

PRIZE DAY HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2018

By CARA CHANG '20



The Form of 2017 throw their boater hats after graduating.

A. RICHINS for Groton School

“Dare to be all you can be.” “Life is just one, big improvisation.” “Fall forward.” “Make good art.” “Continue to share your heart with people even if it’s been broken.” “Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.” “Stay hungry. Stay foolish.”

It has been years since the famous commencement speeches as quoted above were given by Hillary Clinton, Jane Lynch, Denzel Washington, Neil Gaiman, Amy Poehler, Oprah Winfrey, and Steve Jobs at universities across the country, but the world has not forgot-

ten them. Commencement speeches are daunting and intricate paradoxes, serving as the final period in a chapter and the first page turn to a new adventure. Now, this beautiful challenge falls to Prize Day 2018’s speakers: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Christian Carson ’18.

Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka is the United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN Women, and was sworn into office in 2013. Prior to her work in the UN, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka was a member of the South African Parliament, serving as

the first female Deputy President of South Africa from 2005 to 2008. She has also worked extensively in fund management and youth development. Currently, her work in the UN focuses

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Boys Varsity Tennis Competes in New England Championship Finals

By MAX STEINERT '20



Gabe Scholl '19 practicing.

T. WEISBERG '22 for The Circle Voice

Two weekends ago, on the Groton tennis courts, the boys varsity tennis team concluded their outstanding season with the New England Championships. As the number-one seed and holders of a 14-0 undefeated record during the regular season, with wins over perennial superpowers such as Andover, Exeter, and Deerfield, as well as a victory in

the prestigious Kingswood Oxford tournament, the boys were dreaming of championship glory.

Bright and early Saturday morning, while the rest of the school was in class, boys varsity tennis was out on the courts preparing to play Loomis Chaffee in the quarterfinals. In a single elimination setting, they couldn’t afford any mistakes

if they wanted to secure Groton’s first New England A Championship title in over 15 years. With regards to the format of the tournament, matches were played first to four points. First, the teams would play three doubles matches, with the school winning the majority awarded one point. Then six singles matches would be played, with a point being awarded for every win. Though the student support was minimal in the quarters due to Saturday morning class, the heavily-favored Groton swept Loomis Chaffee without dropping a single point. This early dominance set the tone for the rest of the tournament.

Next, Groton would face Taft in the semifinals. This game took place later in the day and the Groton boys were feeling confident after their early win. Many

students were able to come and support the team, yet the team started sluggish, almost losing the doubles point. The doubles team of Gabe Scholl '19 and Powers Trigg '20 fell behind 1-4. However, they were able to battle back and secure the doubles point in a close tiebreak. Seizing on to the momentum, Groton won the match, punching their ticket to the finals. Even with the decisive score of 4-1, Groton saw more competitive matches than in the morning, but still handily took the win. However, as they prepared for the finals against Andover the next day, they knew this next match would be a much greater challenge.

After a brief rest, the competition resumed early Sunday morning. Both teams gathered in the indoor courts, knowing that one would walk out New England Pre-

paratory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) champions, and the other, without a title. The match began, and the building soon filled with hundreds of students, teachers, and parents. This would be one of the most attended sports matches of the year at Groton. The team started off strong, and although Powers and Gabe went down 0-4 early, once again they came back and won their decisive match to secure the doubles point for Groton and take an early lead. However, as the singles match began, the competition became very tight. Groton only won 2 out of the 6 first sets: they would need at least one comeback. Matt Kandel '20 and Gabe closed out their matches, meaning that Groton needed one more win in order to

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A History of Senior Pranks

By ROBIN HUNTINGTON AND AMELIA LEE '22

As Prize Day looms near, seniors indulge in the infamous “senior spring,” where they have less work, and therefore more time to dwell on their upcoming departures. What better way to make the last few weeks special than to pull off an unforgettable prank? Senior pranks generally happen in mid to late May, and many make a big splash in the Groton community.

A classic example of a Groton senior prank is the unusually long Roll Call, similar to a filibuster in the United States Senate. A filibuster consists of far too many announcements, accompanied by plenty of birthday shout-outs. More than once, seniors took out a dictionary and started reading it out loud before the proctor’s desk. Oftentimes, the prank cut into the first period of classes. It wasn’t until the dictionary verbatim cut into second period that the administration ruled it unacceptable. Afterwards, disruptive pranks have become less frequent; however, enthusiasm for the yearly senior prank has not diminished.

According to French teacher Rebecca Stanton, the Form of 2012 pulled the most memorable prank she has seen throughout her 25 years at Groton. The seniors unscrewed the desks and chairs

in the Schoolroom to move a small car into the middle of the space, and placed the bust of Rev. Peabody in the driver’s seat. Execution of the prank was difficult, for it involved rolling the car up the Schoolhouse ramp and in through the small doors of the Schoolroom. One faculty member, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated, “a lot of science went into this actual project.” With a lot of planning and coordination, the Form of 2012 pulled a prank that surely made everyone laugh.

Another prank, organized by the seniors of 2008, involved hanging a banner in front of the chapel with the faces of Headmaster Richard Commons, Dean of Students Nancy Hughes, and Academic Dean Kathy Leggat. Written above and below their pictures were “Big Brother is Watching” and “Obey,” both references to the dystopian novel 1984 by George Orwell. Mr. Capen, who witnessed the banners on the side of the chapel, described it as one of the “most ingenious” pranks in Groton’s history. Due to poor weather and technical issues, it took multiple attempts to hang the massive banner, which was constructed solely out of printer paper. This was one of several pranks involv-

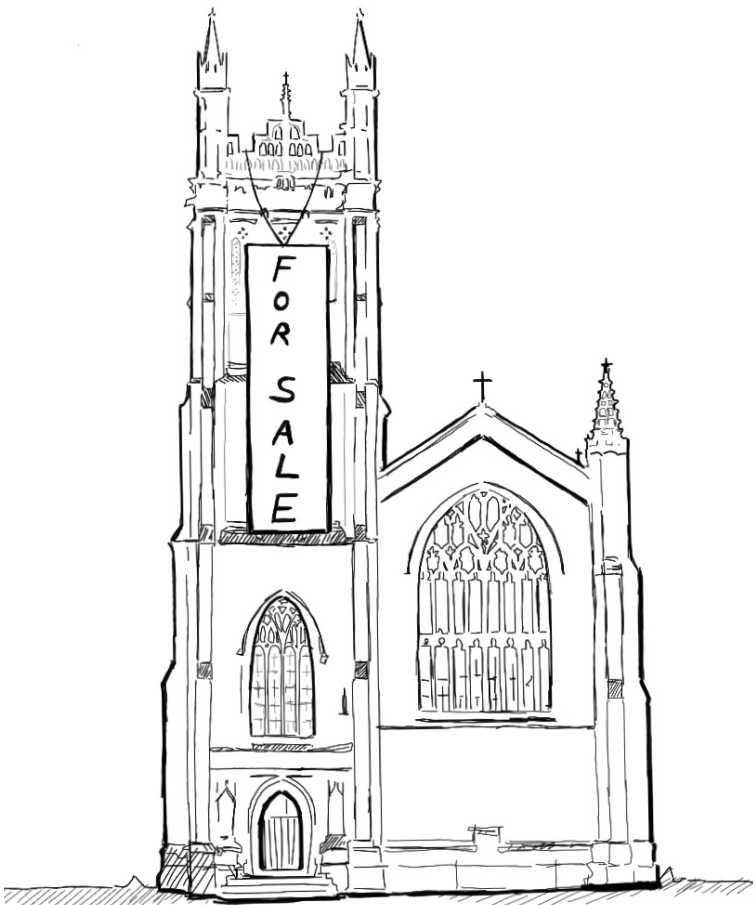
ing banners. Others have included the words “For Sale” on Hundred House and last year’s rasterbation across the Schoolhouse covered in Bart Simpson’s quote, “I will not pull a prank.”

In the past, seniors have striven to disrupt the day by kidnapping the student body through their pranks. Fourteen years ago, the seniors woke students up in waves, sneaking them down to the boathouse. Eventually, they kidnapped the entire school and held the chapel service by the Nashua River. After that, they entertained the school with games and announcements. Although students were provided with the option of attending morning classes, the School did little more than ask them to be back by Conference. Another class of seniors pulled a similar prank a couple years ago, but only kidnapped Lower Schoolers, many of whom were found eating donuts in the squash courts.

Any mention of senior pranks would be incomplete without saluting the Form of 2016’s carnival on the Circle. On a particularly beautiful spring day, the senior class set up inflatables, lawn games, and even organized for an ice cream truck to come. The best part, however, was that the entire student body was able to enjoy the prank. Many students got out of classes and spent the day relaxing under the sun.

This year’s prank was different from any in the past. On May 25, Groton seniors “switched” with their counterparts at Lawrence Academy. At Groton, Lawrence seniors listened to a chapel talk and attended roll call, where they contributed to the excitement of Spirit Week with bizarre announcements. After the prank, seniors from each school returned to their respective campuses, and Groton’s Form of 2018 enjoyed the remainder of the day off.

From Roll Call announcements to banners, pranks are an interesting and creative way to make unforgettable memories, especially for seniors who get to finish Groton on a fun note.



P. SHI '19 for The Circle Voice

Word on the Circle

“What will you miss the most about Groton over the summer?”



“I think what I will miss the most will be waffles on Sunday mornings with my roommate, Lucy. The Dining Hall is usually empty at that time, so it allows for very good conversation.”

-Brit Hyde '19



“Apart from my friends, I’ll miss Cheryl and her cafe. An asiago bagel with cream cheese and butter definitely goes a long way.”

- Henry Hodde '20



“What I will miss the most is definitely check-in, especially the feeds and my prefects.”

- Neha Agarwal '20

Photos by O. DILLON '21 for The Circle Voice

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The Scourge of Fortnite in Lower School

By TYLER WEISBERG '22



Jaden Cheeks '19 plays Fortnite.

P. SHI '19 for *The Circle Voice*

The gaming industry, rapidly increasing in size, surpassed 100 billion dollars in revenue in 2017. The impact of this growth has started to seriously affect Groton students.

Usually, gaming at Groton has not been too problematic, but the game Fortnite has become an epidemic in the Lower School boys' dorms. Students have been squandering more and more of their precious time on the video game, instead of forming memories with friends. Fortnite has been detrimental in other ways, such as causing students to skip meals – on some Sundays, many students never leave the dorms at all – and lose sleep.

Playing video games in moderation is not necessarily harmful, but playing games for an excessive amount of time can lead to addiction. In January 2018, the World Health Organization officially recognized gaming disorders as part of their International Classification of Diseases.

How have so many people gotten hooked by one video game? Video games keep players engaged with five psychological tricks, according to an article in *Techopedia*, three of which Fortnite strongly deploys: fascination, reward schedules, and progression.

The game fascinates players with enticing graph-

ics, which make participants feel like they are actually in the game, and thus increases enjoyment. The competitiveness and difficulty of the game trigger an adrenaline response in its players, according to an 2016 article in the *Washington Post*, whether they are winning or in a tense moment. Furthermore, video games use reward schedules, such as distributing virtual currency to purchase in-game items, to exploit players into playing the game often. Fortnite, in particular, uses a daily rewards system. Lastly, games use progression to keep players hooked. The more you play Fortnite, the better you get, and the more you want to play. You learn from mistakes and get better at crucial skills within the game, such as aiming a weapon. While all games use these tactics, evidently Fortnite is currently the best at addicting students. Students play together, a habit that increases the addictive nature of the game, according to the same *Washington Post* article.

A survey of the Lower School with 74 respondents conducted by *The Circle Voice* indicated that 95 per-

cent of Fortnite players are boys. 25 percent of the boys who responded said that Fortnite negatively impacted their academic performance, and 60 percent believed that Fortnite was causing problems in their form, such as lack of communication. One third form boy commented, "Fortnite is addictive. I sort of regret playing Fortnite so much and I'm trying to stop, but honestly, it's very hard. I don't want anyone else being addicted to Fortnite, I didn't know it before but it definitely lowered my grade." The girls' responses were equally grim: a full 82 percent of the 39 girls responding claimed that Fortnite was negatively affecting their form, and girls commented frequently that the game was increasing the gender divide at the school, since boys were often too preoccupied in the game.

Recently, Lower School boys' dorm head Bill Riley became aware "that a small number of students have been spending countless hours on some nights playing Fortnite." Accordingly, Mr. Riley banned Fortnite in his dorm, forcing its residents to delete the game from their electronic devices.

One student in Riley's dorm, who wishes to remain anonymous, thanked Mr. Riley for helping him delete the game. The student spent the first weekend of spring term out on the Circle and said he was grateful for the help he received resolving his gaming addiction.

Mr. Riley's solution has been extremely effective for Riley's dorm, and other Lower School dorm heads should take his idea into consideration. The lower schooler mentioned earlier said, "I believe that the ban Mr. Riley implemented will increase the amount of social interactions within Riley's dorm." Playing Fortnite can handicap students academically and worsen their general behavior in school, due to fatigue from sleepless nights of gaming, and banning the game can help fight this.

Overall, Fortnite is damaging Lower School dorms. The Lower School is recovering from the Fortnite outbreak, but only gradually. Video games themselves are not inherently bad, but they must only be played in moderation. If this addiction persists, stronger action must be taken in on campus.

Should Senior Prefects Campaign?

By HALLE LIVERMORE '19

By KATIE REVENO '20

Yes. Imagine a presidential election in which campaigning is prohibited. Upon voting, you are provided a list of all eligible candidates, and from this list you must choose the leader of the free world. Your favorite actors are eligible, so you circle them and proceed to circle other names at random. The votes are counted and, from a shortened list of finalized candidates, you must rank four candidates. Then, a committee uses an undisclosed mechanism to determine the president.

As ridiculous as this method seems, it is precisely the system we follow to elect our senior and house prefects. Students are presented with lists of their entire form and, in the first round of voting, must circle four possible female candidates and four possible male candidates. Then, the four girls and boys with the most votes are put onto a ballot on which students must rank their choices for each gender. Math teacher Jonathan Choate uses a specifically devised formula to determine the students who will be awarded senior and house prefect positions.

In the preliminary round, selecting eight people can be challenging. Many resort to voting for friends, and sometimes even random peers. The thought behind Groton's method is that leaders should stand out, but as I scanned the list of my form this spring, I did not feel inclined to vote for any particular person. Most Groton students exemplify the typical qualities associated with leadership at the high school level: we are capable of advocating for ourselves, and we are invested in the community, our studies, and extracurricular activities. Unaware of who wanted the position of senior or house prefect and why, I did not feel compelled to vote for any one

person.

In order to create a community that constantly improves itself, we need leaders who are strong advocates, and campaigning can reveal a person's ability to advocate. Campaigning need not mean flashy advertising through buttons or promises of organizing fun activities—it simply would give the candidate a platform to educate the voting population on how they would be an agent for positive change. Without this process, we often overlook passionate and deserving students.

At Groton, we are under an impression that our methods are superior, and preserving loyalty to tradition remains central to our character. At most public high schools in America, and even private schools like Phillips Exeter Academy, students campaign for roles such as president of the student council. However, at Groton we frown upon students even articulating an interest in becoming a prefect. How can we foster leaders if we shame people who express a desire to lead? It upsets me that we overlook so many qualified students out of a desire to preserve tradition.

We are no longer an all-boys' school with a graduating class of 55, so why are we still using the same practice to elect our leaders? This method perpetuates a notion of Groton exceptionalism. If every other high school in the United States allows students to campaign, what makes us so special that we shouldn't do the same? There is no value in preserving an antiquated method for the sake of being unique. Transitioning to a campaign-based election would ensure the most qualified advocates step into the role of senior prefect, and would be a positive step away from Groton's exceptionalist attitude.

No. At many schools, spring term marks class president hopefuls distributing pins and taping posters up on walls. Here at Groton, however, the senior and house prefect election process is markedly different—in fact, there is no campaigning at all. The idea is that at a small school like Groton, voters should already know which of their classmates are fit to be leaders. Though the current system comes with some problems, campaigning at a school as close-knit as Groton would be unnecessary.

One of the primary issues with divorcing campaigning from the voting process is that the system may not consider the level of candidate interest. If one candidate is willing to put more work into the role than another, the difference would normally manifest itself in the campaigning process. As the Groton election system stands, a candidate can be elected who doesn't want the responsibility. However, this theoretical problem doesn't become a real one, as students consider the positions an honor, and nominees who are truly disinterested can easily let their formmates and the administration know. Voters can also examine previous involvement to gauge the effort level that nominees would put in.

Some may also argue that an election process devoid of campaigning runs a greater risk of becoming a popularity contest. In actuality, the opposite is true. Campaigning often consists of rallying one's friends to increase support by word of mouth. Thus, the greater number of friends one has, the more support a candidate is able to gain through the campaigning process. Campaigning of any nature leads to a bandwagon effect where students

support candidates simply because their friends are. Without campaigning, voting can come down to an individual's discretion and personal experiences with the candidates.

The current system makes sense, especially when one considers the size of the Groton community. With fewer than one hundred students in each form, if someone is truly not well known by their formmates when election time rolls around, they are probably not a good fit for senior prefect. As Kochoe Nikoi '19, an incoming senior prefect, put it, "To campaign is to convince, and if by fifth form you still feel the need to convince your peers to elect you, then they most likely don't know you as a person, or your character.... all of your past years at Groton sort of act as your campaign."

Another important consideration against campaigning at Groton is the time commitment. In the midst of fifth form spring, candidates do not need the stress of creating campaigning materials and crafting speeches on top of APs and their already-demanding course loads. Campaigning would also require all other members of the form to listen to speeches and read candidates' platforms in order to cast an informed vote, which would unnecessarily burden the fifth form.

In sum, the associated negatives of campaigning for senior and house prefect positions outweigh any benefits. While it can be tempting to look at other schools who employ campaigning in their student government elections and suggest that Groton do the same, Groton's small size makes the process unnecessary. The current system of electing senior prefects has pulled many qualified candidates into the role, and there is little positive impact that would come of changing it.

Here's to the Class of 2018

Continued from the Front Page

on gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, and mobilization of men and boys for gender equality. In an interview for *The Circle Voice*, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka said she is striving to build "a strong youth base for gender equality."

Born in Durban, South Africa in 1955, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka said activism has always been a part of her life: "I was active as a teenager in my community as a member of a young organization already concerned about race and gender issues. I also became a student activist fighting against inferior education for blacks." Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka added that apartheid inspired her to pursue social justice, saying, "The manner in which the regime dealt with dissent made me join the fight for racial equality."

On Prize Day, Dr.

Mlambo-Ngcuka will speak on achieving substantive equality by 2030, focusing specifically on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals—a global collection of seventeen goals the UN has created targeting poverty, health, education, climate change, gender equality, environment, and social justice. Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka was invited to speak by English teacher Vuyelwa Maqubela, who has known her since their college days, despite going to different colleges. Mrs. Maqubela said, "[Mr. Maqubela and I] have great respect, admiration and adoration for her and what she stands for... She should be an inspiration to the Groton community as she embodies scholarship, globalism and service." In addition to being a global citizen and scholar, Mrs. Maqubela added that Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka is an

incredibly accomplished African woman whose work and character is an inspiration to feminism: "It is also important for our community to hear from a woman who is celebrated and respected on many continents, a woman who has changed the lives of many." Mrs. Maqubela herself is excited to hear Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka speak, because "there is such breadth and depth of experience and knowledge to Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka that there is no limit to the amount of wisdom she will possibly impart."

While Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka already knows what she will speak about, student speaker, Christian, admitted he is having more difficulty writing his commencement speech. Shaking his head, Christian said, "There's an ocean of clichés in graduation speeches and

I'm finding it remarkably difficult to avoid them." He added, "A graduation speech is tough because you want to make it personal so it's interesting, but it's also a larger thing for your form."

While writing his speech, Christian was struck by the realization that in less than a week, his Groton career will officially be over: "You've been here for four years and you grow to think of this place as your own and then it's not, and you can never come back and have it be yours like it is when you go here, and I think that's the saddest part for me, that it's the end of something you can never get back." Christian's sentiments are echoed across his form; in a sixth form survey, Senior Prefect Elechi Egwuekwe '18 responded, "I'm dreading leaving my closest friends that I call my family. I don't know

when the next time I'll see them all."

Prize Day is a poignant time for everyone on campus. Mrs. Maqubela said, "It's a beautiful celebration of the best of what Groton is all about... This day brings us all together, strengthening the already tight bond. Everyone is emotional, not just the graduates."

As the Class of 2018 prepares to throw their boater hats into the air and say their goodbyes, everyone on the Circle wishes them the best; we hope they dare to be all they can be, fall forward, make good art, and continue to share their hearts with people even if they've been broken. We pray they remember that life is just one, big improvisation and failure is just life trying to move them in another direction. Class of 2018: stay hungry, stay foolish.

A Farewell to Familiar Faces: Departing Faculty

By EUNICE CHO '20



Ms. Van Gelder with a student.

J. SPERLING '22 for *The Circle Voice*

As the end of the school year approaches, the Groton community will bid farewell to fourteen faculty members. Two are heading off on year-long sabbaticals, five are moving on from the Circle, and six will be retiring. They will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Physics intern Sonia Cwik described her year at Groton as a "fun and rewarding experience." She enjoyed coaching cross country and track, especially watching athletes improve throughout a season. As a lower school affiliate, Ms. Cwik got to know the third-formers and prefects in Spring's dorm well, and one of her fondest memories of the year is the surprise birthday party that they threw for her. Reflecting on her time on the Circle, Ms. Cwik said, "I am going to miss the great people I've been able to meet this year, proximity to some nice running trails, and the ability to talk to colleagues and students about things other than physics." Next year, she will be starting a physics PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Computer science teacher Julia Kelly is leaving Groton after four years on the Circle. She has loved interacting with energetic students and coaching girls junior varsity crew. When asked about what she will

miss most, Ms. Kelly replied, "my advisees, my colleagues, and all my students. It really is the people who make a community, and I will miss the Groton community a lot." Upon her departure, Ms. Kelly will begin work involving Structured English Immersion (SEI), a method for rapidly teaching English, to help non-native speakers that are learning English. Next year, she will teach computer science at Middlesex Community College.

William "Bill" Maguire started teaching at Groton as a computer science teacher in the fall of 1985. After thirty-three years, he is retiring after a year-long sabbatical. He is grateful to have taught bright, hard-working students alongside brilliant faculty. After spending the fall of his sabbatical in Galway City, Ireland, he is spending the rest of his year planning the move away from Groton.

Director of Theater Laurie Sales will leave for a sabbatical after ten years at Groton. Reflecting on her favorite moments on the Circle, she listed her Public Speaking class, running Sales's dorm, her five global education trips to Kenya, and the plays *Equus*, *Cabaret* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. During her sabbatical, she and her family are taking a trip around the world — visiting Australia,

Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Bali, the Mediterranean, and Iceland. She is excited to pen a book about her experiences through the eyes of her two children, but is upset about missing the current Fifth Form's Prize Day.

Elizabeth "Beth" Van Gelder has enjoyed teaching art at Groton for the past 39 years and is looking forward to her retirement. Some of her favorite memories have been the community's many cultural celebrations, including MLK Jr. Day, Chinese New Year, and Dia de Los Muertos. In particular, she fondly recalls a masked dance workshop that a Balinese masked dancer did with her third form Visual Studies class in 1994. Ms. Van Gelder will miss serving as the curator of various Brodigan Gallery exhibitions. After leaving Groton, she plans on travelling, creating an art studio, and working and volunteering in areas related to education. English teacher and Groton Community Engagement leader Jonathan Freeman-Coppadge, commonly known as Mr. FC, moved to Groton about five years ago to be near his husband, who is completing a doctoral program. After Darren Freeman-Coppadge finishes his doctorate, they will move back to Maryland with their son Langston. Mr. FC will be teaching English at Severn School, a private day school. Reflecting on his Groton experience, Mr. FC says that he will especially miss his relationships with advisees, as well as his time working with the English department. He said, "I want to thank the entire community for making this place home for the past five years."

After 21 years on the Circle, history teacher Tommy Lamont will be leaving for his second sabbatical. A dedicated teacher, coach, and musician, Mr. Lamont

has enjoyed forming deep ties with students, parents, and faculty both in and outside of the classroom. Next year, Mr. Lamont hopes to go on road trips across the country and to catch up with friends and family. In the spring, he plans on travelling to Europe for two months to experience firsthand some of the various cultures of the world.

Stephen Marchand is retiring after serving as Groton's librarian for 14 years. His favorite moments on the Circle include teaching research skills to students in World and the West and United States History classes. Next year, he will be embarking on a trip to Spain, and possibly France, where he hopes to immerse himself in the culture and language. In the summer months, Mr. Marchand will be completing a medical interpreting course. He said that he will miss the community and appreciates what it has meant to him during this time on the Circle.

Lauren O'Connell is leaving after a six-year career as a math teacher at Groton. She has loved coaching sports teams, such as girls junior varsity hockey. Next year, she will be moving to Seattle with her husband, and teaching math at Seattle Academy, a private school. As she prepares to say goodbye, Ms. O'Connell wants to thank the community for acting as a real home and giving her room to grow as a teacher.

Jonathan "Jon" Chocate will retire after graduating from and teaching math at Groton for fifty-two years. A renowned teacher, advisor, and football coach, Mr. Chocate was honored at the recent Alumni Weekend for his contributions to the school, and received a standing ovation for his farewell Chapel Talk. He has five grandchildren that live near Groton, and he

plans on visiting them often with his free time. Additionally, he intends write a book regarding third-dimensional geometry and take part in activities ranging from attending cooking schools to travelling.

Latin intern Matthew Reichelt came to the Circle this year as a substitute for Andy Reyes while he was on sabbatical. While his stay has been brief, he fondly recalls many experiences, such as coaching boys cross country and track. Next year, Mr. Reichelt will continue his teaching career in the classics department at Taft School. He is grateful to have been part of a small, tight-knit community.

Michelle Brito graduated from Groton in 2002 and came back to the Circle to work in the admissions office this year. She said, "I certainly learned a lot about the student selection process as well as all the work that it takes to make the school run successfully." Ms. Brito appreciated getting to know many of her former teachers in a new light as friends. After she departs from the Circle, she will work in secondary school placement at Bement School, a K-9 junior boarding school in Massachusetts. She will miss the people that she has come to rely on personally and professionally, as well as her advisees.

Renounced archaeologist and scholar Hugh Sackett will also be departing after serving as a beloved teacher and dorm head on the Circle since 1955. Mr. Sackett has worked under seven of the eight Groton headmasters, starting with the Rev. Jack Crocker.

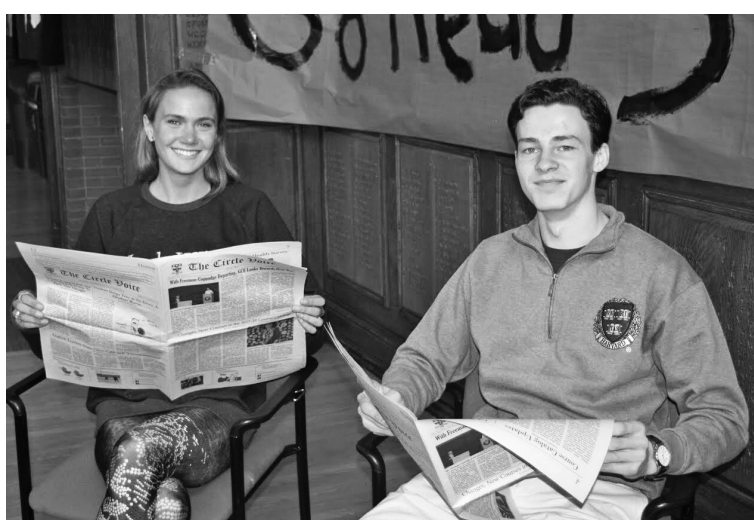
All in all, the School is going to be losing many familiar faces, and their contributions to the school will not be forgotten. Best of luck to the departing faculty!

A Letter from Your Former Editors

By CHRISTIAN CARSON AND ANNIE COLLOREDO-MANSFELD '18

At first glance, it's hard to figure out why anyone would want to be editor-in-chief of The Circle Voice. Editors spend the last year of their bucolic days at Groton herding thirty-odd people, dedicating hours and hours to reading over every section for typos, and playing lengthy matches of article ping-pong with writers and editors to clarify a factual error or two. And then it's publication day, when – in theory – the weeks of hard work should pay off. But when you walk into the Schoolhouse, the first people who approach you all want to point out typos. At times, “thankless” seems an understatement.

But it's Prize Day now, and we have on our faces the rose-tinted glasses that come with departures. In hindsight, we can look back on our tenures as editors of The Circle Voice and evaluate them. When we were named as editors a year ago, we were both excited to manage the paper. We'd both worked on the paper in some capacity since our third form years, and finally had a chance to effect change. Excited by the journalistic freedom granted to us, we eagerly devised an ambitious list of all the changes we wanted to implement.



Annie and Christian read the newspaper.

E. TURNER '20 for The Circle Voice

Our predecessors, Jack McLaughlin and Hadley Callaway '17, told us was that we needed to be realistic about the scope of things we hoped to update, and that sometimes, you just have to produce a good paper. While we initially balked and set out to upend the paper, we quickly realized that they were correct. We came into the year hoping to revolutionize many things about the way The Circle Voice worked, but our hopes were retrenched by the realities of being students at Groton. We realized that we would have a spate of half-baked ideas and nothing substantive to show for it unless we gave

ourselves a focus. To twist a phrase from essayist Bill Deresiewicz, the choice we had to make wasn't between changing something and changing everything – it was between changing something and changing nothing.

So we chose specific things to work on and improve. We're immensely proud of the Style Guide, a proprietary document that takes a first step towards enforcing uniform style in Circle Voice articles. While it's comparatively small at 5,700 words, we hope that it will continue to grow and become the definitive reference we set out to make. We are also proud of the topics that

we have drawn the School's attention to this year, whether that be environmentalism or new busts in the Schoolhouse. Setting the discourse of the Groton community, if only for ten minutes while everyone reads the paper, is a very unique and fulfilling opportunity. It's also been rewarding to see improvements in the paper's quality as a result of changes we made. Most importantly, we are proud of the entire editorial board, in that we worked together to produce a paper with integrity and without the motivation of a grade. The Circle Voice is unique in that it is not produced in a journalism class, nor has the guidance of a journalism teacher. The fact that the paper is student-run, and meets on a club basis, makes the job all the more fulfilling.

The year was not without bumps, however. Due to a change in ownership of our usual printers, the ones Ethan Woo and Varsha Harish '16 moved The Circle Voice to, we had to find a new printer this year. After a week or so of calling and emailing what seemed to be every printing press in New England, we finally came upon one that worked for our needs. We also had some issues with articles we ran or

hoped to run that necessitated much work on our behalf, and on the behalves of the articles' writers to fix whatever had gone wrong.

But it has been worth it to work together on and push out a newspaper we are proud of. As we close and shelve our own Groton experiences, we will remember and cherish all the times it seemed impossible to get through the nine issues on each editorial board's slate, all the late nights in the Circle Voice room, and all the hours spent chasing after article writers. We will also, of course, enjoy the memories of walking into the Schoolroom to see people buzzing about an article that we'd run (or, perhaps more likely, about the Humor section). It has been a privilege to join the rest of the newspaper staff in coming together and producing what we think to be a fine high-school newspaper. Thanks to the 48th Editorial Board and to all other people who came together to make this year possible and successful.

Lily and Marianne – good luck! You've got a long road ahead of you, and we wish you all the best of luck in continuing and refining The Circle Voice.

Groton Breaks the Bubble: Summer GEOs

By POWERS TRIGG '20

At the turn of the twentieth century, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) concluded his studies on the Circle. In the decades that followed, FDR became one of America's great presidents, often ranked in the same presidential assemblage as Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. What was it that placed FDR on the short list of America's best leaders? Among his many attributes was a worldview grounded in the idea that freedom must be safeguarded around the globe. This first principle no doubt took root during FDR's time on the Circle.

Groton's continuous commitment to inspiring globalism is reflected in the school's Global Education Opportunities (GEOs), which demonstrate that participation in global travel can intellectually reward and physically challenge students. Trips abroad, at their best, work to build a Groton student body filled with “global awareness and global experience,” as the GEO website states.

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, the GEO program sponsored trips engrained with service, language, and education, in India, Greece and China. This summer, students will also travel to Tanzania, Houston and Ireland on GEOs.

The Tanzania trip, which

will run from June 13 to July 3, gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Maasai culture. Groton has partnered with Orkeeswa Secondary School in northern Tanzania since 2010, and students will spend 21 days engaged in community life at the school, as well as participate in a home stay. The trip will be led by Director of College Counseling Megan Harlan and Director of Theater Laurie Sales. Laurie, who has chaperoned the same trip before, said of the experience, “the beauty of the Maasai culture, its appreciation of nature, of children and elders, its need for dance and joy and music—all of that has been deeply inspiring for me.”

The Houston GEO, which will run from June 10 to June 19, combines service with a strong STEM focus. While attending a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program at the Johnson Space Center, Groton students will also engage in community service with the local Woodlands United Methodist youth group at food banks and local homeless shelters. The trip will be led by science teacher Sandra Kelly. “I feel like it is a great opportunity for me to experience a little bit of NASA and to be a part of... a government agency which I believe holds many secrets about space,” said



Students dance during a trip to Tanzania.

COURTESY OF M. LIPKIN '18

Andrew Mazza '20, who will be traveling with Dr. Kelly to Texas.

The Groton boys soccer program is running a trip to England and Ireland, from August 15 to 27. The team will train with some of the world's best clubs and coaches. Besides that, the boys will be able to see some of Ireland and England's top sites. “While in London, players will visit Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, and ride on the London Eye... Leaving London, the team then travels to Liverpool..., then on to finish out the tour in Dublin Ireland... Over the course of their time in Dublin the team will train alongside, and play against Bohemians FC, one

of Ireland's oldest and most storied professional clubs,” said math teacher Nishad Das, who is the director of Groton's global education program.

GEOs offer compelling experiences beyond the classroom, increase exposure to new cultures, and widen the intellectual lens of participating students. Sophie Park '19, who went on the language trips to Italy and Greece in 2016 and 2018, respectively, said, “Going on GEO trips has helped me visualize what I learn about in Latin and Greek. I got to visit the actual sites where favorite passages take place.” Mr. Das furthered this notion: “Our goal for all GEOs

is to create an environment for our students that moves them towards global competency... to [have] respect for other cultures, an understanding of cultural otherness or an empathy for other cultures,” said Mr. Das.

In the coming 2018-2019 academic year, GEOs will sponsor trips to China, France, Uganda, Peru and England. The program, which spans many continents, cultures, and languages, reflects Groton's devotion to an education that is, as the GEO website states, “truly global in nature.”

Artist of the Issue: Ben Calmas

By ELIZA POWERS '20



Ben poses with his camera.

F. LYNCH '19 for *The Circle Voice*

According to Ben Calmas '18, "something clicked" the first time he looked through a camera lens. At Groton, he has most recently contributed his artwork as Photography Editor for *The Circle Voice* (CV) and through his work on senior portraits this spring.

Ben took photo class-

es for all three terms of his fourth form year, starting out in Photo 1, where he says he learned "basic skills and film photography." This year, as a senior, Ben has taken three terms of Photo Workshop. Photo Workshop is a more advanced course where students design their own syllabus based on their interests.

Currently, Ben's artistic interests include self-portraits, analog photography of New York City, restoring slides from 1953, cyanotypes, and senior portraits. Ben described his photography as a good distraction from his heavy course load at Groton.

Before coming to Groton, Ben practiced photography recreationally. "I mostly just took pictures of my friends and family," he said. "My sisters and I would take a lot of photos in our backyard." Ben's earliest memories of photography are fresh in his mind: "I remember playing around with old disposable cameras when I was very little. My parents would give them to me after they had sent the film off to be developed and I would play with the dial and go around photographing my siblings. Other than that, my siblings got me really interested when they used me as a subject for their photo assignments."

What motivates Ben to pursue photography is his desire to share his work with others, most consistently showcasing his work with the CV. As the 2017-2018

Photography Editor, Ben assigned all of the article graphic needs to staff members and edited photographs and cartoons in Photoshop before they were put into the newspaper's layout. He says his favorite part of this "was seeing some of the newer photographers get really excited when their photo was published, especially because the photos were getting better throughout the year." In addition to working with the CV, Ben also contributed sports photography to the yearbook.

Most recently, Ben has been working on senior portraits. Senior portraits are an important Groton tradition that commemorates and celebrates the seniors. Ben has been hard at work photographing every member of the 2018 graduating class, alongside fellow photographer Elle Despres '18. Layla McDermott '18 noted that, "He really knew what he was doing. We walked around to find good lighting and the photos turned out really well."

Besides photography, Ben has also pursued his passion for improvisa-

tional comedy, or improv, at Groton. "I was at a summer camp at Yale between third and fourth form and one of the classes that I signed up for was Improvisation Comedy," he explained. "Everyone in that class meshed really well and we all still talk in our group text. We had a performance that was very fun to do and it felt entirely natural." After his summer camp, Ben started an Improv Club at Groton so that students who had three terms of sports, like him, could get involved in the theater. Alongside Ben, An Nguyen and Jamie Jiang '18 served as heads for the club. Jamie said, "[Ben] is consistently a good team player. He regularly organizes the meetings, leads us in games, and gets wacky. His barefoot shenanigans are one of the biggest sources of laughter in Improv Club. Ben can seriously take a joke and run with it and he is unafraid to be strange."

The combination of photographic and improvisation abilities set Ben apart as a unique and artistic voice on Groton's campus.

One Act Play Festival Returns

By GRACE OH and ELENA JUNKALA '21

The popular One Act Play Festival, referred to as One Acts, marks the end of spring term at Groton. On Saturday, May 27, students excitedly watched their friends shine in a series of short plays. One Acts is a tradition which started before Laurie Sales was the Theater Director. Plays were not student-written then, but rather, selected works by famous playwrights. It was a process that Laurie was not entirely in favor of because at the end of the performances, students received awards such as "best performance," making the festival competitive as shows and actors were pitted against each other. Today, One Acts is a fun way for students who might otherwise not experience the theater to perform on stage.

Last Saturday's festival consisted of eight one act plays. A one-act is substantially shorter than a regular mainstage production at Groton. Each one-act usually runs around 15 minutes, making for a two hour show in this year's eight show installment. One act plays also have much smaller casts, averaging around four people per show. The cast of *Cabaret*, this year's winter musical, in comparison had around 25 people. Gracey Mumford '21 noted that "because it's such a small and short scene it is less demanding and you can... bond with people you wouldn't see or interact with otherwise." Because of shorter shows, smaller casts, and flexible rehearsal times, One Acts allow students with



Students perform in the play *Detective Axel Atkinson and the Sixth Grade Thief*.

S. CONROY '19 for *The Circle Voice*

many commitments outside of the theater the opportunity to participate.

An important distinction between One Acts and the seasonal mainstage shows is that One Acts is almost completely student run. They are a culmination of work in Laurie's Playwriting class. The shows are written by students in winter term. Then, in the spring, student directors read and request different shows. Laurie assigns directors their one-act, and auditions take place.

The audition process is "very competitive," according to Janice Zhai '21. Out of approximately 50 people who auditioned for One Acts this year, 28 were cast in shows. During the audition process, students were randomly assigned scenes

from various plays. Most students only read once at the auditions. The students from the Lower and Upper School had separate auditions to create a more comfortable environment for younger students.

When it comes to selecting the actors of the play, Laurie and the directors like to give priority to seniors who have never been on stage before. "Some people may not agree with it," Laurie said, "But I think that seniors get priority. I feel like all students in Groton School deserve a chance to be in a piece before they graduate. If there is a senior that would, for example like to perform in One Acts, and a fourth former who's been in One Acts for their entire time in this school, I would always

choose the senior."

Once actors are cast, the directors are given the responsibility of taking the text off the page and creating a staged show. JJ Cheng '18, who wrote "Teens Wearing Jeans" featured in this year's festival, said that, "During the spring, most of the responsibility for making the play into reality is on the director. I just sit in on some rehearsals, give input on how I envisioned the play when I wrote it. I usually give the director feedback on character development, nuances in dialogue, and other small things. Basically, once the play is handed over to the director, then I take a backseat role."

In the past, it had been difficult to gain admis-

sion to watch the festival, because of the Blackbox's minimal seating. Laurie noted that, "last year we had so many students come to see their friends perform in the play. We weren't expecting this much of an audience." Due to students and faculty unable to watch in previous years, Laurie decided that this year the plays would be performed on the main stage of the Campbell Performing Arts Center. The change in venue was much appreciated by students who no longer had to show up several hours early to try to get a seat.

The festival was a success, as student actors, directors, and playwrights were able to, in JJ's words, "see [their] own imagination come to life."

Athlete of the Issue: Nailah Pierce

BY BENJAMIN ZAIDEL '20

“Trusty teammate.” “Fierce leader.” “Phenomenal athlete.” These are the words used by girls varsity crew team members to describe Nailah Pierce '18. Nailah has been on the team since her first spring at Groton, and over the last four years she has managed to master the sport of rowing. In her words, “[Crew] is a sport that leaves you strong, fulfilled, and connected to your teammates.” Praised by her coach and team alike, Nailah is a critical member of the first boat and one of three captains for the team.

Before coming to Groton, Nailah said she had “never heard of the sport before.” She was introduced to crew her freshman year by Hallie Bereday, who put her in contact with the head coach, Tiffany Doggett. Nailah said she joined the sport because she needed a “place of belonging” her first year at Groton. Furthermore, she said that “all that the team asked of me was that I work hard and come with a good attitude.”

Nailah mentioned that it is difficult for her to explain the sport and her affinity for it to someone who's



Nailah on the boathouse dock. T. WEISBERG '22 for *The Circle Voice*

never rowed before. To put it simply, she called the feeling of racing a “flow state.” She added, “You are outside the limitations of your own mind, body, and spirit. You are an extension of the other three people, the boat, the current of the water.” While the sport tests her mental limits sometimes, she always perseveres, especially with the help of her coxswain. She concluded, “That is what rowing is like—pushing your-

self to the point where you are literally afraid you won't make it.”

Nailah was extremely humble about her skill in the sport. In fact, she said, “There is nothing special about me that makes me a good rower. I am not different or better than anyone on my team.” She did admit, however, that she made the decision to be her best “every day, no matter what it took” at practices or races.

Nailah is a captain of the team this year, along with Layla Mcdermott '18 and Olivia Potter '18. Nailah feels that being a captain of the varsity crew team is markedly different from being the captain of any other team and called it “very scary.” Because the boats are determined by who can row the fastest, nobody's seat is guaranteed, even the captains'. As Nailah said, “There is no sense of entitlement,” adding that as a captain, she must balance goals of unifying the team while still trying to sustain her role on a high boat—a seemingly contradictory task to undertake. But Nailah said captaining is far from a negative experience, and that each girl on the team “makes [her] the best person [she] can be.” She referred to them as “family,” saying that she chose that word purposefully because while they might argue, they always stick together.

Members of Nailah's “family” have glowing reviews of her as both a rower and a person. Annie Fey '20 described Nailah's “constant energy every practice,” adding that because of this, “she keeps everyone's spir-

its up and focused on being stronger next time.” Nailah's co-captain Olivia believed that “Nailah embodies the idyllic grit, aggression, and patience that all rowers strive to emulate... Her ability to dig deep acts as a fearless example, and when it's over, you can expect her to crack a joke that has the rest of the boat weak in the hands.”

Finally, Nailah's coach, Tiffany Doggett, chose to use the word “integral” to describe Nailah. “Her commitment to being her very best everyday inspires the team, especially the other girls on the first boat, on the team and even her coach,” she added.

As for the future, Nailah has committed to row at UMASS Amherst beginning next year. She'll be moving on from NEIRA's to this Division 1 team in the Atlantic 10 conference, which will surely be a transition she's ready for, thanks to her time at Groton.

In her four years of rowing, Nailah has been essential to the girls' rowing success. She is loved by coaches and teammates, and in the words of Olivia, “Groton is lucky to have her.”

Boys' Tennis

Continued from the front page

secure the Championship. Aaron Jin '19 lost a tough match, playing fourth on the ladder. The score stood 3-1. Captain Sam Girian '18 and Andrew Yang '19 also lost in extremely close second sets, pushing the score to 3-3. The New England's would be decided on Court 6. After dropping a close first set, Powers fought back to win the second set, 6-2, forcing a third set to decide the winners of the championship. Powers said that he “was exhausted, but energized by the crowd and because it was such a contentious match.” Ultimately, Powers would lose the third set, 4-6, after saving several match points.

While this was a disappointing loss in the team's almost perfect season, they knew that they needed to put it past them and focus on the final games of the season against Milton. Team captain, Sam said, “It felt really good to get a big victory against Milton after a tough loss against Andover in New England, and it was especially great for the team to lock up number 1 in the league”. With the pressure of maintaining the undefeated season and completing a 15-0 record to win the ISL, the team went out and secured a lopsided victory over Milton, 12-3, placing themselves at the top of the league. Although they did not complete all of their goals for this season, the team will look to reach even greater heights next year, with 5 out of the 6 starters returning.

Girls Making Gains: A Piloted Class

BY ELIZABETH GIRIAN '20

The weight room is supposed to be a comfortable, casual atmosphere, fit for working out before or after school. The daily scene in Groton's weight room, however, may not be welcoming to all kinds of people. It usually involves loud rap music, sweat, and a big group of boys. The issue: girls are largely missing from this picture. Whether you are a new second former or returning sixth former, the weight room can be an especially intimidating place to walk in to. It's no secret that more boys go in and out of those weight room doors than girls. And this doesn't just apply at Groton. College Counselor Megan Harlan went to a conference on gender earlier this school year and noticed an overwhelming shared sentiment among independent schools “that [the weight room] wasn't a comfortable place for girls.” Why is this true? Girls often don't feel welcome or comfortable in the weight room because they fear getting judged for not being able to perform to certain standards or not knowing how to use the equipment.

In hopes to change the culture around the weight room, Ms. Harlan sent an email to the female student body on Wednesday, May 16. The email read, “In an effort to get more young women in the weight room and feeling comfortable there - Cory and I will be offering a strength class geared to the female body the next three Thursday mornings at 6:30 AM...”.

She added that the class additionally emphasizes “the importance of weight lifting for the female body, learning in highschool so you are more likely to do it going forward, and for overall health and wellbeing.” Cory Varrall, the conditioning coach, who she referenced in the email, added, “We wanted to give girls an opportunity to utilize the weight room and help improve their overall fitness.” The student response to their idea was astounding. Within hours, many girls had replied and the fifteen spots were filled by that night. “I was super pumped about the program when I first heard about it and thought it would be really fun to do with my friends,” said Grace Mastroianni '20.

The first 45 minute program, held on May 17, was run by Cory with the help of Ms. Harlan, and Randi Dumont. It began with a light warm up and a quick demo of how to do each station in a body circuit. The majority of the time was spent doing three sets of an upper body focused workout circuit, including push ups, dumbbell curls, and pull ups. Cory helped the girls with their technique and provided extra words of encouragement. When asked about her experience, Anna Copeland '20 replied, “it was a fun experience and it really pushed me and my friends to try something new.”

In the second session, the circuit had a wider focus on the full body, and the girls



Karla Sanford '19 in the weightroom.

S. CONROY '19 for *The Circle Voice*

were taught new workouts. Cory made sure to retain some of the exercises from the first session. New exercises included squats, both with a dumbbell and a resistance band, and “clamshells”, an exercise that works inner thigh muscles. The first two weeks of the program were successful, both in facilitating a challenging workout and by instilling a sense of support and confidence in the girls that attended. Ms. Harlan said that the overall experience was “so much fun! It was great to see a wide range of females in the weight room.”

In the future, Cory believes that “continuing with our current sessions can help grow into other ways of having a more female presence in the weight room. I was really inspired after the first session, I hope girls felt

the same way.” Ms. Harlan and Cory also both agreed that moving forward, they would like to have an orientation for new students on how to use the equipment in the weight room. This way, it will give not only boys, but also girls confidence to utilize the space. All and all, Cory closed with saying, “I have a great deal of hope for this and hope that we have a greater turnout next session!”

Correction

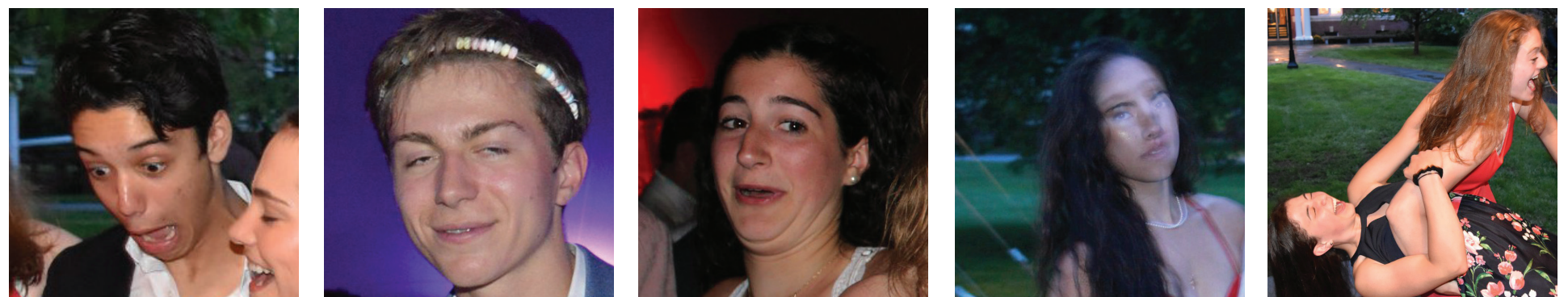
In the previous issue, an article on college athletics left out two seniors. Next year, Nailah Pierce '18 will row at UMASS Amherst and Jay Montima '18 will play baseball at Dartmouth.

Groton School’s Prize Day Walk A Commendable Act of Solidarity Against Heteronormativity

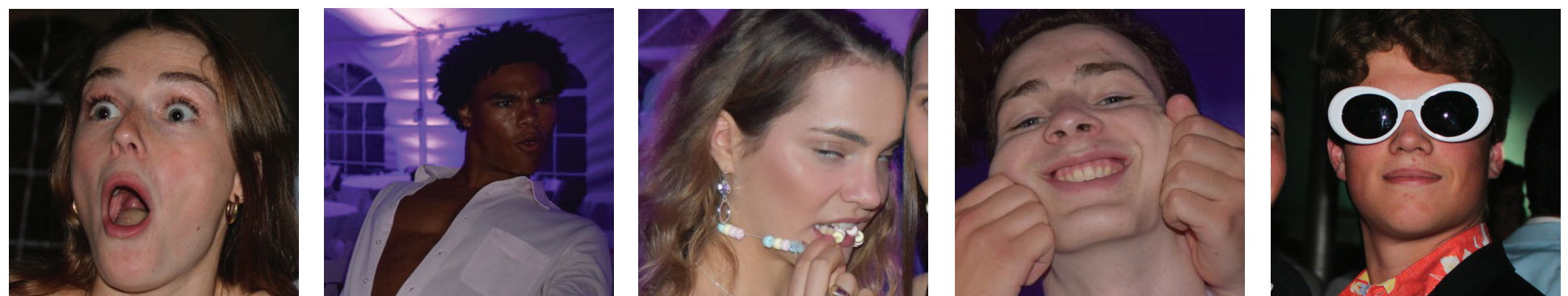
This year Groton has decided to stand up against heteronormative culture by pairing boys with boys for their annual Prize Day walk from the chapel. The Humor Editors would like to give the administration recognition for this progressive change to an age old tradition. Well done, Groton. Well done.

Summer is right around the corner. All you have to do is...

1. Finish your research paper
2. Stay awake for the last day of classes
3. Say goodbye to everyone you love
4. Compartmentalize your emotions
5. Drag yourself out of the tent to study



6. Take your exams
7. Pack everything you own
8. Finish your bottle of Advil before the last exam
9. Pretend to like your teachers as you shake hands
10. Roll out of campus



Weather Forecast

It is hard to predict what will happen to senior relationships after Prize Day, so your weathermen would like to provide you with their forecast to help navigate these unstable times.

Josie and Margot

Chance of precipitation is going to be 100% folks, so get out your kleenex, umbrellas, and flood barriers.

Sunhoo and Charlie

Separating two identical forces with a bond this strong may cause severe earthquakes, hurricanes, and possibly, lava.

The Xiao Brothers

While Kevin and Michael will finally begin intense training for their mountain top duel for the title of alpha Xiao.

George and Fiji Water

The gorgeous forecast for these soulmates will never change. George shall be hydrated till the day he dies.

Paul-Deep

Paul and Randeep are already engaged to marry. “I want at least seven kids” the two totally, definitely said.

GODSPEED!*

(all photos courtesy of the Facebook albums of Ben Calmas, Julia Kendall, Julien Alam, Alison Brown, Mary Sabatelle, Ben Zaidel, and Sarah Conner)

*you know we’re just trynna fill space