



THE CHOATE NEWS

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CHOATE HONORS STORY OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ON YOM HASHOAH

By **Jolie Zhang '26**
Reporter

Almost a century after the Nuremberg Trials, the first international war crimes tribunal in history, the stories of Holocaust survivors continue to inspire and educate people around the world. On Tuesday, April 18, Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), the Choate community had the privilege of hearing Ms. Sharon Pohoryles share her father's story as a young Jewish boy during the Holocaust.

Sophie Sharko '24, a friend of Ms. Pohoryles, opened the program by sharing how she first learned of the struggles Ms. Pohoryles's father faced while living in Poland during the Holocaust. She was instantly moved by his story and saw an opportunity for Ms. Pohoryles to share it with the Choate community.

Ms. Pohoryles's father, Mr. Louis Pohoryles, was a survivor of World War II. While he did not always open up about his wartime experiences, he always emphasized the need to remember the reasons why so many lives were lost to prevent such violence from ever being repeated.

Born to Simon and Helen Pohoryles in Lublin, Poland,



Ms. Sharon Pohoryles shares her father's story to the Choate community.

in 1936, Mr. Pohoryles was the first and only child of his Jewish parents. Even as a very young boy, he witnessed countless acts of cruelty and suffered from illness and exhaustion when he and his family were held captive. A year into the war, his parents made the difficult decision to give him up to Ms. Anna Bosco, a Cath-

olic woman, to protect him. Under the care of Ms. Bosco, five-year-old Mr. Pohoryles was forced to mask his Jewish identity completely.

His suffering did not end there. While trying to hide from the Nazis disguised as a Catholic, Mr. Pohoryles also had to face ethnic violence aimed at the Polish.

Despite all that he has been through, Mr. Pohoryles refuses to allow his experiences from the war define him and has lived a peaceful life with his family. As stated by Ms. Pohoryles, "My father's mantra is that his greatest revenge against Hitler is living well."

Many members of the community were touched by his

words, including Dean of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Rachel Myers, who helped plan this event. Dr. Myers said that her greatest takeaway was that "the biggest hope of survival in this world is acknowledging humanity." She added, "We cannot sit idly by while other human beings are being persecuted by other human beings ...

In the end, we are [all] humans that all seek safety, freedom, nutrition, relationships with others, and belonging."

Sharko emphasized the importance of sharing stories like Mr. Pohoryles's. She said, "There has been a huge rise in anti-Semitism, especially across campuses throughout the United States in the past year, and with the generations moving on and the last of the Holocaust survivors passing away, it is important that we teach the younger generations about what happened in the Holocaust and share stories from World War II to make sure it doesn't occur again in the future. I hope students realize the severity of the Holocaust."

The story of Mr. Pohoryles served as a reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. The strength and determination highlighted in Ms. Pohoryles's speech brought to attention the lessons learned in the past. As the years pass, it is even more crucial to share survivors' stories and honor their memories, as Ms. Pohoryles said. Thanks to her message, the Choate community had the opportunity to honor Yom HaShoah.

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BUILDING BRIDGES AT THE 2023 ASIAN AMERICAN FOOTSTEPS CONFERENCE

By **Sophia Liao '25**
Copy Editor

The 2023 Asian American Footsteps Conference (AAFC) kicked off its first in-person session since the onset of the Covid-19 lock down in 2019 on Sunday, April 16, with 12 Choate students traveling to St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire.

AAFC offers an inclusive and safe space for high school students within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities to come together and discuss their experiences, learn about AAPI-related issues, and encourage each other to embrace their cultural identities. This fitting sentiment is marked by this year's theme, "Building Bridges, Connecting our Heritage and Future." In past years, AAFC conferences have been held at St. Mark's School, Phillips Exeter Academy, The Hotchkiss School, Deerfield Academy, and many other independent schools in New England.

Katherine Chong '25, who attended the conference, said,

"A lot of young Asian Americans in boarding schools are very interested in connecting and sharing ... in the sense that there's people searching for a collective identity and to be together in solidarity."

Chong described the environment of the conference to be very "student-driven." She added, "Even when we met a lot of Deerfield students, for example, we joked about the rivalry, but there ended up just being so much connection and similarity." She particularly appreciated learning about the Asian experience and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programming at peer schools.

Choate's Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion, Ms. Jillian Fargue, enjoyed attending the conference in-person, and said that "watching [students] make connections — taking selfies with each other, hugging each other, getting everyone's contact information, networking, laughing, and just having so much representation in one space — was really cool."

The conference began with registration and a brief welcome

from the St. Paul's School Rector Kathleen "Kathy" Carroll Giles. Participants then attended three different student-led 50-minute workshops. To close, everybody gathered in the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Paul to hear from the 2023 AAFC Keynote Speaker, Ms. Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS).

There was a vast selection of workshops for the conference attendees to choose from. Some examples include "Supreme Court and Asian American Rights," "Generation 1.5X: Asian-ness Inferiority," "International Schools: Pockets of Globalization," and "The 'Asian Fetish' and Its Effects on Asian Americans."

Fiona Fu '25, Katherine Chong '25, and Peyton Li '25 led their own workshop called "Cracking the Bamboo Ceiling," which shed light on an issue that many Asian Americans face in the workplace — the bamboo ceiling. This term describes how Asian Americans who work at high-level institutions face obsta-

cles in obtaining higher management leadership positions.

For Chong, the workshop addressed "the stereotype of Asians being hard workers that keep their head down and do all the work without advocating for themselves or [being] assertive enough to lead." Participants discussed why students thought the issue exists, how it might impact Asian Americans now and in the future, whose responsibility it is to dismantle it, and what can be done to best prevent it in the future. Even though they couldn't make it through the entire presentation with the time constraint, Fu said that the workshop went smoothly.

While the conference was a success overall, Ms. Fargue wished it was longer, and proposed that instead of three 50-minute workshops, the workshops could be narrowed down into two longer workshops.

Additionally, Ms. Fargue wished that there was more down-time at the end of the conference for students and adults to hang out, debrief, and network. "At the end, the kids were playing volleyball and hanging out, and it would've been so fun to stay for a little bit and experience joy together, but we had a three-hour ride to look forward to," she said.

AAFC will be taking place at the Governor's Academy next year. Students who are members of the AAPI community at Choate are highly encouraged to host a workshop or simply attend the conference and explore the myriad of perspectives and identities that AAFC unveils.

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Students Explore the Spring College Fair

By **Nilan Kathir '25**
Staff Reporter

With over 100 different colleges in attendance, the Spring College Fair hosted a range of public and private universities of all types and sizes on April 17 in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center (WJAC). Among those present were the University of Pennsylvania, Binghamton University, University of St Andrews, and more.

Geared towards fifth-form students as part of the college counseling curriculum, the College Fair allowed students to meet college representatives and ask questions about the makeup of their student bodies, campus culture, religious affiliations, locations, admission processes, and more.

Leon Gopaul '24 said the fair "helped him identify new options" and look more closely at different colleges. He was impressed by the variety of colleges in attendance and saw an excellent opportunity to discover colleges he was not yet familiar with.

The College Counseling Office notified students of the schools that would be attending a few weeks prior to the fair to give them "time to formulate questions," Carter Foster '24 said. College representatives provided brochures, answered questions, and had one-on-one conversations with students.

The College Fair served as an effective way for students to broaden their horizons, learn more about colleges they already expressed interest in, and "ask questions that aren't easily answered on a college website," said Dean of College Counseling Ms. Marcia Landesman. Students also heard answers to

questions posed by their peers while waiting in line, which helped them consider new factors in their college search.

Extensive preparation and effort were necessary to make the fair a reality. Office Coordinator of the College Counseling Office Ms. Megan Jackson was the primary coordinator of the event and worked closely with the Communications Office, Facilities team, SAGE Dining Services, and Information Technology Services during the planning process.

The College Fair was well-attended, with crowds of students lining up at booths for a chance to engage with college representatives. With long waiting lines in front of most booths, "more time would have been helpful," suggested Gopaul.

Choate plans to host another College Fair next fall. Along with the fair, there are many other initiatives taken by the College Counseling Office to expand the horizons of students and allow them to learn about different schools, such as the spring break trip that took place recently. Gopaul, who participated in this trip, found the College Fair to be helpful in building upon his experience with the schools he saw on the trip, including Lafayette College, Rutgers University, and Drexel University — all of which were present at the fair as well.

Overall, the College Fair proved to be a success. It enabled fifth-form students to learn more about prospective colleges and broaden their exposure through engagement with a variety of schools.

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Photo Courtesy of Henry Cho

Students from different schools attend the 2023 Asian American Footsteps Conference.

Cultural Cuisine

Introducing Wallingford's International Food Hotspots

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Read it, then recycle it.

Visuals by Melody Qian '24,
and Toffy Prakittiphoom '24,
and Emily Ma '25.

CELEBRATE AAPI HERITAGE MONTH MAY 2023!

Movie night with snacks chosen by host clubs!

MAY 17

THAI

MAY 24

INDIAN

LIBRARY READING ROOM

5.00 PM - 8.00 PM

SHOW UP!

Graphic by Melody Qian '24/*The Choate News*

WALLINGFORD’S INTERNATIONAL FOOD HOTSPOTS

By **Constanza Aportela ’24**
Reporter

For any food enthusiast or international student missing a home-cooked meal, the food offered at the Choate dining hall may not fulfill all their cravings. Luckily, there are a wide variety of cuisines and countries represented by Wallingford’s local international hotspots. From dragon roll sushi to Colombian Bandeja Paisa, students are sure to find a restaurant that will meet their needs in Wallingford.

Sirinan — 900 N Colony Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492

When you walk in through the doors of this Thai and Japanese fusion restaurant, you will notice how cozy and aromatic it is. The owner, Ms. Sirinan Supannafai, recommends that everyone who visits try the “drunken noodles dish because it has eggs, meat, vegetables, and carbohydrates.” She also emphasized the healthy nature of her dishes: “The well-spiced food has a great healthy balance.”

International students such as Elizabeth Zhao ’24 enjoy the respite from American food through dishes cooked in Sirinan’s kitchen. She describes the family-run business as having “super chill and kind owners” who make “incredible fried rice and fresh spring rolls.”

Cositas Ricas — 62 Center St, Wallingford, CT 06492

Walking down the picturesque street that leads to the gazebo in Johanna Manfreda Fish-



Graphic by Melody Qian ’24/The Choate News

bein Park, you might spot the Spanish words “Cositas Ricas,” or “Little Tasty Things” in English, on a red, yellow, and green poster. Stepping inside, you will see the cozy locale strewn with lights, hear the rhythmic sound of Latin music filling the air, and smell the delicious aroma of Mexican food. Mr. Santos de la Cruz, the owner of the restaurant, recommends that anyone who finds themselves at one of their colorful tables order “the fajita mix because it comes with chicken, steak, and shrimp, so you can try a little bit of everything.”

Mr. de la Cruz describes his restaurant as “pleasant and comfortable.” There are a myriad of fresh fruits that can be incorporated by the restaurant however the customer’s heart may desire. The fruits include “mangoes topped with the spicy sauce chamoy and

other strawberries with granola and yogurt,” said Mr. de la Cruz. Joshua Ramon ’24 has frequented the restaurant with members of Choate’s Hispanic Latiné Forum. He recounted, “I like that the TVs are playing on some telenovelas, Spanish shows, and that reminds me of home ... The ambience is very fun.”

Iron Chef — 930 N Colony Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492

As soon as you enter Iron Chef, you will feel the bustling and lively energy of the restaurant. Employee Ms. Napas Ruangdech describes the food at Iron Chef as a fusion of Japanese and American cuisines.

One key element of the restaurant is that it offers an option to dine at a hibachi table, which provides a good meal for a good price. Emily

Mito ’24, an international student from Japan, described the hibachi tables as “a super fun place to watch the cooking with fire show.”

Mito was surprised that the “squid sushi was actually good, and it tasted even better with wasabi.” She also recommended that people try the fried rice.

Iron Chef’s most popular dishes include the dragon roll sushi and the sashimi combination. Ms. Ruangdech mentioned the restaurant’s popularity among Choate students and encouraged those who have yet to visit to try Wallingford’s take on Japanese cuisine.

Los Parceros — 253 S Colony Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492

A fairly new addition to Wallingford’s culinary repertoire, Los Parceros makes you

feel like you are in the house of a family member. The Colombian restaurant serves a variety of dishes from both Colombia and Ecuador. The owner Mr. Juan Carlos P. Valencia said, “Everyone who enters will not want to leave, and everyone who leaves will leave with a full belly.”

Cynthia Perez ’24, a Choate student from Ecuador, noted, “Los Parceros is one of the few Latin restaurants at walking distance from campus. It’s my favorite spot because not only is their food delicious and authentic, but it’s also cheap.”

Mr. Valencia recommended everyone try La Bandeja Paisa, or “the typical plate from Medellín, as it has chorizo, meat, beans, rice, and a fried egg, among other things.” For Perez, the pernil “is one of the best things in their lunch, and [she]

can never go wrong with ordering Chaulafan off the menu.”

In addition to the delicious food, Perez commented on the positive environment in Los Parceros: “The atmosphere is very lively, and the people are always generous. Los Parceros is definitely my go to spot for when I’m craving Ecuadorian cuisine, missing home, or simply want to practice my Spanish.”

Ola — 728 N Colony Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492

Have a taste of Spanish food at Ola, locally renowned for the flavors and complexity of its dishes. Ms. Sherry Lopez, the owner’s wife and a server at Ola, said that her favorite dish is the salmon, “as it has a wonderful balance of flavors.” She also praised the “grand quantity” of fresh ingredients the dishes utilize.

Kelvin Liu ’24, who visited Spain last summer, had pleasant memories of the restaurant, which reminded him of his trip. He described the upscale location as having a “very tasty steak” and being “very nice, formal, and fancy.”

Restaurateurs from all around the world have brought a taste of their cultures to Wallingford, Connecticut. The next time you make weekend plans to dine out, consider these locations and the delectable delights that they offer.

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One Book, One Wallingford Unites Community



Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom ’24/The Choate News

Author Kevin Wilson attends a book reading and Q&A session at the Andrew Mellon Library.

By **Adrian Torres ’25**
Copy Editor

In its fifth annual iteration, the Wallingford Public Library’s (WPL) One Book, One Wallingford program continues to bring the local community together through events and discussions. Kevin Wilson’s *Now is Not the Time to Panic* was announced as this year’s novel on February 1 and became the focus of the program, which culminated in Kevin Wilson’s visit to both Choate and the WPL on April 24.

Inspired by the One City, One Book program implemented in Seattle, One Book, One Wallingford has held events centered around each year’s featured book to forge connections within Wallingford since 2018.

One Book, One Wallingford aims to unite the local community by encouraging them to read the same book and hold thought-provoking discussions on its themes. Ms. Cindy Haiken, WPL’s Readers Advisory Librarian, commented that One Book, One Wallingford is about “bringing people together to share the experience of reading a book, talking about it, and meeting the author.”

A book’s appeal is crucial to facilitating productive and insightful connections, so Ms. Haiken chooses the featured book carefully. “That’s probably the hardest part of the whole thing: trying to come up

with a book that [the community] will not only want to read, but that they will then think about and want to talk about,” said Ms. Haiken.

Now is Not the Time to Panic is a coming-of-age story about two teenagers, writer Frankie and artist Zeke. Through the power of art, the nuance of identity, and the conflicts of adolescence, the two characters experience an exciting summer. One of the primary reasons for its selection was how people of all ages could resonate with its theme of a pivotal summer in one’s life.

Mr. Wilson views his book’s selection as “a huge honor,” and he “was super jazzed.” Mr. Wilson said that while writing and reading can be isolating, One Book, One Wallingford offers “a moment of connection and commune.” He added, “When you think about it in a community context, it’s really lovely.”

Ms. Haiken appreciates how the event brings the community together. She enjoys how it allows her to meet new people and hear their perspectives. “Because everybody’s reading the same book, but everyone’s reading it differently and bringing their unique perspective to it, and I love that,” she said.

Similarly, compared to the other book discussions the library hosts, Ms. Haiken noted how the atmosphere is different for One Book, One Wallingford. “It’s a book that is chosen not

just for a book club, but for the whole community. And I think that there’s a different level of discourse around it,” she said.

During his visit to the School, Mr. Wilson held a book reading and a Q&A session moderated by students, in which he explained his writing process and path to becoming an author. “It was definitely very informative, and I feel like he had a lot of good advice as an author,” said Isabelle Jiao ’26.

Other students in attendance also appreciated the opportunity to meet and learn from authors such as Mr. Wilson. “It makes it more enjoyable to read the book because you’re going to meet the person who made it,” said Roshan Desai ’26, one of the moderators for the event. “[It] makes you think more for questions that you want to ask the person,” he added. “It was a really good experience overall.”

Reflecting on the event, Mr. Wilson said, “For a whole community to choose the book and for different people to interact with it in different ways, it’s just really meaningful.”

With the program’s success this year and a positive response from the community, planning is already underway for One Book, One Wallingford in 2024.

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LOCAL NAIL SALONS SPOTLIGHT

By **Dana Tan ’25**
Reporter

Whether it be to upgrade your look for First Hurrah or to participate in self care, getting your nails done is always a fun activity. Choate students mainly frequent two nail salons in Wallingford — Diamond Nails & Spa and Rainbow Nail & Spa — but which do students prefer?

Bladen Hawthornthwaite ’24, a frequent customer of Diamond Nails & Spa, said, “I got my nails done there for 3/4 last year. They did them so perfectly and matched my reference photo, so I think that they are very good at nail art.”

While Rainbow Nail & Spa offers similar design capabilities, Kay Lee ’25 explained that she “never got designs there because Rainbow Nail & Spa charges slightly more for designs” compared to Diamond Nails & Spa.

Acrylic nails at Rainbow Nail & Spa are \$70, compared to

acrylic nails at Diamond Nails & Spa, which are \$65.

The five-dollar difference may be significant to some, but Racquel Welcome ’24 believes that the quality of the latter’s service is worth the money. “They lasted a really long time,” she said. “I think my gel polish lasted almost a month.”

In terms of location, both salons are within a 10-minute driving distance, and most students drive there and back.

However, Marinna Syms ’25 takes advantage of Choate’s free Walmart shuttle. Due to Walmart’s close proximity to Rainbow Nail & Spa, Syms said, “On Sundays, you can always take the shuttle and walk there.”

This option is not available for Diamond Nail & Spa, which is west of Choate’s campus and not on the shuttle’s route. Regardless of the mode of transportation, however, both salons are only a short and convenient car ride away.

On the staff’s friendliness and atmosphere at Rainbow Nail &

Spa, Lee said, “Most of them are Chinese, so I always speak to them in Chinese.” Connecting over the language creates a warming atmosphere in the salon for Lee.

On a similar note, Hawthornthwaite commented that at Diamond Nail & Spa, “they are super friendly, and there is always someone available.” She continued, “I think that I have never made an appointment when I have gone there but have always been able to get my nails done.”

According to students’ reflections, both nail salons are great options. They offer reasonable prices, skilled staff, and a friendly atmosphere.

The main difference is that Rainbow Nail & Spa has the perk of a free shuttle ride. Nevertheless, should any students seek out a fresh manicure, they can receive a positive experience from either salon while supporting a small local business.

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Graphic by Sunny Vo ’24/The Choate News

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HOW TO SURVIVE
A SAC DANCE



Graphic by Melody Qian '24/The Choate News

By Virginia Nelson '25
Opinions Writer

School dances are some of the most fun, yet most unsanitary activities one can experience at Choate.

At a school dance, I feel like I am in a can of packed sardines, overwhelmed by the body odor erupting from the bodies next to me.

All jokes aside, it is really fun to see a side of people you don't normally get to see during the school day. You get to put your friends to the test and discover whether they know timeless legends such as "Party in The U.S.A." Plus, if you really want to test someone's pop culture knowledge, you can see if they know how to properly "whip" and "nae nae."

Half the fun is the anticipation leading up to a dance. It gives us something to look forward to — a break from the ordinary. In the days leading up to it, people get to gossip about who's going with who, what they are going to wear, and whether this dance will top the last one. That being said, there are a few things you must know before stepping into the strobe lights.

First, do your civic duty and wear deodorant for the sake of all of our nostrils! If we all do it, we can avoid the sardine container smell we all love.

Second, make sure to wear sneakers if you want to be able to walk around the next day. If you must wear high heels or dress shoes, wear them for the

picture and change into sneakers after. Also, make sure to tie your laces tight so you don't lose your shoes or break your ankle.

Third, always take pictures beforehand. You do not want to be photographed within five minutes of stepping onto the dance floor because all the hard work that went into your hair and makeup will be toast. In that same vein, don't film the whole thing. No one wants your camera light in their face or your Instagram capturing their ugly dancing moments.

Finally, actually dance! Don't be afraid. The song choices are unpredictable, and no one ever remembers who the first person to dance was, so get to groovin' as quickly as possible. Also, if you have long hair, you must put it up immediately because people's armpits will find it if you leave it down, and that is not a pain anyone should have to experience.

Choate dances get so much hype for a reason: they are a celebration of our community, a way for us to come together, and a chance for us to share aspects of ourselves with each other. Despite all their sanitary shortcomings, Choate dances are some of the best parts of boarding school life. With that being said, make sure that you go to 3/4 and join me on the dance floor. There is nothing better than busting a move together!

Virginia Nelson is a fourth-former from Baton Rouge, LA. She may be reached at vnelson25@choate.edu

WHAT'S UP WITH THEIR HAIR?

By Ryan Villano '23
Opinions Writer

Watching Choate Boys' Varsity Lacrosse annihilate IMG Academy on April 21, you might have noticed many players on the team looking bald or like they have several pounds of ramen noodles flying out of their helmets. For some context, this is all part of their latest team-bonding activity: hairstyles.

You would have to pay me at least \$500 to shave off my luscious locks of hair. Personally, I care about my hair too much to let that happen. That being said, I salute the members of Boys' Varsity Lacrosse who were brave enough to let Miles Jolly '23 take a pair of clippers to their heads. Still, I love seeing the team and a few other soldiers sporting the tennis ball look or the lemon-colored, bleached-hair look — and an unfortunate minority who did both.

The chain of hairdos started when Harrison Keith '23 decided he wanted to rock a buzz cut and asked Jolly to cut his hair. Soon, more and more people jumped on the trend, and Jolly became the team's unofficial barber. Although I can't believe that Marty Griffin '23 let him chop the lion's mane off the top of his head, I have to say that his new hairdo didn't come out looking too shabby.



Photo courtesy of Choate Flickr

This year's Boys' Varsity Lacrosse team captains rock their new hairdos.

While the buzz cuts have grown on me as more time has passed, I'm still not sure about the bleaching.

Jack Wable '24 and Oliver Nappi '25 are the two best examples I can think of. They pull off a pretty good bleached look, but it also begs the question: "Has there ever even been a bleaching gone right?"

Regardless of their appearance, saying that the hairstyling hasn't brought the lacrosse team closer together would be tough. I can see the camaraderie between the players, and it's clear that

they are willing to lay the dignity (that lays upon their heads) on the line for each other.

Their attitude towards their hairstyling adventures is the reason for their success as a winning team. They are a close group that trusts each other and will stick together whether they're winning or losing, or when their hair grows out and everyone on campus starts to think that we have multiple Ellen DeGeneres clones walking around in the dining hall.

At the end of the day, it's just hair. It isn't permanent like a tattoo or the marker you used to draw

on the person who fell asleep first at the sleepover, so who cares? It'll grow back eventually, so why not have some fun with it?

A positive team spirit is both more permanent and more important. However, since I'm performing in the spring musical and would have to deal with the wrath of our director if I chopped my hair off, I am leaving myself out of the buzzing and bleaching and choosing life instead.

Ryan Villano is a sixth-former from Wallingford, CT. He may be reached at rvillano23@choate.edu

An Argument for Abolishing the JC

By Michael Korvyakov '23
Opinions Nation/World Editor
of the 116th Masthead

Each time an honor code violation occurs at Choate, a council of elected students — joined by form deans, the faculty adviser, and a faculty observer — gets to question the student and suggest a consequence to the Dean of Students behind closed doors. However, there is an unfixable flaw in this system.

The Judicial Committee (JC) must guarantee privacy for the students who sit in front of it, but they are not held accountable to the students who elect them because the student body doesn't know how the JC members vote on cases. We can never know if they are fulfilling their duty with impartiality and justice.

The lack of transparency poses an issue because regardless of how fair and objective the students we elect are, they can never separate their judgment from their knowledge of, or past experiences with, the person in front of them. Representatives of the JC could give disproportionate punishments as a result of a bias or an overcompensation for a bias. That's why every trial in U.S. courtrooms begins with weeding out the judges and jury members who have interacted with the accused in any capacity.

Defenders of the JC cite certain policies that protect students who sit before the committee. All JC members receive bias training at the beginning of their term, which teaches them how to deal with bias and how to know when they should recuse themselves. They are asked to recuse themselves if there is a large conflict of interest between them and the guilty party, such as a prefect/prefectee relationship or close friends.

However, even if we fully trust JC members to recuse themselves, they are still allowed to vote in the cases of their classmates, teammates, and dormmates; hours of bias training don't stop biases from making their way into decisions.

Moreover, despite stringent efforts to prevent information about the hearings from being

shared, it is inevitable that the facts of cases will get out and have a social impact on the person who committed the rule infraction. This does not have to be explicit — it could come out indirectly through a change in attitude toward the person.

This is not a reflection on the JC members or their qualifications for their roles — it is an inevitability that must be accepted when high school students are given juicy information.

Sometimes, this dissemination of information is necessary, such as when a prefect is given privileged information so they can better assist their prefectee. However, when a system involves the sharing of private information in a way that doesn't benefit the student, it must be abolished.

One may argue that a judicial committee could protect students through more lenient sentences because students are more inclined to empathize with their peers. Students frequently advocate for this in response to "victimless" rule breaks, such as cheating on a test. But, those who argue this perspective ignore that the JC deals with a larger range of issues. When it comes to ruling on bully-

ing and harassment, it would be better to err on the side of stricter consequences. Ultimately, it should be in the best interest of all students to receive fair disciplines rather than lenient ones.

So, the question remains: does the JC give us more fair outcomes? Those who say "yes" may argue that the JC provides a student perspective that would otherwise be lacking in these proceedings. This is true, but it is completely outweighed by the concerns of impartiality and privacy.

The administration has had years of precedent to judge rule breaks because the types of infractions that the JC responds to don't change year-to-year. The Deans' Office understands the expected punishments and has little incentive to make absurdly unjust decisions. Therefore, the chance that the student perspective brings us to a more just conclusion is minuscule when compared to the massive potential for bias in the decisions and the leaking of information.

Others say that the more important purpose of the JC is to make students more comfortable with being honest. After all, wouldn't students be more

open if they knew that their understanding peers were the ones reviewing their case rather than adults who are out of touch with their situation? However, the current format of the JC only serves to frighten those who sit in front of them.

Every rule break is met with a tribunal of multiple adults, and even worse — other students. One would be inclined to not tell the truth to avoid being judged by peers. Arguably, those in trouble would feel more comfortable being honest in a room with just their dean — where they don't fear social repercussions for describing their wrongdoings.

Unless we become members, we'll likely never know what goes on behind the closed doors of the JC. Nevertheless, we do know the tendencies of people when they have the power and the information to impact their peers' lives. To preserve justice and privacy, we must abolish the Judicial Committee.

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Graphic by Katherine Chong '25/The Choate News

PUTIN EXPOSES THE ICC’S LACK OF INTEGRITY

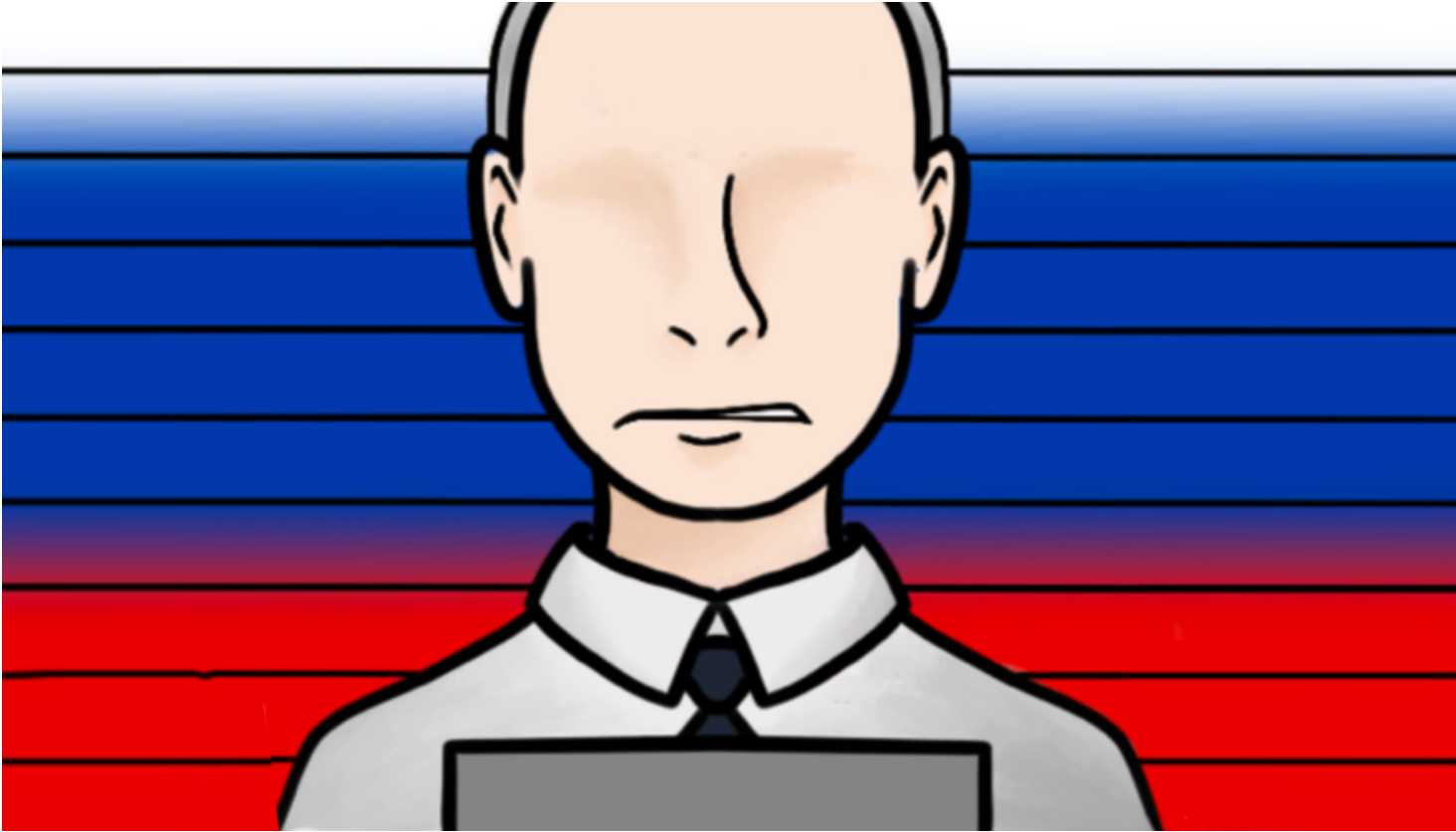
By **Fiona Fu ’25**
Copy Editor

On March 17, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin, alleging his role in the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia. Unfortunately, the ICC has very little power in enforcing these arrest warrants as subsequent responses from the Kremlin and other governments worldwide delegitimize the ICC’s jurisdiction, rendering the gesture as merely symbolic.

The ICC was established in 2002 when member states accepted the four core international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression presented in the Rome Statute. Because the ICC has no police force or enforcement body, it must rely on the cooperation of its 123 member states to complete its arrests.

Since Russia withdrew from the Rome Statute after the ICC classified the nation’s annexation of Crimea in 2016 as an occupation, it no longer recognizes the jurisdiction of the ICC and would almost certainly not surrender Putin.

There is little the ICC can do to interfere with an individual nation’s decisions, thereby reducing the severity of the arrest warrant. For instance, South Africa refused to enforce an ICC warrant for the arrest of former



Graphic by David Glover-Barr ’25/The Choate News

Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir in 2015. As such, many countries will likely decline to arrest Putin on the grounds that he is a serving head of state — casting the ICC’s warrant as an empty threat.

More concerningly, the ICC’s announcement is not only an ineffective course of action in stopping Putin’s atrocities, but also a cause for further international division. While nations such as Germany, Austria, Ireland, and Croatia have confirmed that they would arrest Putin if he entered their territories, others have not been as eager to oppose the Kremlin.

Other countries, like France and the United Kingdom, have expressed support for the ICC’s indictment but demonstrated an apparent lack of commitment. With Moscow threatening war on those who agree to fulfill their obligation to the Court, many countries are hesitant to engage with the possibility of military retaliation, especially against Russia’s sizable army. Thus, instead of contributing to ongoing efforts to isolate the Kremlin, the ICC’s warrant has simply exposed many countries’ reservations in vocalizing their dissent against Russia.

In fact, Moscow’s actions following the arrest warrants further exemplify how Russia belittles the ICC’s judgment. Just one day after the ICC’s announcement, Putin made a surprise visit to Crimea to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Russia’s illegal annexation of the region. Even though his original plans were to participate virtually, images of him walking freely are a clear indication of his defiance towards the ICC.

On the same note, Russian politicians came forward to explicitly criticize the ICC. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov immediately fired back at the ICC,

calling even the consideration of a warrant “outrageous and unacceptable.” In addition, Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev even went so far as to threaten the Court, saying, “It’s quite possible to imagine a hypersonic missile being fired from the North Sea from a Russian ship at The Hague courthouse.” He also made sure to mention Russia’s considerable nuclear arsenal.

Each of these actions has simply shown that Putin’s government will not change its behavior due to the arrest warrant. If anything, the intentional defiance and continued intimidation

tactics used by the Kremlin only serve to delegitimize the ICC’s jurisdiction and remind the world of Russia’s apparent impunity.

While there is no doubt that the citizens of Ukraine have suffered immensely as a result of Russia’s unchecked aggression, the ICC’s arrest warrant has achieved nothing other than highlighting the Court’s inability to execute justice, forcing other countries to signal indirect support for the Kremlin, and providing Russia with an opportunity to show off its contempt for international judgment.

This decision also brings more attention and scrutiny to the ICC’s criteria for an arrest. There is ample reason to indict Putin if he has committed war crimes, but one must ask, why has this same standard not been imparted to the U.S.-led West for similar crimes committed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, or Syria?

For an organization that prides itself on “participating in the global fight to end impunity” and “hold[ing] those responsible accountable for their crimes,” the ICC seems to be capable neither of executing these goals nor upholding the standard of impartial justice. If the international community wants to see an end to Putin’s actions in Ukraine, it will take much more than a “symbolic gesture” from a questionable establishment.

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WOKE CULTURE THREATENS DEBATE AND EDUCATION IN COLLEGES



Graphic by Melody Qian ’24/The Choate News

By **Arjun Pathy ’25**
Copy Editor

It is widely accepted that education is centered around challenging students’ beliefs and encouraging them to think freely and make rational decisions. Unfortunately, an increasingly hostile culture surrounding guest speakers on college campuses has brought the idea of free speech within academia into question. As “woke culture” becomes more prevalent, we must remember that diversity of opinion and discussing uncomfortable topics is crucial to growing as a society.

Over the last couple of years, elite universities have served as an ideological battleground between students and conservative speakers. Most recently, Judge Kyle Duncan spoke at Stanford University on behalf of the school’s Federalist Society Chapter, which is, according to its website, “a group of conservatives and libertarians interested in the current state of the legal order.”

Duncan, a Federal Appeal Judge appointed by Former President Donald Trump P ’00, is a staunch conservative. His controversial reputation precedes him, having used his platform to advocate against LGBTQIA+ rights throughout his judicial career. Though his rulings have legal backing, his stance has made some question the impartiality of his decisions. In a 2020 case concerned with a transgender prisoner requesting to change their name in

the system, Duncan ruled that if the court approved the transfer, they would be accepting their own bias towards the prisoner; thus, the case was shot down.

Duncan’s viewpoints, many of which are extreme and based on tenuous arguments, have rightly faced opposition. However, the events at Stanford this March are arguably more destructive than any ideas Duncan has advocated for.

Groups of students and faculty, including Stanford Law School’s Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tirien Steinbach, who is now on-leave, rallied against Duncan in a notably vicious manner. Displaying a complete lack of civility, protesters yelled things such as, “We hope your daughters get raped.” When the protests devolved into shouting matches loaded with personal attacks, Duncan’s opposition lost their credibility and, more importantly, the moral high ground.

The protesters at Stanford were not attacking Duncan’s opinions; the hecklers were attacking his character and his civil right to express them. Though the protests were not physically harmful, they revealed the oppressive nature of “woke culture.” In the quest to be politically correct, people with opinions that stray away from liberal values are ostracized and ridiculed, inhibiting any opportunity for proper discourse.

Following the protests, Jenny Martinez, Dean of Stanford Law School, said, “Unless we recognize

that student members of the Federalist Society and other conservatives have the same right to express their views free of coercion, we cannot live up to this commitment, nor can we claim that we are fostering an inclusive environment for all students.” This single event serves as a perfect example of the destructive nature of cancel culture and the notion of political correctness — two of the most prominent political trends today.

A similar attack on free speech took place at Cornell University. In March, the student body voted to enact “trigger warnings” in syllabi, which could potentially result in changes to course materials, but Cornell President Martha E. Pollack vetoed this result. College professors create courses to spark debate and encourage students to question the world — not courses that protect students from reality. Students’ vehement attempts to enact such warnings beg the question: if students aren’t willing to explore new, challenging, and potentially provocative ideas, what do they want to learn?

An atmosphere that fights anything remotely offensive has silenced many faculty members who feel their beliefs differ from the status quo. This has been one of the driving forces behind “echo chambers,” environments in which ideological groups only consume media they agree with. Plaguing American politics, echo chambers have worsened

debate and cooperation. Considering that many influential scholars and politicians today have attended our country’s elite universities, a future defined by polarization and a lack of cooperation is imminent with increasingly hostile political discourse on campuses.

Well-known public figure and professor Jordan Peterson has also sparked controversy by quitting his position at the University of Toronto due to a lack of discourse and the imposition of partisan ideas. Peterson argued that equity initiatives at the university were harming the meritocratic and discussion-based environment.

As a Democrat myself, it may seem that I am arguing against my own ideals by supporting the rights of figures like Kyle Duncan. In reality, it’s quite the opposite; free speech is the cornerstone of any well-functioning democracy. I see it as my duty to fight for the First Amendment, whether exercised by Republicans, Democrats, or anything in between. If I am unwilling to let others challenge my ideas, I am likely misinformed. Though I may not agree with Kyle Duncan (and think most of his stances are inexcusable), we cannot silence those we disagree with.

In a time when people have more mediums to express themselves than ever before, it is crucial for societies to both advocate for personal rights and hold people accountable. In an era defined by intense polarization, a complete lack of censorship could result in more violence on campuses — a less-than-ideal outcome. A complete lack of control over debates on college campuses could have disastrous effects, too. A healthy balance, though challenging to reach, is necessary for the longevity and integrity of educational institutions.

In a new political landscape defined by cancel culture and “wokeness,” we must remember that dissent and debate are not dangerous, but in fact integral, to societal prosperity.

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Implications of TikTok Data Insecurity

By **Peter Ganzenmuller ’26**
Opinions Writer

Since its launch in 2016, TikTok has cultivated an immense user base of over one billion active users, with more than a tenth of its users hailing from the United States. However, not only have research studies demonstrated the adverse effects of indulging in the application’s addictive algorithm, federal officials and security experts fear the sensitive data collected by TikTok as well. The U.S. must find a solution to ensure that its users can continue using the app without having to worry about the dangers of the content they watch and the potential breaches on their data.

When Chinese tech giant ByteDance began its global expansion of TikTok in 2018, it quickly became a staple of everyday usage and popular culture. Building off the technology built by its predecessors, Musical.ly and Douyin, the application hosted a powerful algorithm capable of determining which content would best appeal to its unique host of users.

Following this sudden surge in users, issues regarding data security have nurtured legal action against the app. TikTok, according to its privacy policy, collects a huge variety of data, ranging from location data, phone models, keystroke rhythms when people type, and the statistics of each video uploaded. However, TikTok, unlike its U.S.-based rivals who have met similar criticism regarding user privacy, has demonstrated thus far a willingness to be transparent about its data collection and flow.

Regardless of TikTok’s supposed transparency, many countries are skeptical of the application’s collection of sensitive data. For example, in 2020, India banned the application after receiving complaints that it was “stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users’ data.” Similarly, the UK’s Information Commissioner’s Office and Australian intelligence agencies continue to conduct probing in-

vestigations on the application though they have not yet revealed what they seek.

The U.S. government has long argued that the immense amounts of data that TikTok holds on its American user base pose a threat if the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is to get access to such information. During the interrogation of ByteDance CEO Shou Chew, American senators desired to take further action against the application by revealing its true intentions and bolstering their stance. Though Chew stated that ByteDance was neither owned nor controlled by the Chinese government, his vague answer does not ensure that China will not attempt to obtain sensitive private information.

The widespread concern for data security is valid when considering China’s history of hacking, purchasing data, and supplying software altered to spy on its users. As such, various institutions have acted in response to these accusations. For instance, Auburn University in Alabama was met with immense student backlash after the campus banned TikTok from campus Wi-Fi networks, noting how the restriction hinders entertainment and the perpetuation of school culture.

However, instead of outright banning the app, I believe that passing legislation that limits data collection and forcing American companies to increase cybersecurity protection would be a better starting point in ensuring the safety of all American citizens’ data.

The United States has the responsibility to protect the privacy of its populace, especially its young people. As we become increasingly more dependent on the Internet, our data must be held securely. Regardless of their intentions, America must stay suspicious and wary of foreign powers’ information and influence on the U.S. population in a globalized and digitized world.

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Taxidermies, Skeletons, and Brains: Oh My!



Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/The Choate News

A skull on display in the Carl C. Icahn Center for Science.

By Ethan Zhang '26
Reporter

With its impressive collection of taxidermies, seashells, and brains, the Carl C. Icahn Center for Science (CICS) is not the average science building. Rather, it provides a fascinating portal into the wonderful world of biology. Students who have taken a biology class at Choate have likely witnessed an assortment of skeletons, brains, and eggs. But, do they know where these specimens come from? Generous alumni, dedicated teachers, and various trustees have built the collection the School has today. Many former parents who were doctors have also donated brain specimens to the School. Not only are the skulls and brains a unique and captivating feature of the CICS, but these gifts are also a tribute to Choate's unwavering commitment to education, one that can leave a lifelong impact on students and encourage them to give back to the CICS.

Much of Choate's assortment was put together by teachers. Physics teacher Mr. Ben Small and former science teacher Mr. Ian Morris would bury dead animals and allow insects to clean off all their tissue. After retrieving the remains, they would meticulously bleach and clean the bones, transforming them into valuable resources for display or tools for biology teachers. The large collection of specimens in the CICS has accumulated over a long period of time, with most dating back to before it was even built in 1989. Mr. John Ford, a science faculty member of over 40 years, said, "All this stuff has been here well before I got here, so let's assume that it's all been here 60 years or longer." The age and preservation of the Science Department's specimens is exemplified by the penguin display on the second floor. The tag informs passersby that the penguin was originally from Richard Byrd's first Antarctic expedition, before it was transferred to the Natural Museum

of History. How it ended up at Choate, though, is a mystery. The penguin has been in Choate's possession for an incredibly long time. Mr. Ford said, "When I got here, I asked some of the people that had been here well before I had been, and nobody knew how it came about." The best guess is that an alumnus acquired the penguin as either a gift or a purchase and then donated it to the School. The taxidermied penguin stands proudly among other preserved specimens as a reminder of the Science Center's duty to Choate students. The extensive range of models and samples provides students with opportunities to satisfy their curiosity and engage in hands-on learning. As Mr. Small put it, "When students are walking through [the displays], we want and hope that it fosters curiosity, and that maybe students will have questions and ask about it and start a conversation." Ethan Zhang may be reached at ezhang26@choate.edu

DELECTABLE TREATS JUST A RECIPE (OR TEACHER) AWAY!

By Anya Shah '25
Staff Reporter

Whether students have been through a long week or have just returned from an exhausting sports practice, surprise mug nights and homemade baked goods are bound to brighten their days. Here are some of the students' favorite pastries made by Choate faculty.

Ms. Emily Kaplan's Brownies

Sometimes the best desserts can come from a box, and HPRSS teacher Ms. Emily Kaplan's Ghirardelli brownies are proof. "I don't bake," she said. "But the one time that I did bake, I made a delicious box of Ghirardelli brownies for my students." Simple but delectable, the brownies were made by mixing eggs, oil, and water with a brownie mix. "Someone asked for brownies, and so I did what I think a good adviser would do. I went out, and I bought a box," Ms. Kaplan said.

Ms. Diana Beste's French Clafoutis

Another community favorite comes from beloved Latin teacher Ms. Diana Beste. "Strangely enough, I do not really enjoy eating many baked goods because I don't have a sweet tooth," Ms. Beste said. However, as a teacher, adviser, friend, and mother, Ms. Beste always has plenty of opportunities to showcase her homemade pastries, such as no-knead baguettes and brownies. Her signature baked good is French clafoutis, which is an easy delight to whip up under a time crunch. "It's very simple: flour, sugar, two eggs, milk, butter — and you mix all that up," she said. "I add a few secret [ingredients] in there, and then you put it in a pan and plop whatever fruits are in season on it." Ms. Beste has used her clafoutis recipe for almost 40 years, sometimes experimenting with substitutes like oat flour instead of regular or altering the process to accommodate allergies.

Ms. Beste often brings her clafoutis into class for birthday celebrations or as a welcome treat after intense exams.

Ms. Amy Salot's Blueberry Scones

As someone who enjoys cooking anything from homemade pasta to chocolate cake, HPRSS teacher Ms. Amy Salot said that scones are her go-to treat. "Whenever we have department breakfast for HPRSS, I always make scones," she said. The process is simple: she combines dry ingredients — flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt — with butter, blueberries, and lemon zest. Carving a well into the center of the mixture, she stirs in heavy cream and eggs, then kneads the dough. The dough is then shaped into squares, brushed with cream, and sprinkled with sugar. Ms. Salot bakes the scones "until golden brown" for roughly 20 to 22 minutes before cooling.

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Ms. Amy Salot's Blueberry Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar, plus more for sprinkling tops
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1 ½ cups fresh blueberries, picked over and rinsed
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- ½ cup heavy cream, plus more for brushing tops
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten

Directions

- 1.Preheat the oven to 400 degrees with the rack in the center. Place a baking mat on a baking sheet, and set it aside.
- 2.In a large bowl, sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Using a pastry cutter or two knives, divide the butter into pea-sized pieces. Stir in blueberries and lemon zest.
- 3.Using a fork, whisk together cream and egg in a liquid measuring cup. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the cream mixture. Stir lightly with a fork, just enough for the dough to come together. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead a few times to mix well.
- 4.Pat the dough into a 6-inch square about 1 and 1/4 inches thick. Using a floured knife, cut the dough into four 3-inch squares. Cut each square in half on the diagonal to form eight triangles, then transfer to a prepared baking sheet.
- 5.Brush the tops with cream and sprinkle with sugar.
- 6.Bake until golden brown (20 to 22 minutes) before transferring the scones to wire racks to cool.

Graphic by Yoyo Zhang '24 and Melody Qian '24/The Choate News

LANPHIER AND TUCK: MOST CRAVED CAMPUS SNACKERIES

By Zainab Khokha '24
Reporter

Choate's commercial food service locations provide a convenient and casual way for students to spend some free time or crack down on homework. Lanphier Cafe and the Tuck Shop serve as recreational and social hubs for Choate's busy community members. Although both locations sell food and drinks, they are distinct establishments that serve varying needs. LANPHIER CAFE Lanphier Cafe, located in Lanphier Center, has a relaxed, work-conducive environment.

The room is open and spacious, filled with cozy couches, chairs, and tables. Large windows display the giant weeping willows and serene pond in front of the Carl C. Icahn Center for Science. Even on a dreary rainy day, Lanphier Cafe is an ideal spot to spend time outside of class. Much to teachers' frustrations, students frequent the cafe during the short passing period between blocks, often resulting in a late arrival to class. According to Ms. Heather Rizza, a six-year employee with SAGE Dining Services who started working at Lanphier Cafe this past November, "It is the busiest

in between your 10-minute little breaks. We get slammed for about 10 minutes at a time." Students and faculty order a variety of drinks, from teas to Oreo frappes to plain coffees. Prim Tangkaravakoon '24 said, "I always get a vanilla frappuccino at Lanphier Cafe because I really like vanilla frappes, and I really like the Lanphier one. It just powers me through the day when I need it." Pastries are also a hit at Lanphier, with cinnamon rolls and chocolate-filled croissants being the most popular. Ms. Fadoua Janati, another Lanphier Cafe employee, spoke

of the more dietary-inclusive additions to the menu. "We will be offering gluten-free bagels and gluten-free muffins, and everything's labeled so [customers] know what they can or cannot have," Ms. Janati said. TUCK SHOP The Tuck Shop, located on the first floor of the Student Activities Center (SAC), harbors a louder recreational atmosphere, full of people playing games and catching up with friends. With its central location, restaurant-style booths, and night-timey mood, the Tuck Shop is the ideal place to get

together with friends and enjoy some free time before heading off to afternoon events. Choate students order a variety of Tuck's offerings, including burgers, Caesar salads, and curly fries. According to Ms. Joselyn Bryant, a five-year SAGE worker, students often prefer to eat at the Tuck Shop instead of making the short walk upstairs to the dining hall because their style of food caters more to students' taste. "Here, you can get a burger, you could get fries, [or] you can get chicken," Ms. Bryant said. "Quick and easy for kids who get what they're used to eating and like eating."

The Tuck Shop also provides a unique environment where students can both work and play. Some of the busiest hours are during lunchtimes, after classes and sports in the afternoon, or on Mondays — when a part of the dining hall goes meatless. "Sometimes the library is just a little too quiet for me," said Alexa Scarlett '24. "So I'll come here just to feel the chill out. I love the location, and then you get to run into people and have conversations you wouldn't have had otherwise." Zainab Khokha may be reached at zkhokha24@choate.edu

TOP STUDENT ORDERS

LANPHIER CAFE

- 1.Chai Latte
- 2.Frappuccino (Oreo or Vanilla)
- 3.Cinnamon Roll
- 4.Chocolate-Filled Croissant
- 5.Iced Coffee

TUCK SHOP

- 1.Hamburger
- 2.Curly Fries
- 3.Caesar Salad
- 4.Bacon, Egg & Cheese Sandwich
- 5.Chicken Sandwich

Graphic by Yoyo Zhang '24/The Choate News

LANPHY OR TUCK

Graphic by Maddy Childs '26/The Choate News

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLAYS IN BOSTON

By **Arjun Pathy '25**
Copy Editor

Musicians in the Choate Symphony Orchestra excitedly boarded buses headed to Boston this Spring Long Weekend to embark on their first tour since 2020.

Over four days, the orchestra performed a private concert, attended a masterclass with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and embarked on a food crawl across the city.

Touring has always been an important part of the Choate orchestra experience. In the past, the orchestra has traveled to venues in Europe, Turkey, and China, as well as to prestigious locations in the U.S., including the White House and Carnegie Hall in New York City (NYC).

However, touring has not been possible since the orchestra's trip to Washington D.C. in February 2020 due to Covid-19. In anticipation of the trip, Sarah Yildirim '23 said, "My freshman year, we went to D.C. for the Washington trip, and that was pretty fun. So that's why I think this Boston trip will hopefully be good, because this one's longer, too." As most members of the orchestra have never toured with a musical group before, this trip was an exciting and educational experience for them.

Involving months of planning by Orchestra Director Mr. Gene Wie, Music Administrator Mrs. Carol Jones, and Global Engagement Manager Ms. Ashley Sinclair, this tour has been a long time in the making. Mr. Wie said, "I came up with the idea of the tour actually during the previous school year, and all the pieces have just been slowly floating into place."

Ms. Sinclair was in charge of communicating and negotiating with the educational travel company that the School hired to plan the trip, WorldStrides. Mrs. Jones

managed the additional logistics that were crucial to execute the trip, such as hotel bookings, waiver forms, and chaperone assignments. "The planning process for me, it's exciting because I enjoy putting logistics together," said Ms. Sinclair. "As everything comes together, the little logistics kind of trickle down my way," she added.

On the morning of April 29, the orchestra performed a private concert for Choate parents, alumni, admitted students, and donors at the Conference Center of the Courtyard Marriott Boston Downtown. The concert program included a diverse set of genres that challenged students to explore more diverse orchestral scores. Two pieces showcased student soloists: Erin Li '24 on the harp and Paloma So '23 on the violin. The program featured celebrated composers such as Pyotr Tchaikovsky and John Powell.

The acclaimed star of the show was the world premiere of "Harlem Suite 1958," a symphonic jazz piece written for the Choate Symphony Orchestra. The suite is a medley of songs from the musical, *A Great Day in Harlem*. Inspired by a photo of 57 of the greatest jazz artists in 1958 Harlem, New York, the musical tells the story of the music community during the civil rights era. The score was written in the challenging and rarely played style of symphonic jazz. Oboe player Gavin Boudreau '24 said, "I'd say that some of the pieces were definitely unfamiliar, especially as classical musicians with the swing aspect ... it can be brutal at times."

One of the suite's composers, Ms. Alexandra "Lexi" Vollero, visited the orchestra for rehearsal on April 20. A former student of Mr. Wie, Ms. Vollero currently studies at Berklee School of Music in NYC. "The whole nature of the music — it's syncopated; it's swung; it defies

a lot of the rules set by Western classical music and harmony and rhythm and everything," she said.

Speaking about her goal in composing the piece Ms. Vollero said, "Just as the work of musicians that came before us inspired us to write this show and now symphonic medley, we hope our piece inspires others to keep exploring music, their communities, and beyond."

In an effort to feature underrepresented composers in the program, Mr. Wie chose a piece by Emilie Mayer to be played by the orchestra. Due to historical gender prejudice in the music world, compositions like Mayer's "Symphony No.1 in C minor" have not been popular pieces for orchestras. He felt that including Mayer in this program was a step in the right direction to correcting established inequalities.

"We shouldn't be constraining ourselves to only the classical masterworks because the historical canon is very biased against people that aren't western, male, and European," said Mr. Wie. "For me, as someone who doesn't really fit into the mold of what the average orchestra conductor looks like either, it's important for me to play these people's music."

Despite this being an orchestra tour, the itinerary included plenty of non-musical activities for the group to bond. There were musical enrichment activities like a bow making workshop and a performance by period instrument chamber orchestra Arpeggione Ensemble. The musicians also visited iconic landmarks, such as the Boston Museum of Contemporary Art and Quincy Market.

The most anticipated event on the itinerary, though, was the "Food Crawl" that explored Boston's East Somerville neighborhood through tastes from a diverse set of cuisines. Cellist Ryan Kim '23 said, "You're going to Boston! You're having wonderful food, you have wonderful venues, what is there not to be excited about?"

After much planning and practicing, the Choate Symphony Orchestra had a memorable experience filled with opportunities for the musicians to bond while sharing their music with audiences in Boston.

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How You Can Find Your Groove AT THE NEXT SCHOOL DANCE



Graphic by William Gao '24/The Choate News

By **Zoe Dieringer '25**
Staff Reporter

School dances such as Student Activity Center (SAC) dances, Holiday Ball, and 3/4 are a highlight of social life at Choate, providing a much-needed opportunity for tired students to release stress and get down on the dance floor. What makes a dance fun and fills it with energy, however, is the right song. The right song can prompt those who don't consider themselves dancers to move and groove on the dance floor.

Ximena Castillo-Núñez '24 said, "I love it when they play real music. I also love when they play ABBA." ABBA is also a favorite of Nao Murata '25's, who added with no hesitation, "Dancing Queen" is my favorite."

School dance enthusiast Cassatt Boatwright '24 noticed a pattern in the music played at school dances: "Something that I heard from my brother [Wesley Boat-

wright '22], and I completely agree with, is that the school song that is always played at SAC dances is 'Mr. Brightside.' It always comes up toward the end, and people go crazy on it," she said.

Students had a range of recommendations for dance moves that pair best with these songs and the environment of these dances.

Boatwright believes that dances are basically mosh pits and don't lend themselves to much movement, so she opts for a classic up-and-down jump. Castillo-Núñez is of the opposite mindset, preferring more complex dance steps like disco moves.

Christopher Joseph '25 finds that TikTok dances are the perfect way to soak in the limelight if a casual dance circle onlooker is thrown into the middle of cheering partners. "People get hyped about those," he said.

Fashion is also popular when preparing for dances. Students pick

their attire carefully to allow comfortable execution of their dance moves on the floor.

Veteran school dancers agreed that wearing clothes they wouldn't mind dirtying is crucial because becoming drenched in sweat is inevitable. Athletic gear that minimizes sweat and overheating is a popular choice for informal SAC dances.

Joseph said, "When we had the Mardi Gras [SAC] dance, I wore something colorful but something I was still okay with getting sweaty."

School dances have the potential to be exciting and memorable, provided one knows how to enjoy them. With the 3/4 ball for underformers coming up on May 6, many students hope to discover their inner dancers by finding the right song, the right moves, and the right fit.

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DR. HAGEN CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR WITH SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

By **Eliana Li '26**
Reporter

From a Hawaiian rendition of "Over the Rainbow" to the French Canadian folk song "J'entends le Moulin," students in Choate's Festival and Chamber Choruses will showcase an exciting range of pieces at the upcoming Choral Concert. Taking place at Seymour St. John Chapel on Friday, May 5, the concert will consist of six songs from different genres and cultures.

The concert will be led by Choral Director Dr. Julie Hagen, who is new to the School this year. With a bachelor's and master's degree in music, a doctorate degree in music education and choral conducting, as well as 20 years of experience in music education, Dr. Hagen comes to Choate with a lot to offer.

Reflecting on her first year as Choral Director, Dr. Hagen said, "I've loved it. I think the kids are fantastic. They're talented, but more importantly from that, I just love who they are as people." Dr. Hagen also appreciates the experience of conducting singers from all over the world. "I've had such an international contingent of students singing, which is fabulous because we do pieces from different parts of the world."

Students who are in the choruses love working with their new Choral Director, too. Bass singer Eric Yang '25 said, "Dr. Hagen makes the choir experience a remarkably fun and rewarding one. Her professionalism and kind attitude toward students makes every rehearsal enjoyable."

When creating the program for this concert, Dr. Hagen focused on finding music that the students enjoy singing rather than looking for songs that fit a specific theme. After finding these pieces, she spent hours conducting "score studies," during which she delved deeper to determine parts for the four vocal ranges. Through the process, she asked herself, "What do I want to do with this piece? What parts should come out more? How do we shape it artistically? What's my end goal?"

Chamber Chorus rehearsals are an hour-long and meet three days a week. The rehearsal process is often broken down into two parts, beginning with sectional practices, in which each section rehearses their individual parts, and followed by sections reconvening to practice harmonizing and performing the piece together.

Tenor Oliver Nappi '25 said that Chamber Chorus rehearsals have been very "upbeat and

eventful as [they] try to piece together more complicated songs."

The rehearsal process for the performance also came with its obstacles. Yang said, "The most challenging part about rehearsal is when we come together after sectionals. Being perfect with singing each section does not mean it 100% will work together."

Along with the singing, Dr. Hagen also prepared several physically challenging tasks for the Chamber Chorus. Alto Norah Davis-Jeffers '26, shared, "J'entends le Moulin" is a piece we have been working on that includes physical percussion." The need to fully understand the rhythm of the music "has caused the preparation to be extra challenging" for him.

Dr. Hagen hopes that the audience sees the joy performers have in singing. "I do think that the purpose of being an artist is to create more sentient human beings and to just think deeply about how we're feeling about things," she said. "I hope that just as the choir has been moved as we prepare, and that I as the teacher have been moved, the audience can be equally moved by sitting there immersing themselves in this choral experience."

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Photo by Emily Ma '25/The Choate News

The Choate Symphony Orchestra prepares for their upcoming tour.

Choate Hosts the Hartt Orchestra

By **Zoie Wang '26**
Reporter

Every year, Choate audiences have the pleasure of watching professional arts performance groups grace the stage at Ann and George Colony Hall. On Thursday, April 20, Choate hosted the Hartt Orchestra from the University of Hartford for a concert. Under the baton of Dr. Edward Cumming, the Director of Orchestral Activities at The Hartt School, and Ms. Britney Alcine, a doctoral conducting student at Hartt, the group performed Pyotr Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5" and Lowell Liebermann's "Flute Concerto" with soloist Ms. Seung-Hyun Seo.

Planning for the concert was challenging given the many different activities and events that happen through the day. "Simply adding something into the calendar isn't something that is easy to do because it affects so many other departments and other people on campus," said Choate's Orchestra Director Mr. Gene Wie. However, after reaching a consensus on a date and time, the Choate Arts Department was able to make it happen.

Although going off campus to see a concert is a unique experience, Mr. Wie recognized that many Choate students don't have time to go to a formal orchestra concert due to their

busy schedules. Therefore, he decided to bring an orchestra to Choate instead.

Through the concert, "our school community gets a chance to hear ... symphonic music by local musicians," he said. "Hartt is only the first program here ... we'll get to see the groups from Yale at some point in the next school year as well." Mr. Wie also hopes that students at Choate "enjoy what they see and hear, and that they are inspired to keep playing their instruments."

The performance resonated with many students, including trumpet player Bowen Jin '26, who said, "The concert taught me a lot about how professional orchestras sound." As a brass player, Jin thinks it's crucial "to understand when to blend in and when to stand out within the orchestra." He particularly enjoyed Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5" being performed live, praising the orchestra's ability to connect with the audience. "I loved how the orchestra flowed through the piece, and how it really touches the audience," said Jin.

Harper Marsden-Uren '26 also appreciated the performance and "thought the orchestra exemplified exactly what the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra always strives for: passion and integrity in every piece." As a cellist, Marsden-Uren called the Tchaikovsky symphony's

performance "a lively and gorgeous rendition of an already beautiful piece."

Choate orchestra violinist Beatrice Kim '26 shared, "It was especially interesting to watch Dr. Cumming conduct the Hartt Orchestra. He chose not to use a baton and did not stand on the podium. Instead, he used his arms and whole body to conduct."

This was not Dr. Cumming's first visit to Choate. Earlier this year, he conducted a joint orchestra made up of Choate and Deerfield Academy string players at the inaugural Choate-Deerfield Music Day. Some Choate students also experienced playing with Ms. Alcine when she conducted the Symphony Orchestra at the Connecticut Music Educators Association Southern Regionals Festival.

From watching the Hartt Orchestra's performance, students were able to learn from a more professional orchestra and acquire new techniques that could be implemented in their own musical endeavors. Marsden-Uren said, "Watching an orchestra, especially one as accomplished as the Hartt Orchestra, always reignites my love for classical music and the pursuit of excellence in music. It inspired me even further to bring their level of dedication to the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra."

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Photo by Emily Ma '25/The Choate News

Dr. Julie Hagen conducts Chamber Chorus during an evening rehearsal.

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YOUR GUIDE TO COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

By **Reinah Lee '26**
Copy Editor

As a high school athlete, you may have already considered playing your sport in college. Although the recruitment process can be challenging and competitive, you can increase your prospects of getting recruited with the right approach. Here is a five-step plan that committed Choate student-athletes have suggested to improve your chances:

Learn and research

With over a thousand different programs to choose from, it can be overwhelming to find your collegiate match. Hence, it is essential to start researching colleges early to understand what each program offers. When choosing schools, consider what you want out of your college experience: What level do you want to play at? What kind of academic education are you looking for?

With a passion for both football and finance, Choate's Varsity Football Co-Captain Michael Zack '23 chose to pursue his athletic career at the University of Pennsylvania so that he can work towards a business degree from The Wharton School simultaneously.

Reach out, gain exposure

After finding the colleges you are interested in, it's time to reach out to coaches and gain exposure.



Graphic by Melody Qian '24/The Choate News

Alex Krusko '24, who has committed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for lacrosse, found great success using the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IMLCA) and various other recruitment websites.

While the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has regulations that prevent college coaches from reaching out to student-athletes before a specific date, student-athletes are allowed and encouraged to introduce themselves. College coaches receive hundreds of emails from potential recruits every day, so be sure to stand out by sending a personal, attention-grabbing email that includes a two to three minute highlight reel. Choate Girls' Varsity Basketball Co-Captain and Cornell Uni-

versity commit Kameryn Perry '23 stressed the importance of showing coaches your versatility as a player by displaying skills such as hustling and diving for loose balls. "It's not just scoring the basketball, but the ways that you're contributing and being a good teammate," she said.

Attend college camps and showcases

The next step is to attend college camps and showcases to demonstrate your dedication and commitment to your sport. These events offer a unique opportunity to show your skills in-person and further cultivate meaningful relationships with coaches. Other benefits include meeting current players on teams and getting a feel for the campus culture.

Remember, coaches are looking for talented athletes who will fit their team dynamic. After meeting and playing for them, keeping in touch with coaches throughout the recruitment process is imperative. Keep your name at the top of their inbox by updating them on your progress throughout the season.

Receive offers

Receiving offers is an exciting period for prospective high school athletes. However, it is important to approach the process cautiously and consider multiple factors before making your final decision. The offers you receive may come with different levels of scholarship, academic support, and athletic opportunities. For Boys' Varsity Soccer Co-Captain

and Wesleyan University commit Dylan Clack '23, "The deciding factor between Wesleyan and the other comparable academic and athletic schools was the coach having [his] best interests at heart." Take ample time to research the programs to ensure that you find the one that most aligns with your personal and athletic goals.

Apply for admission

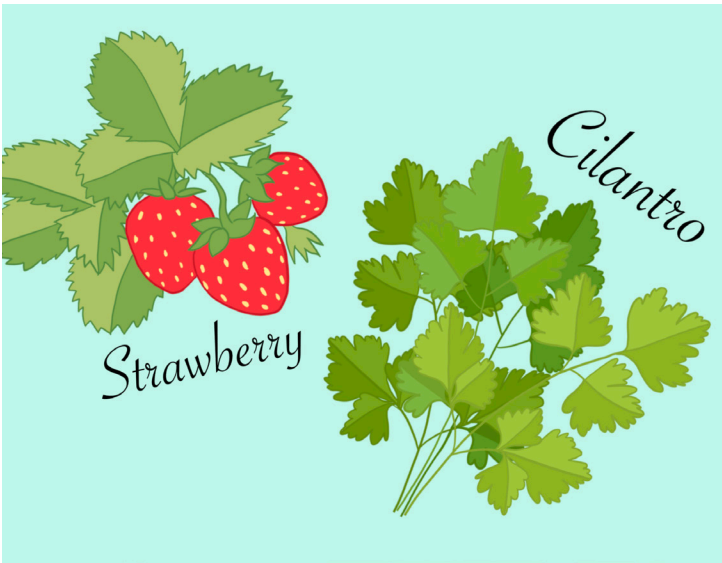
Once you've received offers, it's time to apply for admission. Although recruitment is extremely beneficial to a student-athlete's admissions process, it does not guarantee acceptance to the school. Colleges will still consider your GPA, test results, and other factors to ascertain whether you are academically qualified and fit the mission of the institution.

Keep in mind that getting recruited to play sports in college requires a great deal of hard work, dedication, and patience. "Your work ethic has to separate you. Be very active in your recruitment," added Zack.

With proper research, exposure, camp attendance, and attitude, you can increase your chances of finding the right college for you. Work hard, be strategic and proactive, and make your dreams of playing college sports a reality.

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Digging Into
Intramural Farming



Graphic by Carolyn Chen '25/The Choate News

By **Rowan Aggarwal '25**
Reporter

Led by Science teachers Ms. Katrina Linthorst Homan and Ms. Lena Nicolai, Choate's intramural Farming & Gardening program offers students an alternative to conventional after-school activities in the fall and spring. This term, nine students are cultivating two plots of land, one bordering the cross country trail and the other at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC), and a deer enclosure was established at the KEC when it opened in 2011.

The program began in 2010 as an approved project by Zoe Kauder Nalebuff '11. As student interest in farming grew, the School built a garden along the cross country trail. The approved project eventually became an intramural sport.

Now, students in the program spend four hours per week completing various tasks, including building small greenhouses, working with the soil, and preparing for plantings. Half of students' time is spent with Ms. Homan on campus. The other half is with Ms. Nicolai at the KEC.

"Working with kids and watching them learn how to grow things, how to work with soil, and witnessing the excitement around seeing the results of their hard work are my favorite parts," Ms. Homan said.

Currently, the group is growing strawberries and cilantro, among other produce. In the past, Farming & Gardening has also grown arugula, spinach, broccoli, and peas. Harvested produce from the deer enclosure is used in the kitchen at the KEC.

Eric Yang '25, who began Farming & Gardening this spring, enjoys spending time at the KEC's greenhouse, tracking the growth of his tomatoes and peppers, and "getting to chat with [other students] in a relaxing environment." He explained that taking the Global Scientific Issues class last year motivated him to join Farming & Gardening.

"We talked a lot about sustainable living, and farming is a great way to actually be hands-on and grow your own things," he said.

While there are no immediate plans to expand the gardens, Ms. Homan and Ms. Nicolai remain focused on building awareness of the program, which emphasizes the importance of remaining connected to the land and our food sources while supporting biodiversity by caring for the environment. Ms. Homan said, "My hope is that [Farming & Gardening] continues and that kids get exposed to growing food and taking care of the land because that's really important for all of our futures."

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GENDER DYNAMICS
IMPACT GYM CULTURE

By **Grace LaPlaca '25**
Copy Editor

Choate's fitness center, located in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center (WJAC), is home to cardio machines, free weights, and weight machines. While the gym is open to all students, it only takes a quick glance into the space to observe that the majority of students are male.

Male predominance in the gym impacts its culture in primarily unspoken ways. Male stereotypes and toxic masculinity are projected onto female-identifying students, making weightlifting an intimidating activity and often inducing anxiety, especially for those new to the gym.

Charlotte Flynn '25 noticed this when she first started going to the gym. "Toxic masculinity makes it seem like guys have to lift, and girls do cardio," she said. "In a way, I wanted to break that down and go against that stigma. I wanted to show that, as a female, girls can lift."

The gym environment and male students do not always make the gym a welcoming space. "They're lifting a lot of weight, they're very loud, and they're with their friend groups,"

Flynn said. In her freshman year, she felt particularly intimidated in a space of predominantly upperclassmen boys. "I was scared to get in their way," she said. "Eventually, I learned that this is also my space. This is my space for my mental health and my physical health."

A frequenter of the free weight section, Nia Bradford '25 experienced a similar anxiety to Flynn's. "With a big group of guys, you're more conscious of what you look like and how they're perceiving you."

This heightened awareness may also be fueled by a fear of not being taken seriously. "As a girl going to the gym, I feel like people often assume that you don't really work out, or you can't lift a lot of weight. Or that you're just doing it to take pictures or something and then leave," Bradford added.

For Bradford, the gym is an important space to work towards her fitness and aesthetics goals. "I want to be strong, but I also want to be confident," she said. "Going to the gym helps me achieve that."

The gym experience for male students appears to come with less anxiety. "I feel like people value progress a lot more than they do actual strength," said John Markley

'25, who first started going to the gym his freshman year. "I wouldn't be made fun of or anything if I were to do an exercise that guys typically don't do, because it's all in the name of getting big and strong."

Cason Genovese '23 lifts regularly and follows his own routine. "I have my own little program; I follow what I have to do each day — I don't feel pressured to do arms when everyone's doing arms or has huge arms, I don't feel pressured to do legs ... it's about my goals and not anyone else's."

While Choate's gym culture is undoubtedly male-dominated, there is room for all students to have positive experiences.

Oliver Howard '23, who first started going to the gym at Choate, recognizes that girls may feel overwhelmed by the disproportionate ratio of male students to female students. He encourages new gym-goers to "go in there, have fun, and see what works."

Similarly, for female students new to the gym, Flynn advised, "Go with a friend. I definitely think it's a fun way to spend your afternoon, and it's very empowering."

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Photo courtesy of Cassatt Boatwright '24

Female-identifying students use different gym equipment in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center.