

PRIZE DAY 2016

HATS OFF TO THE GRADUATING SIXTH FORM



The graduating class of 2015 gathers next to the chapel on last year's Prize Day.

FROM THE CIRCLE VOICE FILES

By **ALY MANJEE '18**

Over the years, Groton has invited some of the most esteemed and well-known speakers to Prize Day. On its 131st Prize Day, the school will host two admirable speakers: former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court Margaret Marshall and Zahin Das '16.

Born and raised in Newcastle, South Africa before moving to the United States, Margaret Marshall has led an impressive legal career. After her relocation to America to avoid political persecution, Marshall served as the President of the Boston Bar Association from 1991 to 1992 and the General Counsel to Harvard University from 1992 to 1996. Marshall served on the Su-

preme Judicial Court as an Associate Justice until her appointment in 1999 as the Chief Justice, a position that she would hold for 11 years. Marshall is the second woman in history to serve on the Supreme Judicial Court, and the first woman to be a Chief Justice. As Chief Justice, she wrote around 200 opinions and in 2003 became the first Justice in the United

States to issue an opinion in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. The ruling for the case, *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, was 4-3, a flashpoint for both Massachusetts and Marshall's career. Marshall was one of many candidates considered to be the 2016 Prize Day Speaker. But in the end, headmaster Temba Maqubela suggested

Marshall to the Senior and House Prefects because of her extensive work in the realm of social justice. As a student in South Africa, Marshall was a member and the leader for the National Union of South African Students. The anti-apartheid organization fought against oppressive racial segregation and for equal-

Continued on page 3

Summer Global Education Programs

By **LILIAS KIM '18**

Enjoying the baguettes in France, wild rice in China, and black beans in Peru, Groton students are given the opportunity to explore the world through the Global Education program. This summer, Groton students will be visiting Tanzania, the Dominican Republic, Europe, and South Africa. In past programs, students have been able to travel to China, France, India, Indo-

nesia, Kenya, Peru, Tanzania, and Uganda. Groton aims to educate students to become the next generation of global leaders, caring, ethical, and knowledgeable citizens of the world, through service learning, cultural exchanges, and travel. An exciting addition to the list of destinations for this year, Mr. Lyons plans to take eight students on a trip to Europe. They will be tracing the Western Front of World War II that begins in London, moves across the English Channel to

Normandy and ultimately ends in Adolph Hitler's "Eagles Nest" in the Bavarian Alps after traveling through Bastogne, Belgium and Cologne, Berlin, Nuremburg and Munich, Germany. This trip was previously organized by his brothers David and Joe Lyons, History teachers at St. Mark's and Deerfield, respectively. Another new addition to the list is The Imagine Scholar-Groton Program (ISG), which

Continued on page 3

2016 Editors Signing Off

By **ETHAN WOO AND VARSHA HARISH '16**

As we write this, Prize Day approaches rapidly, the eerie prospect of being thrown into a bigger and broader world now a far more terrifyingly concrete reality. There will be no more rough and rowdy CV meetings, no more late nights spent watching Ross weep over InDesign, none of that exhausted pride felt as we carry three hun-

dred copies of the newest issue to the Schoolhouse. Though we're parting ways with Room 051, we have the utmost confidence in next year's staff. It is with complete faith that we hand the reigns off to Hadley and Jack. Now back to us: Last year, we launched at breakneck speed, left with a short nine days to pull together an entire issue in a process that typically takes three weeks.

Continued on page 3

Inside THE CIRCLE VOICE

OPINIONS / 4

Ironing out the Dress Code

Nina Norton '18 decodes the dress code.

Can News Be Funny?

Charlie Vratatos '18 questions the merit of *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* as a credible news source.

FEATURES / 5

From Soul Sauce to Seoul



FROM HENRYBLOOMFIELD.COM

A profile on Groton alumnus Henry Bloomfield '07, who left the Circle only to become a pop star in South Korea.

SPORTS / 6

Crew Crosses the Pond

The season is not yet over for Groton Boys' Crew, which will fly to England to compete at Henley Royal Regatta.

ARTS / 7

Students Direct, Perform in Play Festival

This year's One Act Festival drew long lines of eager students and faculty alike.

HUMOR / 8

You'll Be Missed

The school aches for all the Sixth Formers on Prize Day. But there a few characteristics that will be especially missed.

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Farewell and See You Soon, Faculty

By EUNICE CHO '20

The school year is almost coming to an end. While this thought makes many people smile, some faculty are saying their goodbyes. Mr. Hansen, Dr. Tumminio, and Ms. Klose will be starting new adventures while Mr. Lyons and Ms. Wallace are going on sabbatical. As we won't be seeing familiar faces next year, we should appreciate the rest of the time we have to spend with the departing faculty.

Mr. Hansen came to Groton this year as a physics teacher. He describes his experience at Groton as "unique and incredible." He appreciates his opportunity to have worked with bright, dedicated students and supportive faculty in a place with amazing educational facilities.

When asked to describe Groton in one word, he chose "community," due to the great support he felt from fellow teachers, and the connections he made with students. He really enjoyed coaching cross country during the fall, looking at the beautiful scenery, and shouting encouragements to runners.

Moreover, teaching challenging physics concepts to dedicated students has left him with unforgettable moments, such as taking his classes to the top of the chapel while studying free-fall motion.

Next year, Mr. Hansen will be teaching math at St. Andrew's School in Austin, Texas. He said that he will dearly miss all the wonderful people that he has met here, but he is also excited for a new chapter in life.

Moving to Texas along with her husband Mr. Hansen, **Dr. Tumminio** is taking a new path in life. She is becoming a professor at the Seminary of the Southwest, which is a graduate school in Austin that trains future priests and counselors.

She believes that her time at Groton enabled her to be part of a welcoming community, and that working together with both students and faculty has truly been a unique experience. She says, "The faculty and students here feel like family—you can't say that for many places that you work!" Her goal is to become the best leader that she can be both in her job and in her life in order to make



Dr. Tumminio

C. BOWMAN '17 THE CIRCLE VOICE

the world the best it can be.

Her favorite memory at Groton is spending time on dorm duty. She shared multiple stories with students, played Bananagrams, and ate undercooked brownies in Spring's dorm. Perhaps the most memorable was taking out a mouse in a trash bin in Bradley's. She will miss the vibrant energy of the Groton students and all the faculty and their families.



Ms. Klose

A. POWER '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

Next year, **Ms. Klose** will be moving to Boston and teaching at KIPP Academy Boston next year. She made the decision after she got engaged over fall long weekend in October.

When asked to choose one word to represent Groton, she chose "rigorous," due to the high academic standards that the students here strive to meet. Her time at Groton means "a time of growth" to her, since she has never taught before coming here.

Her best experiences at Groton have been getting to know the students both inside and outside the classroom. She has enjoyed not only teaching and getting to know her history students well, but also coaching the girls 3rds squash team last year and coaching the track team.

She is excited to work with inner-city students in Massachusetts and further her career as a teacher. Her future goals are to get a Masters in history within the next few years.

During his sabbatical leave next year, **Mr. Lyons** plans on going to a town in the north shore of Massachusetts called Annisquam. He also wishes to travel and read a multitude of books. He is very excited about travelling and believes it will be an incredible experience and a relaxing break from life at Groton.

This summer, he will lead the World War I and II Global Education trip in Europe. He hopes that this experience will be enriching for both the students and himself.

Moreover, he plans on developing a new course, doing more research on US history, and especially resting and recharging. He believes that it will be a good time in his life to stop and take a break while doing things that he enjoys. He enjoys hiking and will be doing so in Maine during his sabbatical.

Mr. Lyons has taught at Groton for 21 years, since 1995. During his last sabbatical, he went back to Middlebury College, the college he went to, to teach a course and coach football. He also enjoyed time with his family.

During his sabbatical and time away from Groton, he will miss teaching his courses, coaching varsity football, and his beloved students, but he says the year will go by very quickly and he will soon be back on the Circle again.

Ms. Wallace is also taking her sabbatical next year, during which she hopes to expand on the research for both her personal projects and classes, especially her elective class called 'America in the Philippines.' She plans on travelling to the Philippines and seeking out local sources that are only accessible in person. She also hopes to interview players in the EDSA Revolution, which continue to affect US diplomatic and military capabilities in the Pacific.

Nonetheless, even though she will keep on pursuing academic topics next year, she is also looking forward to stepping aside from the busy life at Groton to recharge. This, she believes, will be a crucial part to help keep her fresh perspective in the classroom. She believes it will give her the freedom to expand further in



Ms. Wallace

FROM THE CIRCLE VOICE FILES

ways that wouldn't have been possible due to the constraints of her twenty years of teaching. This is her first sabbatical, even though she has been teaching at Groton for twelve years.

When asked what she will miss the most, she answered without any hesitation: the people. She will most definitely miss her colleagues and the faculty, along with the students whom she often has intriguing conversations with both in and out of the classroom. "This is the reason why I teach," she says, stating that the students and faculty are an essential part of her life. She believes her special bond with students, along with the promising sabbatical year, will be helpful in her teaching career.



Mr. Hansen

C. BOWMAN '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE



Mr. Lyons

H. BEREDAY '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE



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EDITORS' FINAL GOODBYE

Continued from Front Page

Everything that could have gone wrong, did. Somehow, we managed; it all came together at the last moment. That raging velocity, we realized, would characterize the rest of the year.

It's been rewarding. We switched printers in the fall to improve the quality of the paper, and in the process learned about negotiating with professionals. We further modernized the layout design this year, and worked with our online staff and student programmers to boost our social media presence and to put out an app for the revamped website.

The 2015 to 2016 editorial board is a tight-knit bunch. And we have the countless midnight workdays to thank for that. It's been an up and down ride, but all the stress and duress of

the press has proved wonderfully and wildly memorable.

We'll miss the pizza and cupcake munching, the quirky neuroticism of George after 10 PM, and the sometimes quiet, sometimes loud, but always consistent combination of whining and support offered by Zahin as he pored over his articles.

But most of all, we'll miss working with the assistants and editors—the writing, the layout, the coordination, the Fifth and Sixth Formers that always delivered regardless of how hard we pushed. We are so thankful to have been able to collaborate with our staff, and we are so excited to see what's in store for next year.

And so far the very last time,
Varsha and Ethan

TO THE GRADUATING STAFF

From Your Former Assistants

By THE 2016-17 EDITORIAL BOARD

Prize Day is an especially bittersweet day for *The Circle Voice* staff, which must say goodbye to the Sixth Formers who have lent their guidance and expertise to the paper for the past year. As the new staff settles into place, we look back on the hard work of the 2015-2016 Editorial Board and hope to emulate its example.

Ethan Woo and Varsha Harish, this year's Editors-in-Chief, led *The Circle Voice* to new heights with their lovingly firm leadership. This year, the CV Room moved out of the grim basement of Brooks House and back into the Schoolhouse. The staff especially loved the highly specific signs about layout details they posted around the new room. During fall term, the two editors organized a change in printers from the CV's traditional printer to a new one, improving the quality overall. With this change, they began to print the centerfold in color, adding vibrancy to the paper.

Besides leading various technical changes, Ethan and Varsha also taught an eager staff the skills necessary to journalism: perseverance, integrity, and - their favorite - timeliness. They helped panicked assistants with layout, encouraged lower schoolers to take on challenging topics, and ensured that the paper maintained the high standards established in years past. Ethan and Varsha proved to be strong leaders in the CV Room and good friends outside of it. Their funny emails about writers' meetings and their smiling faces will surely be missed next year.

Yanni Cho served as the pivotal leader of a cohesive News Section. She guided her assistants patiently while providing necessary critiques

of their work. Whenever they came across obstacles, Yanni would happily offer assistance. With copious support and encouragement, she turned the daunting layout process into a largely enjoyable experience. Her expertise and kindness are some of Yanni's positive qualities that all will sorely miss.

Zahin Das was not just a shrewd, diligent editor; he was also a caring friend who always made sure his assistants were doing okay, and we will always be grateful for that. He truly cared for us, and he was very understanding in making sure that we weren't stressed or overworked. Zahin was very honest and fair, and he taught us that although opinions themselves may not be faulty, there is always a clearer and more effective way to express them. Thank you, Zahin, for everything you've done for us.

Features Editor **Ross Ewald** never backed down from a challenge. Whether it was coming up with interesting and amazing article ideas or burning the midnight oil doing layout in the CV room, Ross always came through. Her patience and constructive criticism helped everyone working under her. From teaching her assistants InDesign to working to perfect an article, Ross's determination and dedication will be missed in the CV Room next year. More than just a great writer, editor, and friend, Ross was a great leader to all on *The Circle Voice*.

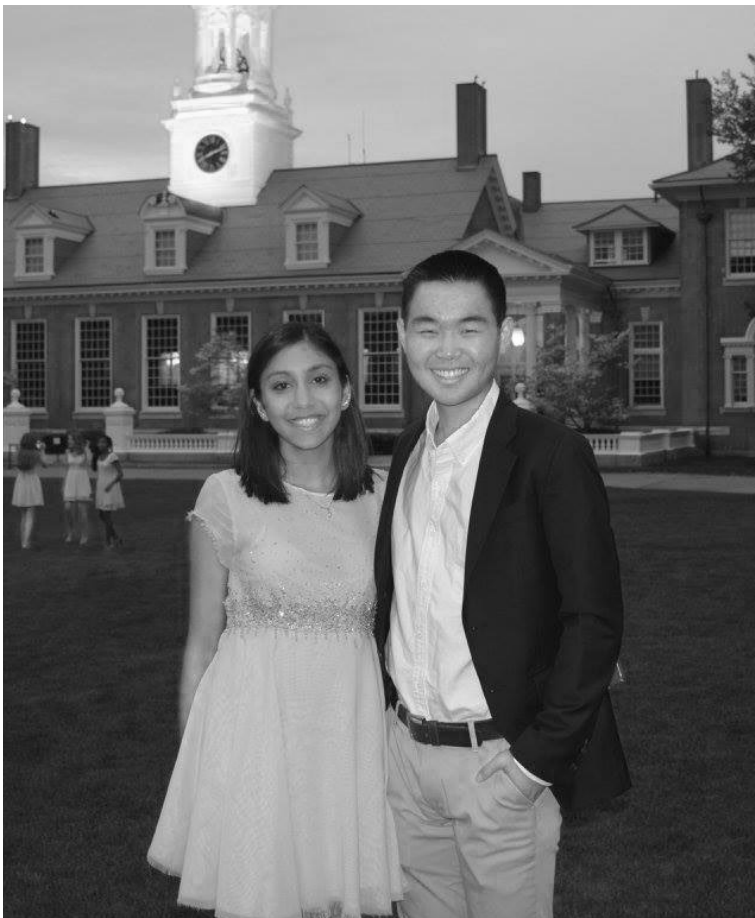
George Klein and Parker Banks have been incredibly organized and reliable Sports Editors. They came to each writers' meeting with creative and original article ideas and encouraged new and experienced writers alike to write for the Sports Section. George and Parker made sure that a wide variety of student athletes were featured and also helped to ensure that there was a balance between articles centered around

Groton sports and real world sports. When it came to layout, George and Parker always stepped up, helping to meet deadlines and putting in the extra work required to make the section look neat and perfected. They were extremely helpful in showing their assistant editors the ropes of InDesign. As they leave the Circle, George and Parker will be sorely missed by the Sports Section.

Candace Tong-Li brought a distinct energy to the Arts Section this year. Her bubbling personality and breadth of knowledge in the arts elevated the page beyond what it had previously been, and the staff was grateful for the time spent learning from her. She always sought to find new ways to engage readers and bring new perspectives to articles, all while managing to maintain a balance between the types of articles featured. She made sure all aspects of student life in regards to the arts were showcased in *The Circle Voice*, including everything from movie reviews to seasonal playlists to summaries of jazz band concerts and art gallery exhibitions. We will miss her vivacious leadership next year.

Steven Anton and Nena Atkinson lent their talent to one of the most beloved parts of *The Circle Voice*: the Humor Section. They provided comedic relief in times of stress and added a little bit of fun to each issue. Their haikus, memes, and lookalikes were painfully accurate and loved by all, giving the whole Groton community something to relate to. Truly, the Humor Section brought the school a little closer together with each subsequent issue.

Thanks again to the Editorial Board of 2015-2016. We wish you the best of luck as you move onto your next adventure. Just remember when you come back to visit, the door to the CV Room will always be open.



Ethan and Varsha prepare to leave the Circle.

COURTESY OF VARSHA HARISH '16

Groton's 131st Prize Day

Continued from Front Page

ity among all citizens. In 2011, South Africa Partners awarded Marshall the Desmond Tutu Social Justice Award in recognition of her extensive work in the field of social justice.

"As a scholar who has done incredible service globally, [Marshall] embodies the Pillars of Groton that are: scholarship, service, globalism and spirituality," Mr. Maqubela said. He also highlighted the historic symbolism of Marshall's visit to the Circle. "Two white and two black South Africans will be sleeping under the same roof when in their country they could not be seen together or go to school together [because of apartheid]," Mr. Maqubela said, referring to the fact that Marshall will be staying at his house on the night before Prize Day.

The student speaker for this year's Prize Day, Zahin Das, is widely known across campus for his involvement in a variety of activities at Groton, from

being *The Circle Voice* opinions editor to playing on both the Varsity Soccer and Squash teams. The son of two Groton teachers and a lifelong Groton resident, Zahin encompasses the goal of each Groton student: to find a balance between work, activities, and friends. When asked how he felt about speaking at Prize Day, Zahin responded that he was "nervous but excited" and was "humbled" to be presented with this honor.

Going into the voting for the Prize Day student speaker, Zahin was a very popular choice among his classmates. One of his closest friends, George Klein '16, felt that Zahin would be an exceptional Prize Day speaker because of his "persuasive speaking" coupled with his reputation as a talented writer. Other friends of Zahin, such as Varsha Harish '16, felt that his affable personality would also help

make him an excellent speaker.

Both George and Varsha thought that Zahin's Chapel Talk provided a strong example of both his writing ability and his ability to deliver convincingly different emotions. George went as far as to say that it was one of the best Chapel Talks that he had ever heard. "He is the right person to finish the Groton experience," George said.

This upcoming Prize Day promises to be filled with extremely compelling and interesting speakers, and everyone on the Circle is looking forward to welcoming Margaret Marshall to campus and listening to both her speech and Zahin's. But even among all this excitement, there is a feeling of sadness, as everyone gets ready to say goodbye to friends and Prefects. Nevertheless, 2016 is destined to mark a very exciting and memorable Prize Day.

Upcoming Global Education Trips

Continued from Front Page

is a collaboration between a group of Groton students and a group of students in the Mpumalanga Province, in the Nkomazi region in South Africa. Many of the current Fourth Form students who are a part of the ISG group have been skyping and contacting students in the Mpumalanga Province since second form through email, YouTube, and Skype. Groton students participating in ISG have engaged in ongoing learning opportunities including common texts, writing assignments, and other art forms to share their talents, ideas, and culture over the past two years. This trip leads to the next phase of the collaboration which is to communicate face to face.

In cycling alteration of the major music groups on the Circle, each year one group travels on a tour either to a new country or in America. This year, the Global Education Opportunity in music begins on the Groton

campus right after exams with orchestra rehearsals and information sessions about Imperial Europe, the great orchestral and musical traditions of Central Europe, and Central Europe.

Afterwards, students fly over to Budapest and cruise the Danube River. Next students will travel to Vienna, home of Mozart, Beethoven, Gustav Klimt and Sigmund Freud, and visit the Vienna State Opera House, and they will perform in beautiful Schonbrunn Palace. On the way to Prague, the group will stop in the Moravian capital of Brno. Then, as a grand finale the orchestra will experience Bohemian folk music and dancing at our Farewell Dinner at a local Prague restaurant before returning back home for the summer.

There are countless opportunities at Groton. It's only a matter of pushing yourself further to learn about the greater world beyond our small communities.

Ironing Out the Dress Code

BY NINA NORTON '18

The dress code at Groton has always been a controversial topic. Many feel that there is an unfair disparity between what girls are allowed to wear and what boys are allowed to wear. But there is a reason behind that difference. Boys' clothing is usually not form-fitting, and have far simpler styles than girls' clothing. It's very easy to tell whether or not a boy is adhering to the code: either he is wearing a collared shirt and a pair of nice pants, or he's not. It's easy for teachers of either gender to approach a boy about changing because of both the clear-cut nature of the boys' dress code, and the fact that the boys would very rarely be asked to change because their clothing was deemed "distracting."

It's very different for girls at Groton. While it is nice that girls have more freedom with what they are able to wear, it is not nice that faculty members (and occasionally other students) feel that they have the right to offer their full opinion on a girl's clothing choices. I believe that there is a certain time and place for everything, and fashion is no exception. I agree with the Guide to Groton when it says that "ath-



Students in varying levels of the dress code.

H. KIM '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

letic attire, skirts and dresses of an inappropriate length, and sweatpants" are unacceptable things to wear to classes.

But I also believe that you should always treat others with respect and dignity, and sometimes faculty members do not do that when they address girls about what they are wearing. Girls shouldn't make others feel uncomfortable with their choice of clothing, but neither should teachers make girls feel uncomfortable when they ask them to change. A faculty member should never or tell them that they are "distracting

boys." It angers me that this is even a reason for asking a girl to change. Boys should be able to control themselves if they see a girls' shoulder blade or thighs.

When asking a girl to change, teachers should simply (politely) request that she return to her room and change. Trust me: she is already uncomfortable enough that a teacher had to address her choice of clothing. If the girl disputes the request, I think that faculty members should use their discretion to explain why they believe that the she should change. At

Groton, teachers and students have very close relationships—we both live here, and spend most of our time together.

But teachers are not our parents, and do not have the right to comment on certain aspects of our lives, more specifically, on girls' clothing decisions. When asking a female student to change, faculty members should comment only on what she is wearing.

I have heard from many faculty members that they themselves do not understand the girls' dress code. Guess what? The girls don't understand it very well either! That's because the rules are highly unclear. Girls have so many clothing options that it would take hundreds of hours to write a comprehensive outline of what is and isn't acceptable for them to wear. As I understand it, the girls' dress code is essentially defined by personal discretion, with a few exceptions like sweats and athletic clothes.

But the difference between the genders extends beyond clothing variety. Girls have varying body types. A flat-chested girl might wear one shirt, and a larger-chested girl may wear the same shirt, but chances are that the two look different. Of course, the deans cannot enforce rules only on girls of a particular body

type. It would be ridiculous to put such a distinction in writing. The rules only state that students should use their own discretion—but that varies from student to student.

Likewise, the discretion of faculty members varies drastically. While this is an unfortunate dilemma, I believe that dressing for school and other more professional settings is something that we, high school students who will soon enter the real world, need to experience. As unpleasant as it can be, we need to be prepared for real life, where we will inevitably be judged by others, fairly or not. As Mr. Das said, "This is an ever increasingly global world in which you have to learn to adapt to environments of different cultures . . . A dress code at school allows you to acquire a comfort level with different dress requirements for different occasions."

The debate over dress code will continue forever. As long as Groton exists, there will be anger over the dress code from both students and faculty. As long as everybody is working towards the same goal—which is for everyone to feel comfortable and secure in the place where they should be, above all else, learning—we are moving in the right direction.

John Oliver: a Journalist, a Propagandist, or Neither?

By CHARLIE VRATTOS '18

Since its inception in April of 2014, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* has attracted remarkably large numbers of viewers—among them many Groton students—with its comedic commentaries on a variety of issues in America, ranging from the "NSA's detailed programs" to "putting a cowboy hat on a cat."

Oliver's sarcastic and ironic take on serious topics—coupled with the widespread accessibility of the show through online mediums—resulted in an average of over four million viewers per week in its inaugural season. Along with its impressive following, the show's resemblance to journalism has caused many to wonder whether Mr. Oliver's show is a real, unbiased news show or merely liberal propaganda. The correct answer, as Mr. Oliver would readily agree, is "neither."

In an NPR interview this past February, Oliver was asked whether he thought he was doing investigative journalism in his show. Oliver responded confidently, "No. It is not. No, we are a comedy show so everything we do is in pursuit of comedy... It's confusing to me somehow the fact that this is often the line of questioning... It almost makes me feel like: Am I a terrible comedian? ... It's like looking at a sculptor and saying: 'Well it's not art, so are you trying to build a wall? What exactly are you working on here?'"

As Oliver himself readily admits, *Last Week Tonight* is by no means intended to

be an investigative news report. It is designed to entertain viewers by pointing out the irony and comical dysfunctions in certain areas of contemporary society. Even so, the claim that the show presents itself as a credible news source is not entirely unfounded.

In the same NPR interview, Oliver impresses upon the interviewer the thoroughness and accuracy with which the show researches its stories. In fact, Oliver would probably argue that his show is more factually sound than some of the established news networks that he satirizes for inaccuracies and falsified evidence. Similar to Stephen Colbert's *Colbert Report* and Jon Stewart's *Daily Show*, Oliver's show is presented as though it were a real cable news channel with Oliver posing as the anchor. Additionally, Oliver has interviewed a number of influential figures from Stephen Hawking to Edward Snowden, who has rarely consented to live interviews with traditional news outlets.

The primary concern of many critics of Oliver's show is not a lack of factual evidence in his stories, but rather that the show presents itself as an unbiased news source when it in fact has a defined and left-leaning political agenda. This fear is unfounded, and it is clear that the primary intention of Oliver's show is not to corrupt the minds of Americans with liberal propaganda, but to entertain the public.

At the same time, however, the show does tend to favor progressives on most issues, and, regardless of one's political affiliation, it is important

to recognize the bias of the show. The large following that the show has attracted, combined with the somewhat partial views that it expresses have led some to worry that it is replacing traditional "impartial" journalism with its more entertaining comedic form of news.

The reality of the left-leaning comedy news shows modeled after Jon Stewart's *Daily Show* is that while they are somewhat biased in their views, they are almost as factually correct, if not more so than traditional media outlets. They project their ideologies with the backing of facts and do not intentionally market themselves as unbiased news sources.

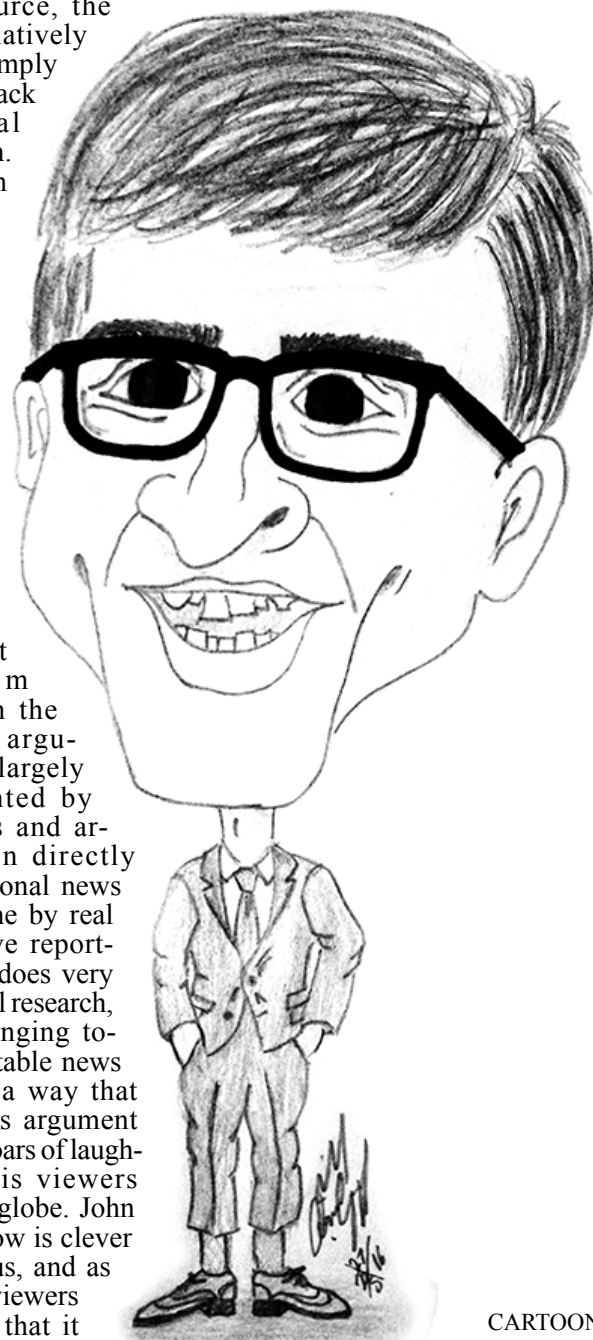
The audience demographics of the shows demonstrate that viewers do understand the lack of impartiality in these shows. Polls conducted by the Washington Post, for instance, revealed that only seventeen percent of *Colbert Report* viewers were Republicans compared to the forty-seven percent who were Democrats.

The shows are certainly biased, but this is because they are intended to entertain individuals with particular ideologies. The accusation that Oliver's show is intended to brainwash the American public to rally behind a liberal agenda is preposterous given that so many of its viewers already support this agenda.

The object of the show is not to spread the word of liberal philosophy through comedy, but rather to entertain a certain breed of people with a predisposed political ideology by elucidating the comical irony and irrationality of many issues facing Americans.

As for the accuracy and reliability of Oliver's show as a news source, the

show is relatively innocent simply due to its lack of original information. Although Oliver presents the issues in his twenty minute segments as though they have been overlooked by the mainstream media, a closer look reveals that this claim is far from the truth. His arguments are largely supplemented by video clips and articles taken directly from traditional news sources done by real investigative reporters. Oliver does very little original research, instead stringing together reputable news sources in a way that supports his argument and elicits roars of laughter from his viewers around the globe. John Oliver's show is clever and hilarious, and as long as its viewers understand that it is a comedy routine and not CNN, it is as harmless as it is entertaining.



CARTOON
BY M. GAYE
'18 FOR THE
CIRCLE VOICE

FROM SOUL SAUCE TO SEOUL

HENRY BLOOMFIELD, GROTON'S K-POP STAR

By ZIZI KENDALL '17

There is one question that plagues us all from the ages of five to twenty five: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" For most little kids the answer happens to be an astronaut, ballerina, or rock star. While these career paths rarely pan out, things have gone according to plan in the most unexpected way for one Groton grad: Henry Bloomfield '07.

For those of you who don't know, Henry Bloomfield happens to be Groton's one and only K-Pop star. Having graduated from Groton in 2007, Bloomfield discovered his passion for recording music and production here on the Circle. Henry was a jazz pianist with Soul Sauce and did a music production FSA his senior year with his form-mate, friend, and bandmate, Davis Vigneault. While he enjoyed playing live music, what Bloomfield loved most while at school was producing: "my interest in music completely skyrocketed when I started writing my own tunes." Henry accredits a lot of his love for recording to Groton. "For [him] recording is all about work ethic and [spending time] to get it right," both things he attributes to Groton.

After graduation, Henry headed off to Oberlin College where he got his degree in English: "I just wasn't ready to dedicate everything to music at that point." But Henry still kept up with his music, record-



Henry and Davis recording in the Gemmell-Hughes barn.

COURTESY OF IAN MACLELLAN '06

ing with Davis Vigneault in the Gemmell-Hughes' house during the summer, saying, "Mr. Gemmell and Ms. Hughes were so incredibly kind and generous to us."

From Oberlin, Henry headed off to wBerklee College of Music in Massachusetts, where his journey into K-Pop really began. During his time at the school there was a strong Korean network on campus. At a concert for new students on the second day of orientation, Henry met many new students from Korea, one of whom was Sungtaek Oh. He said, "[Sungtaek] was very eager to jump into life in Boston. One thing led to another and in two weeks we had a band all together."

"I felt almost like an outsider," Bloomfield said. "[Berklee] is really international." What struck Henry most about his

new Korean bandmates was "how kind [his] friends and the people they introduced [him] to were. They were all really great musicians!" The following summer, Henry packed up his bags and visited Sungtaek in Ilsan, Korea.

After his trip, Henry toured "with a white, Jewish rapper who may or may not be Hoodie Allen." While on the 2013 Cur-sin' USA tour they made stops in cities all throughout the U.S. Even though Henry loved touring, he decided not to continue on to the European tour. That was when he decided to move all the way to Korea. "[It was] a simple fact of my exposure to Korea - I love the people, the food, the culture. Everything about it was new to me."

Over the course of two and a half years, Bloomfield taught English, produced and recorded

music and music videos with the help of another friend, Hoon Choi. "Interestingly, now there are a bunch of foreigners [in Korea]. The English teaching business is huge, and learning English is monumentally important to them," he said. Henry described the whole experience as almost surreal, "[I was] in the moment, in the place where I was.... [K-Pop] was a great way to dive into something cultural here while also pursuing my passion. I just felt like this would [be] fun, so why not go for it?"

Even though he spent almost three years there, Henry never fully learned Korean: "writing lyrics in Korean was not going to happen for the most part." Concentrating instead on only producing music, Henry released three music videos while in Korea: "Kiss a Kumiho,"

"Ms.Mary," and "Overtime." All three videos were picked up by the CJ E&M YouTube channel, a popular Korean media channel.

Unfortunately, Henry's videos did not reach a wide audience. "[The videos] were largely misunderstood and criticized," Henry said. "[They were] an easy topic for scrutiny." The push back he received was "all in the online world." Henry went on to explain, "K-Pop is so wildly popular in so many places, but it's all very similar. My stuff was very much not [what people were expecting] at all." But regardless of the criticism, Bloomfield said, "it was so much fun, and [the videos] were another way to shape this thing that I had created."

Even though his time in Korea was amazing, Bloomfield said that "after two and a half years it felt like time to come home." Just one month ago, he left Korea and moved to Brooklyn, where he is currently keeping up with his own recording and writing. Henry is planning on concentrating on new music and hopes to release a number of tracks this summer.

To all the musicians, producers, and future pop stars, Bloomfield said, "Try as many different things in as many different genres as possible, and go to as many shows as you can. But don't feel guilty if it doesn't work out; I think it takes time to distill it down and find what gets you going and drives you the most."

A HISTORY OF SENIOR SHENANIGANS

By LILIAS KIM '18

Pranks. Pranks. Pranks. What to do without pranks? A Groton without pranks is like a rainforest without rain, a peanut-butter and jelly without the jelly. Recently, graduates who returned to the Circle began conversations asking, "So, what kind of pranks are you kids up to nowadays?"

Groton has a long tradition of pranks. Most notable was the unveiling of the world's largest tiled poster on the Chapel that read "Big Brother is Watching You" and made the Guinness Book of World Records in May 2008.

Mr. Bannard recalls his own senior prank: to create a perfect copy of the student schedule template (back when everyone had paper schedules), then put fake schedules in every student's mailbox at the start of spring term, putting second formers in AP Chemistry and other advanced classes etc. Pranks didn't go through the administration at that time, so there wasn't any issue in getting this one passed; however, Mr. Bannard and his friends did almost get in trouble because the template they created was so good the school thought they had hacked into the system.

He also recalls three great pranks that happened a year or two before he arrived to Groton

- a senior rappelled down the side of the Chapel and hung on the wall a big "For Sale" sign, complete with the headmaster's phone number, that was visible from Farmers Row. Rumor has it that the student who initiated the prank was a former advisee of Dr. Reyes.

Several years later, when Mr. Bannard was in fifth form, the seniors replaced the text of the right hand side of the school hymn with the lyrics to Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time." Undoubtedly, this took many returning Grotonians by surprise. And lastly, Mr. Bannard's brother's class prank brought the cops to arrest the headmaster at Roll Call for serving alcohol to underage people at Reunions.

In more recent years, pranks have strayed from mere amusement. In 2011, the seniors kidnapped the entire school and dragged them down to the boathouse before Chapel began. Much to his dismay, Chris Higginson '14 arrived on the Circle for Revisit Day only to find an empty chapel. The seniors of 2011 meticulously planned each stop and how to congregated the student body covertly and take them to down to the Boathouse. For breakfast, donuts were served, but by noon students were mandated to return back to the Circle for classes.

In 2012, seniors held a fili-

buster - a Roll Call filled with so many student announcements that it lasted over an hour and a half. The main goal was to trap the entire school in the Schoolroom. The result was quite miserable—the entrapment of over 400 individuals in one wooden room on a hot spring day lead to jumping out of windows and escaping to classes. In addition, the seniors tied all the backpacks together while students were in Chapel. A teacher who had a swiss army knife eventually had to cut all the cords connecting all the

backpacks.

In 2013, seniors parked Francisco Fernandez's car in the middle of the Schoolroom, which required roughly 50 Schoolroom desks to be unscrewed and moved. Afterwards, they surprised the school with a Carnival Day and had many activities such as face painting, ice cream truck, a bouncy castle, dunk tank, Twister, and a kissing booth.

In 2014 and 2015, there was no major senior prank. In 2014, seniors placed furniture in the Dining Hall senior section and

put a significant amount of stickers on the Schoolroom desks. In 2015, the seniors planted a tree in the middle of the Circle, which ultimately wilted because of the strong winds that day.

Most recently, the 2016 seniors surprised everyone with a beach day on the Circle. The idea was clever, well planned, and momentous, complete with an ice cream truck, cookout, bouncy clouds and a blow up slip and slide.



Students on the Circle during this year's senior prank.

S. JOHNSON '16 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

Michael Brown '16

By ARAM MOOSAVI '17

In his four seasons as a member of the Varsity Boys' Lacrosse team, Mike Brown '16 has made immense impact on the program. Mike joined the team as a third former playing attack, but in fifth form he switched positions, picking up a pole and playing long stick middle for the team. He became a "ground ball machine" his fifth form year earning him captain of the team and All ISL honorable mention. In addition, he has won the Hoover Vacuum award, given to the player with the most ground balls each game, many times in his career. His coaches and teammates have dubbed him "Bar Down Brown," and this nickname has held true this season, as Mike has scored two goals with one of them being a bar down bounce shot. Mike and the other two captains, Wells Burrell '16 and John Beatty '16, were awarded the team's Hard Hat award earlier this year for the leadership and grit with which they have carried the team throughout the season.

When asked about Mike's contributions to the team as a captain and player, Head Coach and Athletic Director Bob Low says, "Mike Brown is a fierce competitor who hates to lose, whether it be a 1-on-1 battle, a loose ball situation, or an athletic contest. He plays with an edge and confidence that is the trademark of all impact play-



Mike on defense.

COURTESY OF SARAH FORBES

ers. I love coaching athletes like him."

Mike started playing hockey when he was four years old and it has been his favorite sport ever since.

A captain of the Varsity Hockey team in the winter, Mike's contribution to Groton athletics extend beyond the lacrosse field. Mike began playing hockey when he was just four years old and says it has been his favorite sport ever

since. Throughout his four-year hockey tenure at Groton, Mike has consistently played on the first and second lines. As a third former, Mike made an immediate impact for Groton and Coach Riley by scoring ten goals and 17 points. In his fourth form year, Mike's contribution to the team increased, scoring 23 goals and totaling 49 points, earning him a spot on the All ISL team. His favorite memory of playing hockey at

Groton also came during his fourth form year, when the team played in Frozen Fenway against St. Mark's. During his early years on the ice for Groton, Mike recalls looking up to Matt Pompa '14 because of the "intensity and passion Pompa played with on the ice."

Mike's final two seasons on Groton hockey were also extremely successful; Mike tallied 17 goals and 55 points in his fifth form year and 22 goals and 38 points his sixth form year. His accomplishments have earned him the title of Co-MVP for the last two years, All ISL for the last two years, and captain for his sixth form year.

When asked about his experience being a captain alongside Mike, co-captain Matt Winter '16 says, "Leading the team with Mike was great. Since third form we both had seen our fair share of great captains and we tried to take a page out of each of their books. On the ice, Mike played with a certain level of competitiveness that was fun to play with and it would rub off on everyone else."

As Mike's Groton sports career comes to a close, his presence will surely be missed after all he has done for the lacrosse and hockey teams. He still remains unsure of whether he wants to walk-on to his school's lacrosse team in college after already having been recruited for hockey; nevertheless, we wish him luck as he continues his athletic career at Bowdoin College next fall.

LOWER SCHOOL ATHLETES TO WATCH

By ADDIE NEWSOME '18

SOPHIE CONROY '19

Sophie Conroy is a third former rowing her second year on Varsity Girls' Crew. After watching her sisters rowing crew, she decided to give it a try when she came to Groton in second form. She started her career rowing on JV, and moved up to fourth boat later in the season. In the beginning of this season, she started on second boat and then later moved up to first boat, where she now strokes, due to her outstanding 2K time. The first boat had a successful season; earning fifth place at NEIRA's and helping Groton to finish third overall. Her coach, Tiffany Doggett, applauds Sophie for "bringing a real athlete's mindset to every practice and race" and is excited that she will be a part of the team for three more seasons.

SHANE KIM '19

Third former Shane Kim joined the baseball season with lots of prior experience. Despite his accomplished past, coach Glenn DiSarcina shares that "he did not expect the immediate impact that Shane has had on our club." Before arriving on the circle, Shane had never focused on pitching. However, Coach D shares that "On the mound, he is one of the league leaders in ERA (1.84) and wins (4). Highlighting his year have been complete game wins against Lawrence Academy and Belmont Hill. Shane finished off an impressive season by pitching a gritty St. Mark's game. Kim pitched a no-hitter through the sixth inning to help the Groton Nine defeat their longtime rival. Shane owes his success to his teammates who have supported him throughout the season. Both parties look forward to the next seasons to come.

JOEY O'BRIEN '20

Second Former Joey O'Brien rows on Varsity boy's crew, despite being new to the sport this season. Joey picked up crew for the first time this spring, and took to the sport extremely well, earning himself a spot on the fourth boat. He was invited to preseason for his height and strength. Coach Anderson praises him for his persistence and determination to make himself a strong rower. "He has been working hard to learn the sport and to become proficient in the rowing stroke," said Coach Anderson. "He is a key member to the third-ranked 4th boat. Everyone loves his enthusiasm and good nature". Joey helped the fourth boat to finish their season on a high note, with their third place finish at NEIRA's, which contributed to Groton finishing second overall. With Joey being in just Second Form, the Boys' Crew program is lucky to have such a talented athlete for four more seasons.

Boys' Crew To Compete at Henley

By LAYNE MCKEOWN '18

If you've spoken to anyone on the boys' crew team, then you've definitely heard about their extended season. One of the most popular regattas in the world, the Henley Royal Regatta pulls competitive rowers from around the world to race at an elite level, and this summer, Groton's boys' crew team will be attending.

Located in the town of Henley (on-the-Thames), England, over 200 races will take place. Boats of the high school, college, and even Olympic level will be racing on the Thames River, fighting for a high title. Because of the great level of intensity, it is required that all teams apply to contend. With a strong record of 9-2-1 and good erg scores, the team was gunning for a spot, and, of course, were accepted.

In the past, Groton has been successful in the international regatta, even with high competition. The boys team made it all the way to finals in 2000 and later in 2002 to semi-finals, both times racing as an eight. In addition, the girls crew team has twice won their league as a boat of eight, and once again as a four. Based on their early races and erg scores, attending the regatta came into consideration.

Coach Anderson believed in the team's record and upon asking the boys thoughts, "they were very interested." His excitement, as with theirs, cannot be contained. Speaking on the annual race, he said, "it's an incredible experience ... and especially exciting if you're a good team."

Due to a requirement of all rowers being 18 years of age or younger, and the trouble of having all rowers available at the start of the summer, there is great difficulty surrounding gathering the team for the duration of the race. Coxswain of the first boat, Piper Higgins, said, "We were really lucky that all of us were eligible this year, the stars really aligned for us."

Arriving on Thursday, June 9, with a quick day of practice upon arrival, the team will have its first race(s) that Saturday. There will be four regattas in all, each over a weekend, and practices planned for every weekday. Once a week, the team will have a day off for rest and touring the nearby cities in England. In addition to their hotels, for three nights, they will be staying at a nearby British boarding school as well as practicing with their team.

The Henley Regatta itself is from June 29th to July 3rd, so most of the team will be flying home for the fourth of July, spending almost four weeks



First and second boats after winning the Cooke Cup.

COURTESY OF HAMISH NORTON

across the Atlantic. Dreaming about racing at Henley since her second form year, Piper is ecstatic about the upcoming trip. She has full confidence in the team, saying, "Of all the boats that I've seen here since 2014, this group of eight has been the most motivated to have speed, which has really fostered our success this season. That's what rowing is about—trusting in each other to get across the finish line, and really believing that you can do it."

This "once in a lifetime" experience that Piper, Coach Anderson, and other members of the team are gleaming about will be another great step forward for the strong

program. With NEIRAs, the New England championships, around the corner, the team is in their final push of the season. That final race will begin practicing for Henley, where a high title would be an amazing accomplishment.

Throughout their time in England, the coaches and players plan on writing blurbs about daily practices, reports of the weekend races, and everything in between on an online blog. Be sure to catch up with the team's hopeful successes! Good luck to everyone on the boy's crew team, and congratulations on their attendance of Henley!

ARTIST OF THE ISSUE

Candace Tong-Li '16

By DAISY FEY '18

You may have attended a concert she has led or seen some of her paintings hanging up around the schoolhouse. You may have seen her recently published, illustrated book, samples of which are posted in the hallway outside of the College Office. At Groton, it seems that no matter which way you turn, the remarkable talent of Candace Tong-Li '16 is in sight.

Candace is an undeniably strong member within Groton's musical community. During her past four years on campus, Candace has been a leader and an active participant in the chamber orchestra and the Westchester County Orchestra in New York. She also helped to found the A-Minor Sextet, which she described as "a community service-oriented strings group."

As a Music Prefect this year as well as Concert Master, Candace has successfully steered the orchestra through several grand concerts, including her most recent and final concert this April. Candace leads the orchestra on her violin, an instrument that she has played passionately for nine years.

Although Candace is now something of a star on the violin, it wasn't always that way. When asked how she

found her love of the violin, Candace explained that as a child, she was raised learning how to play the piano, but never something never truly "clicked." Then one evening while in third grade, she stayed after a piano lesson at her music school and sat in on a concert they were holding. What happened next is what changed her career in music. Candace explained, "They were all third, fourth, and fifth graders just learning to play their instruments, so it was nothing impressive, but something about the orchestra drew me in. The passionate interaction of all the musicians was exhilarating. That night, I went home, strung an empty tissue box with rubber bands, and pretended it was a violin. Within a few weeks, I made the switch for real."

From this moment on, Candace has been successful in her ventures with the violin. First, she played in her primary school orchestra, then the district orchestra, and then the county orchestra. In middle school, Candace appeared on stage at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, "two impressively grand venues that I felt honored to play in," she states. Today she continues to pursue her passion with massive success and plays frequently.

In addition to her significant presence within the musical community at Groton, Candace

is also a force when it comes to visual arts. Starting at just seven years old, Candace has published seven successful children's books that she has both written and illustrated.

This term, Candace conducted an FSA in which she wrote and illustrated a short story. Her inspiration for her work stems from her vast imagination. Candace revealed, "I've been drawing and storytelling for as long as I remember. I was seven years old when my first children's book was published, and I haven't stopped since."

Though a few are written only in English, some of these stories are written both in Chinese and English and serve as a tool for learning the languages. They are sold online as lesson books to help American children learn to read Chinese and to help Chinese children learn English. Her books are "focused on encouraging imagination, nurturing creativity, and inspiring a sense of contribution to the well-being of the world."

Candace has also been successful in other categories of visual art at Groton. After taking several visual arts classes over her four years, Candace has flourished as a painter most significantly during her time on the Circle. Candace's work has been displayed in the Art Center and in front of the College Office as well as other locations in the schoolhouse. She has a vibrant,

creative, fresh approach to her work in its color and motion. She is praised as a master painter by various members of Groton's art community and an inspiration to younger students of visual arts. Most recently, a painting of a bouquet of flowers has been featured as the artwork for flyers for the spring music recitals.

Overall, Candace shines her light on Groton with her talent, which she tries her best to share with the whole school. Her

creativity and passion blend to create highly original work that inspires those who will one day follow in her footsteps. She has set an extraordinary example for upcoming artists and musicians, encouraging them to follow their passion no matter what, and to always share your art with whomever you can. We will miss her presence on campus greatly next year, but look forward to hearing of her artistic accomplishments beyond the Circle.



Candace practices violin.

H. BEREDAY '17 FOR THE CIRCLE VOICE

STUDENTS DIRECT, PERFORM IN PLAY FESTIVAL

By MICHAEL SENKO '18

Groton's One Act Festival, arguably its most attended and enjoyable theatre production, continued its strong record this year with five new shows. These shows were directed by six Groton students and used four original Grotonian works as their scripts. This year's festival, rather unfortunately held in the Black Box theater rather than the Main Stage, was the Circle's most popular yet, with lines extending out the door an hour before the show even began. Remarkable, especially for a school of our size. Clearly, all of the students involved worked

extraordinarily hard to create something extraordinarily special for us to view. So who, and what, comprised the one act festival this year?

The first show, "30 Minutes to Charlie," a unique mix of comedy and tragedy, was the only piece in the festival not written by a Groton student. The play takes place in New York City on September 11th, 2001, where a prudent, apathetic executive (Julian Alam '19) is trying to get his arm stitched before he has a meeting with possible client Charlie. Accompanied by an earnest assistant (Karla Sanford '19), the entire show takes place in a hospital waiting room with an annoyed secretary (Ivana

Primero '17) overseeing the pair's antics while a comedic nurse (Lucy Chatfield '18) is bewildered by the fact that they do not know the terrors going on outside their business bubble. The show's light comedy is often overshadowed by the incredibly grave circumstance the characters find themselves in.

The next show was "Mia," one of the festival's two strictly serious plays, written by Amy Lu '19. The show centers on Chloe (Josie Fulton '18), who is a teenage girl in a session with a therapist portrayed by New Zealander exchange student Anna Cardy. The play walks through Chloe's life at a Groton-esque boarding school before she was sent home on medical leave. The cruel titular character (Anna Thorndike '16), was a major factor in Chloe's descent into bulimia, and the play mainly focuses on their relationship. With well-cast supporting roles from Sophie Conroy '19 and Lizzie Tobeason '16, a crazy plot twist, and a message that is very important for Groton students to hear, "Mia" was an inventive and moving show.

The middle of the festival was dominated by two comedies, the first of which was "Crushing It." Directed by the unshakable duo of Christian Carson '18 and Phoebe Fry '17 and written by the uber-creative Sophie Park '19, "Crushing It" is an energetic joy ride through an

over-the-top Groton Revisit Day. An astounding number of love triangles quickly emerge throughout the show, resulting in an uproarious *Midsummer Night's Dream* ending. Richie Santry '18 plays a womanizing admission head in a secret affair with Lily Cratsley '19, mother to Jon Lamson '18, who is in a relationship with Lyndsey Toce '19, cousin to Andrew Porter '20, who is crushing on her boyfriend (Jon). Wild.

The second comedy of the festival, "Chaos in a Clunker," was written and directed by one-act-veteran Luke Holeý '16. The play tells the story of Mr. Savage (Jack Fitzpatrick '16), an insane entrepreneur, mentoring shy and anxious Felix Keagan (Zahin Das '16). The hilarious pair are traveling to the Eastern Mid-Atlantic Region Doormat Convention when the eccentric Officer Leslie Jenkins (Alex Waxman '18) pulls them over for speeding. The story gets crazier and crazier from there, and the humor never lets up. Writer-Director Holeý described his experience with the show, saying, "It's really fun working with first-time actors because they're so eager to do well and are really good at taking direction. My cast had three incredibly talented actors, who still don't quite realize how capable they are. Getting to rehearse with them was a special part of my Senior Spring, and I hope that they

realize how hilarious and incredible they are."

The final show of the night was also the one that has had the biggest impact here on the Circle. Inspired by the fall play "The Laramie Project," James Hovet '18 crafted a documentary theater piece focusing on mental health at Groton. He says he had three goals when he set out to make the piece: "To make something that was true to the experiences of the people I had interviewed, to make something that was universally relatable, and to make something that did not glamorize or unrealistically dramatize the struggle of mental health issues." After interviewing students on their experience with depression and anxiety on the Circle, James cut and edited their interviews into a play broken into six "moments," each focusing on a different facet of mental health. The play's performance was lyrical, deeply moving, and unspeakably powerful. Not a single person in the audience had dry eyes, as it struck a chord with every Grotonian, no matter how much personal experience they have had with mental illness.

The festival was hosted by the sardonic Matt Efros '16, who provided comedic relief in between shows to pass the time. Overall, the performances were huge successes and the perfect ending to an excellent year for the Drama Department.



Zahin Das '16, Jack Fitzpatrick '16, and Alex Waxman '18 perform in "Chaos in a Clunker."

COURTESY OF CHRIS TEMERSON

Photos of Times Gone By...



You'll Be Missed!

1. We will miss John Beatty's warm glow and pleasant smile each morning!
2. What will we do without Anwar's ever expanding vernacular?
3. Where will we be without Tanner's quick wit and subtle charm?
4. The school will be in tatters without Anna, Jack, Varsha, and Nick!
5. The third form will weep for Malcolm, Allie, and Sydney!
6. The Second Form will cry without Libby!
7. We will all miss Angus!

Don't forget us little guys when you make it big at college!

Sending the Sixth Form off in Style: *Quotes From a Depressed Campus*

"I think I'll miss JP the most! No actually Yanni. No Aron - I mean Georgia! No Will Bienstock, no Drew, no Nena, no Sunny..."
-Teddy Carlin '20

"Even though they're leaving the Circle, I am comforted because I know that the moon I gaze upon at night is the same one they'll see. Also, they won't quit our minecraft server, right?"
-Bobby Meehan '19

"Finally I get to be QB 1! 60 throws a day was worth it! Get ready world here comes Aidan!"
-Aidan Reilly '18

"I'll remember them best by their smells I think. Such a delectable aroma!"
-Perry Middleton '19