# The Circle Voice

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## Prize Day 2017: Hats Off to the Graduates

**Last year's Sixth Form celebrates on Prize Day.** M. SPERLING

By **LILY CRATSLEY '19**

What do varsity crew, money, race, and Diversity & Inclusion have in common? They are among the number of topics students warned Prize Day speaker, Christopher Shays, to avoid talking about. Mr. Shays arrived over a week before the graduation ceremony to explore the Circle in preparation for his speech. "I'm here because I don't want to talk to strangers. I want to talk to people I feel I know," he explained.

Up until May 20th, however, students and faculty had believed that they would be hearing from Governor John Kasich on June 4th. However, James Lynch, a member of Kasich's staff, explained, "Governor Kasich will now be traveling to Asia to pursue a multi-billion dollar investment opportunity for Ohio." This cancellation was startling to Groton students, particularly the senior prefects who had held the vote for Prize Day speaker and had corresponded with members of the greater Groton community to secure Kasich for the day. House prefect Michael Aduboffour '17 said, "It was disappointing, but it was not surprising to hear that Mr. Kasich ended up with too much on his plate."

Betsy Hawkings, a parent of graduating senior Charlie Hawkings and a Groton alum herself, was the initial connection to Mr. Kasich. After being informed of his cancellation, she, among others, quickly worked to secure Christopher Shays, another politician, as the Prize Day speaker. She had worked as Shays' Chief of Staff for eighteen years of his twelve as a Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly and twenty-two in the House of Representatives. During his time in office, Mr. Shays has played many different roles in the American political scene. He is most often noted for his work on the McCain-Feingold financial reform bill, authorship of legislation establishing 9/11 commission, and involvement in national security discussions in Iraq. Ms. Hawkings described her respect for him, and his impact on

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## A Letter to the Editors From Your Former Assistants

By **THE 2016-17 ASSISTANT EDITORS**

There was no shortage of work to be done when Editors-in-Chief **Hadley Callaway** and **Jack McLaughlin** first stepped into their positions a bit more than a year ago. Despite the mountain of tasks that barraged them over the course of the year, Jack and Hadley handled their burdens with admirable poise and ample kindness. Frantic late-night text messages, missed deadlines, and the demands of the endlessly-persnickety InDesign kept our editors on their toes throughout the year. The long nights they spent in the Schoolhouse basement were not for nothing, though; *The Circle Voice* took several important leaps forward this year. The paper's design was refreshed by an infusion of cartoons and color, news stories began to focus nearly exclusively on the School, and the online Circle Voice improved noticeably in design and function. Jack and Hadley also took care of all their staffers, hosting a few wild parties for the CV staff over the course of the year. We will miss their guidance and unwavering dedication to the paper.

**Millie Kim** and **Victor Liu** went to considerable lengths this year to keep the News section running smoothly. As the only section with three pages' worth of space to fill, they had to spend a fair amount of time in the CV Room over the year. They ensured every issue was fit for print, putting to work their skill in writing, editing, and layout. Millie and Victor balanced each other out well in their leadership positions. Victor was a strong voice, ensuring all contributors were on task, and Millie was an especially careful editor, scrutinizing every detail of News articles and layout. Both were valuable assets to *The Circle Voice* and we are grateful for their guidance this year.

We will certainly miss **Chris Ye** and his contributions to Features at *The Circle Voice*. From his awesome emails to his kind demeanor, he brought good energy to every interaction. He diligently assigned articles, and painstakingly made sure that everyone was well prepared. Whenever we ran into issues, he would patiently help us resolve them. His amazing Layout skills should also not be overlooked. Chris is the most caring and hardworking person we've ever known. He has been our rock at *The Circle Voice*. We're thankful to have had the opportunity of working alongside such a funny, bright, and intelligent editor. He has left big shoes to fill. We know that wherever Chris goes, he will be very successful.

We in the Opinions section want to thank our fearless leader, **Rand Hough**, for teaching us to always allot more time for layout than we think we'll need. Among his multitude of talents is his mastery of InDesign. We appreciated getting more responsibility as the year went on, and Rand was always quick to answer questions when we felt overwhelmed. We'll miss Rand's fearless opinions, humor articles (we didn't feel too betrayed), and spot-on voice impressions.

This year, **Delaney Tantillo** was the cornerstone of the sports section. Her relentless work ethic and diligence kept the paper professional and interesting for its readers. Showing up to every meeting with enthusiasm and focused energy, Delaney shared creative article ideas pertaining both to Groton's athletics and to professional leagues. In designing the paper, she always made sure the layout was clean and visually appealing. Delaney's organization skills and hard work made it a pleasure to work under her. We wish Delaney all the best in the years to come!

**Ella Anderson**, layout queen, art connoisseur, and editor extraordinaire, has dutifully led the Art section of *The Circle Voice* for the past year. Besides her creative article ideas, she masterfully curated the section with a particular attention to detail that is hard to come by. Diligent, persistent, and organized, Ella has inspired a new wave of writers for the Arts section that will try their best

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## What's Inside


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Max Klein '18 composes music for *Equus*

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# 2017 Prize Day

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her family, "Thanks to Chris Shays, Charlie and his older brother were able to grow up seeing firsthand that there are elected officials willing to do the hard work of listening to, learning from, and helping the constituents who put them in a position of leadership." She is excited for him to use those same skills in preparation for his speech on Prize Day.

Mr. Shays was equally enthusiastic about his time at Groton, saying, "My first impression was thinking, 'I would have loved to be a student here.'" He discussed Groton's impressive sense of community, and its intimate group of students and faculty. "You must know every person," he marveled, comparing Groton to his own high school experience in Connecticut. While Mr. Shays did not yet know what he was going to speak about, he hoped that by spending time with Groton students, he could present something that resonates with the graduating class and their younger peers. "I want it to be short … relevant, and meaningful."

The student speaker, Marcella Flibotte, parallels Mr. Shays' desire to present something sincere. "I hope that I can accurately sum up our Form's experience here and represent all members of our Form from our first day to our last," she said. Voted into this position by her form-mates, she is honored to have the opportunity to address the school and is taking the job of writing her speech very seriously. Laurie Sales, who taught Marcella in Public Speaking, praised her ability to bring people together. "Cella has a great sense of humor and a humility … [she] is kind to her core." Formmate and senior prefect Langa Chinyoka '17 also expressed her excitement to hear Marcella, whom she described as "relatable" and "a people person."

Headmaster Maqubela, who will also address the school on Prize Day, expressed his hopes for the event. "Let Prize Day be a langelihle," he said, which translates from Zulu to "sunny day." He says that both the senior class and one of their Senior Prefects, Langelihle "Langa" Chinyoka, reflect this idea of sunshine. As the spring starts to blend into summer and the Sixth Form steps off campus for their final time as students, he hopes the sun will shine on Prize Day and for their bright futures ahead.

# From Your Former Assistants

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to emulate her stellar performance as editor. We will miss her dedication to the paper.

**Feild Gomila** and **Amani Jiu** will be departing as writers and editors of the humor section for *The Circle Voice*. Feild's witty remarks will be missed, as he reminded us all to smile just a little bit wider and to shine just a little bit brighter. When asked if this was the end of his comedic career, Feild stated, "I'mma keep things witty and litty 'til the day I die." We hope he lives up to this promise and continues to spread his joy wherever he may be. Amani deserves great praise for succeeding in her difficult task to make Groton funny. After she graduates on Prize Day, she will leave behind students and faculty sore from laughter. Her effort to make the daily lives of everyone on campus better will be missed. It will be difficult to continue the high standard of humor these two editors have set for us.

**Hanna Kim** has impressively led photographers and cartoonists this year as Creative Director for *The Circle Voice*. Curating the visuals for each issue, Hanna doled out photo assignments and ensured that pieces were in on time. She kept assignments interesting with her signature colorful emails and heart emoji sign off. She remained levelheaded when faced with late assignments and helped photographers manage difficult tasks and angles. She came to each meeting genuinely excited and always remained engaged. Dedicated to her staff, Hanna was a friend to all. The visuals this year were incredible, and she started a trend of improvement that will continue. Diligent, kind, and dedicated, Hanna will be missed.

**Zizi Kendall** led the website like a well-oiled machine. Last summer when we were redesigning the site, she worked to make it look good past the point where anybody else would have thought necessary. Always juggling 20 different tasks at once, she still kept on top of everything. As she moves on to bigger and better places, she will be missed.

As almost all 2016-2017 assistant editors will continue to work on *The Circle Voice* in the 2017-2018 school year, this past year's editorial board can rest assured that its contribution to the paper will not be soon forgotten. To all the section editors and other Powers That Were: a final thank you for the work, time, and love you have put into the CV. We

P. SHI '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

# Goodbye From the 2017 Editors-in-Chief

By **JACK MCLAUGHLIN AND HADLEY CALLAWAY '17**

When we first came to Groton in Second Form, writing for *The Circle Voice* gave us a deeper look into the workings behind our new school. It also gave us a whole new group of intelligent, informed, and motivated peers to look up to, like Hadley's Third Form prefect Elizabeth Salisbury '14 (Editor-in-Chief at the time) who encouraged her to write more and apply for a position in the spring.

We'd like to think that by spending so much time with our fellow staff members battling with InDesign and coming up with headline ideas, we've become more like them. Why else would we all spend an hour and a half formatting a single opinion article to flow perfectly around a cutout of a cartoon of John Oliver? Why would we give up the most social time of the day, 10-12? Working for the CV has required a true love of the process, drawing only the most dedicated students.

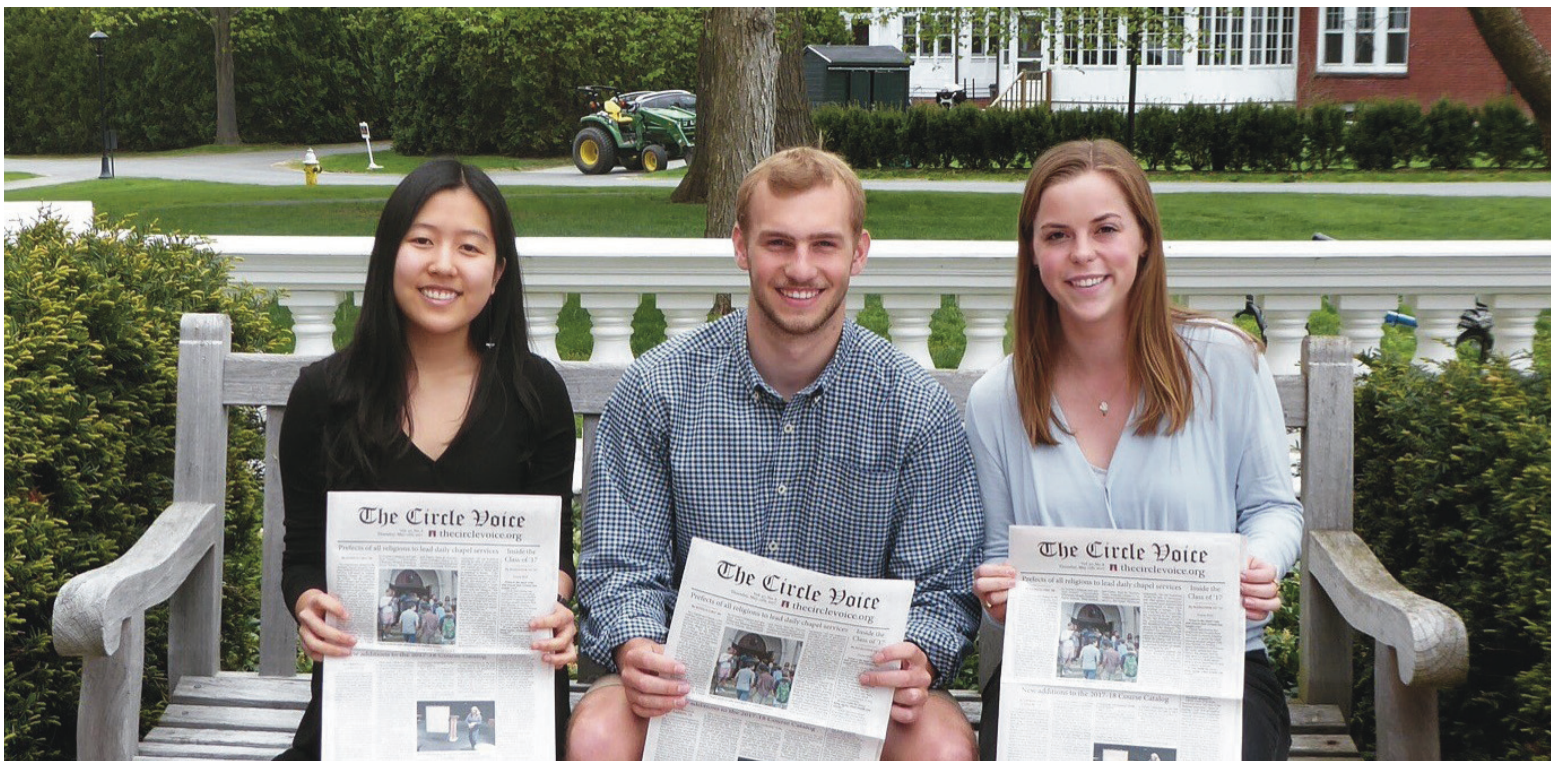
The fun times we had with the staff, the connections we made, the feeling of being informed about campus affairs, and the training in extroversion that the CV gave us during our first four years encouraged us to apply to be co-Editors-in-Chief. The application was daunting, but we found ourselves falling into a trance as we answered questions about why we loved the CV and how we wanted to improve it.

But as we discovered this fall, running a paper is very different from any other job on the CV, from reporter to photographer to assistant editor. Suddenly, our work was more about managing our staff than sniffing out good news stories on campus (but we still did some of that). We became involved in every aspect of the process, at the somewhat-calm eye of a beautiful storm. And even though our main passion lay in the writing, we soon realized we enjoyed other parts of the paper too—laying out the paper on InDesign, copy editing articles until we were cross-eyed, and working with the younger staff on how to improve our final product.

This year, our most obvious influence on the CV has been the new design of the paper, in which we tried to retain the best parts of the old design. We have worked to accomplish the ambitious but practical plan we devised at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's summer workshop: a sleeker, updated design with improved graphics, diversifying our coverage, and a completely redesigned website.

Other significant new developments for the CV include our organization of staff, namely replacing the copy editor and staff writer positions with "reporters," and trying to recruit more photographers and cartoonists than we've had in the past, and our new Mac desktop computers, of course! Our headlining piece about Roll Call attendance from the October 21st issue actually precipitation from the administration—Mr. Maqubela began a push to revitalize the longstanding tradition. It felt pretty awesome to witness those changes and to know that they were a direct result of our paper.

There are a lot of things we already miss about the paper. Next fall, we'll miss the hectic meetings in the Webb Marshall Room, the late nights in the CV room, the satisfaction when the whole school swarms around the table outside of the Schoolroom to pick up the latest issue. Most of all, however, we'll miss everyone who was a part of the process. So thank you Ms. Friedman and the 2016-17 staff. We know we're leaving the paper in the best of hands as we graduate. Annie and Christian, good luck! We can't wait to see where the CV goes from here.




**2016-2017's Editors-in-Chief and Creative Director.** S. CONROY '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

**More Online**

Visit *www.thecirclevoice.org* to read about exchange students at Groton, Global Ed opportunities in the upcoming summer, and more.

# Life Beyond the Circle: Sabbaticals and Next Steps

By **MARIANNE LU '19**

As the Prize Day tent looms on the Circle and teachers begin exam review, the reality of summer becomes tantalizingly close. After we return to the Circle from our well-deserved vacations, many things will be different, from new faces in the senior section to different dorm arrangements. Next year, we will also miss many familiar faces on campus, since many faculty members are leaving or taking a sabbatical. As we all enjoy the last few weeks of school, make sure to cherish your time with these teachers.

### ADAM LAMONT

F. TOBEASON '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Mr. Lamont is one of the youngest faculty members, having graduated from Groton in 2012. After attending Bowdoin College, he returned to the Circle this fall as an intern to teach Classics. When asked if he could describe Groton in one word, he responded, "home...this is where I grew up and [it] has been such a huge part of my life."

For Mr. Lamont, this job was not radically different from what he had expected, and he has enjoyed his time on the Circle as a teacher. As Mr. Lamont reflected on his time both as a student and a teacher at Groton, he said, "my time as a student was one where I was doing a million different things and raced between all of those." Being a teacher, however, has allowed Mr. Lamont to become more of a specialist, focusing on classics.

After Groton, he will miss "spending time with students the most", especially the third formers in Riley's Dorm and his Latin 1 class. Mr. Lamont plans to spend the summer teaching in Shanghai and will return to the US afterwards to look for a job outside of teaching. One of his students, Alex Schade '20, said, "I have learned a lot from Mr. Lamont and I will miss him next year."

### JOSHUA DUCLOS

F. TOBEASON '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

New to Groton this year, Mr. Duclos entered the History Department in the as a sabbatical replacement for Jennifer Wallace. He taught "World and the West", coached thirds soccer in the fall, and coached track and field in the spring. He has loved his time on the Circle.

Though he knew of Groton's reputation before he arrived on campus, Mr. Duclos said he was still taken aback by "how thoughtful and inquisitive the students are." His favorite parts of Groton have been the casual, impromptu conversations about history and philosophy he has had with many of his students, saying that "those conversations are what education is all about."

He looks forward to having more of these conversations this summer, when he will work at St. Paul's School in New Hampshire. In the fall, he plans to write his dissertation on moral philosophy and will be guiding mountaineering trips in France and Nepal. Julia Kendall '19, his advisee and student, said, "I grew to really enjoy Mr. Duclos' style of teaching and I have learned a lot throughout the year."

### GENEVIEVE FOWLER

F. TOBEASON '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Like Mr. Lamont, Ms. Fowler also graduated from Groton in 2012. After attending Yale University, she returned to the Circle as a physics intern. She was stunned by the new Schoolhouse, which she said was the most prominent change that Groton has underwent during her years away. However, she was more surprised by the existence of the Fab Lab, stating, "my entire role here has been something that didn't exist at all when I was a student, and I'm surprised the Fab Lab even exists at all." Ms. Fowler quickly transformed the space, holding evening activities such as her chocolate workshop. She has enjoyed working with all students, whether they are second formers, with "excitement and young enthusiasm," or sixth formers, who are full of "wisdom and knowledge." She has loved having conversations with people who come into the Fab Lab just to ask questions, and hopes that she has inspired them to take more physics and engineering classes in the future.

Next year, Ms. Fowler will be working on a STEM education-related project in New Haven with a professor at Yale University. She will be creating a make-it-yourself Bluetooth headphone kit, which will not only be functional, but also teach its users STEM and engineering throughout the construction process. Ms. Fowler is excited for new projects like these in the future.

### PETER FRY

B. SMITH '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

After twelve years on the Circle as an English teacher, Mr. Fry has prepared for his sabbatical next year. Although he has been eligible for a sabbatical for two years, Mr. Fry has decided to wait until his daughter Phoebe's graduation to take a year off. He has decided to spend the year in Montpellier — a small city in southern France. He has visited Montpellier a couple of times before and has many good friends in the city. Between reading, writing, exploring the area, doing volunteer work, and honing his French skills, Mr. Fry said, "I am not worried about being bored!" His son Malcolm will be in seventh grade at a bilingual international school during this time.

Mr. Fry has also been considering developing a new course during his year off. He is looking to craft a course in art history, which he majored in at Yale University.

When asked about what he would miss most during his time away, Mr. Fry said in jest, "the Dining Hall." He added that although the students and teachers are an integral part of his Groton experience, he will miss the convenience of not having to cook and wash the dishes.

### SARAH MEYER

B. SMITH '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Ms. Meyer has been teaching drawing, painting, printmaking, and ceramics for four years, and has been essential to Groton's art department. Ms. Meyer grew up at and attended St. Mark's School, and even taught there for two years before coming to Groton. Given her experience at St. Mark's, Ms. Meyer was not "caught off guard" by anything at Groton, but she was still surprised by how much she enjoyed being a dorm head, a new role she took on this year.

Ms. Meyer said that she will miss the students the most. Her job here, she said, was the first one that she thought of as being potentially permanent. She said, "to know that there are students who I won't get to see carry on and blossom here is sad." Ms. Meyer will also miss the location; she loves the farmland, especially Joy Lane.

Next year, Ms. Meyer will be moving to Colorado, where she will teach at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School. She will continue to teach visual art, and will also lead wilderness trips, including the kayak/canoe program. Ms. Meyer looks forward to her new adventures, but will definitely miss the Circle when she leaves.

### BILL MAGUIRE

B. SMITH '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Mr. Maguire has many plans for an exciting third sabbatical next year, having taught at Groton since 1985. He has previously served as Groton's technology coordinator, and has taught numerous math courses during his time as a Groton teacher.

In the fall, he and his wife will be living in Galway City, Ireland. Mr. Maguire will be pursuing his interest in Irish Traditional Music, and also plans to take courses at the National University of Ireland. He and his wife hope to find time to visit new places in the country and to see their friends in England.

During the winter, they plan to go to Florida to visit friends and family, and even watch Red Sox Spring Training. They will also spend time in their house in Cape Cod. Mr. Maguire looks forward to enjoying time with his family, particularly his two-year-old granddaughter, Claire.

Mr. Maguire says, "I'll miss the students, particularly my classes and the Cross Country and Track teams."

### EILEEN GILES

F. TOBEASON '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Ms. Giles has been at Groton for two years as an athletic fellow, coaching JV soccer, JV basketball, and Varsity lacrosse, as well as affiliating in Meyer's dorm. Her favorite part of her experience at Groton has been getting to know the people here. She finds it fulfilling to see how her interactions with students overlap on the field, in the classroom, and in the dorm. When asked to describe her Groton experience in one word, Ms. Giles said, "community." Throughout her time here, she has learned that relationships are "what you make of them." She said, "I realized that there's value in every relationship you build here, not just for kids, but also for adults."

Next year, Ms. Giles is moving to Washington, D.C. to teach physical education at the National Cathedral School. She will miss the people and the campus.

### IAN & MARTHA GRACEY

B. SMITH '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

The Graceys have been at Groton for 10 years — with Mr. Gracey as the director of admission and Mrs. Gracey teaching English.

They have planned to spend their sabbatical year in many different places, visiting Maine and New Jersey in the fall, the West Coast in the Winter, and then travelling to South Africa and Europe. Mr. Gracey also plans to visit some other independent schools to see how their Admissions Offices differs from Groton's.

The Graceys will miss all the little aspects of Groton. Mr. Gracey will especially miss greeting new students as they arrive on the Circle, the fall Dorm Olympiad, his advisees, big snowstorms, Open Mics, the Dining Hall, the Varsity Baseball team, and, he adds, "the ever-positive spirit of Ms. Rita Lalli." Ms. Gracey will miss her English department colleagues, her advisees, the changing view out of her classroom window, teaching *Absalom, Absalom!*, and sitting in St. John's Chapel.

### ANDY REYES

B. SMITH '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Dr. Reyes, member of Groton's Form of 1980 and teacher since 1993, will be taking a sabbatical next year. He will spend the year working with Manar al-Athar, an archaeological research group that he has been a part of for thirty years. He will be putting together online photo archives of material that the group has surveyed over the years, mainly materials from the Middle East and Africa. His work focuses mainly on the years from Alexander the Great's death in 323 B.C. to the Islamic Conquest in the early seventh century. He will be surveying buildings and writing articles both in the US and abroad.

While he is away, Dr. Reyes will miss the students, because, as he says, they are "the best part about the school."

# Six Strikes, You're In! (For the Rest of the Year)

**Rasetti's Reasoning**
By
Andrew Rasetti '18

It is a universally-recognized truth that seniors will not work as hard in their spring term. The School, however, does not want seniors to lose their drive in their final days on campus. In order to combat this nonchalance, the school adjusts the demerit policy so that senior privileges can be lost based on demerits. The Groton handbook dictates that any senior who accumulates six or more demerits in spring term will have certain privileges revoked, including the privilege of leaving the dorm after check-in (referred to commonly as 10-12). Outside of sixth form spring, though, six demerits will only earn a two-hour work crew. What gives?

As to the purpose of the policy, Mrs. Petroskey says that "for Sixth Formers, it helps keep them accountable for their commitments as well as remaining good leaders until they graduate." 10-12, she argues, is not an absolute right but a privilege only to be given to students who prove that they can manage their responsibilities. But questions still inevitably arise on this demerit policy.

The first question is fairly obvious. Do the stricter rules show a lack of trust in the seniors? The answer is yes. Ultimately, it is true that seniors are more likely to kick back and relax than focus on work during the spring. However, meeting these requirements has always been and still is the responsibility of solely the student. If their sudden change in work ethic or motivation brings consequences to the senior, ittheir own fault. However, the School's tightened demerit policy in the dusk of the school year only shows that they expect their seniors to slack off. Surely the School owes a little more faith to its sixth form.

> "Do these stricter rules show a lack of trust in the seniors? The answer is yes.

The second and perhaps bigger question looms: does it work? Many students seem to think it has mixed effects. Senior Liberty Potter '17 said, "I don't think it works for a lot of the bigger problems… but I think that for skipping chapel and such it's worked." This makes sense: seniors want their privileges, so the likelihood for them to skip a twenty-minute commitment and lose hours of potential socializing time at night diminishes. According to Mrs. Petroskey, the number of seniors skipping chapel is consistently low throughout the year, remaining so in the spring with the risk of losing 10-12.

The School needs to show more faith in the senior class by giving them at least the same amount of room for error as in the past. The seniors have made it this far, so why respond by heightening the likelihood of punishment? As Tripp Stup '17 says, six demerits is an "absurdly low" number: "They should take [senior privileges away] at ten or something so if we mess up three times we won't be punished and we can still enjoy our last couple of months." The fact of the matter is that many seniors do not even get six demerits in the fall and winter, but it is the threat of punishment after doing so little that can make it much harder to enjoy their final days at Groton.

A. WEI '21 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

# All-Gender Dorms: Tolerant or Too Far?

**Nina's Notes**
By
Nina Norton '18

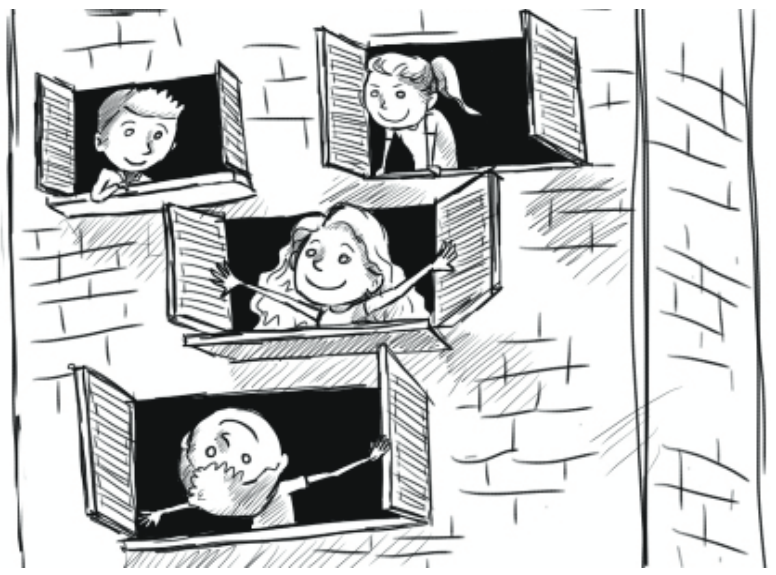
Phillips Academy Andover and Phillips Exeter Academy, two boarding schools similar to Groton, plan to introduce all-gender dorms in the next school year. Each of these dorms will house around twenty students, all in singles. These dorms are meant to make students who are transgender or identify as non-binary more comfortable in a place where gender defines much of their experience—after all, residence halls have traditionally been founded on gender. John Palfrey, head of school at Andover, told NPR that the "reaction to this announcement has been 100 percent positive," and a survey at Exeter found that "90 percent of students who responded said they supported the new dorms." Alumni recall times when LGBT students were hazed and bullied and look to all-gender dorms to be more welcoming.

The question naturally follows: would this work at Groton? There seems to be a supportive student base from both girls and boys. Daisy Fey '18 thinks that "it would be fun," and Michael Senko '18 expects that "the bathroom situation would be a little awkward at first, but after a little while everyone would calm down." He also brings up the fact that an overwhelming majority of Groton students plan to go to college, where many dorms house all genders. Is it not a good thing, he then reasons, to prepare students for the next step in their lives? Olivia Potter '18 argues that all-gender dorms would also "improve gender relations at Groton" and create a "safe space for non-binary students."

While introducing all-gender dorms would be a positive step for Groton, the administration would have to consider carefully the best way to integrate these dorms on campus. Everyone who would want to live in an all-gender dorm should have that opportunity available, but everyone else should be free to choose the preexisting single-gender dorms. Take the perspective of Richie Santry '18: while he professes to have no issue with all-gender dormitories and thinks that they would be "a great addition to Groton," when asked whether he would live in one, he said that he would prefer to stay in an all-boys dorm. He named communal bathrooms as a primary concern, and also cited the camaraderie and comfort developed between a dorm of boys over a year.

In a perfect world, girls and boys would not treat each other differently based on gender, but the truth is that that's what happens. Girls confide things in each other in girls' dorms that they don't share with boys, and boys do the same in their own places of residence. Creating a dorm with different genders, while a perfectly valid solution for some students, risks that the friendship between a group made entirely of boys or girls will be somewhat diminished. Some students wouldn't mind that, but for others, that bonding is what makes Groton worthwhile.

But if there are people at Exeter and Andover who feel more comfortable in an all-gender dorm, there may well be people at Groton who would feel the same way, and those people should not be forced into a living situation that makes them uncomfortable. The administration should look into whether there is need for an all-gender dorm on campus: are there students who would feel more comfortable living in one already on campus? If that constituency exists (as it very well may), it is not only the School's duty but its obligation to accommodate those students. But unless there is a compelling reason, though, dorm life needs no change from the status quo.



P. SHI '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*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# Word on the Circle

## "What has been your favorite moment in Senior Spring?"

"I can't think of a certain memory, but I have really enjoyed being in the dorm this term. I love playing games like Big Booty at check in and eating delicious feeds our day student and affiliates have brought us."

-Emma Keeling '17

"My favorite memory this term has been delivering my chapel talk. Being able to openly reflect on my life experiences in that pulpit felt simply surreal. Even the process of writing it and preparing for its delivery was incredibly fulfilling. I cried as I typed out its final sentences

-Mike Aduboffour '17

"One night I was walking around campus during 10-12, going to lower school side to meet a friend when I bumped into Mr. Capen going down to the boathouse for senior poetry reading. I ended up joining the group and we read poetry on the dock for an hour. We lit candles; it was a very ethereal moment. "

-Hadley Callaway '17

# The Next Step: Senior Gap Years

By **MARIANNE LU '19**

With the end of the year approaching, sixth formers begin preparing for the next chapter of their lives beyond the Circle. For many, this means attending college following summer break, but for others this means taking a year off from school to pursue other interests, seeking to gain a unique view of the world outside of what many call the "Groton bubble". Four seniors - Elyssa Wolf, Emma Keeling, Ella Anderson, and Victoria Wahba '17 – have shared below details of their planned gap years.

Many people inspired or encouraged these seniors to take a step away from the fast life at Groton as they transition into the world. Several were both guided and enthused by the experiences of those around them. Elyssa was first exposed to the concept when three of her third form prefects took gap years. Similarly, Emma initially considered the opportunity after hearing "positive responses" from her friends and people she knew taking gap years, seeking a chance to have "a break from organized education to find that love of learning again."

Still other seniors' decisions were a result of unpredictable obstacles. Following a serious concussion in her fifth form year, Ella Anderson '17 first started considering the option of a gap year. Going against her doctor's recommendation and returning to Groton relatively soon after her injury, Ella felt "burned out." After a college revisit, she realized she "really needed to take a year off" to allow herself to "fully heal."

Although Ella's gap-year was unanticipated, Victoria Wahba '17 is quite the opposite. She said: "I wanted to take [a gap year] for as long as I can remember," and cited the need for a "mental break" as her impetus for doing so. Despite differing individual reasons, the overarching purpose of gap years is, as Elyssa explains, to "gain some life and experience and take a little more direction in life."

The process for obtaining a gap year may be either challenging or straightforward, depending on the individual colleges' policies. Fortunately for her, Ella's was of the latter type – after informing the admission committee that she wanted to take a gap year, she needed to do little else. Victoria underwent a similar process. Elyssa, on the other hand, needed to provide a letter requesting a gap year supported by what her college determines to be a "compelling reason" to take one. Further, she had to sign an agreement stating that she would not apply to other colleges in her time off.

With few time constraints and limitations, the projects that these seniors plan to undertake not only reflect their true interests and curiosities, but also allow for completely new and unique experiences. When visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art over her most recent spring long weekend, Ella found herself marveling over the beauty of the marble statues. After one quick Google search for classes in marble-working, Ella wound up with plans to spend four months in Florence, a portion of that time at a marble-carving school. She then plans on staying with her cousins in London, but has purposefully made few specific plans to allow for unforeseen opportunities. For the last part of her summer, Ella will attend a language program in Seville, Spain, to "perfect" her Spanish.

**Ella Anderson** S. CONROY '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

Like Ella's, Victoria's summer will also focus on language, starting with a three-month trip to southern France, where she will be "taking language classes and possibly teaching English or interning somehow." From February to May, she will be in Egypt, taking intensive Arabic classes at American University in Cairo.

Elyssa, however, prefers home soil. She will start her gap year working two months at her parents' company in New York City, then spend time at her home in San Francisco. From there, she plans to travel in Europe, specifically in Spain and Greece. Elyssa plans to conclude her year by becoming a certified yoga instructor in Bali – a certification requiring two hundred hours of training – and working as a counselor at a summer camp.

Emma's gap year will incorporate both familiar and foreign places. She will initially stay local by working on the farm of Groton restaurant Gibbet Hill Grill from graduation to mid-October, learning there how to farm sustainably. After that, though, Emma will join with fifteen volunteers in Nepal to learn about Nepalese culture while simultaneously "educating communities on sustainable water and energy usage."

From Indonesia to the town of Groton, these seniors will use the upcoming year to not only take a well-deserved break, but also to try things they've never done before. What happens after, though, is entirely up to them. While some after the gap year will attend college, others still plan to blaze other paths in life. All will hopefully carry what they learn with them wherever the next chapter of their lives take them.

**Victoria Wahba** S. CONROY '19 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

**Issue No. 8 Correction**

Several photographs published in last issue's Features section were mistakenly credited to Mr. Temerson for *The Circle Voice*. These photos were actually taken on behalf of Groton School.

# Athlete of the Issue
# John Cecil

By **HADLEY CALLAWAY**

John Cecil is seven feet tall, co-captain of the boys varsity crew team, and committed to row at the University of California, Berkeley. Yet when he first came to Groton, crew was nowhere in his mind. "My older brothers encouraged me to try it out," said John. "I was actually planning on playing tennis!"

And thus did Groton's crew program avoid a potentially devastating loss. After all, John holds the School's record for best erg score, rowing two thousand meters in six minutes flat. "It's hard to imagine," says his current coach Andy Anderson, "that it will ever be bettered." John's score is even faster than those of the five Grotonians who have gone on to row on the United States Olympic team since Mr. Anderson's arrival on campus in 1980.

In his first year on campus, John joined both the varsity basketball and varsity crew teams – a feat practically unheard of for a second former. He is currently a captain or co-captain in both sports. On crew, he spent his first year on the third boat and his remaining four on the first, which Mr. Anderson said is "extremely rare."

In addition to his skill, John brings an infectious, fun-loving attitude, inspiring teammates to work harder with his pure love for the sport. Mr. Anderson calls him "a kid who makes it obvious how much he enjoys what he is doing," continuing that "he's very hard working, a great team member, [and] cares about other kids on the team." Teammate Tom Steere '18 calls John "very supportive," saying that he "respects everyone on the team equally. Coming in new this year, I was very worried about being part of the team. But he showed that it doesn't matter who you are-- you can be good at rowing as long as you try."

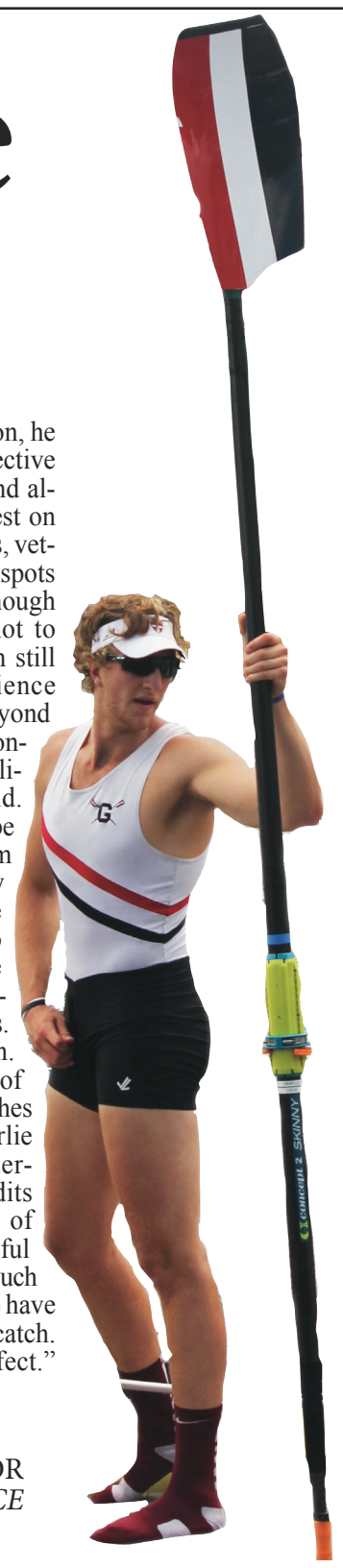
This year, John is a captain of the team along with Piper Higgins '17 and Will Norton '17. Mr. Anderson notes their contrasting personalities, saying that John unites the other two in his leadership style: "John is the guy who physically can do and doesn't mind talking and encouraging people to do it." Mr. Anderson notes that John's leadership style perfectly complements that of Will, which he describes as more verbal, and that of Piper, which he thinks more quiet and intense. Piper said, "John is a really great guy to have on the team, especially as a fellow captain . . . Both of us were on first boat as freshmen, so it was weird at first to feel like leaders on the team being so young. But now, I see the younger guys looking up to him both as an athlete and as a friend—it is just awesome."

The 2014-15 season stands out most prominently in John's mind. That year – his fourth form year – he enjoyed rowing on the same boat as his brother Hugh: "It was awesome. We get on well, and rowers have to be really synchronized," said John. His favorite memory then was racing for the eighth annual Cooke Cup, established in 2007 between Groton and Nobles and Greenough Schools. All four of Groton's boats won, but perhaps more importantly to John, the race was Hugh's last. "The whole thing was very emotional . . . I didn't realize then it would be my last race ever with Hugh," said John, remembering how the rest of the first boat was broken up shortly after.

Another highlight of John's time rowing at Groton was attending Henley last summer for three weeks. In the first weekend alone, the team raced seven times in two days. And, despite their jet lag and underdog status, they won gold at the regatta. They would go on to win eleven out of the thirteen different races they participated in before returning to the States.

Outside of Groton, John had the privilege of trying out for the U.S. National Team the summer after his Fourth Form year. In the last round of selection, he was among thirty prospective rowers left standing. And although he was the fastest on the erg by seven seconds, veteran campers took the spots John had hoped for. Although he was disappointed not to have been chosen, John still remembers the experience fondly. As he moves beyond the Circle, John will continue on to Berkeley, California with oar in hand. This summer, he will be rowing with a club team run by the UC Berkeley coaches, and will have a chance to acclimate to rowing at the collegiate level while also meeting his new teammates. to serve as a coxswain.

But for all his love of teammates, it is his coaches – Steve Timpany, Charlie Hamlin, and Mr. Anderson – whom John credits with fostering his love of the sport. "It's a beautiful sport," he said. "There's such balance, and you have to have precision in timing the catch. It's so simple, yet perfect."



B. CALMAS '18 FOR *THE CIRCLE VOICE*

# Spring St. Mark's Day Scoreboard

# A Groton Sports Year-in-Review

By **BOBBY MEEHAN '19**

As the spring term comes to a close, so does the Groton athletics calendar. This year has seen so many memorable moments for Groton sports, sending seniors off with medals and memories.

In the fall, Boys Varsity Soccer brought the Wiedergott Cup back to the Circle, beating St. Mark's in the last game of the season. With goals from Tyler Brooks '17 and Walker Davey '19, the game was tied 2-2 after the end of regulation time. Though the game was officially recorded as a tie due to ISL rules, Groton won in penalty kicks, beating St. Mark's for the second consecutive year.

Girls varsity soccer notched notable wins against Andover and St. Paul's, two perennial soccer heavyweights. The season culminated in a tie against St. Mark's. "Our younger players gained a greater confidence to come back stronger next year," said forward Caitlyn DiSarcina '17. "Part of their improvement," she said, "came from a talented senior class, who was dedicated and excited for every game."

In the winter, Boys Varsity Hockey capped off their season with a stunning 4-3 overtime win against St. Mark's. Groton, at one point down 1-3, fought back with Santeri Hartikainen '18 scoring the game-winning goal with two and a half seconds remaining in overtime. Santeri reflected on the goal, saying he "got the puck in the slot and took a shot". When asked about his strategy, he responded succinctly: "Spray and pray."

Girls varsity basketball made playoffs this year, led by captains Kai Volcy '17 and Alyna Baharozian '18. As one of few Groton teams who advanced so far, they brought a huge crowd across town to Lawrence Academy, where they lost a close game in one of their strongest efforts of the season. "This season was the most fun out of any that I've been a part of at Groton," said Alyna. "The team camaraderie was unbelievable."

Boys varsity baseball has been developing their younger players this year. Their highlight so far is their game against Andover, who is currently ranked second in New England, which resulted in a 3-3 tie after ten innings. "The season hasn't been as good as we wanted it to be, but we have a lot of young talent," said shortstop Bennett Smith '19. He asserted his belief that Groton baseball would continue to improve as the years go on.

Girls varsity crew has had a successful start to their season against stiff competition. They started strong, sweeping Buckingham Browne and Nichols' team and beating St. Mark's' top three boats. "The league has gotten incredibly faster this year, and many teams are improving," said coach Tiffany Doggett. The team is led by captains Verity Lynch '17, Eleonor Wolf '17, and Hallie Bereday '17.

The 2016-2017 athletic year has been an especially strong one for the Zebras, with Groton winning both the fall and winter rivalry days against St. Mark's. The School can confidently expect that this trend of excellence will continue in years to come. Congratulations to those who played in St. Mark's games and put everything out on the field for one last hoorah.

# Artist of the Issue
## Mike Aduboffour

By **KARLA SANFORD '19**

While some Groton students blow the community away with their visual art, theatrical pursuits, or dance, Mike inspires with his words. He is an artistic force in his own right. This year, Mike has truly blossomed as an artist, releasing his first professional single "Vapor" this winter and finding a new outlet for his passion for rap in Freestyle Fridays.

He first experienced the power of words during his seventh grade English final project, where he composed and performed some verses of rap. His class praised the work, but Mike put his talent back on the shelf for a couple of years. He didn't get back into the craft until he came to Groton. To aspiring artists, Mike asserts the importance of reaffirming yourself: "It's bad to just depend on what other people tell you... the only way to have the confidence to keep going comes from you."

It is something of a happy accident that Mike has now released a single. The idea to produce "Vapor" came about largely on a whim. Mike was attending a party this past fall when he began to freestyle. "At one point," he says, "I was freestyling in front of forty-five people in silence." Mike caught the attention of a music producer, who reached out to him about recording a single. Over the course of a couple of weeks, Mike crafted lyrics to fit over a track. In "Vapor," Mike calls out rappers who don't say anything real and whose production, not their lyrics, carries the work. He cites as artistic influences rappers J. Cole, Logic, and Kanye West.

Freestyle Friday is Mike's own invention, and while he runs the event now, Mike has not always had such skill in freestyle rap. At yet another party during his fourth form fall, Mike's friend encouraged him to try his hand at it. "I was wack," says Mike, "but I kept freestyling whenever I felt like it to have fun with my friends." Over the year, Mike improved and his work paid off. "By Fifth Form spring, when I was already writing and freestyling a bunch, I decided to make Freestyle Friday, and that's when I began to be known around campus for freestyling." Now, Mike runs the Groton Freestyle Group. Rohan Varkey '18, a regular participant, says, "I originally started doing it for fun in the dorm. Now I go to Freestyle Friday because there's such a huge mix of people." Mike plans to continue writing music in college and perhaps even to start something analogous to Freestyle Friday. Past that, he hopes to make a career out of music either as a professional rapper or the owner of a record label.

Even though he considers himself first and foremost a rapper, this winter Mike delved into a budding theater career. After a significant disturbance concerning racial relations on campus, theater director Laurie Sales reached out to Mike with the script for "Open Admissions," a 25-minute play which sheds light on racism in an academic context. Mike was immediately interested. When asked if he was apprehensive about participating in such an influential play, Mike responded that he was "completely comfortable." The play was important to him, he says, because it started important conversation at school about the reality of subtle racism. "I could see in people's faces that what we were saying actually affected them." He went on to say that the feeling of having his words and performance affect people deeply was extremely gratifying, as many student actors can attest to. Although Mike doesn't consider himself an actor primarily, he still hopes to explore acting in college.

The school will lament the loss of its house prefect, Mike Aduboffour, who leads through both his actions and his words. Who else can take a crowd from laughter to tears in one iconic chapel talk or performance? If Mike's legacy could be distilled into one idea, it would be that your mindset is key. To borrow a verse from "Vapor:" "Make a plate of the haters / let 'em baste in the flavors."

COURTESY OF K. BELANGER'17

# Max Klein '18 Makes Ex*quus*ite Music

By **CARA CHANG '20**

Haunting. Elegant. Intense. Playgoers were in awe of the music composed by Max Klein '18 that accompanied Groton's production of *Equus*. Charlie Hawkings '17, who played psychiatrist Martin Dysart, said that Max's music "truly captured the essence of the play." Yet Max's composition, despite its elegance and precision, was the result of a chance meeting between him and Director of Theater Laurie Sales on the Dining Hall staircase.

This winter, Max had originally planned to do a Faculty Sponsored Activity (FSA) in composition of minimalist music. During the FSA approval process, Laurie, who sits on the FSA board, suggested that Max write for *Equus* as she passed him on her way to dinner. "I've always been interested in him as an artist, so I jumped at the opportunity to see him in his element," Laurie said. Initially, Max was hesitant to compose for the play, but he changed his tune after watching and taking inspiration from the film.

FROM THE GROTON SCHOOL *FLICKR*

Over the next three months, Max worked closely with Laurie to compose a soundtrack for the play. After reading the play and hearing Laurie's vision, he presented a first draft of the score in January. She asked Max to make modifications because the original version was "way too big." Max explained, "Movie soundtracks have narrative in a much more blatant way than theater music. Laurie wanted a different progression. The music was supposed to highlight the acting without drowning it, but the composition had to have a story of its own." From January to late April, Max continued to revise and retrench in the afternoons. "It was hugely rewarding to work with someone so professional in his approach," Laurie said of Max. "It was adult collaboration."

With his vast knowledge of music theory, Max composed on a software synthesizer before holding a recording session in late April. Funded by the Music Department, Max recorded his score with Kenji Kikuchi, the director of jazz ensembles. Arts Department Head Ms. Lanier helped compile a string quintet comprised of two music teachers, two off-campus musicians and Ivana Primero '17.

When asked about how the cast reacted to Max's composition, Laurie lit up. She said the musicality of the cast – particularly that of leads Mac Galinson '17 and Charlie – helped them appreciate Max's contribution. The audience, too, was enthralled by the soundtrack; even during intermission when the stage was black, the crowd sat in hushed silence.

The back of the *Equus* program featured a director's note from Laurie. She wrote, "The show belongs to [the students] now, just as it has from the start. They have attacked it with an unwavering passion that I envy." In an interview, Laurie expanded further on this: "*Equus* is special theater and we did a beyond high-school-level performance of it. I have my collaborators to thank for that, one of them Max Klein. I think it became as much a part of him as it was for me… He should compose for a living."

# Five Plays, Two Shows: One Acts Return

By **FRAN SALDIVAR '19**

Preeminent among Groton spring traditions is the One Act Festival, in which students direct short one-act plays written by students. This year's One Act Festival once again is a compilation of an amazing group of actors, imaginative playwrights, and devoted directors.

**"A Streak of Lavender" by Mac Galinson '17**

This one act explores the theory that Abraham Lincoln (Max Solomon '19) was gay. Lincoln is joined onstage by lover Joshua Speed (Charlie Hawkings '17) and wife Mary Todd Lincoln (Carly Bowman '17) Director James Hovet '18 commented: "I knew that I wanted to direct it from when I first read it." A combination of strong acting and excellent technical aspects make this show unforgettably strong.

**"Table 12" by Daisy Fey '18**

This show is based on three encounters between Charlie (Teddy Carlin '20) and four distinct girls. "Teddy essentially plays the 'straight man' trope. He's the guy around whom chaos is unwinding," notes Christian Carson '18, who directed the comedy alongside Phoebe Fry '17. This show features newcomers Yan Davidoff '18, Sarah Conner '19, and Piper Higgins '17, while Verity Lynch '17 and Lyndsey Toce '19 return to the Groton stage.

**"A Small House" by Ellie Solomon '17**

"A Small House" explores grief and loss as two sisters, played by Hadley Callaway '17 and Josie Fulton '18, deal with the impact of their sister's death. Throughout the play, the sisters quarrel over whether to share the truth with their children, who question death in their own unique way.

**"Groton Goes SNL" by Karla Sanford and Sophie Park '19**

Karla and Sophie worked alongside a small ensemble of students to bring to life two sketches that parody life at Groton. Eliza notes that the experience was incredibly gratifying, and that it was "fun getting to work with people that [she] wouldn't generally work with."

**"Bus Stop" by James Hovet '18**

This play, directed by Jon Lamson and Alex Waxman '18, centers on a boy and a girl who meet at a bus stop. The girl (Victoria Wahba '17) sees her ex-boyfriend and, in a moment of panic, a stranger (Pat Ryan '19) pretends to be her husband in order to fend off the awkward advances of her ex-boyfriend (Lars Caspersen '19). Naturally, this leads to a number of unexpected and comedic events.

**"Chapel" by Dowey Tran**

Directed by Aly Manjee and Michael Senko '18, this one act takes place in St. John's Chapel. The play satirizes morning chapel, featuring a chapel speaker (Caroline Johnston '17), an organist (Gus Vrattos '19), and even God (Amani Jiu '17). Gus has never been in a play before, and said that one acts were "a fun way to get a glimpse into the world of theater."

# What We'll Miss Over the Summer

1. Rashawn Grant's displays of affection
2. Inclusion (!)
3. The Tea™
4. Ryan Carr's... (whoops! Must be a misprint.)
5. Dirty dinners
6. Taking the L
7. Yolanda Dong's chameleon hair
8. The winter-term brink
9. Dining Hall roasted rump
10. Kai Volcy's career-ending slams
11. Socks 'n stocks
12. Lost emails

# If Superlatives Were Truthful

**Sully Hamdan**
Most Likely to Be President... of the Doritos Fan Club.

**Victoria Wahba**
Most Likely to Cross The Wall

**Paul Lopez**
Most Likely to Have a Marital Relationship with Protein

**Marcella Flibotte**
Most Likely to Take an L

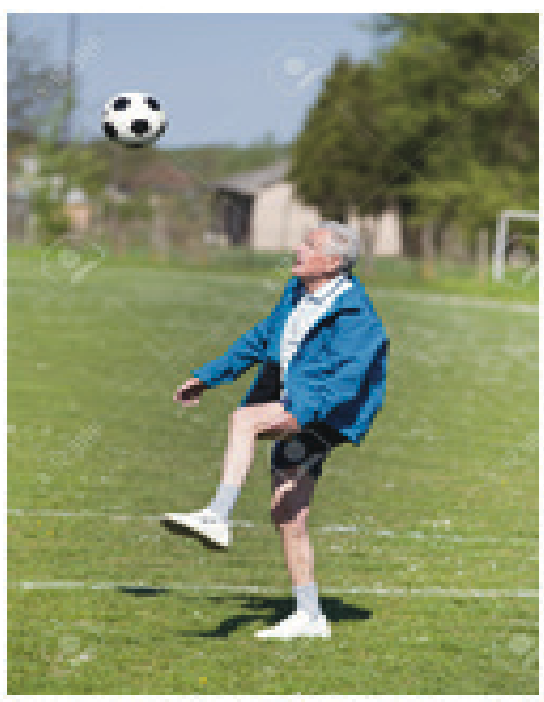
**John Cecil**
Most Likely to be Killed by a Ceiling Fan

**Delaney Tantillo**
Most Likely to Cam Back

**Jarvis Bereday**
Most Likely to Go Bald

**Tim Bukowski**
Most Likely….wait, who is this guy?

# The "Mr. Spring" Starter Pack



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