

# THE CAMPANILE

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

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## Mini-THON raises over \$62,000 FTK



By Maddie Feeney '18

On Friday, Feb. 16, at Mount's 5th Annual Mini-THON, over 200 students danced for the kids, raising a total of \$62,478.04.

The final tally surpassed the goal of \$50,000 and nearly doubled last year's total of \$33,476.

Senior co-chair Abby Schwenger said, "I was confident throughout the Mini-THON planning process that we would

reach our goal of \$50,000, but the amount we raised up at 10 p.m. was a true showing of how much our school community came together for this cause."

In the months leading up to Mini-THON, fundraisers held at PJ Whelihan's, CycleBar, Rita's and Rise Barre helped propel fundraising efforts. The first ever "Stall Week" also took place, during which students collected coins to go towards the total

as well as to "stall" their fourth block class.

However, the night was about so much more than the money raised, especially to the four speakers: Lauren Buben '13, Caroline Free '16, Villa Maria sophomore Izzi DeSimone and Plymouth Whitemarsh freshman Amey DiSisto.

When reflecting on the event, Buben, who founded Mount's Mini-THON five years ago, said,

"I am so happy to have had the opportunity to come back to speak! It makes me an extremely proud alumna to know that so many students are supporting these big events to raise funds and awareness for pediatric cancer."

Villa Maria's DeSimone said, "The Mount's Mini-THON was one of the best experiences ever. I felt so loved and supported by all my Mount sisters, and I'm so lucky for all of them."

DiSisto commented, "It was truly amazing to be a part of something that special."

For seniors, their very last Mini-THON was especially poignant.

"Seeing Mini-THON grow over my four years has been remarkable. My last one was the best example of the Mount community coming together for an amazing cause," said senior Emily Little.

## Fine Arts Department celebrates Black History Month

The Fine Arts Department celebrated Black History Month with exhibits from both Art and Photography Clubs and film screenings from Film Club.

By Maddie Feeney '18

A mural of silhouettes of influential figures in Black History spans the length of the wall outside the auditorium.

The creators of this unique project include the Art Club as well as Ms. Croke's Design Basics class. Ms. Croke, the moderator for the Art Club, brainstormed with the club's president, Nora Dougherty, for a project they could do to celebrate Black History Month. The inspiration for the project was drawn from artist Kara Walker, who uses silhouettes to delve deeper into subjects like race, gender and identity.

"[Walker] uses the traditionally white, Victorian medium of the silhouettes to create a theatrical space in which her cut-paper characters develop a narrative surrounding Black History in America," said Ms. Croke.

While the inspiration came from Kara Walker, Nora Dougherty said, "Each of the figures was chosen by the students."

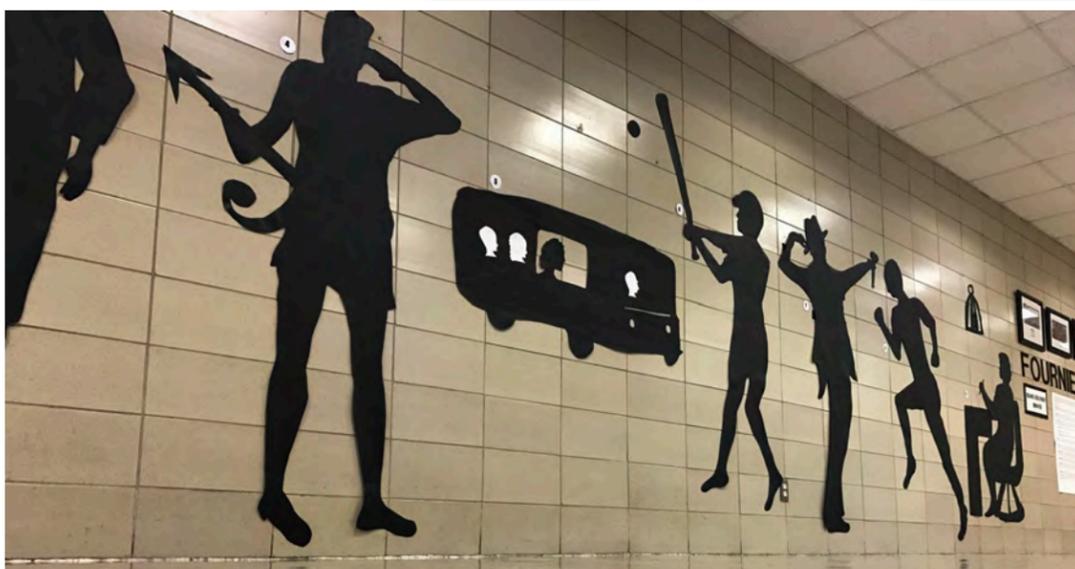
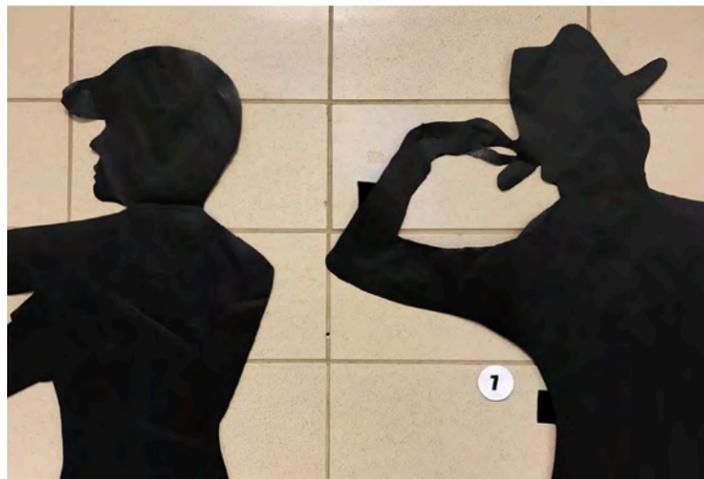
The silhouettes have a striking appearance on the wall just across from the entrance to the Art Wing. However, this was done so to mimic the way in which Walker presents her images.

Walker displays her silhouettes "... covering a vast amount of wall leaving no choice but to

confront the images," said Ms. Croke.

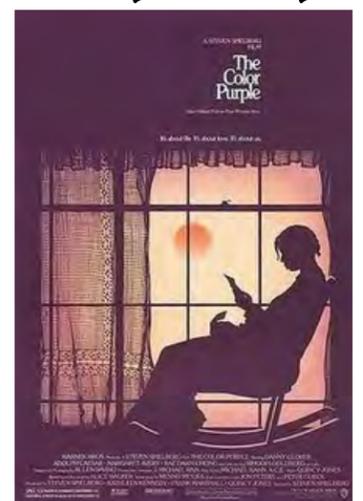
The figures have sparked a variety of conversations about the work itself and about Black History as a whole. A key at the end of the display has served as an educator for many about the backstories and importance of African Americans in American history.

"Oftentimes Black History has been glazed over in our country, and it is important to recognize how integral these moments and figures are in shaping our nation," said Ms. Croke.



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Film Club hosts screenings of films that highlight the African American spirit.



## Mount bids farewell to beloved teacher

By Meredith Killian '18

After ten exceptional years at the Mount, beloved English teacher Dr. Bonnie Balcer will be retiring at the end of this school year.

An engaging teacher and loving colleague, Dr. Balcer has inspired and touched the hearts of students, faculty and staff at the Mount. Her love for English has inspired students from the day she entered the Mount in 2007.

Before coming to the Mount, Dr. Balcer taught at the Academy of Notre Dame, where she taught AP English Literature to current MSJA teacher Mrs. Mary Ellen Crowe in 1997. Dr. Balcer and Mrs. Crowe had a close relationship as a student and teacher, even before becoming colleagues in 2017.

"She was exceptionally interested in literature, writing and reading the classics," said Dr. Balcer about Mrs. Crowe as a student.

Looking back on her time spent as Dr. Balcer's student, Mrs. Crowe said, "My favorite [memory] involves our reading of 'When You Are Old' by William Butler Yeats. When we came to the line, 'But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,' she said, 'Girls, girls, this is important. If a man says he loves your pilgrim soul, marry him right away.' I still remember her dimples after she said this."

Mrs. Crowe credits Dr. Balcer for her becoming an English

teacher.

"She made studying seem effortless, but she validated our struggle with the material. She made characters come alive for us. It's not easy to keep second semester seniors engaged, and every single one of my classmates worked to her fullest potential until the end of the year," said Mrs. Crowe.

Years later when applying to work at the Mount, Mrs. Crowe sought out the advice of Dr. Balcer.

"I received her letters of recommendation and handed them right away to Mrs. DeStefano and the members of the administration," said Dr. Balcer. As colleagues, their relationship continued to grow and both were excited to reunite in the classroom.

"I was extremely excited, and a bit nervous, at the prospect of being her colleague. It's a nerve-wracking experience when your heroes become colleagues," said Mrs. Crowe. Always asking each other questions and helping the other in and out of the classroom, they enjoyed their time catching up at lunch.

"I loved to hear her tell stories during lunch, and I loved hearing about how much she enjoyed being a grandmother," said Mrs.

Crowe.

Mrs. Crowe said she finds that she models many of her teaching techniques on Dr. Balcer's. Many of the comments she makes on papers are very similar to those that she received from Dr. Balcer in 1997.

"She was the voice in my head



while I wrote papers in college," said Mrs. Crowe. When asked how she feels about filling Dr. Balcer's shoes this semester, Mrs. Crowe said, "I feel overwhelmed at times, sad that she's not here and determined to make her proud. My prayer is to emulate the joy, labor and humor that she brought to class each day."

Before leaving for the semester, Dr. Balcer took much time and effort to make certain that Mrs. Crowe was fully prepared to take on her AP English Literature and Honors Introduction to Writing and Literature classes.

Dr. Balcer knows firsthand what it means to be inspired and encouraged by a teacher.

"I was inspired by many teachers I had while I was in elementary school and in high school. My fourth grade teacher, Ms. DeSantis, complimented an essay I wrote, and she asked me if she could send it to a contest. I danced all the way home that day," said Dr. Balcer.

Through her endearing heart and profound understanding of literature, Dr. Balcer has left an imprint on the hearts of many alumnae.

Julianna Kardish '16 recalled Dr. Balcer's class, including valuable lessons, great laughter about Shakespeare scandals, along with motherly advice and positive support.

"Dr. B recognized the passion and brilliance in each and every one of her students, and gave us the tool set to express our thoughts and ideas properly, clearly and eloquently. She helped foster my lifelong love of reading and writing and continues to have

a tremendous impact on my life, for every paper I write in college has and will continue to be influenced by the talented Dr. B," said Kardish.

Ava Self '17 said she will never forget the enthusiasm with which Dr. Balcer taught and the welcoming atmosphere of her classroom.

"Dr. Balcer's commitment to her students was unparalleled, which was evident in her desire to see all of her students succeed. On coffeehouse class days, Dr. Balcer's excitement radiated through the room. She genuinely loved seeing her students own the material they were learning, and undeniably encouraged student creativity," said Self.

Paige Comtois '17 said that coming into Dr. Balcer's class as a freshman, she did not have the best writing skills. Dr. Balcer's personable teaching style dramatically changed her writing.

"Without having Dr. Balcer as a teacher, I would not have the strong foundation that I have for writing today," said Comtois.

Dr. Balcer's kind heart and love for English will truly be missed this semester and in the coming years on the Mount campus. We thank her for inspiring the Mount community inside and outside of the classroom each and every day of her ten years.

## Film and Photography Clubs honor prominent figures

By The Campanile

In celebration of Black History Month, Film Club presented films commemorating African American struggle and heritage.

After club president, junior Grace Christie, suggested film selections reflect Black History month, Ms. Jean Korey, club moderator, reached out to the Diversity Club for film suggestions, also inviting them to participate in the film viewings and discussions.

"It's important to recognize films that portray the experience of African Americans accurately and that showcase the enormous talent in their communities," said Ms. Korey. The two films that were chosen were "The Color Purple," suggested by film club member, junior Kiara Pile and "The Help," suggested by both Christie and Diversity Club members.

Based on the classic novel by Alice Walker, "The Color Purple" is a 1985 film depicting a young African American woman's life and struggle to resist oppression in Jim Crow Alabama. Ms. Korey praised the film, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey, for the wealth of roles it provided for African American actors and actresses, whose opportunities in

Hollywood are often limited to secondary roles.

"I don't know that Hollywood films portray any group accurately, but characters of color—Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians—have a long history of being reduced to stereotypes," said Ms. Korey.

Pile added, "Not a lot of minorities get the opportunity to practice and present their art to the world. That is why it is very important to celebrate the amazing achievements that black people make in the film industry."

The second selected film, "The Help," was actually criticized by many African Americans, including the film's lead actress, Viola Davis, who felt as though many of the scenes did not accurately portray the characters' perspectives.

"Some of the films that accurately portray the black experience can be uncomfortable for the white community," said Ms. Korey. She referred to "A Raisin in the Sun," the Broadway play written by Lorraine Hansberry, noting that actor Sidney Poitier said, "Hansberry captured the essence of who we are." However, when the play transferred to film, that accuracy was "too radical," for white audiences, according to Hansberry. Hansberry had to rewrite her screenplay three times

before the filmmakers believed a white audience would accept it. For this reason, Ms. Korey saw it necessary to ask for the Diversity Club's input in the selection and discussion of films, in order for all students to observe an accurate representation of African Americans in films. With its celebration of Black History Month, Film Club hopes to highlight the importance of achieving racial equality through the arts.

"With all of the problems happening in our world, movies are one of the few things that bring us together," said Christie. "Diversity in film is so important. Without it, we lose the unity."



By Molly Duffy '19

To celebrate Black History Month this year, the Photography Club worked on a unique project capturing the spirit of prominent African American figures.

Photography Club President, junior Megan Schanes, has created a project entitled "Walk a Mile." Members of the club worked in groups or as individuals to choose "an historic or prominent African American figure . . . and pick a pair of shoes that embodies his or her spirit," said Schanes. With these shoes they created a still life photograph to "capture their spirit and accomplishments."

The photographs were printed



Photography Club honors Toni Morrison (left) and Serena Williams (right) with original still lifes.

# DIVERSITY CLUB

## Diversity Club hosts panel of alumnae



Back row: Anna Huber '20, President Casai High '18, Cartier Allen '18, Asha Houston '19, Kiara Pile '19 and Mrs. Sharon Scott. Middle row: . Katie Kennedy, Rose Leonard '18, Vice President London Butler '18, Katie Timberlake '19 and Anjolina Johnson '19. Front row: Temeiah Peete '19, Taylor Sistrunk '20 and Nasya Stinson '20.

By Claudia Langella '18

On February 1, the Diversity Club invited the school community to listen to a panel comprised of seven alumnae, all African American. The panel took place after school in Fontbonne and was attended by a cross-section of students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Lisa Guy-Britt is a teacher at Widener Memorial School. Ms. Pamela Gwaltney '79 is the Deputy Director of Compliance with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. Ms. Kelley Hodge '89 just finished her term as the District Attorney of Philadelphia, the first female African American do to so. Dr. Marisa Rogers '90 is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and is also an Associate Program Director for the

Internal Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Kathleen E. Walls '89 is an author and doctor of Clinical Psychology and the owner and founder of G.R.E.A.T.E.S.T. Counselling and Consulting. Ms. Rae Whatley '83 currently works as an environmental toxins coach. Mrs. Stephanie J. Wroten '86 is a Registered Nurse of Financial Quality and Health Information Technology Consultant.

Each of the seven women shared her experience of being a Mountie. The majority of these alumnae walked the halls of the Mount more than thirty years ago, yet students of color today are dealing with similar struggles. Each of the panelists agreed that there needs to be ongoing, candid dialogue about diversity, noting that while it may often be uncomfortable, it is the only way things will progress.

"It's important to have a difficult conversation to have a diverse community," said Ms. Gwaltney.

The panelists concurred that one very important step to creating change is through representation. When a person sees someone that looks like her in the classroom, workforce or media, she is more motivated and has a sense of pride and reassurance.

Dr. Rogers put it best: "Many of my patients are excited to have a black doctor. They are excited for my success in terms of representation."

President S. Kathleen Brabson spoke to the panel on behalf of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Mount community, thanking them for their honesty in sharing.

"I apologize for the sins of the past," said S. Kathleen to the seven alumnae, adding, "You need to be part of this solution. Our

ways of thinking have not been successful. We need your help in building a community that is diverse in race and ethnicity."

The panel was part of ongoing conversations the Diversity Club continues to initiate. The club, started this year by seniors Casai High and London Butler, offers a place, not only where minority students can talk candidly about concerns and problems unique to them, but it also has opened the space for white students and teachers to hear the experiences of minority students. In so doing, the club aims to foster a deeper understanding and to invite white students and colleagues to realize their privilege and work to even the playing field for Mount's non-white students and colleagues.

Mrs. Sharon Scott, co-moderator with Mrs. Katie Kennedy of the Diversity Club said, "We

can't get better unless we talk. I wondered what I could do that would be helpful, so we started by bringing stuff to the table."

Mrs. Kennedy added, "We also have to listen. It is my hope that the Diversity Club becomes a place to open dialogue where students, teachers and staff can step out of themselves and attempt to see the world from the perspective and experience of the other... so that we can join together, elevate one another and make our world a more just world in which the dignity of all is realized and all voices are heard."

Mrs. Scott said she sees a new day on the horizon in the Mount community with the establishment of the Diversity Club.

The Diversity Club meets every Tuesday after school and is open to every member of the Mount community.

By Casai High '18 and Cartier Allen '18

The Diversity Club was established this year to help educate the Mount community on race and to serve as a support system for students who identify themselves as minorities in the Mount community.

With the need to have a safe space to discuss sensitive topics and to raise awareness, we approached the administration with a proposal to start a club which will help address this need.

It is normal for most people to see the world through the filtered lens of their own race, ethnicity, social class and personal experience. The result is that most people do not see or understand problems or issues not related to their own experience.

It is one thing to read Atticus Finch's famous quote, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it," and it is another to put it into practice.

In focusing on cultural sensitivity and consciousness raising, the Diversity Club is hoping to do just this: Make these words a reality at Mount.

We believe it is only through education and discussion where everyone tries to listen to and respond with sensitivity and maturity to difficult issues, real issues that occur in the classroom, in the hallways and on social media, that positive change can happen.

# #MeToo movement gains speed and power

By Áine Playdon '19

Since early October 2017, there has been an enormous push to eliminate sexual assault in Hollywood. Beginning with a group of women who came forward to accuse Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood producer responsible for films such as “Good Will Hunting” and “Pulp Fiction,” thousands of women from all walks of life have stepped forward to confront their sexual abusers.

The group of women who accused Weinstein, now numbering eighty-four, kick-started a cultural movement. Now known as #MeToo, the movement’s reach extends from women in the workplace to the Golden Globes and the Grammys as America works towards eliminating the stigma surrounding sexual assault.

The hashtag began as an experiment; actress Alyssa Milano simply wanted to show the magnitude of “the problem” when she wrote her now historic tweet encouraging victims to speak up. The importance of her tweet was completely unexpected.

Immediately, thousands of people began replying to and retweeting Milano, creating an atmosphere that allowed people from across the world to share their stories and speak out against sexual harassment. The thread showed, as Sophie Gilbert from *The Atlantic* wrote, that “truth has power.”

The importance of the movement has been underscored time and time again, and *TIME Magazine* even made “The Silence Breakers” the Person of the Year in 2017.

In the article explaining the

magazine’s choice, journalists Stephanie Zacharek, Eliana Dockterman and Haley Sweetland Edwards wrote, “Women have had it with bosses and co-workers who not only cross boundaries but don’t even seem to know that boundaries exist.”

The article continues, “They’ve had it with the fear of retaliation, of being blackballed, of being fired from a job they can’t afford to lose.”

Every time a person joins the movement and speaks about his or her experience with sexual assault, the movement gains speed, momentum and power. Zacharek, Dockterman and Edwards write, “These silence breakers have started a revolution of refusal, gathering strength by the day.”

In a show of solidarity for all of those brave enough to step forward and speak about their experiences with sexual assault, celebrities took to the red carpet at the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards donned in all black, with some sporting “Time’s Up” pins.

Formed in response to the #MeToo movement, Time’s Up is an organization that encourages men and women to speak out against sexual assault. It offers a legal defense fund for any person, male or female, who has experienced any kind of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Its website declares, “The clock has run out on sexual assault, harassment and inequality in the workplace. It’s time to do something about it.” This message covered hundreds of celebrity social media pages in the days before the Golden Globes, accompanied by the hashtag #WhyWeWear-Black.

On the night of the Golden Globes, Oprah Winfrey, a member of the Time’s Up movement, received the Cecil B. DeMille award for lifetime achievement. Her speech, which brought many in the audience to tears, dealt heavily with “speaking your truth.”

She highlighted the women who had come forward, commending them for their bravery, saying “. . . I’m especially proud and inspired by all the women who have felt strong enough and empowered enough to speak up and share their personal stories.”

In particular, she put the spotlight on Recy Taylor, a woman who was sexually assaulted when she was young and whose assaulters have never received punishment for their crimes. Telling Taylor’s story, Winfrey said, “For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up.”

Despite the inspiring and hopeful messages of both movements and their leaders, French actress Charlotte Deneuve, joined by more than 100 other French women, published a letter denouncing the #MeToo movement in the days following the show of solidarity at the Golden Globes.

In her letter, Deneuve spoke of the dangers of the #MeToo movement. She said, “Rape is a crime. But insistent or clumsy flirting is not a crime, nor is gallantry a chauvinist aggression.”

She continued, “. . . there has been a legitimate realization of the sexual violence women experience, particularly in the workplace, where some men abuse their power. It was necessary. But

now this liberation of speech has been turned on its head.”

Deneuve’s explains that she, along with the other women who signed the letter, feels a toxic culture has been created by the movement. They argue that men have been handed the title of “sex offender” in every instance, no matter the weight of their actions.

The writers of the letter also assert that both #MeToo and #Time’sUp have contributed to creating a culture of victimizing women, saying the movement creates “eternal victims, poor little things under the influence of demon phalocrats, as in the good old days of witchcraft.”

Following the publication of the letter, women from all over the world lashed out at the authors of the letter. Asia Argento, an actress who accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault, responded on Twitter, and said, “Catherine Deneuve and other French women tell the world how their internalized misogyny has lobotomized them to the point of no return,” followed by a link to the letter.

Deneuve has since clarified the meaning behind her letter, saying that she is simply worried about the “culture of censorship” that has gripped the world since accusations of sexual misconduct became prevalent and has apologized to victims of sexual assault.

Writing for *The New Yorker*, Lauren Collins commented on the implications of the French women’s letter and the possibility that the brash nature of the ideas expressed could be chalked up merely to French culture. Her conclusion was, “. . . this wasn’t a straightforward case of cultural

difference.”

She goes on to write about the impact #MeToo (or #BalanceTon-Porc, meaning “squeal on your pig” in French) has had in France, saying that the movement has inspired proposals of new laws that would allow fines for harassment on the street and that extend the statute of limitations for cases dealing with sexual assault of minors.

Collins proposes that the nature of the letter was mostly driven by the backgrounds of the women who penned it. Most of the writers are white and belong to “professional and artistic classes.” To Collins, this indicates their privilege and their ignorance of the situations of working class women.

Collins said, “. . . [in the letter] there is no acknowledgment that things might be more complicated when a woman is not the leader of her professional team, as women so often are not.” To her, the letter is a failure to recognize that a woman should have the right to be “traumatized by an incident.”

There is no doubt that the #MeToo movement has power. Thus far, the sheer mass of women who have stepped forward have inspired a cultural shift and have certainly changed society forever. However, as demonstrated by the Deneuve letter and the objections to the Aziz Ansari case, there is a toxicity that arises with such great power.

As written by Caitlin Flanagan in *The Atlantic*, “Female rage is the essential fuel of #MeToo. Unchecked it is the potent force that will destroy it.”

# White House aide accused of domestic abuse

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

Two White House aides—staff secretary Rob Porter, who helped draft the State of the Union address, and David Sorensen, a White House speechwriter—resigned within the same week after they were accused of physical abuse by their former wives. Cases in which powerful men are exposed as incessant abusers have not been uncommon in recent months. However, it is the administration’s handling of these cases that is inciting concern among both the public and some White House officials.

“We wish him well,” President Donald Trump said in response to Porter’s resignation. Consistent with his tendency to dismiss allegations of abuse, the president added that the White House was “very sad” to learn about Porter, without expressing any sympathy for the women he abused.

On February 7, Porter resigned only a day after he was accused of physical abuse by his two former wives. Colbie Holderness, Porter’s first wife, called her marriage with him “verbally, emo-

tionally and physically abusive” in an interview with *The Daily Mail*. She also shared photographs of herself with a black eye and swollen cheekbone, which Porter deemed “misleading.” Jennifer Willoughby, Porter’s second wife, filed a restraining order against him in June 2010 after he violated a separation agreement and “punched through the glass door” of their apartment. Porter denied the allegations from both women as “outrageous” and “simply false.”

The FBI and the White House knew of the allegations against Porter months before they went public. Two people close to the White House said that the allegations against Porter delayed his receiving permanent security clearance, as both wives were interviewed by the FBI as a part of Porter’s background check. However, three people familiar with the situation told *TIME Magazine* that Porter had sat in on meetings of the National Security Council, where top secret matters were discussed.

“The fact that Porter might have held a senior White House

position without a security clearance is troubling,” said Chris Lu, former Cabinet secretary under Barack Obama. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders would not disclose the level of clearance that Porter held. Sanders also failed to explain why President Trump did not personally denounce the two aides who resigned.

“Above all, the president supports victims of domestic violence and believes everyone should be treated fairly and with due process,” Sanders said. John F. Kelly, the White House Chief of Staff, also defended Porter, calling him “a man of true integrity.” Aside from defending Porter, Kelly has made some alarming statements in the past, such as calling immigrant Dreamers “lazy,” which has left critics questioning his credibility.

“To have a chief of staff defend the integrity of a person who’s been credibly accused of being a wife beater is just stunning,” said Peter Wehner, who has served in the three previous Republican administrations. After Porter’s resignation, Kelly stood by his initial

statement, but said that he was “shocked” by the accusations. “There is no place for domestic violence in our society,” he said. Kelly also told his staff that he demanded Porter’s resignation 40 minutes after learning of the charges against him, although some officials have disputed this claim. Kellyanne Conway, a counselor to President Trump, told Jake Trapper on CNN’s “State of the Union” that Trump had “full confidence” in Kelly and was not actively seeking to replace him. When asked if she feared for the communications director, Hope Hicks, who had been dating Porter, Conway said, “I’ve never met somebody so strong with such excellent instincts and loyalty and smarts.”

Two days after Porter’s resignation, David Sorensen, a White House speechwriter, resigned following his own domestic abuse claims. Sorensen’s former wife, Jessica Corbett, spoke to the *Washington Post* a week prior to Porter’s resignation saying that Sorensen was violently and emotionally abusive during their marriage. Evidently, the allegations

against both Sorensen and Porter echo previous cases that have occurred frequently in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, President Trump complained via Twitter about such allegations destroying the lives of the accused.

“People’s lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation,” tweeted the president, who, once again, chose to exonerate the alleged abuser. “There is no recovery for someone falsely accused—life and career are gone.” Trump’s unsympathetic stance on the misconduct of powerful men, as also seen through his endorsement of Roy Moore, has many concerned about the credibility of his administration, especially as he himself stands accused of sexual assault by over twenty women.

“It’s obviously a very tough time for [Porter],” Trump said. “He did a wonderful job when he was in the White House and we hope that he has a wonderful career.”

## Larry Nassar pleads guilty to sexual assault charges

By Sarah Alessandrini '19

On January 24, Dr. Larry Nassar, the former team doctor of the USA women's gymnastics team who was also employed by Michigan State University, was sentenced to 40-175 years in prison for sexual misconduct. His reputation, prior to his downfall, was not unlike that of any other athletic team patron—He brought the girls gifts, called them by nicknames, brought them ice packs and wiped away their sweat and blood when they were injured.

"I was told to trust him," said McKayla Maroney, whose abuse began when she was 13 or 14 at the Karolyi Ranch, the national training camp for USA Gymnastics in Texas. "I was told that he would treat my injuries and make it possible for me to achieve my Olympic dreams." Like Maroney, many of the young victims said they were misled as children.

"Dr. Nassar was not a doctor," said Maroney. "He in fact is, was, and forever shall be a child molester and a monster." Sherry Bradley, mother of 19-year-old victim Vanasia Bradley, also called Nassar an "insidious monster." But like all the "monsters" before him—prominent men who were denounced in the post-Weinstein wave of sexual assault outings—Nassar has met his match. The young athletes who suffered at his hand found a fierce and unusual advocate. Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who sports a fiery red streak in her hair and wears cowboy boots under her robes, opened her courtroom to anyone wishing to speak, vowing to hear every woman's case.

"No sister survivor warrior's voice goes undiluted here," Judge Aquilina said. "You are the new

generation of superheroes. Congratulations." Court officials initially predicted that about 88 young women would speak during the hearing. However, over 150 women, or "superheroes," came forward during the 7-day sentencing hearing to confront their villainous "monster." These girls were current or former athletes, mostly gymnasts, who had been sexually abused by Nassar under the guise of medical treatment.

"Looking back now as a woman, I am appalled at what my child-self went through," said 22-year-old Bailey Lorenzen. Judge Aquilina, who served 20 years in the Michigan Army National Guard, said to Lorenzen, "The military has not yet come up with a fiber as strong as you." Judge Aquilina also allowed the coaches and parents of victims to speak as well, and many have expressed their utmost gratitude for the judge's immense support.

"Judge Aquilina, I applaud you," Doug Powell said after his daughter, Kassie, addressed the court. "We applaud you. This courtroom applauds you." Nassar's case adds to the seemingly endless string of sexual abuse scandals that have occurred in

recent months. By empowering these young women to stand up against their abuser, Judge Aquilina carries out the missions of movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp, which are devoted to

not yet owned what you did," Judge Aquilina said. "You still think somehow you are right, you're a doctor, you're entitled, so you don't have to listen." Judge Aquilina also said it was an honor to sentence him and proclaimed, "I just signed your death warrant."

Aly Raisman, an Olympic gymnast and 6-time gold medalist, was also among those to boldly address Nassar. "Imagine feeling like you have no power and no voice," she said in court. "Well, you know what, Larry? I have both power and voice, and I am only just beginning to use them. All these brave women have power, and we will use

our voices to make sure you get what you deserve: a life of suffering spent relaying the words delivered by this powerful army of survivors." Raisman has also expressed her criticism of the Olympic committee for failing to investigate reports of abuse.

"[The Olympic committee and the gymnastics federation] were quick to capitalize and celebrate my success," Raisman said. "But did they reach out when I came forward? No." She also accused the committee of "shamelessly taking credit as though they're addressing the problem," for the

resignations of three members of the board of USA gymnastics on Twitter. In 2016, an investigation by The Indianapolis Star revealed that USA Gymnastics would not report sexual abuse unless the reports were filed by a victim or parent. Nassar was fired from USA Gymnastics in 2015, when the organization finally reported the athletes' concerns to law enforcement. Michigan State University fired the doctor a year later while investigating the reports of abuse. Both the university president Lou Anna Simon and school's athletic director resigned under public pressure.

As Judge Aquilina promised, the women's voices have been heard. Nassar's sentencing has achieved wide national recognition and change is taking effect. On January 29, the House agreed to pass a bill that will require allegations and incidents of sexual abuse of minor and amateur athletes to be reported to authorities.

"These women have endured too much, which is why we must do more to protect our amateur athletes so this never happens again," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy. With this bill, failure to report a sexual abuse allegation could result in up to one year in prison.

A week after his sentencing, Nassar faced 65 more victims, raising the number of outspoken victims to 265. The women said that they were inspired to speak by the 157 young women who initially came forward.

"The tables have turned, Larry," Raisman said. "We are here. We have our voices, and we are not going anywhere."



Top: Larry Nassar was sentenced to 40-175 years in prison; Bottom: Emily Morales is one of the many who testified.

ending the culture of silence that has plagued society.

"Little girls don't stay little forever," said Kyle Stevens, a family friend of Nassar's who said she was first abused by him when she was in kindergarten. "They grow into strong women that return to destroy your world." Before the sentencing, Judge Aquilina read a letter submitted to the court by Nassar, in which he complained about his own emotional distress while hearing the statements, writing that "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

"This letter tells me you have

## Michigan State University receives severe backlash

By Maddie Feeney '18

While Larry Nassar's future has been decided upon, how will Michigan State University, after years of allegedly ignoring countless young, defenseless girls, move on?

Following the sentencing of Nassar, MSU President Lou Anna Simon immediately resigned, releasing an official statement saying she is "so sorry that a trusted, renowned physician was really such an evil, evil person who inflicted such harm under the guise of medical treatment." Her resignation also followed numerous complaints during the victim impact statements about the university's negligence.

Evidence for these claims show just how long ago some MSU colleagues were told of the sexual abuse. The first known victim, Larissa Boyce, came forward in 1997, confiding in Kathie Klages, the MSU junior gymnastics coach at the time, about the concerns she had over Nassar's

"treatment." Boyce was not ignored, but told a local Michigan news station M Live she was made to think that "she had unfairly maligned a well respected doctor."

More recently, in 2014, Amanda Thomashow filed a complaint stating that Nassar had inappropriately touched her during a doctor's visit. Instead of investigating, Nassar's boss William Strampel, who was the dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at MSU, told Thomashow she was misunderstanding Nassar's "cutting-edge medical procedure." Strampel resigned in December for medical reasons, although he remained a tenured faculty member. However, MSU's board of trustees collectively decided in the weeks after Nassar's



Former MSU president Lou Anna Simon, pictured above, resigned following Nassar's sentencing.

sentencing to terminate his tenure.

The backlash stemmed from within the university as well; by a vote of 61 to 4, the MSU Faculty Senate decidedly expressed their lack of confidence in the board of trustees. The appointment of John Engler (a former Michigan governor) as the interim president

generated feelings of ill-will among some faculty members, who felt the decision of his appointment was made "outside the university," according to board Chairman Brian Breslin in an interview with CNN.

Another issue with the board of trustees comes from the lack of transparency when handling the Nassar scandal. Andaluna Borcila, a professor at MSU, said in an interview with Michigan Radio, "They were given so many chances. We counted on them. . . and they betrayed us."

Borcila is also a part of a new group at the university, known as Reclaim MSU. The group is comprised of faculty, students and staff and is working towards increasing transparency and ac-

countability on the campus.

Moving forward, Engler said in an interview with CNN, "I sincerely hope the courageous survivors of Larry Nassar will see this as unmistakable indication that things are changing quickly at Michigan State."

However, not only does the culture at MSU need to change, but the culture of athletics as a whole. In many ways, the Nassar scandal seems to parallel the Jerry Sandusky case at Pennsylvania State University. According to CNN, evidence found that officials in the school's athletic department, including head coach Joe Paterno, covered up Sandusky's sexual abuses of young boys for years.

"For reasons both logical and illogical, [Paterno] has been long obsessed about sheltering his Nittany Lions team," Frank Fitzpatrick of the Philadelphia Inquirer wrote.

No more should the success of a program be put before the well-being and safety of its athletes.

## Reviewing gun legislation post-Stoneman Douglas tragedy

By Kaitlyn Przydzial '19

On February 14, a shooter armed with an AR-15 stormed into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 people and injuring 14 more. In the wake of the tragedy, the national debate regarding gun control legislation has been revived with fervor.

Following the Parkland shooting, President Trump directed the Justice Department to propose a ban on bump stocks, attachments that can be added onto a semi-automatic weapon, allowing it to fire at a rate nearly equivalent to that of a machine gun.

Although the proposal has been largely met with bipartisan support, some lawmakers argue that it is unlikely to be effective. Since President Trump's proposal does not include formal legislation, the ban would need to be enforced by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). However, the ATF has previously stated that it does not have the authority to ban bump stocks.

California Senator Debbie Feinstein explained, "If ATF tries

to ban these devices after admitting repeatedly that it lacks the authority to do so, that process could be tied up in court for years, and that would mean bump stocks would continue to be sold."

Additionally, both Republicans and Democrats have proposed improvements to the current National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, although the nature of those improvements varies.

A group of 19 Republicans in the House of Representatives sent a letter to the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, requesting that he schedule a vote on the Fix NICS Act, a bill that is designed to improve background checks for people trying to buy a gun. The bill will do so by holding states accountable if accurate information regarding mental health and criminal history is not uploaded to the national background check system.

Another measure that has garnered bipartisan support is a proposal to raise the minimum age at which a rifle or shotgun can legally be purchased, which is presently set at 18 years.

Currently, President Trump and many other Republicans support a proposal that would raise the minimum age requirement to 21, which is already the requirement to legally buy a handgun. However, the NRA has stated its opposition to the measure, putting the future of the proposal in jeopardy.

In a move backed by the NRA, President Trump has also proposed arming a certain, select group of teachers so that they would be able to defend themselves and their students against potential danger.

"Bringing more guns into our schools does nothing to protect our students and educators from gun violence," said National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, "Our students . . . do not need more guns in their classrooms."

While President Trump's proposal relies on an increased presence of legal guns in the United States, many Democrats have signed on to support a bill that would ban 205 types of firearms, primarily targeting semi-automatic weapons like the one used

in the Parkland shooting.

The future of the bill is uncertain; while over 150 Democrats support the bill, a similar bill that would have banned assault weapons was recently rejected by Florida lawmakers.

Although the future of the semi-automatic weapons ban is unclear, Dick's Sporting Goods announced on February 28 that they would no longer be selling assault style weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Walmart soon followed suit; the chain stopped selling high-powered rifles in 2015 but announced that they would also be removing any products from their shelves that resemble assault weapons, including children's toys. Both stores are also restricting gun and ammunition sales to those 21 years and older.

These self-imposed bans come at a time when many companies are trying to distance themselves from the NRA. United Airlines, National Car Rental and the First National Bank of Omaha are just a few of the companies who have announced in recent weeks that they will be discontinuing dis-

counts currently offered to NRA members.

In a meeting with lawmakers on February 28, President Trump also came out against some of the NRA's policies stating, "I'm a fan of the NRA. . . . But that doesn't mean we have to agree on everything."

During the meeting, President Trump stated his opposition to a bill that would allow individuals with concealed carry permission in one state to do so everywhere in the United States. The president also restated his support of a proposal to raise to 21 the minimum age at which one can legally buy a semi-automatic weapon. Both of these proposals are opposed by the NRA.

However, on March 1, the President and Vice President held a previously unannounced meeting with a representative from the NRA, Chris Cox.

In a tweet regarding the meeting, Cox wrote, "POTUS & VPO-TUS support the Second Amendment, support strong due process and don't want gun control."

## Students organize "March for Our Lives" to invoke change

By Nina Chae-Gordon '18

The matter of gun control is often swept under the rug by lawmakers. In response to previous mass shootings, politicians supported by the NRA, among others, have combated liberals' attempts to effect change, arguing that it was "too soon" to talk about guns. However, the victims of the Parkland massacre are not allowing this mass shooting to follow the trajectory of the others. Since the shooting, students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have voiced their desire to break the loop of massacres through powerful speeches and interviews, demanding that their state and federal lawmakers step

up and do something about the 17 lives that were lost on February 14.

Senior David Hogg documented the tragedy, filming and interviewing his classmates during the shooting in hopes of gathering materials to sway politicians' views on gun control. Junior Cameron Kasky, in an interview with CNN following the shooting, said, "My message for the people in office is: You're either with us or against us. We are losing our lives while the adults are playing around."

In this same interview with CNN, Kasky announced a demonstration that is to take place on March 24 in Washington, D.C.

"March for Our Lives" is, in ac-

cordance with the organization's mission statement, ". . . created by, inspired by and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar." The demonstration has inspired over 70 satellite protests across the world and is expected to draw out thousands of marchers. Since Kasky's announcement, the organization has raised nearly \$2.8 million on the cause's GoFundMe page, in addition to receiving generous donations from major celebrities and companies such as Amal and George Clooney, Oprah and Gucci.

Experts speculate that, because

of the teenagers' active roles in the shooting's aftermath and their fight for gun control, Parkland could be the turning point in the national and state debate over gun control, school security and mental health services. Since February 14, the students have met with lawmakers in attempts to achieve some change. In turn, lawmakers have proposed legislation to protect school children. They have not, however, proposed any laws that ban assault weapons or require universal background checks.

As "March for Our Lives" approaches, the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School will not cease until they have achieved their goal: To attain leg-

islative action to prevent similar shootings in the future. The students have taken to Twitter and other social media platforms and have created the hashtag #NeverAgain. #NeverAgain or, Never Again MSD, is "For survivors of the Stoneman Douglas Shooting, by survivors of the Stoneman Douglas Shooting."

In accordance with a statement by Patricia Brigham, first vice president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, in which she said, "Students are the future of the gun-violence prevention movement," one must recognize the power of the young people of the world.

## Editor's response: It's time to implement policy and change

By Natalie Ward '18

In April 1996, Australia had a mass shooting in which one man killed 35 people with a semi-automatic weapon. Following this shooting, the country and its states implemented strict gun control legislation, including a ban on rapid-fire guns.

According to a 2016 study by the University of Sydney, 13 fatal mass shootings occurred from 1979-1996. After gun control legislation was put in place, no fatal mass shootings occurred from 1997 through May 2016 in Australia.

In the past 5 months, the U.S. has seen 3 of its deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history, so why have we not seen change? We, as a nation, are at the point where

the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and students across the country feel it is their responsibility to handle gun control because the people in charge of our country refuse to do anything more than offer their thoughts and prayers. How many more deaths will it take until we see legitimate change?

Under current legislation, people can legally buy assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons, such as the commonly used AR-15 that can fire up to 45 rounds in one minute. This weapon is the same weapon used at the Sandy Hook shooting, the Pulse nightclub shooting, the Las Vegas massacre and the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

One year ago, President Trump

signed a bill revoking an Obama-era regulation that made it much more difficult for people with mental illnesses to purchase guns. Consequently, background checks are even looser and more insufficient than they previously were, allowing many unqualified people to legally purchase weapons. Such an action poses an important question: Why are politicians constantly protecting the NRA and money over the lives and safety of our people?

Gun control is no longer about the 2nd Amendment. It is not about the Republicans and the Democrats. It is not just about mental health. It is about the students who will never forget piling into closets and being shielded from gunshots by their teachers and friends. It is about the people

whose children, parents, siblings and friends were murdered in a matter of seconds, whether at a nightclub, a concert, a movie theatre or just at school. It is about protecting our people, and until Americans see gun control legislation put in place, we will not feel truly protected by our government.

Emma Gonzalez, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, gave a breathtaking speech at a gun control rally in Fort Lauderdale just days after the shooting. "We know that they are claiming mental health issues, and I am not a psychologist, but we need to pay attention to the fact that this was not just a mental health issue. He would not have harmed that many students with a knife!" shouted Gonzalez.

"Politicians who sit in their gilded House and Senate seats funded by the NRA telling us nothing could have been done to prevent this, we call BS. They say tougher gun laws do not decrease gun violence. We call BS," said Gonzalez. "They say no laws could have prevented the hundreds of senseless tragedies that have occurred. We call BS."

Enough is enough.

It is time for politicians to value the lives of our people over the money that runs their campaigns.

It is time to stop offering only thoughts and prayers and start implementing policy and change.

## Mueller investigation continues to unfold

By Áine Playdon '19

Over the last year, special counsel Robert Mueller has been investigating possible Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Appointed by the Department of Justice, Mueller has the power to investigate “any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump,” and “any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation.”

The New York Times reported that, in June of 2016, President Trump attempted to fire Mueller, claiming that Mueller had three “conflicts of interest” that would bar him from remaining unbiased in his investigation.

First, Mueller is a former member of National Golf Club, one of Trump’s many properties, however, following a dispute over fees, Mueller reportedly abandoned his membership.

Second, before being appointed as special counsel, Mueller was employed by the same law firm that represented Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law.

Finally, Trump pointed out that Mueller had interviewed to return as FBI director the day before being appointed special counsel, thus creating a potential bias toward the FBI.

Despite President Trump’s concerns, the New York Times wrote that the special counsel was not removed from his position because White House counsel Don McGahn threatened to quit.

Appointed by the president, the counsel advises the White House on legal matters. McGahn heavily disagreed with Trump’s plan to remove Mueller. According to the New York Times, he “told senior

White house officials that firing Mr. Mueller would have a catastrophic effect on Mr. Trump’s presidency.”

In the month following the release of this information, the House Intelligence Committee released the Nunes memo.

A four-page document authored by Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) and released on February 2, 2018, the memo delves into a GOP argument that special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation is specifically targeting President Trump in a focused effort to remove him from office.

The document begins by describing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA) warrant used to investigate Carter Page, a former Trump campaign adviser, in late 2016. The FISA warrant was used to wiretap Page, whom the FBI suspected to be affiliated with Russian agents.

According to Vox, in order to receive this warrant, FBI officials had to present extensive amounts of evidence to substantiate their suspicions. The memo’s main allegation is that the FBI officials who requested the Page warrant did not adequately explain their evidence, thereby misleading the judge who signed the warrant.

In his report, Rep. Nunes wrote that the investigators mainly relied on the Steele dossier, a document that contains allegations of conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia, for evidence.

To Nunes, the dossier is proof that the Clintons are connected to Mueller’s investigation.

According to the New York Times, former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele authored the dossier after being hired by Fusion GPS, a research company that was hired itself by

a law firm working for Democrats.

The final points of the Nunes memo assert that because Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, the man who oversees the Mueller probe, approved the renewal of the Page warrant with complete knowledge of the investigation’s use of the Steele dossier, the FBI is conspiring against Donald Trump.

Since Rosenstein oversees Mueller’s investigation, which encompasses the Page investigation, Mueller can also be seen as anti-Trump.

The Nunes memo has received both support and backlash. Rep. Steve King (R-IA) said in support, “I have read the memo. . . I no longer hold out hope there is an innocent explanation for the information the public has seen.”

Democrats, however, have slammed the memo. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), has called it “a profoundly misleading set of talking points. . . rife with inaccuracies.” He went on to call the report “a distorted view of the FBI.”

In response to the Republican memo, House Democrats released their own memo on February 24, 2018. This memo argues “FBI and DOJ officials did not ‘abuse’ the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) process, omit material information or subvert this vital tool to spy on the Trump campaign.”

Phillip Ewing of NPR argues that the goal of the Republican party is to discredit any agency that may uncover damning information regarding the alleged collusion with Russia.

He wrote, “Democrats want to defend the integrity of those agencies and their work, which is why they have released this document.”

Shortly after the release of the Nunes memo, the New York Times reported that President Trump’s lawyers “strongly advised him against sitting down for a wide-ranging interview with the special counsel.”

Trump has repeatedly said he would be willing to speak to Mueller but his lawyers fear that Trump, due to his history of contradicting himself, may be charged with lying to investigators.

While a refusal could result in a subpoena for Trump to testify before a grand jury, the New York Times reported that Trump’s lawyers heavily doubt that Mueller would be willing to participate in a months-long court investigation.

However, CNN reported just two days later, on February 7, that Trump was still eager to speak with Mueller. A person “familiar with Trump’s thinking” told CNN that part of Trump’s willingness to talk with Mueller comes from his confidence in his ability to speak while under oath.

Trump has not been asked for an interview at this time, but CNN wrote that his lawyers expect

one in just a few weeks.

Since his appointment, Mueller has indicted, or accused, four people associated with the Trump Administration: former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, his associate and former deputy campaign manager Rick Gates, former Trump adviser George Papadopoulos and former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Just ten days following Trump’s cooperative response to Mueller, the special counsel and his team released another indictment: this time condemning 13 Russian individuals and three Russian companies for interfering with the 2016 presidential election.

The individuals and the companies are all tied to one research firm: the Internet Research Agency (IRA), the company responsible for the tens of thousands of social media ads that propagated Donald Trump to the American public.

According to the New York Times, the IRA was funded in part by two companies headed by Yevgeny V. Prigozhin, a man derogatorily called “Putin’s cook.” With the funding from Prigozhin, the IRA was reportedly able to spend \$1.2 million a month.

Each of the thirteen individuals indicted were employed by the IRA in some capacity—some were translators, others were IT experts and still others were “Travelers.”

The travelers were two women, Anna V. Bogacheva and Aleksandra Y. Krylova, who obtained United States visas under “false pretenses for the purposes of collecting intelligence to inform the organization’s operatives,” according to the indictment.

According to the New York Times, the women were on a three-week “reconnaissance tour” to “scope out” and examine the culture and political climate of the United States.

In a press conference, Rod Rosenstein said, “The indictment alleges that the Russian conspirators want to promote discord in the United States and undermine public confidence in democracy. We must not allow them to do that.”

Just six days after Mueller’s latest indictment, Rick Gates agreed to cooperate with the Mueller probe. As the New York Times wrote, his plea deal could be a sign that he is willing to offer information concerning Paul Manafort, his former partner and other Trump aides.

The deal follows increased pressure from Mueller on the two business partners: on February 22, the New York Times reported that Mueller filed a number of new money laundering charges against Gates and Manafort, which outline new criminal behavior.

When questioned, Gates pled guilty to the charges set against him and admitted he had lied to prosecutors earlier in Feb-

ruary when questioned about a 2013 meeting Manafort had with a pro-Russian member of Congress.

In a recent letter to friends and family, Gates wrote, “Despite my initial reaction to vigorously defend myself, I have had a change of heart. The reality of how long this legal process will take, the cost and the circuslike atmosphere of an anticipated trial are too much. I will better serve my family moving forward by exiting this process.”

In exchange for his cooperation, Mueller asked a court in Virginia to drop money laundering charges against Mr. Gates, according to Politico.

With Gates’ full cooperation, the Mueller investigation will be able to both further prosecute Paul Manafort and gain an insight into the exact atmosphere of the Trump campaign. A former Trump campaign consultant spoke to Politico regarding Gates, saying, “He saw everything.”

However, despite Gates’ agreement to work with the Mueller probe, Manafort still maintains his innocence. NBC reported that Manafort has not addressed the allegations against him, including accusations that he secretly “recruited and funded a group of former European politicians to lobby the United States on behalf of Ukraine.”

Hope Hicks, President Trump’s communications director, resigned on February 28, following a nine-hour closed-door session with the House intelligence committee, reported The New Yorker.

The New York Times wrote that Hicks was “one of the few aides who understood Mr. Trump’s personality and style and could challenge the president to change his views.”

Politico’s profile of Hicks reads, “colleagues described Hicks as someone who communicates with Trump in a similar way to his daughter Ivanka—she can express her disagreements privately, but ultimately supports his decisions unquestioningly.”

A session with the House Intelligence Committee revealed that Hicks was prone to telling “white lies” for President Trump’s benefit. However, she testified that she had never lied about Russian ties or any Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Multiple White House aides have reported that Hicks’ resignation was unrelated to her session with the House Intelligence Committee and was rather an attempt to remove herself from the political atmosphere of Washington.

Exactly when her resignation will take place is unclear at this time, although it will certainly be a blow to the Trump Administration.

Mueller’s probe, meanwhile, will continue to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

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Fly, Eagles fly! On the road to victory! Fight, Eagles fight! Score a touchdown 1-2-3! Hit 'em low! Hit 'em high! And watch our Eagles fly! Fly, Eagles fly! On the road to victory! E-A-G-L-E-S!

# EAGLES WIN



# E-A-G-L-E-S!



By Mollie Mullen '18

The Eagles are Super Bowl champions for the very first time, and the city of Philadelphia will never be the same.

The pure joy and uncontrollable excitement that erupted throughout the streets and homes of the Philadelphia area after the title was won, captures what it means to be a proud Philadelphia sports fan.

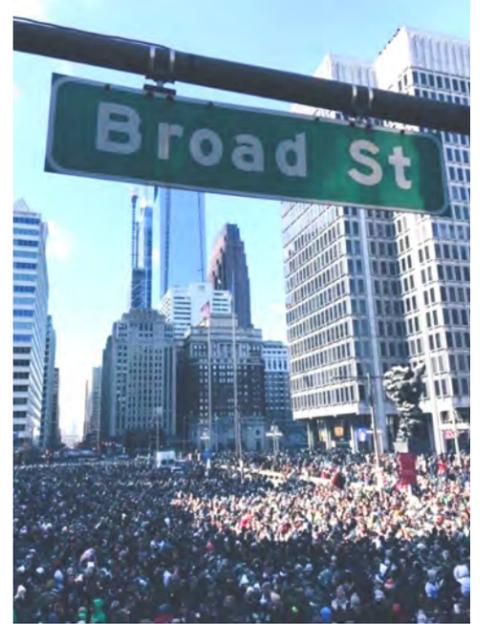
This city has never experienced a taste of victory quite like this one.

Eagles fans have rightfully earned their reputation of being loyal, passionate and absolutely crazy, and they would not have it any other way. Streets were stormed, poles climbed and crowds surfed.

This victory was celebrated to its absolute fullest. Schools were filled with smiles and the color green, and the "Eagles Fight Song" was on repeat everywhere. The citizens of this city could not be prouder.

After so many years without an NFL championship title, the void has finally been filled.

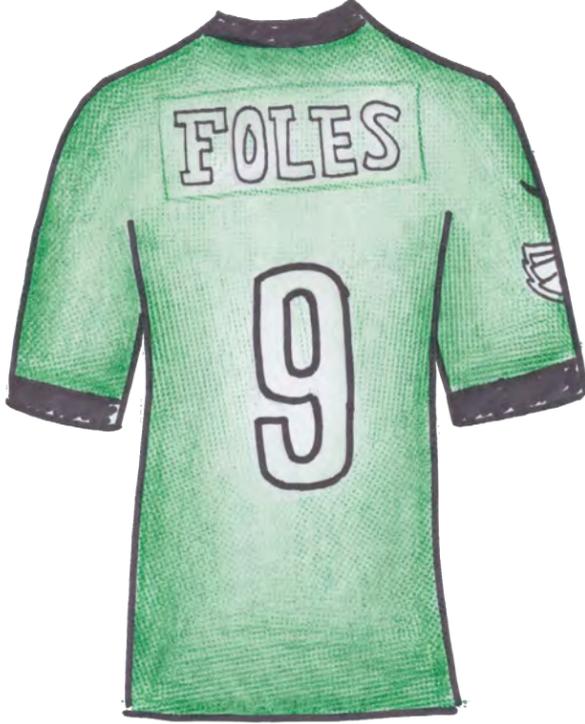
"Fly, Eagles, Fly." Thanks for making history!



# EAGLES WIN



# PHILLY PHILLY



## Mini-bag shortage caused by Puerto Rican Hurricane Maria

By Riley Gorman '19 and Aydin McPhilemy '19

It has been only six months since the catastrophic Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico and the hurricane continues to affect the lives of Puerto Ricans in ways that other Americans across the country may not notice.

A large source of the Puerto Rican economy comes from medical sales to the United States and much of the employment comes from jobs in this field of manufacturing. Ten percent of all American-consumed drugs, which is roughly \$40 million worth of pharmaceuticals, are manufactured in Puerto Rico. The sites have all been running at less than fifty percent of their regular production rates, with some even dipping below twenty percent.

Mini-Bags, small plastic bags containing IV fluids, are used in all hospitals and are essential to modern medical care. One of the

largest manufacturers of Mini-Bags, Baxter International Inc., has three major sites located in Puerto Rico.

After receiving supplies from other places, Puerto Rico transports the shipments to America; however, the U.S. territory is currently experiencing a shortage of supplies due to damage and lack of power.

Jeff Rosner, the overseer of pharmacy contracting and purchasing at the Cleveland Clinic, said, "I am fearful that this may not be the end of the shortages — it may only be the beginning."

The Mini-Bag shortage is severely affecting hospitals across America, which are not receiving the number of supplies necessary to uphold everyday flow. Nurses have been improvising makeshift Mini-Bags, some of which are ineffective and slow. The makeshift bags also introduce more room for human error. The race for

supplies has negatively impacted already difficult conditions, and officials believe that the shortage

make drastic changes and receive more aid from the federal government.



Mini-bags are essential to hospitals, and their shortage can greatly affect modern medical care.

has just begun.

The Puerto Rican economy has taken a devastating shift after Hurricane Maria. The rising United States territory was beginning to make a "comeback" through its FDA approved involvement with foreign countries, including Ireland and Australia. However, the territory's economy needs to

The Trump Administration was sluggish to respond when dealing with Hurricane Maria as compared to their responses to hurricanes that hit the United States mainland last year.

President Trump was quoted saying that Hurricane Maria was not a "real catastrophe" and stressed the monetary burden

that repairs to the territory would cause. Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, but the mishandling of this disaster exposes the continued lack of attention paid to the prevalent issues of Puerto Rico.

The physical, emotional and mental toll on Puerto Rico has resulted in an increased rate of suicide and low public morale, according to reports made by NBC and the New York Times. After the first few months of the disaster, relief declined and is now almost non-existent.

There are many organizations and charities attempting to provide aid for those affected in Puerto Rico. In order to provide successful aid, the United States Government must provide sources of food, supplies and restoration of power. This will not only help the citizens of Puerto Rico but also restore balance to American healthcare.

## Oceanic Crisis: Warming seas exacerbate coral reef bleaching

By Nora Hogan '19

The world's warming seas are causing an oceanic crisis. Coral reefs, which play an important role in maintaining the health and biodiversity of the world's oceans, are being killed by coral bleaching, a result of warming seas.

Warming oceans toxify the microorganisms that live inside of the coral's tissues, forcing the coral to expel the agents that keep them alive. These microorganisms, named zooxanthella, give a coral its colorful appearance and help it to survive by providing oxygen, waste filtration and up to ninety percent of its energy.

Without zooxanthella, coral starve to death or succumb to disease, revealing the coral's bleached skeleton and negatively impacting all oceanic ecosystems. This destructive process is known as coral bleaching.

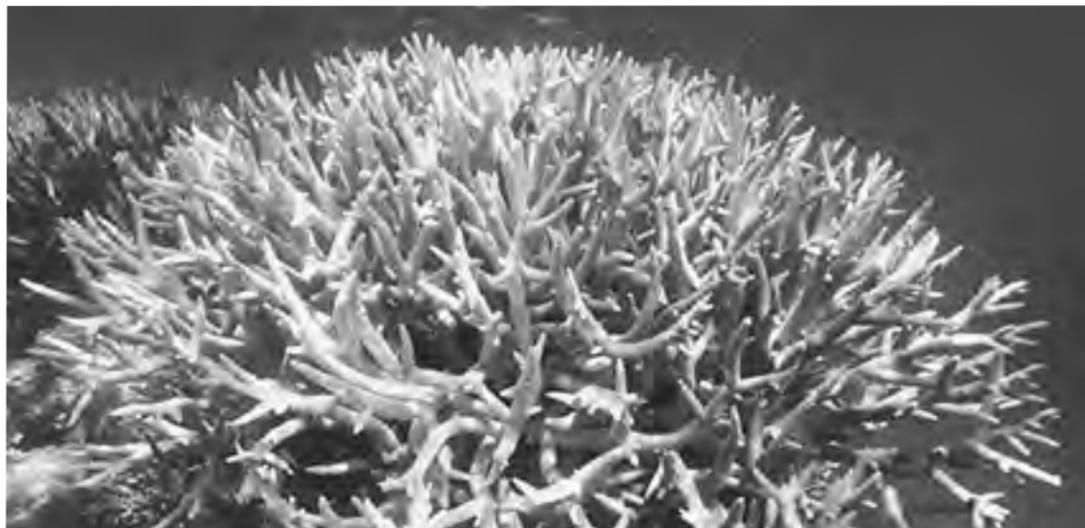
Coral bleaching has been exacerbated by global warming, resulting in the current worldwide crisis. As humans burn fossil fuels, the heat produced enters the atmosphere and warms the planet. Most of this atmospheric heat is then absorbed into Earth's oceans, resulting in melting ice caps, increasing oceanic temperatures, rising seas, the coral

bleaching crisis and other negative phenomena.

The rate at which global warm-

time is much longer. Unfortunately, every year the worldwide coral population is hit with warmer

tries." Without coral, many human coastal communities will be harmed perhaps fatally as their



ing is occurring does not give coral reefs nearly enough time to acclimate to the new, warmer waters. According to Dr. Mark Eakin, an oceanographer of the Coral Reef Watch at the United States National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), "We could be looking at the effective loss of most of the world's coral reefs."

The recovery time from a bleaching event for the fastest growing coral typically lasts 10 to 15 years. For larger corals that house larger fish, this recovery

waters, not giving reefs enough time to heal from previous years' damage.

Coral reefs are incredibly important to all life on Earth. According to data in National Geographic, "More than a quarter of all known marine species spend at least some of their lifecycle in coral reefs...In addition, more than 500 million people depend on coral reefs for food or fishing income. Even more still rely on corals to protect their shorelines from unchecked erosion and to fuel local tourism indus-

tries." Without coral, many human coastal communities will be harmed perhaps fatally as their sources of income in tourism and industry will become obsolete. Even shore towns along the Jersey Shore and the Florida Gulf Coast, places where Mount students and faculty regularly vacation, will be severely impacted by the loss of coral.

Some scientists are experimenting with radical ideas to save coral reefs. For example, some researchers are attempting to genetically modify certain corals to withstand warmer waters while others are looking at methods to potentially pump cooler water

into coral reefs to keep them from overheating.

Time to save coral is running out. According to Dr. Eakin, "We can't act as if we can keep emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and just by tinkering around with corals in a lab we're going to solve the problem."

International governments must stop investing in coal and other fossil fuels that trap heat in the atmosphere and increase worldwide pollution. Farmers and gardeners alike should stop using chemical fertilizers whose runoff damage corals. Every person can help coral reefs and the Earth by taking public transportation, recycling, eating locally, conserving water and *not* purchasing sunscreens with the ingredient oxybenzone.

Oxybenzone weakens fragile coral reefs considerably and makes them more susceptible to bleaching events. In the summer, rinsing off your sunscreen-slathered body in the shower or taking a plunge in the ocean causes runoff that goes directly to the coral's ecosystems. Purchase other "reef-friendly" sunscreens whose active ingredients are mineral based, containing ingredients such as titanium oxide and zinc oxide.

## Responding to confusion about winter: Global Warming is real

By Nora Hogan '19

Although the President himself may claim that, "we could use a little bit of that good old global warming. . ." to keep warm this winter, multiple facts state that climate change is wreaking havoc on the planet.

According to NASA, the lack of information about the relationship between weather and climate results in confusion and the assumption that an increase in cold

weather means that global warming is nonexistent.

The difference between the weather and the climate is this: Climate is the average of weather over a long period of time, and weather is the conditions of the atmosphere over a short period of time. A singular cold snap or particular blizzard is not indicative of the entire planet's climate. Climate is "all in the long-term trends," according to Dr. Gavin Schmidt, a climatologist at NA-

SA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

The planet will still experience winters, even as the planet warms. As explained by Forbes, "Winter is related to how the Earth is tilted on its axis as it moves around the Sun."

The extreme cold snaps and heat waves that have plagued the planet recently—NASA reported that the warmest winter ever was just last year in 2017—are a result of arctic amplification, the faster

rise of arctic temperatures than mid-latitude temperatures. The high arctic temperatures melt glaciers and sea-ice, resulting in a greater amount of water vapor in the atmosphere that traps heat and creates bigger and more aggressive storms.

Arctic amplification also affects the jet stream, the winds that blow from west to east and transport hot and cool winds across the globe. Thanks to arctic amplification, the jet stream

has become more "wavy," bringing more extreme temperatures to various regions. Examples of this extreme weather include the frigid weather the East Coast experienced earlier this year.

Global warming is a very real and important issue that demands the world's attention, so make sure that you know the real facts as you bundle up this winter.

## Nuclear attack false alarm threatens Hawaii

By Samantha Knoblauch '20

The tranquil Hawaiian Islands were turned upside down on Saturday, Jan. 13, when an emergency alert was accidentally sent out to the Hawaiian population.

Sent to televisions, radios and cell phones, the alert, in conjunction with the warning sirens, left both native islanders and tourists "terrified" as they climbed into manholes, hid under tables in cafes, were ushered into military hangers and were "herded like cows" into hotel basements, CNN reported.

Because it was sent at 8:10 in the morning, many people woke up to the terrifying message, "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL." Commuters were reported to have parked their cars inside highway tunnels that cut through mountains in an attempt to protect themselves from the encumbering threat.

An agonizing 38 minutes after the initial warning was sent out, a second message was sent across all mediums corroborating the false alarm.

Prior to this alert, officials such as Commander David Benham, a spokesman for United States Pacific Command, posted updates to Facebook and Twitter confirming that there was no threat. During the mayhem, Commander Benham tweeted, "USPACOM has detected no ballistic missile threat to Hawaii. Earlier message was sent in error. State of Hawaii will send out a correction message as soon as possible."

A flaw in the alert system prevented officials from formally rectifying the mistake earlier, and a new "cancellation template" has been put in place to fix false alarms more easily going forward.

Hawaiian Governor David Ige explained the cause of the blunder to CNN: "It was a mistake made during a standard procedure at the changeover of a shift, and an employee pushed the wrong button." The "wrong button" the unnamed sender pushed was meant to send out an alert of a real nuclear attack, rather than just a test. He has since been fired due to the incident.

One of the many officials to apologize, Hawaiian Senator Brian Schatz called the incident "inexcusable." To prevent a recurrence, officials have put in place a new procedure that requires two people to approve an alert being sent out, and the Federal Communications Commission has opened an investigation to determine how to prevent future accidents.

### Effects of a Nuclear Attack on Hawaii

Although it is not yet clear whether North Korea has the technology to bomb Hawaii, which is a difficult target since it is 4,000 miles away from Pyongyang, if the country were to attack, the results would be devastating.

During an informational seminar held for residents in the Department of Defense offices in Honolulu, the administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and the state's chief ex-

pert on the North Korean threat, Vern Miyagi, illustrated what a nuclear attack on Oahu would look like.

Miyagi explained that the expected target in Hawaii would be Pearl Harbor. Assuming this is true, a 100-kiloton nuclear bomb would be detonated 1,000 feet above Honolulu, hitting an area 8 miles in diameter. Projections estimate about ninety percent would survive the initial impact, but the survivors could be taken by nuclear fallout.

Miyagi stated, "We are talking about 50,000 to 120,000 traumas and burn casualties together with nearly 18,000 fatalities."

Survivors would be left to navigate a crippled island that would likely suffer severe damage to important buildings, such as the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Hickam Air Force Base and Honolulu Harbor, Pearl Harbor, hospitals and government buildings. Widespread structural fires and the collapses of buildings would also be expected.

Miyagi left the possibility of damage to other islands open.

### Hawaii's Preparations

Being the second closest target for North Korea (behind Guam), Hawaii has been preparing for the possibility of attack since 2009, when President Obama first said the late Kim Jong-il could send a missile toward Hawaii.

If North Korea were to launch a missile, it would take about twenty minutes to travel to Hawaii. With the heightened tension between the United States and North Korea, officials have re-

cently increased their preparation efforts to ensure that residents have proper time to prepare for impact and know how to use this time to secure their safety.

On December 1, 2017, sirens used during the Cold War claimed a new purpose as they were sounded for the first time in more than three decades. These fifty second warning sirens will be tested monthly alongside the tsunami sirens, proving the nuclear threat is taking priority over all other natural threats. With these sirens, people are estimated to have a twelve to fifteen-minute warning before the detonation of North Korea's missile.

To inform Hawaii's 1.4 million residents, the government has also been running commercials imploring people to "get inside, stay inside" if a bomb were to drop. A fifty-page emergency preparation pamphlet explaining how one can survive a nuclear detonation has also been released.

In addition to keeping their state informed through various media platforms, officials are flying between the islands and holding seminars and forums so that they can personally respond to the questions and concerns of the people of Hawaii.

In an effort to prepare for the aftermath of the impending attack, residents have been urged to stock their homes with enough food to last up to two weeks. Because the Cold War bunkers are a great distance from the major cities and neighborhoods of Hawaii, citizens are being told to stay in their homes instead of trying to escape to the bunkers in the short

time allotted by the sirens.

Despite all the preparations of the state, the majority of the population, made up of tourists, will still be uneducated on nuclear emergencies.

### Effects of Hawaii's Preparations on the People

The steps Hawaii has been taking to prepare for a nuclear attack are too closely reminiscent to that of the Cold War.

Testing the warning sirens monthly has been reported to be scaring citizens; however, officials claim the purpose of the sirens is awareness, not fear.

An online petition to stop the sirens says, "The sirens heighten the anxiety and stress of impending conflict and devastation [and] make citizens afraid." Protesting outside the federal building in Honolulu, a small group demanded the end of these tests, feeling they are hurting the people more than helping.

After the distressing false alarm, there is no telling how people will react in the case of an actual attack. Hawaii state Representative Matt LoPresti questioned, "How seriously are people going to take this system?" He felt that Hawaii's lost credibility would require the state sending "a confirmation notice" to assure the population that an actual attack is under way.

Expressing confidence in the state's ability to regain the people's trust, Mayor Kirk Caldwell of Honolulu said they would do it by "performing correctly," feeling that, "It's incumbent that the next test goes smoothly."

## False emergency alert sends Hawaii into panic

By Samantha Knoblauch '20

During the 38 minutes that Hawaiians believed they were under nuclear attack by North Korea, many tears were shed as people frantically tried to save their families and say goodbye to both those with them and others overseas. Many have described these horrifying minutes in which their worst fears came true.

Recalling his family's experience to CNN, Matt LoPresti said they all gathered in a bathroom and began praying. He recounted, "We all just got down, got in the tub, waiting for a flash and I was going to cover the kids with my body. My 8-year-old is praying, she stopped and looked at me and said, 'Daddy are we at war?' And I had to say yes, and she just looked at me and said 'Why?' And all I could do was hug her."

Brook Conner described to The New Yorker a similar experience with his wife and young daughter, who had recently moved to Hawaii from New York. In moving, they did not fear the North Korean threat.

"Having lived through 9/11, danger wasn't necessarily a change for us," Conner said. "But,

at the time, our thinking was, Hawaii is a very small target . . . [Maybe] they'll just miss."

Hearing the alert was a shock for Conner and his wife. Thinking of protecting their daughter, they immediately locked all the

over for a family hug . . . I don't think she understands Armageddon or ballistic missiles, but she certainly understands when Mommy and Daddy are upset."

After several frustrating tries to reach their family members,

he received the alert. They were taken up into a concrete bunker in the mountains and sheltered there for about fifteen minutes without cell reception.

"It was scary," said Gerst. "I mean, there was no intel."



Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Vern Miyagi (left) Hawaiian Governor David Ige addresses the public following the false missile alert.

doors and began filling tubs and any containers they had with water. Processing the situation took them a few minutes, but once they did, their daughter noticed their downtrodden spirits.

Referring to his daughter, Conner said, "We asked her to come

Conner and his wife, like many other residents, were sadly forced to send text messages to their loved ones.

Vacationing with his wife, Ray Gerst told The New York Times that he was approaching Kualoa Ranch on a bus for their tour when

Unlike Gerst, many tourists were without the guidance of natives who had been educated in preparing for the impact of a nuclear missile. One of these visitors, Adnan Mesiwala, told CNN he was getting ready to go to the beach with his family when, he

recalled, "We got the alarm. We were actually terrified."

"It was a frantic morning," said Gerst. "My wife was in tears and didn't know what to do."

According to CNN, Kenyatta Hines also did not have a planned course of action, having only moved to Hawaii three weeks prior. After she was unable to reach her boyfriend, who is stationed at Pearl Harbor, she, having no idea how to prepare, decided to search for her neighbors. Because they were residents, they were able to help Hines, making her feel "blessed" to have found them.

Remembering her own panic, Hines stated that visitors "wouldn't know where to go or what to do."

Governor David Ige summarized the fearful and frantic reactions tweeting, "Today is a day most of us will never forget. A terrifying day where we frantically grabbed what we could, tried to figure out how and where to shelter and protect ourselves... said our 'I love yous,' and prayed for peace."

# “Black Panther” breaks down barriers

“‘Black Panther’ brings together one of the most impressive principally black casts ever assembled for a major Hollywood movie.”

- Christopher Orr, *The Atlantic*



“Drawing on elements from African history and tribal culture, as well as contemporary and forward-looking flourishes, ‘Black Panther’ pulses with color, vibrancy and layered textural beauty . . .”

- Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*



“[‘Black Panther’] doesn’t just capture the essential qualities of the character, it expands on the concept itself, standing as a film that matters for what it says as much as what it is.”

- Janelle Bouie, *Slate*



“While far more mainstream—and by extension, kid-friendly—than such blaxploitation classics as ‘Foxy Brown’ and ‘Cleopatra Jones,’ ‘Black Panther’ upholds the same tradition of celebrating strong, assertive black women,”

- Peter Debruge, *Variety*



From left: Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o), The Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) and Okoye (Danai Gurira).

By Áine Playdon '19

“Black Panther,” the newest cinematic adventure from Marvel Studios, hit theatres on Feb. 16, smashing box office records in the process. Written by Ryan Coogler, Jack Kirby and Joe Robert Cole, and directed by Coogler himself, “Black Panther” earned \$202 million in its first weekend. According to Rolling Stone, the movie had the second-highest four-day opening of all time, just behind “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

Called “lush” and “impressively well-acted” by the Washington Post, “Black Panther” has become wildly successful with audiences, despite its mid-year release.

The film, which is the 18th Marvel Cinematic Universe story to hit the screens since the release of “Iron Man” in 2008, depicts the story of an African king, T’Challa, and his fictional country, Wakanda.

A coalition of five nations settled on a reserve of vibranium, a fictional super-metal, Wakanda is a nation protected from the outside world and outside influences.

Chadwick Boseman, who portrays T’Challa in the film, presents a king eager to keep the integrity of his nation while still providing aid to the oppressed in the outside world.

The storyline follows T’Challa as he travels the globe in a James Bond-esque search for Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis) with Na-

kia, his ex-girlfriend and trusted spy for Wakanda, and Okoye, the fierce and strong leader of the Dora Milaje, the all-female national Wakandan guard.

Played by Lupita Nyong’o and Danai Gurira respectively, Nakia and Okoye accompany T’Challa as the plot turns from hunting down Klaue to dealing with an usurpation of the Wakandan throne by Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan).

A complex villain, Killmonger seeks to release the downtrodden from their oppression and establish Wakanda as *the* world power. He declares, “The sun will never set on the Wakandan empire.”

Filled with stand-out performances by the predominantly African American cast, “Black Panther” has been raking in an abundance of positive reviews; Rolling Stone called the cast a “murderer’s row of talent.”

Boseman in particular has been receiving immense praise for his portrayal of the leading man. The Washington Post called Boseman “magnetic,” saying he “comes into his own” as the Black Panther.

Michael B. Jordan, too, garnered much praise with his performance as Killmonger, named by the New York Times a “terrifically charismatic presence.” His portrayal of the character brings to life a central theme of the film: what it means to be of African descent in today’s world.

In his article on “Black Pan-

ther” and its exploration of “the invention of Africa,” Jelani Cobb wrote of the relationship between Africa and African Americans and how Ryan Coogler successfully brings the complexities of the relationship to life.

He wrote, “[Black Panther] is shot through with the sense of longing and romance common to the way that people of a diaspora envision their distant homeland.”

Furthermore, he praised Coogler, saying, “Marvel has made a great many entertaining movies in the past decade, but Ryan Coogler has made a profound one.”

As Rolling Stone wrote, “Coogler’s ‘Black Panther’ is about many things: family, responsibility, fathers and sons, the power of badass women. Immigration, borders, refugees. What it means to be black. What it means to be African. What it means to be a citizen of the world.”

To prepare for the movie, Coogler traveled to Cape Town, Lesotho and Kenya in order to explore the culture he was tasked with depicting. He told Rolling Stone that his trip surprised him. “I found out that [the Xhosa tribe] – the rituals they do are very similar to things I do with my family. Like, almost identical.”

His experience in Africa, he said, informed “Black Panther” by showing that “African Americans truly are African. It takes a lot more than what happened to us to take that out of us.”

The emotions that drove the film were communicated perfectly to the millions of audience members who witnessed the grandeur of “Black Panther.”

Mount sophomore Nasya Stinson said of the film, “As an African American, watching this film was absolutely amazing and inspirational to me. Both times that I saw ‘Black Panther,’ I was just in awe of the beauty of this fictional world. So much of what ‘Black Panther’ depicts is what African Americans wish to be.”

She continued, “Representation matters. This film was so inspiring - I don’t mean like, ‘I know there’s nothing stopping me because of my race,’ I mean that this movie was kind of like a pep talk.”

The importance of “Black Panther” is amplified by its release into a time of great cultural change. TIME’s Jamil Smith writes, “What seems like just another entry in an endless parade of superhero movies is actually something much bigger.”

The cultural footprint of “Black Panther” is enormous: as Smith said, “It is incredibly entertaining, filled with timely comedy, sharply choreographed action and gorgeously lit with people of all colors.”

To Nasya Stinson, it is “a reminder that we can still do great things even though there’s been so much oppression.”

## MoviePass makes moviegoing more affordable

By Blair Bocklet '20

Since 2011, MoviePass has allowed members to see one movie a day for a small monthly fee.

MoviePass promises moviegoers savings in over 4,000 theaters across the U.S. Members pay \$9.95 a month, just a fraction of the cost of one ticket that can cost anywhere from \$8.50 at Franks Theatres to \$12.99 at AMC theaters. The program saves members up to \$16 a month if they

were to see just two films.

To take advantage of these great benefits, users sign up on [moviepass.com](http://moviepass.com) and are issued a membership card within two weeks. The MoviePass app displays theaters in the area that participate in the program. Members must show this card to get into the theater.

Several theaters in the area such as AMC, Movie Tavern, Ambler Theatre and Regal Cinemas all accept the MoviePass

card.

With all the hype, is MoviePass worth it?

“Movies in New York, where I go to school, are super expensive, ranging from \$15-18,” said Caitlyn Bell '17. “My friends and I go to the movies about twice a week, so it saves us a ton on money.”

MoviePass allows members to see films in the theater instead of waiting for them to reach Netflix or other streaming platforms.

“I definitely see more movies

now that I have MoviePass. I’m way more likely to go see a movie that I’d normally just watch on Amazon or just never see,” Bell said.

Seeing a movie is no longer a once in a while outing with MoviePass, and with the Oscars coming up, make sure to catch all nine “Best Picture” nominated films for the price of one. With the ability to cancel at any time, why not give MoviePass a try?

## Academy releases 90th annual Best Picture Nominees

By Olivia Wirsching '20

### “Darkest Hour”

In the WWII drama “Darkest Hour,” Gary Oldman delivers a stunning portrayal of Winston Churchill. Set during the first weeks of Churchill’s term as British Prime Minister, the film depicts the historic decisions Churchill made in response to Hitler’s attack on Europe and recreates some of his most inspirational and notable speeches. Oldman’s role, which received a “Best Actor” nomination, offers a captivating insight into what occurred outside of the public eye during this time period.

### “Get Out”

Comedic horror film “Get Out” is one of the most discussed films of the year. It skill-

fully exposes the issues of racial inequality our culture faces. An African-American man, Chris, portrayed by Daniel Kaluuya, progresses through an awkward, and eventually perilous, situation while spending a weekend with his white girlfriend’s parents. Over the course of the weekend, her parents seem to struggle handling their daughter’s interracial relationship. Chris notices their increasingly odd behavior, but not in time to avoid the impending danger. Kaluuya received a nomination for “Best Actor” for his engaging performance in this thriller. Humorous, chilling and insightful, the film points out the reality of racism in society through Chris’s hyperbolized experience.

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By Claudia Langella '18

### “Lady Bird”

Greta Gerwig makes her directorial debut with “Lady Bird.” Saoirse Ronan stars as Christine “Lady Bird” McPherson, a high school senior at an all-girls Catholic high school in Sacramento, California. Lady Bird tries to balance her school work and friend-

ships all while dealing with the tumultuous relationship she has with her mother, played by Laurie Metcalf. In addition to its “Best Picture” nomination, the film is up for “Best Original Screenplay” as well. Ronan and Metcalf are also nominated for their work in the film. Gerwig is the only female director nominated for “Best Director.” This is only the fifth time a female director has been honored in the category.

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By Maeve McCormick '18

### “The Shape of Water”

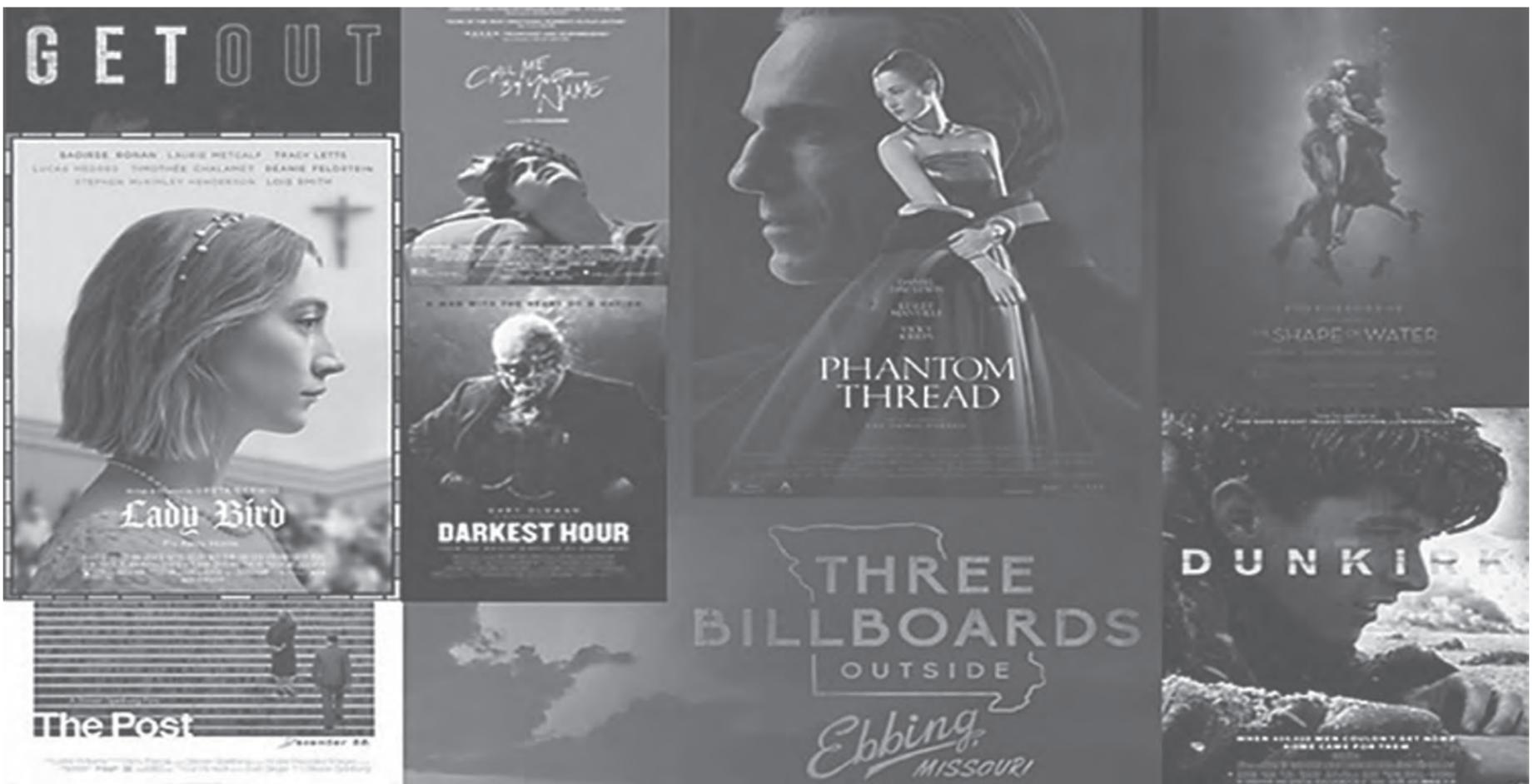
Guillermo del Toro, once again, mixes many genres in

### “Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri”

“Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri” caused quite a stir when it took home four Golden Globes, which put it as a front-runner for the Oscars, especially with its nine nominations. The movie centers around Mildred (Frances McDormand), a rage-driven, tough single mother, whose only daughter was brutally murdered. Months after her daughter’s death, the case remains unsolved, so she has three billboards put up outside their town confronting the local police about not solving the case, most especially the revered Chief Willoughby (Woody Harrelson). As the whole town seems to turn against Mildred, she remains unapologetic in her quest to find her daughter’s killer.

### “The Post”

“The Post” is a retelling of The Washington Post’s momentous decision to publish the Pentagon Papers, a highly-classified government report recording America’s involvement in Southeast Asia from World War II to 1968. The film, directed by Steven Spielberg, has a star-studded cast, with Meryl Streep as The Post’s first female publisher, Katharine Graham, and Tom Hanks as The Post’s editor, Ben Bradlee. The process of obtaining the documents, the agonizing decision on whether to publish them and the tension between the government and the media are chronicled in “The Post.” Streep received her twenty-first nomination for her portrayal of Graham, making her the most Oscar nominated actor of all time.



his newest movie “The Shape of Water,” to form a masterful combination of monsters, the Cold War Era and romance. The film stars Sally Hawkins, nominated for “Best Actress in a Leading Role,” as Elisa, a mute woman who is a member of the nighttime cleaning staff for a high-security government research laboratory. Elisa gains the trust of “The Asset,” a “Creature From the Black Lagoon”-esque fish humanoid, by feeding it hard-boiled eggs and playing jazz records for it. Before long Elisa, viewed by others as “incomplete” due to her disability, finds herself falling in love with “The Asset” who recognizes her as an equal being. With thirteen nominations, “The Shape of Water” is the most nominated film this year, receiving nominations for “Best Director,” “Best Supporting Actress” and “Best Original Screenplay,” among others.

### “Call Me by Your Name”

“Call Me by Your Name” has audiences captivated. The story follows the relationship between Elio Perlman (Timothée Chalamet) and Oliver (Armie Hammer). Oliver comes to live with Elio’s family for the summer in Crema, Italy. During these six weeks, Elio deals with both love and heartbreak. In addition to “Best Picture,” the film is up for “Best Writing Adapted Screenplay.”

### “Phantom Thread”

Daniel Day-Lewis, widely con-

## Oscar Nominations

### Actor in a Leading Role

- Timothée Chalamet “Call Me by Your Name”
- Daniel Day-Lewis “Phantom Thread”
- Daniel Kaluuya “Get Out”
- Gary Oldman “Darkest Hour”
- Denzel Washington “Roman J. Israel, Esq.”

### Actress in a Leading Role

- Sally Hawkins “The Shape of Water”
- Frances McDormand “Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri”
- Margot Robbie “I, Tonya”
- Saoirse Ronan “Lady Bird”
- Meryl Streep “The Post”

### Directing

- Christopher Nolan “Dunkirk”
- Greta Gerwig “Lady Bird”
- Guillermo del Toro “The Shape of Water”
- Jordan Peele “Get Out”
- Paul Thomas Anderson “Phantom Thread”

### Writing (Original Screenplay)

- Emily V. Gordon “The Big Sick”
- Greta Gerwig “Lady Bird”
- Martin McDonagh “Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri”
- Jordan Peele “Get Out”
- Guillermo del Toro “The Shape of Water”



## “Black-ish” becomes “Grown-ish”



From left: Luca Hall (Luka Sabbat), Zoey Johnson (Yara Shahidi), Vivek Shah (Jordan Buhat), Jazz and Sky Forster (Chloe and Halle Bailey), Aaron Jackson (Trevor Jackson), Nomi Segal (Emily Arlook) and Ana Torres (Francia Raisa) comprise the cast of “Grown-ish,” a spin-off of ABC’s “Black-ish.”

By Claudia Langella '18

Television spin-offs tend to be a miss, but Freeform’s “Grown-ish” is a hit. The oldest Johnson child of ABC’s Emmy nominated “Black-ish,” Zoey, is headed off to college. Zoey, portrayed by Yara Shahidi, goes from a powerful high school senior to a naive college freshman.

“Grown-ish” follows Zoey’s daily life, as well as her new friends. Her roommate Ana (Francia Raisa) and she do not get off to a good start after Zoey

abandons her new friend at a party. She meets Nomi (Emily Arlook) during a class icebreaker and learns she is struggling with her sexuality, a recurring theme in the series. Zoey then finds herself in trouble when she falls for two guys that could not be more different from each other. Aaron (Trevor Jackson) is Cal U’s super-woke Black Student Union President who fails to notice Zoey’s affection at first. One episode later she finds herself with Luca (Luka Sabbat), a fashionable creative who is usually seen “chillaxing.”

The show is both relatable and enjoyable. It does not censor college life, rather it sheds light on campus living. Characters use drugs to meet deadlines and Zoey and her companions discuss hookup culture. There is also a noticeable class difference between the characters. Twin track stars Jazz (Chloe Bailey) and Sky (Halle Bailey) confess to their new friends that they are only able to experience college because of their scholarships. Vivek (Jordan Buhat) even has a hard time fitting in upon meeting everyone.

To his classmates he dresses and acts like Drake, but on the inside, he is a nerdy first-generation Indian trying to impress his family.

“Grown-ish” is “disrupting the prime-time status quo through its cast, which is largely comprised of young people of color,” writes Teen Vogue. It is exactly the kind of TV show teens want to watch today. Variety calls it “a buoyant, sprightly addition to the television scene,” that “entertainingly examines socially conscious, striving young people with both wisdom and wit.”

Not only is the cast breaking industry standards, but the writers and producers are as well.

“The writers’ room is gender-balanced,” Shahidi told Teen Vogue. “We have a female [executive producer], young directors are coming in, and all of these beautiful different voices are being heard. We’re really trying to get this right from start to finish.”

“Grown-ish” is off to a strong start and has been renewed for a second twenty-episode season by Freeform.

## Kesha and Eminem are back on the music scene



Kesha’s “Rainbow” has inspired a moment of healing.

By Ashley Shenk '20

Kesha and Eminem both made huge comebacks this year with each artist releasing an album kicking off their respective revivals.

“Rainbow,” Kesha’s third album, topped the Billboard Top 200 chart for 17 weeks straight after its release in August of 2017. It is the first album the songstress has released since 2012. “Rainbow” is the product of her struggle after her sexual assault by her producer, Dr. Luke.

Throughout the record, Kesha explores coming to terms with abuse and trauma. “Rainbow” carries important lessons for all, as well as offers a new voice to those who have been sexually abused.

Kesha was nominated for two Grammys this year: Best Pop Vocal Album and Best Pop Solo Performance, for the album’s de-

but single, “Praying.” Although she did not win either award, her emotional performance of “Praying” at the ceremony sent a powerful and enduring message to everyone watching.

Continuing the string of comebacks, Eminem released his first album since 2013 in December 2017. “Revival” has put the rapper back in the public eye. Riding on the success of “Revival,” he is headlining many prominent music festivals this year, such as Firefly Music Festival, Coachella and the Governor’s Ball. “Revival” peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200, less than a month after the album’s release.

Both Kesha and Eminem have both come back with a bang: topping charts, receiving nominations, performing and headlining festivals. With albums containing powerful messages, they are definitely back and better than ever.

## “Unsolved” revives mystery behind murders of Tupac and Biggie Smalls

By Maeve McCormick '18

On February 27, USA Network aired the much-anticipated premiere of its true-crime anthology series “Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and The Notorious B.I.G.” The murder investigations of rappers Tupac Shakur and Christopher Wallace (also known as The Notorious B.I.G., Biggie and Biggie Smalls), which have gone unsolved for twenty years and have long been rumored to be related, are the focus of this limited series.

The drama is based on the experiences of LAPD Detective Greg Kading, who led multiple task forces investigating the murders and wrote a book entitled “Murder Rap: The Untold Story

of the Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur Murder Investigations.”

Kading, portrayed in the show by Emmy winner Josh Duhamel, was a consultant on the pilot script and is co-executive producer along with the director Anthony Hemingway, who also produced and directed “American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson.”

The Campanile interviewed the show’s creator, Kyle Long, who has also written for the TV shows “Suits” and “The Good Guys.”

On his inspiration to write “Unsolved,” Long said, “Biggie was killed right around the time I moved to L.A. He was my age, I was a fan and I’ve been obsessed with both his and Tupac’s mur-

ders ever since.”

Commercials for “Unsolved” played on a number of different networks, and a teaser trailer premiered during the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl teaser lasted twenty seconds, one second for each year the case has gone unsolved, offering the victims and their families no justice.

With a cast including Duhamel, Bokeem Woodbine, Jimmi Simpson, Marcc Rose and Wavy Jonez, the show is bound to be a hit. Vulture comments, “it is an absorbing, provocative, and extraordinarily well-acted work of television that takes a narrative approach just novel enough to make you feel like you’re seeing these long-cold cases through fresh eyes.”



“Unsolved” chronicles the murders of The Notorious B.I.G. (Wavy Jonez) and Tupac (Marcc Rose) while still putting a fresh spin on the mystery and intrigue behind them.

## United States captures 9 gold medals

By Alexa Silvestri '18

While we were sitting on our couches, warm fire crackling next to us, watching the Olympics, these athletes faced the cold to represent our country in PyeongChang, South Korea. The United States as a team won twenty-three medals. With nine gold, eight silver and six bronze medals, the United States walked out for the closing ceremony on February 25 holding fourth place.

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### Team Sports

The women's hockey team ended a twenty-year drought for the gold medal, defeating the defending champions, the Canadians, by one point in a dramatic shootout following overtime.

The shootout went through five shooters before a game-winning goal by Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson and save by goalie Maddie Rooney to end the game. "[It] was about Team USA last night. And when I think about the way we looked at each other on the ice after, the time we spent in the locker room together after the game, the win was about our team, our program, our country and we couldn't be more proud," said Captain Meghan Duggan to USA Today.

Adding to American Olympic history are John Shuster and the men's curling team. Coming back from the possibility of elimination after a loss to Norway, the men's curling team made it to the gold medal round and defeated Sweden. Shuster and his four teammates—Tyler George, Matt Hamilton, John Landsteiner and Joe Polo—captured the first gold medal for the U.S. men's curling team, a dream Shuster has been waiting for since the end of the Sochi Olympics. The New York Times quoted Shuster, who said, "From the day that the 2014 Olympics came to an end, every single day was with this journey in mind."

Cross-country skiing is one sport that requires an immense amount of strength and power. Using this adrenaline, Americans Kikkan Randall, 35, and Jessie Diggins, 26, became the first team to win a gold medal in cross-country skiing and the first

American cross-country skiers to win a medal at the Olympics since 1976 when Bill Koch captured a silver medal in the 30-kilometer event. Diggins said, "In the final stretch I was just thinking, 'Go, go, go, I'm giving it everything I had and I've got someone who I really love and care about waiting for me at the finishing line and I just want to make her proud,'" reported the New York Times.

The match was down to the wire as Diggins was able to get ahead of the competitors from Sweden and cross the finish line in front by .19 seconds. Immedi-



ately after Diggins crossed the finish line, she was met and tackled by her teammate who could not help but celebrate this historic victory.

Randall told ABC News, "It still doesn't feel real. It's what I've been working on for 20 years and with this team for the last five years and wow. . . . I'd say it couldn't have gone better for us. The real goal was just ski smart and stay out of trouble and be strong at the end, and it really paid off."

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### Snowboarding

Shoutout to the American snowboarding Olympians who captured four gold medals.

In his first Olympic appearance, 17-year-old Red Gerard from Silverthorne, Colorado, won his first gold medal for men's snowboard slopestyle just two days into the Olympics. All his work from the

time he was a 2-year-old with a snowboard paid off as Gerard finished first over eleven other competitors in his category. Winning a gold medal is impressive in itself, but the five-foot-five Gerard climbed all the way up from last place in his final run, earning a score of 87.16. However, the teen never dreamed of being an Olympian. "I just didn't think I knew what the Olympics is [as a kid]," Gerard told CBSSports. "I just kind of grew up watching Dew Tour and X Games. I never really realized how big [the Olympics are]."

her first gold medal at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Anderson told ESPN, "I felt strong wind as soon as I dropped in, but I knew I had to go with it. It's not always going to be perfect." At 27-years-old, Anderson is already a highly decorated snowboarder, including medaling in many X Games and becoming the youngest X Games medalist when she achieved bronze in 2006 at the age of 15.

Veteran Olympian Shaun White won his third Olympic gold medal on Tuesday, Feb. 13 with a score of 97.75. The half-pipe snowboarder made his fourth

appearance this year and took home her first gold medal in the women's giant slalom category. In 2014, at the age of 18, Shiffrin became the youngest Olympian to win an Olympic gold medal in slalom and came in fifth place for giant slalom. This year, the rankings were reversed as Shiffrin claimed gold in giant slalom and fourth in slalom. After her win, Shiffrin told USA Today, "Every single day is a new day and my only job here is to put out my best effort. But going into this Olympics, I thought 'yeah, I could come away with multiple medals. I could also walk away with nothing.'"

David Wise took home a gold medal in freestyle skiing. Wise fell on his first run in the qualifying round and on his first two runs of the final round. From there, Wise picked up momentum and was able to land a double cork spun in four directions, ending with a score of 97.20. "I'm honestly just in disbelief right now. Winning, losing, whatever, just the fact that I landed that run in the moment when it needed to happen, on that third run, just felt so good," Wise told NBC.

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### End of Career?

Four-time Olympian Lindsey Vonn has proven that she is a fierce competitor, becoming the oldest woman, at age 33, to win an Alpine skiing medal. In the 2018 games, Vonn took home a bronze medal in downhill alpine skiing. She added this medal to her collection of a bronze and gold medal at the 2010 Vancouver games, as well as four overall World Cup championships.

After facing an array of injuries that prevented her from competing in the 2014 games, Vonn said in an interview with NBC, "I love racing. . . . I'm absolutely going to miss it. I wish I [could] keep skiing. I wish my body didn't hurt as bad as it does."

Following what is suspected to be her last Olympics, Vonn took to Instagram and said, "Grateful to have represented my country one last time in the Olympics. It's been an amazing journey and I couldn't be happier or more proud."

Joining Gerard with her first gold medal is another 17-year-old, Chloe Kim of Torrance, California. Although she is new to the Olympic stage, Kim has plenty of experience for her age with multiple World Snowboard Tour titles as well as X Games and Winter Youth Olympics medals. In her first official Olympic games, Kim came out on top in the women's halfpipe snowboard category on February 13, topping her first run score of 93.75 with a nearly perfect score of 98.25 on her third run. With remarkable times, Kim became the youngest U.S. woman to win a gold medal in snowboarding. Kim told ESPN, "This has been a long journey. Going home with the gold is amazing."

With the extraordinary teenage snowboarding gold medalists comes two-time Olympian Jamie Anderson. The California native earned her second Olympic gold medal for Slopestyle following

Olympic appearance. White was able to redeem himself from his fourth place deficit in the 2014 Sochi Olympics and come out on top as he did in Vancouver in 2010 and Turin in 2006. With his previous record, numerous X Games Aspen gold medals and FIS World Cup rankings, there was minimal doubt of White's ability when he hit the slopes. White commented on his winnings to ESPN saying, "I cried at my first Olympics and I'm crying at my fourth. To win in that fashion meant the world to me. All the hard work and injuries and the decision to come back after all that, we just did it. I don't think you could ever forget this day in snowboarding, and I'm proud I'm on top. I don't say that often about myself."

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### Skiing

22-year-old Mikaela Shiffrin made her second Olympic appear-

## First women's Nigerian bobsled team makes Olympic debut



Seun Adigun, Akuoma Omeoga and Ngozi Onwumere, wearing the Nigerian flag before heading to South Korea.

By Kiara Pile '19

Seun Adigun, Akuoma Omeoga and Ngozi Onwumere made history competing as Nigeria's first women's bobsled team in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Adigun established a women's bobsled team, making her dream a reality after years of hard work that began in her garage in Texas. She first crafted her own makeshift bobsled out of pieces of scrap wood.

Although this was her first-time racing in a bobsled at the

Winter Olympics, Adigun is no stranger to fast-paced competitions. Alongside the best hurdlers in the world, she competed in the women's 100m hurdles at the 2012 Summer Olympics held in London. Although some elements from the 100m hurdles, such as sprinting and jumping, were useful in the women's bobsled when starting the race, bobsledding and hurdling are two drastically different types of sports.

Adigun and her teammates trained for the opportunity to race in PyeongChang, South Korea,

for four years. They even started a GoFundMe page which raised \$75,000 to help fund the team.

Adigun told CNN, "Fear is really just another opportunity to learn. Don't be afraid to take that risk. . . . Being in an uncomfortable place isn't bad [and] it isn't wrong; it's just different. Sometimes you need to be able to take that chance."

Although the team did not medal, they have made history and laid the groundwork for the 2022 Olympics.

## Swimming victorious in AACA champs

By Mari Kniezewski '19

### AACA Championship

The Magic is back.

For the first time since 2005, the Magic won the Athletic Association of the Catholic Academy (AACA) Championships held at Upper Dublin High School on Saturday, Feb. 10.

"The meet was so exciting. Everyone was cheering and very supportive of one another. I am so happy I got to be a part of it because this is what we work for all year," said senior, co-captain Jen DeGroat who captured first place in one individual event and in two relays, as did senior Taylor Draganosky.

DeGroat captured first in the 50 Yard Freestyle, while Draganosky took first in the 100 Yard Breaststroke.

DeGroat and Draganosky, along with juniors Hailey Goodyear and Bryn McLaughlin, earned first place in the 200 Yard Medley Relay. Seniors DeGroat and Draganosky as well as junior Shayne McKernan and freshman Maggie Mikalic took first in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay.

The Mount's 200 Yard Freestyle Relay, which includes freshman Sydney McKernan, sophomores Holly Householder and Kristen O'Connor and junior Shayne McKernan, won first place to add to the team's titles.

And, in the 50 Yard Freestyle Shayne McKernan won second

place, Sydney McKernan won third place, Holly Householder won fourth place and Kristen O'Connor won fifth place.

Placements in the 200 Yard Freestyle include freshmen Mikalic (fourth place) and Mary Kate Leonard (seventh place). In the 200 Yard Individual Medley, Draganosky earned second place and Goodyear earned sixth place. Sophomore Charlotte Whipple won third place and freshman Maddie Donahue won eighth place in the 1 Meter Diving.

The following girls accomplished more titles for Mount in the 100 Yard Freestyle: DeGroat (second place), Shayne McKernan (third place), O'Connor (fourth place) and senior co-captain Rebecca Patti (fifth place). The following girls also achieved placements in the 500 Yard Freestyle: Mikalic (third), Leonard (fourth), and sophomore Carrie O'Connor (seventh).

The following swimmers con-



Seniors top to bottom: Aileen Mansfield, Meredith Killian, Jen DeGroat, Elizabeth Sullivan, Sam Cordero, Cathryn Antonacio, Rebecca Patti and Taylor Draganosky.

tinued to place in the 100 Yard Backstroke: Sydney McKernan (fourth), McLaughlin (fifth), and Patti (seventh).

In addition, the team also had multiple qualifiers for Districts. Individual and Relay qualifiers include: Jen DeGroat, Taylor Draganosky, Shayne McKernan, Hailey Goodyear, Kristen O'Connor, Sydney McKernan, Mary Kate

Leonard and Maggie Mikalic.

### Breaking Records

The team has achieved many personal goals, including the accomplishments of Draganosky and Mikalic, who each broke previous MSJA swimming records at the Cardinal Classic Invitational in December. Draganosky achieved a time of 1:04.44 in the 100 Yard Breast and Mikalic a time of 1:57.95 in the 200 Yard Free.

When asked about her personal achievement, Draganosky said, "I am very happy to have set a new record in the 100 Breast! I have been trying to break the record since my freshman year, and it has pushed me to try harder, so I hope it encourages the other breaststrokers to do so, as well."

When asked about her new record, Mikalic said, "I am so excited to have set a record [my] freshman year and I look forward to improving it. I [also] have one

### Senior Day

Earlier in the season, the team also earned an important victory over their longtime rival, Gwynedd Mercy, on Senior Day.

The girls immediately won first, second and fourth places in the 200 Freestyle, which Coach Janet Tompkins said "set the tone for the meet." The Magic pressed on and continued to achieve first, second and third places in the 50 Freestyle.

Winners in the 200 Freestyle include Mikalic (first place), Leonard (second place) and Shayne McKernan (fourth place). Winners in the 50 Freestyle include Kristen O'Connor (first place), DeGroat (second place) and Sydney McKernan (third place).

DeGroat said, "It was so nice to see the team come together and support each other. It made me so proud to see everyone getting involved to make this night special for me and the other seniors."

When reflecting on the team's season, Coach Tompkins said, "This has been a great group of girls to coach. They work hard, support one another, and have fun. It's a really refreshing atmosphere."

The first round of Districts began on March 2.

## Basketball shoots ahead to State tourney

By Allie Prue '19

With a record of 16-10, a third-place finish in the AACA and a fifth place seed in Districts, the Magic headed to States as The Campanile went to press.

After a thriving start to Districts, the Mount fell to first-place seed West Chester Henderson 61-42 on February 27. With this loss, the team was scheduled to play in the third-place game on Friday, March 2, against West Chester Rustin.

The Magic faced Springfield High School of Delaware County on February 23 in the second round of Districts. It was back and forth the entire game, but after two made foul shots by senior co-captain Deirdre Regan with 10 seconds left on the clock, the Magic pulled ahead of their opponent and took the 41-40 win as payback for the Mount's loss to Springfield in the District Championship last year. This win qualified the Magic for the state playoffs scheduled for later in March.

Mount played against Marple Newtown High School on Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the first round of Districts and came out victorious with a score of 66-41.

Prior to Districts, the team faced powerhouse Villa Maria Academy in an exciting playoff

game at LaSalle College High School on February 11. The Magic battled the whole game keeping the score within close range,

in a few games, DiGiovanni earned AACA 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Star. The team continued the season with high spirits, ready to take

a win over Merion Mercy with a score of 70-45. The team congratulated nine seniors—Liana Alcaro, Nora Denton, Grace Di-



Basketball seniors and their parents prior to a celebratory win against Merion Mercy Academy on February 5. The Magic won on their Senior Day with a score of 70-45.

but could not pull off the win. The game ended with a score of 52-40 after a stretch of made foul shots made by the Hurricanes in the fourth quarter.

The first time the team met Villa Maria, the Magic faced the unimaginable when senior, co-captain Grace DiGiovanni fell to an ACL tear. DiGiovanni was a key player offensively and defensively playing with an incredible amount of passion and will. Despite the injury and only play-

ing on whatever the season threw at them.

Regan said, "We have hit some bumps on the road with injuries, including losing Captain Grace DiGiovanni for the remainder of the season, but I think it is important that we come together and show everyone we are still a strong, smart, and hardworking team that could go far this season."

The Magic celebrated their Senior Day on Monday, Feb. 5, with

DiGiovanni, Megan Dodaro, Maddie Getty, Deirdre Regan, Alexa Silvestri, (players), and Kelly Shearman and Annie Princivale (managers)—and played a very festive and exciting game to honor all of the seniors' dedication to the basketball program.

Adding to the season's highlights is the win against the league's first-place team, Saint Basil Academy on December 16. With a score of 44-39, the team was victorious as they were able

to handle Basil's backcourt ball pressure with a calmness and poise. Regan and DiGiovanni scored 23 points combined.

The season kicked off with an exciting win over rival Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School in their first Catholic Academy League game on December 12. With a score of 22-16 at the half, the teams held an extremely close score throughout the game, fighting until the very end when sophomore Lauren Vesey dribbled the ball up the court and dished it to DiGiovanni to hit the game-winning three pointer at the buzzer to finish with a score of 40-39.

Regan said, "We came into this season knowing we needed to prove to everyone that we were a team to watch out for, and I think we have done just that."

With many great wins comes some sad losses. DiGiovanni looks to the positives saying, "We met quite a few of our season goals. We beat Gwynedd and Basils and made playoffs for both the Catholic Academies and Districts...Even though it was an upsetting loss against West Chester Henderson in the District Semi-Finals, the team is ready to play in States and make a good run."