vogel '22 have been able to live up to the high psych standards with their bold stylistic choices this year.

Boys' Varsity Soccer

This past Fall Term, you may have had trouble figuring out if that gaggle of boys who walked by was a group of Wall Street hedge fund managers or the Lawrenceville Boys’ Varsity Soccer team. Manoc Joa-Griffith '22 described how it was a long-running tradition “to wear khaki shorts with [their] sports jacket,” noting that while it may have looked funny to others, “it was a great way to have the guys coordinate off the field.” Around campus, they may have frequently been spotted in the aforementioned chapel dress or donning their uniform for a classic jersey psych, but on the field, Joa-Griffith and Peter Sackey '22 always match Lawrenceville-branded headbands. As for honorable mentions, Sackey and Rayce Welborne '24 always go all-out with their psych spirit. Joa-Griffith said that “even when people thought the psychs were getting repetitive or tiring, [Sackey and Welborne] were ready and riled up.”

Girls' Varsity Softball

You might find yourself wondering why someone in your English class is dressed up as softball prodigy Emma Fleming '22. Well, at Lawrenceville, the surprisingly normalized term for this odd occurrence is known as a “psych.” While Fleming claimed that her team “usually [doesn’t] go too crazy,” others on campus may beg to differ after they see what fashion statements the team has to offer on game day. Varsity Softball is always spicing up its psych agenda with ideas like a randomized twin day, a funeral psych—reserved for Hill games—or something somehow even grander. The rest of our campus, meanwhile, gets to enjoy watching new team members wear their helmets to class on game days. You can also spot players in their favorite pink “Big Red” shirts at any time!

Girls' Varsity Water Polo

As far as traditions go, the Girls’ Varsity Water Polo team has psychs to let the whole campus know it’s game day. They wear swimsuits in the pool, so why not wear them to class? Juliette Peel '22 said that her favorite psych “has to be the team suits over crazy leggings.” Peel noted that as weird as the team’s psych may sound, “it’s a tradition and always has to be done.” Almost as exciting as their psych is their game day tradition—blasting “Drowning” by Boogie wit da Hoodie ft. Kodak Black. Camille Trench '23 brought this ritual to the team and is responsible for the whole team having every verse memorized. As a studious Lawrentian, Peel noted the symbolism in this song choice, saying that “the lyrics sum up how [we end] each game...drowning.”

Boys' Varsity Hockey

The Boys’ Varsity Hockey team dominated campus this past Winter Term with its commitment to chapel dress for home games, as well as its rocking of Lawrenceville Hockey collared shirts and khakis for away games. The reasoning? Captain Kenny Baek '22 took inspiration from football player Deion Sanders to “Look Good, Feel Good, Play Good,” saying that “dressing fresh to prepare for games” helps to get players in the “mindset.” Another way the team prepares to play is by having team lunches or playing two touch games with a soccer ball, making the loser “give a little dance,” which Baek said keeps “the team chemistry going.” Lastly, Baek informed us of the two most notable fashion icons on the team: Nick Gingras '22 and Barrett Oxenreider '22. Gingras’ “intriguing, yet mesmerizing color schemes” make his “second-to-none” trench coat look worthy of Vogue Magazine, while Oxenreider’s “simplistic yet formal” looks make him the “sharpest looking for pregame

Girls' Varsity Hockey

The whole campus could tell it was game day for the Girls’ Varsity Ice Hockey team when its members donned their famous neon wigs. Co-Captain Elisabeth Clements '22 noted that this psych was one of her “favorites because it was super easy to spot a teammate from a distance, and [they] looked hilarious.” The team got creative with a ski day psych, dress like team coaches (Nicole Stock and Nicole Uliasz) psych, and the classic funeral psych. Not only does Clements say that “the embarrassment bonds” them, but their team dance tradition also makes game day special. Every game day, a selected teammate performs a dance of choice to the rest of the team, “often accompanied with props and outfit changes.” While the whole team does a phenomenal job committing to the psychs, Clements admires Devan Morey’s '22 commitment to the psychs no matter how embarrassing they may be and Stella Costabile’s '24 superb costumes.



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

Behind the Scenes of *The Lawrence*: The 141st Board

NICHOLE JIN '24

Favorite Memory From Office Hours

Managing Editor Emeritus Carina Li '22 and Photos Editor Emeritus Quincy Leung '22 shared fond memories of moments during office hours when they weren't focused on writing or editing. Whether it be "wheely-chair racing and food disputes [and] people collectively roasting Richard Zhou '22," the 141st Board's News Editor, or "getting caught

in intense debates," the Board members definitely knew how to enjoy themselves while working hard. Reflecting on his favorite memory from the Board's office hours, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus Josh Cigoianu '22 said, "I loved walking into the office and seeing the entire team there having fun, working with each other, and getting the job done."

Favorite Part of the Job

As Managing Editor, Li read all the different stories the students wrote and witnessed the meticulous process of editing that each article underwent. "I loved being able to help weave all that talent, work, and creativity into one cohesive issue," she said.

For Leung, the most enjoyable and unique part of being on the board was being able to work with people "from various grades and backgrounds

and form a tight-knit community. "Whether it's the photographers I worked with or the other students on the board, I've really enjoyed getting to know [these] people, some of whom I would have never come across without *The Lawrence*," she said.

Cigoianu relished the "amazing feeling of leaving the office late on Thursday night after sending the issue to the printing company, knowing that [the board] did a job well done."

Least Favorite Part of the Job

Of course, even though *The Lawrence* aims to represent the voice of the student body and highlight different perspectives, there are still guidelines and restrictions that each issue must adhere to. The most difficult aspect of Li's job is "finding the balance between wanting to fully represent our student body's various perspectives while sticking to community guidelines." For Leung, working in

photos came with its own set of unique challenges. Her least favorite part of the job was "dealing with last-minute photo requests or having to tell off Section Editors for miscrediting photographers." Reflecting on his experience, Cigoianu found that the only part of the job he didn't enjoy was that it was over: "three terms of working as the EIC flew by, even in the most stressful of moments."



The 141st Board

Courtesy of The 141st Board

Favorite Feed

Leung and Li both agreed that Shake Shack was their favorite. Leung said that the feed captured her "whole heart with [its] mouthwatering burgers." Cigoianu made a different

choice: His favorite feeds were when people would bring in ice cream cake to celebrate birthdays. "It was really fun to surprise them and sing happy birthday," he said.

Best way to get ahead on work?

Li's strategy was to complete as much work as she could between classes, sports, and other commitments, as she didn't often have "huge blocks of time" to use for editing. On the "rare occasions" where Leung felt enough to work ahead, she tried to complete her

schoolwork in advance to "allow [herself] more time to work on *The Lawrence*." For Cigoianu, communication was the key to getting ahead on work and ensuring that operations ran smoothly; "I would always try to be in contact with my SEs to try and figure out when I can expect articles to come in," he said.

What do people not know about working for *The Lawrence*?

As Photos Editor, Leung wants to highlight that "although there is a lot of writing involved, there's also a place [in the newspaper] for those who would much rather take care of the visuals or the website."

Cigoianu emphasized the intricacy of the publication process: "From writers who take creative stances on the topics made by their SEs, to multiple levels of edits, to final

check-offs by faculty advisors, it is a complicated system that runs like a fine-tuned machine."

Li felt that, despite how stressful and time-consuming publishing was, she wanted people to also understand how much fun being part of *The Lawrence* was. "With both the actual publishing process and side adventures that came as a product of spending so much time together as a board, every Wednesday and Thursday night always came with fun moments," she said.

Senior Spotlight: Maksym Bondarenko '22

ANDREW CHEN '23

Born in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, Maksym Bondarenko '22 calls Lawrenceville home in every sense of the word. Ever since he enrolled as a new III Former, Bondarenko has succeeded in making his presence known, be it around the Harkness table or through the various clubs he leads. Bondarenko's leadership on the AI club, Linguistics Club, Slavic Club, and Model United Nations (MUN) testifies to his involvement around campus. Bondarenko's dedication to his work is perhaps best encapsulated in his paper plate award at the 2022 Swimming and Diving Banquet: "Most likely to do homework during a meet." As a result of his diligence (and productivity during swim meets), he is no foreigner to exemplary academic accomplishments. His achievements include but are not limited to obtaining a perfect 1600 SAT score on his first try, publishing a physics research article in *Lawrencium* during his III Form

year, and attending senior-level courses at Princeton University.

Bondarenko's involvement in the AI club is but a small testament to his passion for computers and coding. Inspired by his attendance at Natural Language Processing (NLP) lectures at Grammarly (a Ukrainian company) in Kyiv, Bondarenko, with the help of a close friend, created an app that offers a grammar correction service in Ukrainian. NLP is a branch of computer programming that blurs the line between technology and human speech through the implementation of complex statistical, machine-learning, and deep-learning models. Despite his lack of expertise, Bondarenko navigated through roadblocks and potholes, teaching himself the necessary skills required to build AI comparable to Grammarly while balancing his project with the harsh workload of his IV Form year. On top of teaching himself an unfamiliar branch of AI, Bondarenko had to learn to develop his AI with the sparse Ukrainian

linguistic data at his disposal. Over the span of three terms, Bondarenko was able to launch the core functionalities of his revolutionary app. However, his job is still not over.

Even after a year, Bondarenko continues to spend sleepless nights updating the app, constantly improving the service in an effort to spread literacy. Bondarenko has expanded his team to 12 equally driven and talented members: two based in the U.S., one in Canada, and nine others scattered throughout Europe. Bondarenko's devotion to such an ambitious and collaborative project, conceived remotely and nurtured through asynchronous work, speaks volumes about his near-superhuman ability to comprehend, assess, and apply.

Currently heading into the spring term of his senior year, Bondarenko continues to stay focused, maintaining a choke-hold on senioritis—a disease that has already bed-ridden many V Formers since last year. Bondarenko is most likely to pursue computer science and other



Maksym Bondarenko

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

passions at Columbia University in the fall. With college decisions out of his way, Maksym is excited

to see what Lawrenceville has in store for him during his last term.

An Open Letter to the NCAA

GEORGE NORTHUP '23

You play collegiate basketball at Duke University. A highly touted recruit from South Carolina, they call you "the next great one." Academics have never found themselves on the top of your priorities. Nor have extracurriculars. You have a unique purpose in college, unlike anyone outside of the team. Basketball and basketball alone allows you to live as you do. Head high, shoulders back, and chest forward, you pace the campus as a hero. All because of basketball. And yet, the administration expects you to embrace college life as any other would. Rigorous classes and mountainous work, sleepless nights and stressful days—the institution does not understand.

Every day you look forward to practice. It's your solace in a world of challenges: something consistent in your life; All of your energy bleeds into the court. The sport exudes intensity and animation through your sprints, cuts, and shots without fatigue. But these days add up. Your body suffers. And with this suffering, your body

Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

leans closer and closer to caving. Unfortunately for you, the body caves in at the most inopportune moment. The biggest game of the year—a rivalry match—but your body only lasts 33 seconds. A shoe breaks, your knee gives way, and you sit out for three weeks. You are lucky.

Although this only lasts three weeks, it could have undoubtedly taken a year, a year and a half, even two—shattering your career aspirations. Such great risk influences the appeal of a one-and-done. Your time in college feels wasted. Between school work and injury possibility, the NBA could not come

faster. The league offers a minimum salary of \$925,258 for players lowest on depth charts. Practice squad members become millionaires; yet, the opposite exists for you. 40 minutes on the court for not a cent. As many as 32 games per season for not a cent. Equal training compared to professionals for not a cent. As the sensation that you are, the league will swoon over you. The first pick, second, even thirtieth in the draft: a first-round lock. And the importance of this? A thirtieth-pick rookie earns over 1.6 million dollars. 1.6 million dollars that compound as the years pass. Tack on a signing bonus, per diem, and sponsorships: you will live lavishly. Even if you encounter an injury, your contract provides incredible benefits compared to a day job—including insurance.

dollars per player per year cannot balance for programs. But consider the expenses of a college student compared to that of a professional. Rent comes free, as does internet access, as do utilities. Dining on campus and frequent team dinners cover most meals. Theoretically, college students have nothing to provide for other than unnecessary, but perfectly understandable commodities. Stimulus bonuses would provide more than enough money for a given year. The bar lies low: even as low as \$30,000. I must concede: full-ride scholarships serve as payment for athletics in a sense. However, to what extent can an athlete take advantage of such money? As of this year, tuition and fees at Duke float at \$60,489. Multiplied over four years, this totals

more accessible. Or maybe, as many would, you can finally support your family with another income. Over four years, the sum satisfies a player until they graduate. Add thorough insurance plans, and injuries will have little ramifications. A-tier general practitioners, physical therapists, and surgeons reduce the risk of career-altering mishaps to the best possible extent.

Although paying specific athletes would cause an uproar by unrewarded students, a basketball program and school administration hold the undeniable right to provide bonuses. Inevitably, a lesser-known counterpart would complain. Keeping within Duke, the dynasty generates \$33.4 million of revenue each year. The objector often creates a loss. The amount of capital



brought in entitles revenue sports to redistribute as they please. Be it new facilities, dining, or charter jets: fine. But most pragmatically, bonuses lie well within reach.

Perhaps if Duke offered you "the next great one," a stimulus during your year in Durham, you would still play in blue and white. Perhaps the

Blue Devils would maintain their elite rankings as a consistent first seed in the NCAA Tournament rather than faltering as the years have passed. Perhaps, you would improve as a player before the draft; you would enjoy brotherhood and the college experience; you would avoid launching yourself into a professional career too early in life. And now, as you lay on injured reserve on the New Orleans Pelicans, I must wonder whether on some nights, Duke's lack of compensation haunts you.

For the athlete, the choice appears obvious. Only a rash and perhaps mindless individual would opt for three more years of college over a multi-year contract. So the question then lies in the hands of universities. One-and-dones will remain. An integral career choice since 2006, no policy alteration will allow for a complete return to four-year programs. And yet, programs' interests still lie in using all NCAA eligibility. So, coaches must mirror the benefits of an entrance into the NBA three years early, but perhaps not to the extent of a professional contract. One million

to barely above \$240,000. \$240,000 worth of classes, essentially. Courses do not train for game-like situations. Courses do not provide repetition after repetition of identical shots until you command the ball with fluidity and intentionality. Courses do not develop conditioning until continuous play comes without a sweat. \$240,000 worth of deadweight loss, at least in your eyes. Remember: you are here for basketball and basketball alone.

But with \$30,000, your options expand. Perhaps a new car looks a bit less expensive. Maybe an elegant suit-jacket becomes that much

Athlete Profile: Ethan Leung '23

PITTMAN ALLEY '24

Ethan Leung '23, a humble member of the Kennedy House, recently competed in the Fencing World Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Sitting down with Ethan Leung, I was able to get a sense of his ever-present humbleness and desire to succeed. With fencing experience that exceeds twelve years, Leung made it evidently clear that hard work has put him in the position he is in now. His time training gave him the opportunity to represent Hong Kong at the Fencing World Championship in Dubai. A very self-motivated person, the effort Leung puts towards his matches comes from his inability to quit, a work ethic he emphasized multiple times. I admire his ability to be humble, never boasting or even mentioning that he regularly competes at such a high level.

Leung mentioned that he became serious about fencing around middle school, when his group of friends began to train more often. I believe his drive also comes from the people around him, especially when he mentioned how his parents react to wins and losses. He said that he gets his inspiration from his sister, giving me the impression he has strong family ties.

When I asked Leung about his pursuit of collegiate fencing, he said it is a goal, but not something that is his main focus. I believe he can play at the Division I level: again, he's an extremely humble guy.

So the next time you see Leung in his maroon Lawrenceville fencing hoodie, know that the man inside has put in hundreds of hours into his sport, but will never let you know.

Board Picks

	Autri Basu Editor-in-Chief	Kelly Lu Arts Editor	Grant Shueh Associate Editor	Iris Wu Co-Opinions Editor	Jasmine Zhang Co-News Editor	Tiffany Wen Co-News Editor	Yewon Chang Co-Opinions Editor
Who runs the world?	boanoh's boss	the news-arts throuple	Frog Lord	stephanie doesn't run the world... but she runs my world <3	kelly and her disturbing commentary	kelly's news associate application <3	the freshman who splashes trupin
What is your most listened to song this week?	geometry dash menu theme	"A Man Without Love"	estiba	study lofi jazz	spotify ads	who's asking?	my iphone alarm
Sunrise or sunset?	came and went like the summertime	i don't like the sun lol	sunrise	sunset	sunset	sunrise only when I sleep through it	sunrise