



Wadler Takes Charge Student Head of School Begins Her Term

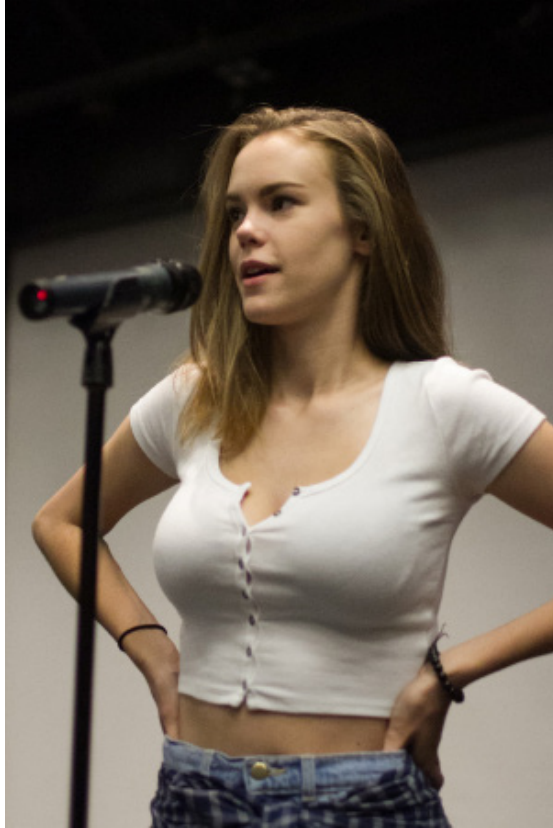
by Tim Lu '17

“Do I want to be the student head of school? What does it mean to be a student leader? How can I become one?” All these questions lead to Callie Wadler '16, the current Student Head of School at Concord Academy, who is a boarder from North Carolina. Callie shares with *The Centipede* the transformation she had undergone at CA, her ambitions for this year, and her unique experiences as the Student Head of School.

Callie recalled her excitement at the news of her winning the election, “I was walking with friends to Starbucks. I was nervous and then I got this text from a number I didn’t know saying ‘It’s John Lee [former Student Head of School] and you know what it means.’ So in the next moment I was jumping and screaming. Looking back, I am still very grateful for now I find myself a place at CA, a place where I could see the passion of every student, advocate for them, and give them support. The whole experience has been enlightening and fulfilling.”

However, Callie also admitted that there are certain things she didn’t expect to encounter as Student Head. She said, “Well, I obviously didn’t expect the number of times a day I need to be in David’s office. I was thinking about 2 to 3 times a week but now I find myself in his office 5 times a day, checking and rechecking. I didn’t know how many people would say ‘Hi’ to me, people who I haven’t even met yet. Nor did I expect the number of questions coming from students passing by me. These things make me feel so connected to the community.”

When asked about what she likes about CA, Callie raised an eyebrow and said, “That’s a hard one.” After a few seconds of pondering, she replied in a thoughtful voice, “I love that there is always a good, positive flow of energy in



*Wadler updates the community at announcements.
Photo by Molly D’Arcy*

CA. We have both students who stand up for their beliefs and students who listen closely to the others. The collaboration and understanding within the community make me feel at home. This is something you don’t get elsewhere.”

Callie also shared some of her plans for this year. “We

have some pretty big plans already even though we haven’t named the exact goal yet. I definitely want to make the school a safe place where everybody can express themselves freely. I’d also like to change the culture of the school by developing girl power and different inclusive programs, like the Squads. The whole point of Squads is to gather random members of our community, change the dynamic of the school, and make CA more positive than it already is.”

“John Lee is someone who I will try to model myself after,” said Callie, referring to the former Student Head. “He thinks critically and stays lighthearted. Meanwhile, he is also very approachable and friendly. I still remember him from the council meeting last year, when he gave many supportive, useful pieces of advice to the eight juniors running for the position.”

However, Callie also knew what makes her different from other student leaders. “I mean, I’m just not the ‘cookie-cutter’ Head of School. I’m probably not one of those who excelled here at CA. Honestly, I’ve struggled a lot and had some very different experiences. I had seen the bad side of CA and it had seen mine. But I know how to address these problems. I have the motivation and the commitment to change the negatives and to reaffirm the idea of Common Trust.”

At the end of the conversation, Callie had some advice for new students this year, “I just want to restate here what the Health Center faculty already said – everything will be OK. I know it sounds like cliché but it is very important for new students to be confident and to take advantage of their resources. Try to talk to people and build friendships and relationships. Balance between your academic works and extracurricular activities and then just have fun. Never forget to make the community yours.”

Injustices of the Justice System

by Ivy Indictor '17

For a structure that calls itself “the Justice System,” the way that the United States handles criminals is far from fair. In hopes of raising awareness about the disparities in the Industrial Prison Complex, Harry Breault '16 and June Sass '16 have joined an organization entitled “Strong Returns,” which works to help high school students raise awareness about injustices in prisons. On Sunday October 18, Breault and Sass moderated a prison reform discussion at the First Baptist Church in Newton, Massachusetts. The panel consisted of Former Governor of Massachusetts, and Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis (D), and longtime Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins (R). This bipartisan discussion touched on many aspects of corruption and flaws in American Prisons from mental illness among inmates to mandatory minimum sentencing. Although the panel provided informed insight, they offered few new ideas to solve the pressing issues at hand.

As reported by the National Center for Transgender Equality, LGBTQ youth are approximately three times as likely to be imprisoned as their cisgendered straight peers, due to parental disownment, suffering in the foster care system, and failed government safety nets. Once in prison, LGBTQ inmates are more likely to be abused. For example, a study of transgender women incarcerated in men’s prisons in California demonstrated that trans women under these conditions were thirteen times as likely to report sexual assault than their male counterparts. Breault and Sass asked the panel how the status of LGBTQ inmates in terms of hate crimes and abuse within prisons. Sheriff Cousins

replied that the best method of eliminating these abuses is to “maintain control over your institutions.” He said that prisons need “strong superintendents.” Cousins claims that he makes himself available 24/7, in order to make sure that he’s on call in case of an emergency at the prison, because no matter what crime an inmate has committed, no one deserves physical or mental trauma.

According to a study conducted by the Prison Policy Initiative, 380 out of every 100,000 white Americans were incarcerated in 2010. This statistic pales in comparison to the fact that 966 out of every 100,000 Latinx Americans, and 2,207 black Americans were incarcerated in the same year, it becomes crystal clear that arrests are not colorblind. Because of the racially charged social hierarchy that exists in modern America, black and Latinx American citizens earn a median income of just over half that of their white counterparts (Mid \$30,000s vs. high \$50,000s), leaving them with less access to good school systems and other resources, and more likely to be imprisoned. One in three black men will go to jail at some point in his life. Kiely Mugford '16 asked the panel about their plans to improve the prevalent issue of racism among law enforcement, and was met with a response from Dukakis about how much racism has already improved in the United States. According to Dukakis, “... it would have been impossible for a Greek man to be in office in the 60s, and now we have a black president!” However, the hopeful Dukakis seemed more excited about the progress that’s behind us than the progress we still have to make on the racial front. Cousins told Mugford that racial discrimination is unconstitutional, and if any law enforcement officials are seen bringing racial prejudice

to their jobs they should be fired. I talked to Mugford after the event, and she clarified that what she wanted to know is how Cousins and Dukakis planned to work towards ridding the judicial system of racism.

The criminalization of addictive substances such as marijuana and methamphetamines often result in prison sentences rather than detox and rehabilitation, and in Massachusetts, 45% of male drug offenders return to prison within a year. Though prisoners have a reputation for being dangerous, callous people, according to The Federal Bureau of Prisons, 48.8% of American incarcerations are a result of non-violent drug crimes. Many people have been recently discussing the question of whether or not to follow Colorado’s example and decriminalize marijuana on a national level. Sass and Breault asked the panel their thoughts on the change of drug abuse from crime status to misdemeanor. Cousins expressed his support for the idea of a “house of detox” similar to a rehabilitation facility, where drug abusers can be sent to for support in clearing themselves of an addiction out of their system after which they could return to the courts to be reconsidered by a judge. He stated that people with drug addictions “don’t need to be in prison; they need medical assistance.” In other words, incarcerating drug users is helping no one; in fact it’s a waste of taxpayer money to hold them in government funded prisons. Cousins isn’t the first to wonder if the criminalization is less about helping the American people, and more about removing “inconvenient situations” from our streets. Dukakis offered his ideas on how to fix the problem at hand, saying that he had implemented intensive community outreach programs, working to increase drug and health education through-

out Massachusetts, adding that this program had proved successful with a “dramatic decline of drug and alcohol related arrests throughout the state.” Dukakis says that what the United States needs to do is work to create comprehensive drug and alcohol education in schools throughout the country, not “a couple of film scripts... in the fifth grade.” Both Dukakis and Cousins claimed that they’ve been receiving minimal assistance from the White House on these fronts, despite personal connections to drug abuse that at least a few presidents have struggled with.

Recidivism, or repeat offenses that results in reinstatement in correctional facilities, occurs when inmates don’t have access to education or job training while incarcerated, making it nearly impossible for them to successfully reintegrate themselves into society. According to Cousins, education is “one of the most important things for a correctional facility to be able to provide,” as people often enter these facilities with minimal education as a result of the “Prison Pipeline.” Cousins stated that at the Essex County Correctional Facility, he makes personalized education and reentry programs for his inmates, constantly working to lower recidivism rates in Massachusetts. Cousins also noted that recidivism rates aren’t universal, as male prisoners in Massachusetts currently have a recidivism rate of about 45%, as a result of parole violations, probation violations, drugs, or new crimes, while women do a statistically better job of turning their lives around with a 20% recidivism rate. Cousins attributed this gap to the fact that of the 51% of prisoners that are parents of minor children, 63% of them

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Haiti, 1992

Larivee Strives for a Fearless Life

by Shannon Sun '17

The sudden bursts of life that punctuated the turbulent night rattled to an eerie silence at dawn. Tempered by patches of lush mango trees that broke the rays of equatorial sun, the 1992 landscape of countryside Port-au-Prince, Haiti, with black smoke set ablaze from a bomb-cratered and tank-blasted night, was no miracle to George Larivee, a then 27-year-old teaching volunteer from Rhode Island.

Each night, the bone-chilling bomb blasts that sent echoes down his small cot, enclosed by straw walls, reminded Larivee of the price he paid for teaching in warzone Port au Prince. At the height of tension, Haiti’s political turmoil and economic instability had erupted into military violence that was taking hundreds of lives every day.

“Just one more day,” Larivee would always say to himself, “Just one more day in Port au Prince, and I will go back home.” The next morning he clustered with impoverished Haitian students in concrete-block houses devoid of water or electricity, wearing shirts stained by the same white salt lines that otherwise appeared on his boots in a harsh Bostonian winter. The peaked magnitude burned until his skin peeled.

Larivee chose to stay for another day. And another.

“I eventually assumed that I would die a violent death in Haiti,” said Larivee, “I had been so lucky there for six years, so I thought that my day would eventually come.”

To this day, Larivee can recall with clarity the moment he landed back in Rhode Island in 1998, pressed by anxious relatives and the situation in Haiti. The customs officer at the airport leafed through his passport and asked him where he was coming from.

“Haiti,” he told her.

She stamped Larivee’s passport, handed it back to him with a warm smile and said, “Welcome home.”

He began to cry. He still cries when he speaks of that moment.

Upon his return from Haiti, friends and family would ask him if he was frightened over there. To most of them, Larivee explained that, certainly, there were times



Larivee reminisces on Haiti.
Photo by Molly D’Arcy

when he was “a little nervous.” In the years that have passed, however, he found himself more willing to confide the emotional truths of leaving Haiti: he was left with more questions than answers.

“Why wasn’t I killed? What is my ultimate purpose? What are the important things in life?”

And so he returned to academia, filled with even more ideas. Teaching math eventually emerged as his calling, and he landed in Concord Academy in 1998, where he remains today, considering these questions, pondering his purpose.

“At CA, I make sure I go to bed on time and—peacefully,” said Larivee,

thinking back to the hot, turbulent nights in Haiti in 1992. Back then, when darkness enclosed, the only pump that pulled water from the ground would turn on for a mere forty-minutes. He would always pour a cup of pure bleach into the school’s water tank and swish it around with an old broom handle, before heading to his reverie, only to be awakened at midnight by bomb blasts that induced the showers to turn on.

Were he not to haul himself out of bed and down a long flight of stairs on such nights to turn off the faucet in each dorm, a hundred students would have no water for the entire next day.

No bomb-induced sirens send chills down his spine in Concord. Dinners in the Student-Faculty Center comprise a much wider array of choices than the routine bread-and-Kool-Aid combination in Haiti and, as he remarked in his convocation address for the 2015-16 academic year, he has “yet to see anybody carry a tub of urine anywhere on [the CA] campus.”

But, beneath such surface differences, he talks glowingly about the same satisfaction he receives when students leave his classroom on an intellectual high, and is humbled by the unique narratives of members from both communities. CA students’ shared fondness for learning and Common Trust often remind him of his days in Port au Prince, when impoverished but intellectually curious Haitian students clustered with him in decrepit school buildings in the face of death and destruction. Their mundane differences evaporated, and they became one—even if only for a few hours.

He does not know, perhaps, that he himself remains one of those people who go out of their ways to help others—and make the world a better place just by being wherever they are.

“I like to think that there’s some larger purpose to each of our lives,” said Larivee. What purpose, though, he is still content to explore. Ideas swirl in his head; too much, he thinks sometimes. But sitting buried in an office full of textbooks with his gratitude-infused smile, he seems to have found the secret to living a truthful, gentle, and fearless life.

Roving Reporter

What is the Class of 2015 Doing?

Emmy Ells: I plan on taking photography classes and looking into photo journalism in relation to environmental studies. I have joined the outing club at UVM. And I feel like I have found “my people”

Samantha Culbert: In addition to starting classes at Kenyon College as a freshman, I’m also a part of a group called the Billy Shakes project. It’s a student run theatre outreach group that performs shortened Shakespeare plays for local elementary and middle schools.

Ben Stoloff: Rn I’m eating a flat bread with bacon and tomato

Alex Weyerhaeuser and Eliza Guion: I am about to milk some French cows with Eliza. Also getting cow placenta thrown at me by a crazy farmer.

We’re spending the first three months of our gap year together in France. For the first month we’re visiting Paris, Avignon and Lyon and working on a dairy farm for a week outside Rennes, which has been an eye-opening learning experience. Next we’ll be resuming our WWOOFing (world wide opportunities on organic farms) plans on two vegetable farms outside Toulouse.

I n December we will part ways, and Eliza will do a language program in South and Central America, and I’m going to Australia to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. We’re both going to spend a few months at home

working as well. We’re so grateful we got the chance to spend a year traveling and learning in a way we never have before, and are really excited to start college next year.

Matt Simon: I have been using the smart-phone application “snapchat” to stay in touch with all of my beloved friends from CA, because even though we may be thousands of miles apart, the connections and friendships that we forged at CA transcend any distance that may come between us! These will be with us, WHEREVER we are!!!

John Lee: Unicycling (or trying to) in California. I joined a unicycle club.

Maggie Shea: I’m enjoying my classes, especially Ancient Philosophy. My philosophy TA, a brilliant and funny man named Thomas Moore, might buy a pair of clogs, so that’s swell. I help edit the Round, Brown’s literary arts magazine, and I’m part of Brown Students for Bernie. Phone banking is lousy but I do it because “they say that’s how I’ll make friends. Just kidding, I have a few friends.

Lindsay Klickstein: Hi Ethan! Bet you thought you were rid of me...but here I am in the school newspaper!

What Do the Freshmen Really Think?



Orientation leaders welcome new students to CA.
Photo by Concord Academy Flickr.

by Sofie Jones '18

Adjusting to the atmosphere of a new school is never easy, and it's no different for new students at Concord Academy. As freshmen from the Class of 2019 experience their transition to high school, they are tasked with navigating changes in friend groups, encounters with older students, and the environment of new classes.

The Centipede caught up with several new students to talk about the transition; however, the interviewees have requested that their names not be printed in order to allow them to speak with full honesty about their experiences. Pronouns have been removed to further protect their anonymity; "they" has often been used as an alternative.

According to several students, the academic transition has been, as expected, difficult but manageable. The real adjustment, many agreed, is in figuring out the social aspects of a new community and in establishing friendships.

Throughout orientation and the first few weeks of the semester, students said that they were constantly meeting new people, who frequently evolved into friends. As friendships start to cement themselves, however, some students felt excluded from social groups, saying that they feel the presence of cliques in the freshmen class.

One student who attended a middle school that frequently sends students to CA said that having former classmates around can be a hinderance as they try to meet new people. An otherwise unfamiliar setting causes this student to gravitate to those they are already comfortable with, they said, which may come off as exclusive. A day student who was not familiar with many classmates before orientation agreed, saying it was hard to break into groups of students who had known each other previously.

A Summer of Viruses

by Eugene Lee '18

While many people were enjoying summer vacation, the eastern regions of Asia were terrorized by widespread diseases. "MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)" and the "Hong Kong Flu" were prevalent titles on global news networks. A single Korean traveller returning from the Middle East sparked the largest MERS-CoV outbreak in Korea. Until his diagnosis on the 20th of May, the virus spread through nurses, doctors, co-workers, friends, and family. A total

Some students agreed that some social groups that have formed are beginning to feel like cliques, while others said that most students had been inclusive and friendly. One said, "I've been making friends with people I did not expect to." Other students echoed this sentiment and said that they have become very close friends with people they did not expect to get to know.

Several other students did not feel that the same friendliness was extended to them by upperclassmen. One student said, "When the returning students came, I encountered a lot of rude people. They get really bothered by freshman". Another student agreed, saying that they did not greet older students because, "I don't necessarily feel like I can."

Another boarding student added that they did not feel welcomed by some OLTs once returning students were back on campus. They said that although they enjoyed interacting with student leaders during orientation, they were disappointed by how these same students now tend to ignore new students. The student said that, "Once boarding orientation was done, they kind of changed."

However, other students experienced a warm welcome from the students they have interacted with. A boarding student said, "The seniors in my dorm have just been crazy nice about things." They also felt as though the CA community has really opened its arms to them, adding, "I'm still slightly in awe about how genuinely accepting this community is."

As the new students move farther into their first semester, they reported that they are settling in nicely and look forward to continuing to become a part of the CA community. Although there are inevitably new experiences and challenges up ahead, the freshmen class remains eager for what is coming next and is excited for the rest of the year.

of 186 cases resulted in thirty-six civilian casualties over a period of two months.

According to *Nature Magazine*, MERS is a coronavirus, which goes in the respiratory system and hinders breathing. Research revealed that MERS-CoV originally was transmitted from camels. Airborne droplets of a patient's saliva through communication allowed infections to intensify rapidly. Since the symptoms of the disease appeared after a week of transmission, prevention of further infections was difficult. As a result, people

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Thoughts from Outside the Bubble



Parque Grande in Zaragoza. See below for a photo of Mines' SYA group.
Photos courtesy of Charlotte Mines.

by Charlotte Mines '17

As I'm writing, thinking of the sunlit quad in Concord, I am 3500 miles away in Zaragoza, Spain, listening to Spanish pop music in my bedroom. Today marks my third week in Spain and I've realized that I really don't speak Spanish. I felt pretty great about Spanish 3 and being able to ramble through a five-minute conversation with Aida. But as of my first day in Spain, that all changed.

For those unfamiliar with the School Year Abroad, the program I'm participating in this year, it's pretty much total language immersion. I live with a Spanish host family, take rigorous classes conducted totally in Spanish and taught by native Spaniards and live in a city where very few people speak English. You can get away with it in certain restaurants and touristy places like museums, but that's just about it. Besides the language, there's a very different culture. Contrary to popular belief, Europe really isn't anything like America.

Refuting another misconception, I actually am going to school, and its actually difficult, not as challenging as CA can be, but granted it's in a different language, which offers another layer of complexity. "Americans in Europe" is often romanticized as a lot of drinking, partying and beautiful people, as has been since Hemingway. While there is some truth to this stereotype, there's a lot of work that goes into communicating, and feeling comfortable with Spanish people before you can party with them. At dinners I often find myself lost in the conversation around me and it's even worse in the streets. Very few people have time for the dumb American who doesn't speak Spanish.

Leaving CA was a difficult decision for me, but I think that I only truly understand how special CA is now. I will come back next year grateful to go to such an amazing institution. Community is something we talk about constantly at CA, but I think to fully understand what the CA community means, you need to separate yourself from it. I have never felt more isolated than I have in the last couple of weeks, with new American friends, new Spanish friends, and a new family. Not to say that SYA doesn't foster an amazing community of expats, I've become very close

to my fellow Americans through our common isolation. At CA, I always felt I had a safety net of people to fall back on, and the campus itself is comforting, a space that is reserved for the community. Now going to school in the middle of a city, I don't have the luxury of a quad and am relegated to searching the city to public parks or quiet spots to study, of which there are many in beautiful Zaragoza.

In terms of daily life, school days are long, until 4:30 except on Fridays, which end at 2:30. But I have regular frees, I can sleep late on Fridays since I have first block free and I leave after lunch on Thursday. Lunch is school sponsored at one of three nearby Spanish restaurants (literally so much better than StuFac food). The weekends are open, and the school limits homework to give us the opportunity to explore the city. Going out on the Friday night is actually a thing here, and you may as well go out Saturday night too. Since SYA isn't a boarding school and doesn't really have a campus, there aren't many school sponsored weekend activities, but there's plenty to do in the city on any given night, ranging from festivals (literally all the time and you never know why or for what) to concerts and midnight roller blading. Extracurriculars are tricky, since you're responsible for setting them up on your own, the school gives advice and will pay for what you want to do, but it's really up to you to find something you're interested in and making it happen.

There are certainly things I miss about CA, I miss having really close relationships with my teachers, I miss chapels and the campus. I miss having sports teams to cheer for and I miss being able to fully express myself in class in English instead of stumbling through Spanish. But I've gained a lot here as well, I love living the city here, I love the food, the enormous amount of bread and churros I've been having. I love having a host family that has a house on the beach, I love walking home in the afternoons looking at the giant basilica, and I love being surrounded by thousands of years of history. I've learned to be flexible here, to try lots of new things, to say something when I'm struggling or confused, that it's okay to struggle and be confused. And I've learned I really don't speak Spanish.



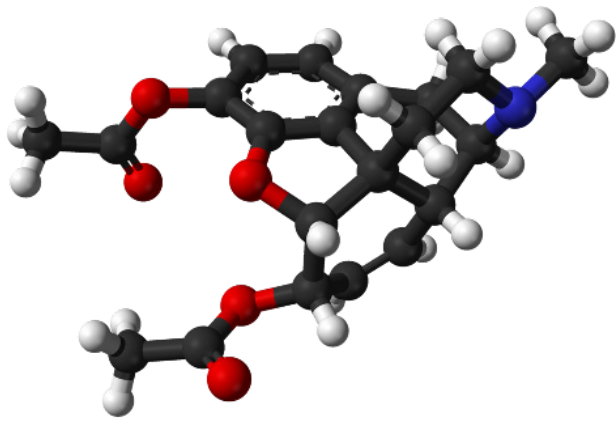
Are We Facing an Opioid “Epidemic”?

by Isabel Cushing ’17

In the past decade, heroin use in the United States has more than doubled among young adults aged eighteen to twenty-five.[1] The number of overdoses and drug-related deaths climbed higher than forty thousand in 2013, and prescription opioids and heroin are emerging as two of the major causes.

Yet as a sixteen-year-old high school student I have not been educated or informed about the issue. In school, teachers give us the classic lecture regarding drugs—don’t do them—but we are taught almost nothing about the prevalence of drug addiction and the widespread usage occurring in all communities, even Concord. In 2013, Massachusetts recorded eight hundred and eighty eight confirmed opioid-related deaths and only three hundred and seventy-one fatal motor vehicle crashes.[2] Why is it then that the danger of teen driving is drilled into our heads while no one seems to want to mention the people overdosing and dying every day? It is estimated that in 2013 one hundred people died from drug overdoses each day in the United States.[3] For the past few years, overdoses have been the highest cause of injury death in the U.S., greater than motor vehicle accidents or homicides.[4]

Access to the information that drug abuse is a real issue in our communities will not make teens flock to the drug world, as the adults around us seem to think. We will simply be more informed about the choices we are making and about the issues that exist in what we often think of as the “real world,” a world we will soon have to face when we leave Concord Academy.



A molecular model of heroin.
Photo by Benjah-bmm27. Photo is in the public domain.

Dangerously high (and continuing to rise) levels of drug overdose deaths have a huge impact on individuals and families in the “real world.” Heroin and prescription opioids such as oxycontin, oxycodone, percocet, dilaudid, and vicodin kill tens of thousands of people each year, making valid the terms government officials are using to talk about these overdoses, terms like “crisis” and “epidemic.” The word “epidemic” is a serious one. If the United States were facing an epidemic, most of us assume that would we would be informed for our own personal safety.

This is the word the Massachusetts governor chose to describe our state’s situation with regard to heroin abuse: “We are in the midst of an... opioid epidemic.” Yet a

shockingly large number of the people in my life, especially in the CA community, seem to know very little about the so-called epidemic. Addiction is a spreading disease that we will all be exposed to in our lives, yet most of us remain ignorant to the suffering of thousands of addicts.

Kaegan Casey, a senior at Andover High School, created a documentary for his senior project entitled “The Other Side of Andover Massachusetts” for which he interviewed students at his school and adults in his town about their struggles with opioid addiction. In the film, Casey demonstrates the danger of trying opioids even once. One high school student who experienced addiction to heroin reflects on this experience, saying that after the first time he tried opioids, even though

he wasn’t physically addicted, he “woke up the next morning and it’s the first thing [he] thought of; it’s all [he] could think about.”[5]

Opioids make you feel euphoric, and, like all addictive substances, they leave you wanting more. Those who have abused prescription opioids are forty times more likely to turn to heroin as a cheaper high. Let that sink in—they are forty times more likely than the average person to get addicted to heroin.[6]

Take your education into your own hands! Read and investigate and show interest in the affliction of others. We all like to think we aren’t susceptible to addiction; so many of us subconsciously believe we are better than those suffering from this disease. Don’t hide behind the assumption that you’re different or that you’re better than those affected by heroin.

Opioid addiction is a serious issue. We need to start talking about it.

[1] <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/>
[2] <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/images/dph/stop-addiction/recommendations-of-the-governors-opioid-working-group.pdf>
[3] <http://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/opioid-addiction-disease-facts-figures.pdf>
[4] <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/overdose.html>
[5] <http://www.wbur.org/2015/06/12/andover-opioid-documentary>
[6] <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/>

Viruses

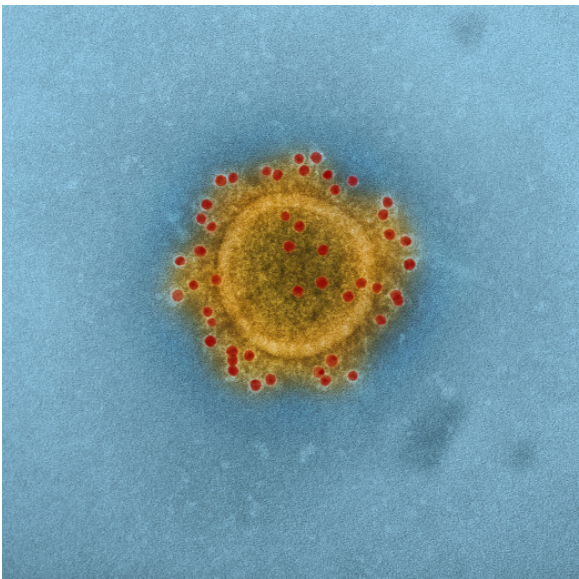
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unaware of their sickness would walk around and further infect other people who were oblivious to the disease.

As MERS spread with such speed, it instigated a panic attack across all Asian countries. Consequently, the Korean economy suffered as tourists cancelled all travel plans to the region. Department stores around the countries closed for several days, and as the fear of the virus grew, some hospitals were in lockdown for weeks. A South Korean newspaper, Yonhap News, reported that “South Korea’s outbound shipments plunged 14.7 percent on-year in August, with exports down 6.1 percent in the first eight months of this year. Such a development bodes ill for the heavily export dependent economy.” To

prevent further spread of the ailment, the nation established quarantine for all 16,693 civilians who were in contact with the patient diagnosed in May.

The United States issued a thorough health examination to all sick tourists that were coming from South Korea after victims were found deceased as a result of the virus. The Hong Kong flu also had similar consequences, as 496 people had died between January and April. During the summer, a surge in the number of influenza cases triggered more fears for the government, as it was hard for people to identify the difference between MERS and the flu. While it has now been several months since the South East Asian regions were free from lethal viruses, the fear continues.



“MERS Coronavirus Particle” by NIAID.
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“A Walk in the Woods”

by Carter Kratkiewicz ’16



A Walk in the Woods is an adaptation of a memoir with the same name title by Bill Bryson. The story chronicles the adventures of Bill Bryson (Robert Redford) and his friend Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte), both in their mid forties, as they tackle the daunting task of hiking the entirety of the Appalachian Trail, a 2,160 mile trek from Georgia to Maine. However, for some reason, Bryson and Katz are portrayed as being in their seventies in the film. Both men are wildly out of shape and unprepared for this journey, which makes it all the more entertaining to watch. The film is incredibly funny at its best, painfully awkward and strangely offensive at its worst, and often these moments happen simultaneously.

A Walk in the Woods is oddly uneven. The first act is repetitive despite its brevity. The cast of veteran actors seem uninspired and the dialogue sounds wooden. I started to worry that seeing this movie was a mistake, and then actor Nick Nolte showed up. The film crackled to life after that, with Nolte’s presence seeming to fill a void. Nolte portrays Katz with surprising intensity. He embodies Katz: a bumbling, red faced, out of shape, ex-alcoholic. I feared any moment

he might keel over and die from a heart attack. Nolte’s performance was the highlight of the film, contributing the majority of the genuinely hilarious moments and all of the few touching ones.

As I mentioned earlier, the film had a strange peppering of offensive moments throughout. Objectification of women and sexism are marketed as “guy talk” in this film, popping up throughout the companions’ hikes. These moments seem to fit right in with Nolte’s mess of a character, but Redford’s character goes along with and contributes to these offensive moments as well. In addition, there are a number of fat person jokes, though they are targeted at women and not the overweight Nolte. These jokes, often told by Nolte, do not appear to be ironic on purpose. If the jokes were ironic on purpose, Redford’s character would acknowledge the irony since he is the character we are supposed to sympathize with, and would not laugh and go along with them. They come off as ironic for the viewer however, due to Nolte’s physical condition. Apparently old white guys can be obese, but women can’t.

Despite the quality roller coaster of *A Walk in the Woods*, the film makes hiking the Appalachian Trail look quite appealing, something I never thought I’d say. The nature aspect was beautiful, helping me to look past the lows of the film. If you’re in the mood for an often hilarious and lighthearted film with quality performance, and are willing to look past some of the offensive commentary, I would recommend *A Walk in the Woods*.

“Honeymoon” by Lana del Ray

by Elly Veloria ’16



Lana del Rey’s third album, “Honeymoon,” features the singer returning to what she does best: sexy, dreamy, cinematic ballads. Only two songs on the album are less than four minutes; Rey takes her time to croon about longing and heartbreak. Though often criticized for her seemingly cultivated persona, Rey owns the fact that she is a char-

acter, and this is reflected in *Honeymoon*. Her sound on this album bounces between that of a heartbroken and faded poet, with tracks like “God Knows I Tried” and “Art Deco,” and that of a confident yet tortured soul with tracks such as “Freak” and “High By The Beach.” Jazz influences run through the album as well, and Rey even throws in a rendition of the classic Nina Simone song, “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood,” to finish out the album—a perfect culmination for her latest effort.

Vote for the Good Guys

by Harry Breault ’16

The President of the United States remains the most powerful person in the world. With our grid-locked Congress, policy emanates from the Oval Office with a force rivaled only by the Supreme Court. The President’s agenda and purview are constantly expanding—touching everything from climate change to the Middle East—and thus our national priorities live and die with their decisions. So, who are we considering for this position of unparalleled power?

The Democratic Party is going back and forth between former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders—with loving asides to Vice President Joe Biden. The word on the street and in the papers is this: Clinton is more experienced but less radical, while Sanders has a revolutionary pitch, but perhaps lacks the ability to win.

These conclusions are up for debate, but I

Concord Academy’s Favorite Candidates

by John Koury ’16

So many choices. In the last few months, the 2016 Presidential race has escalated into a full fledged PR blitz. Republicans have more candidates than can be counted on both hands, and although “The Donald” has survived longer than expected, there is no saying how much longer the “Summer of Trump” will continue. On the Democratic side there is still no clear frontrunner. Though Hillary Clinton was thought to be a shooin, her email scandal has followed her throughout her campaign and has given Bernie Sanders the opportunity to gain support. Vice President Joe Biden is also considering entering the race, though he is still recovering from the recent death of his son.

The media has done its best to capitalize on the faux pas of each candidate. The political stage has become reminiscent of the Roman forum, and those who do not take cheap shots at the personal lives of others have largely been pushed to the wayside, as could be seen in the second GOP debate. Trump, the most flamboyant of the GOP candidates, was given over eighteen minutes of floor-time over the course of the debate. On the other hand, highly-educated and well-spoken Mike Huckabee was only given three. With so much public distrust in the government, this race has certainly seemed to herald the rise of the non-traditional campaign. Entertainment is being prioritized over policy, persona over ability.

Despite the lack of integrity in the 2016 Presidential Race, the occasion also marks the first opportunity that many Concord Academy students will have to vote. Interested in learning the opinions of my peers, I surveyed the CA student body. The response was eager and passionate. In under an hour I received more than 100 responses, a number that continued to grow over the coming days. While each student has their own justifications for their political beliefs, I have summarized

believe them to be a solid synthesis of recent coverage. A reasonable analysis shows that the candidates oppose the interests of only one group: the wealthy. Considering that most Americans can’t even breathe on this class, you’d think that the Democrats would have victory sewn up beyond question, but more on this later.

The Republican field, on the other hand, is essentially a cross between a theme park and a wasteland. The candidates look glitzy on stage, silhouetted as they recently were by a retired Presidential airliner. “Oh my,” you might have thought or shouted, “the Republicans sound okay!” Yeah, maybe they do sound convincing and exciting, brilliant and tough—but when one listens to their ideas and ideologies, that vibe meets its timely and appropriate death.

Most Republican candidates are adamantly against the legalization of same-sex marriage; most are pro-life on the issue of abortion; and several have been quoted criticizing immigrants, poor people, and women. Don’t you just love their

ideas, like cutting taxes for the rich, deporting millions of immigrants, or, in the case of former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, using the military to stop abortions? Fabulous.

Yet the differences are deeper than social issues—in fact, they have been for quite a while. However, now that Concord Academy’s United States History curriculum has fragmented into a more specialized battery of courses, some students miss the philosophical background to this. Let me give you a quick primer.

Not being a philosopher, historian, or political scientist, I’m qualified only to repeat what I have learned. The modern threads of liberalism and conservatism have been alternately battling and collaborating for roughly eighty years. Franklin D. Roosevelt, my favorite President, created compassionate programs to ferry the country through the Great Depression. His Presidency exemplified the idea that government is good for people and that people should embrace it. The country reelected him four times. This is one side of the equation.

Injustices

continued from page 1...

are women, most of which come from single parent households. He stated intentions of continuing to refine and reform his existing programs for education and job training within the prison, however according to his *Recidivism Report* available online, only 15% of inmates are enrolled in any form of classes or vocational training, while 92% of prisoners have never been to college. During the discussion, Cousins claimed to have significantly decreased recidivism rates for the Essex County Correctional Facility, but according to the same report, the rates have been fluctuating for years, have been increasing since 2009, and are currently above the national average. Cousins offered no further explanation of plans to decrease recidivism.

Mandatory minimum sentencing is one way that our legislature informs the public that certain criminal acts will not be tolerated under any circumstances. They generally apply to crimes such as drug possession within school zones, or OUI’s, as most intentionally violent crimes are handled on a case by case basis. However, according to Roger Mueller, in *Mandatory Minimum Sentencing*,” mandatory sentencing often creates disparities between minimum punishments and statutory maximums. For example, a first time offender can only receive one year in prison for non-violent drug crimes, however the mandatory minimum sentence for possession of over five grams of crack cocaine is five years, and even more if the prosecution can prove intentions to sell. Cousins stated that mandatory minimum sentencing often makes setting a fair prison sentence a lot harder for an individual, and he’s in favor of at the very least making alterations to the mandatory minimum sentencing laws in existence.

Solitary confinement is a method of incarceration for inmates who have proven to be dangerous or overly disruptive within the prison. For example, if a prisoner demonstrates violence, a correctional officer might take them (sometimes forcibly) into a secure holding unit, or SHU. The average SHU cell in state and federal prisons have a bed, a toilet, and a door with a slot in it for correctional officers to put food through. SHUs are

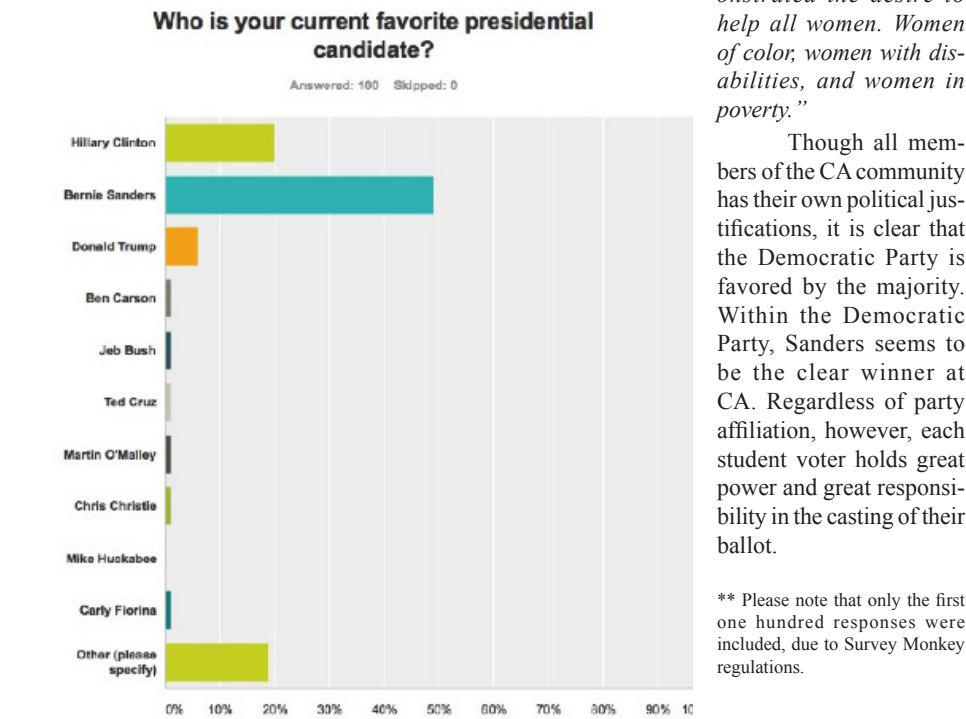
In different ways, it was carried forward by Presidents of both parties until the Reagan Revolution.

Conservatism exploded in 1981, when President Ronald Reagan took office for the first of two terms. The ideas behind his movement were, chiefly, cutting taxes for the rich, encouraging people (often by giving them no other choice) to fend for themselves without the help of government, and alienating LGBTQ people through religious faith. This is, obviously, up for debate—otherwise, this wouldn’t be an opinion piece. But then again, these are my opinions.

You can see these older debates reflected today in each side’s proposals. Democrats spend a lot of time talking about improving access to healthcare and education. Republicans talk a lot about the Devil, which is sometimes the Supreme Court or Iran, but most often is Barack Obama. Which side is serious about creating a Democratic society where no citizen lacks the basic necessities of a fulfilling life? You have every right to answer that question for yourself—but I know which side I’ll be voting for.

intended to completely deprive prisoners of human contact for any length of time, except for visits from correctional officers. Solitary confinement has proven to be a contentious issue, because while it succeeds in removing antagonistic inmates from the facility’s social paradigm, they have proven to fail at “correction.” According to the *Prison Policy Initiative*, about 64% of incarcerated individuals already suffer with mental illness, (most of which is treatable by medication and/or counseling, a far less expensive option than SHU) which can only be exacerbated when they’re left alone for extended periods of time like they are in SHUs often develop disparaging mental illnesses that remain part of the rest of their lives, which begs the question: is solitary confinement a humane form of punishment? If Cousins truly believes that no prisoner deserves to be abused, why should that only apply to abuse from other prisoners? Cousins and Dukakis agreed that while SHUs may help to ease a situation at hand, all they really do is further damage inmates’ psychological health, push off the problem for the future, and deny American citizens the right to the real mental health care that they need. Cousins discussed thoughts on a desire to work towards creating separate housing units for severely mentally ill inmates that would work to counsel and rehabilitate them, rather than lock them away, only to be dealt with later. Unfortunately, his ideas lacked specific details or plans.

Today’s government officials may be experienced in their respective fields and knowledgeable about the issues, but what I and the other attendees that I talked to mainly took away was something different. Government employees are highly skilled at talking circles around your questions, and avoiding subjects that need to be addressed. While Dukakis and Cousins have undoubtedly provided for their field, the time is coming for new minds to start filling the emptying seats. Young, smart, passionate people like Breault and Sass are the real solution to the Injustices of the Justice System. Our government is tired, and the American people are sick of being told what politicians think we want to hear.



Laurie Baker

by Helen Wu '19



Laurie Baker, Assistant Athletic Director
Photo courtesy of Ben Carmichael

Laurie Baker, Concord Academy’s new Assistant Athletic Director, is quietly a two-time Olympic medalist in ice hockey. While she has traveled to locations like Nagano, Japan and Salt Lake City, Utah for the Olympic Games, she has always returned to her home here in Concord. Baker strives to turn her dedications into expertises, which led her to extraordinary success in ice hockey and to thirteen years as an Assistant Athletic Director. In her words, that passion is simple. “I love all sports,” she said.

Baker grew up in an athletic family, and began her path to ice hockey through the art of figure skating. Now, as she raises two children, her nine-year-old daughter is following in her footsteps and beginning to play ice hockey.

The majority of Laurie’s job takes behind the scenes as she keeps CA’s Athletic Department running smoothly. While she adores the private aspects of her work, she experiences the joy of sports in much the same way that athletes do. “I so enjoy seeing student athletes outdoor on the field, playing, enjoying, having fun, being in a team experience,” Baker said.

Jessica Kuh

by Julia Shea '16

“I had forgotten what it was like to be new, to not know anybody, to be in a place where I didn’t have a reputation,” said Jessica Kuh, the newest addition to the Math Department. Although Kuh is a veteran teacher with 20 years of experience, she still felt in some ways like she came to CA as a “blank slate.”

Kuh spoke candidly and humbly about her first month and a half -- of the ups and downs, and the little things that so vividly paint a picture of what it is like to be new. “When I walked through the hallway,” she said, “I would think to myself: Do I say ‘Hi,’ or do I look down at my feet?” This is a dilemma that I doubt is unfamiliar both to new students and returning ones. I have this exact internal debate at least five times a day.

When I spoke with Kuh in the middle of October, she described the transition as difficult but well-supported, and now she feels like she is over the hump. “The faculty and staff could not have been more helpful, and I feel really happy coming to work every day,” she said. Like all new faculty, Kuh was paired with another teacher who serves a mentorship role. Kuh’s go-to person is Sara Bellini, a Spanish teacher. The two meet about once a week, and Kuh also asks Bellini questions whenever they arise.

One of Kuh’s paramount goals is to develop a good rapport with her students. “I’ve gotten to know my students , better over time but you can’t learn everything about students from class. I like to meet with my students individually or in small groups to see where they’re coming from.” Kuh also hopes to perfect her Geometry 2 class, which she will

Avery Barger

by Abby Nicholson '19



Avery Barger, Theatre Teacher
Photo courtesy of Avery Bargar

“You just have to play the truth of the moment in the scene as it’s arising,” says new Theatre Teacher Avery Bargar, “And if it’s funny then it will be funny, and if it’s dramatic then it will be dramatic, but if you focus on the basic elements of what is theatre, then that stuff will just come and you don’t have to try to entertain people.”

Bargar was born in Newton, MA, where he started doing theatre in high school. He received a B.A. in theatre at Pitzer College, and during that time he took classes at the Upright Citizens Brigade, a comedy troupe known for famous members like Amy Poehler. Bargar then decided to go abroad, and lived in Paris for four months, where he studied at the Philippe Gaulier School, a renowned clown school with alums such as Emma Thompson, Geoffrey Rush, and Sacha Baron

teach again next semester, and throw in a few more jokes.

I was curious about any surprises Kuh had encountered since joining the CA community, and Kuh mentioned one in particular. She recalled, “When I told my students at ISB that I was leaving, I told them where I was going. They reacted to CA as if it were of a school of ‘miracle students’ or ‘perfect academic scholars.’ I knew that students here at CA would be more diverse than that -- that they would have a range of interests -- but given the outside reputation of the school as one of the elite private schools in the Boston Area, I had to affirm to my students that students here have challenges as well.” After nearly two months of teaching Geometry 2 and Statistics, she assures the students she keeps in touch with that students at CA are “regular people.”

Since Kuh is a part-time teacher, she has fewer students than most faculty members. Her two classes this fall happen to be relatively small, and as a result she has only 19 students in addition to three advisees -- a small subset of a community of nearly 400 students. “Part of being a member of a community is knowing people,” so Kuh makes extra effort to get to know new faces through CASA (Concord Academy Students in Action), a club she co-advises, and through meals at the faculty tables in the dining hall. As I walked out of Kuh’s office after the interview, she laughed, “Now I know one more!”

Cohen. Bargar has also studied improv under Gary Austin, “a humble, wonderfully cranky, and opinionated guy,” on and off for the past five years. Austin founded the Groundlings, a company that feeds into SNL, and has taught Tony, Emmy, Oscar, and Golden Globe winners.

Bargar’s own experience as a teacher began while teaching a workshop to 5th and 6th graders during his senior year of high school. Later in college, he taught a semester of improv at a Juvenile Probation Camp. Soon after, he taught a workshop at a prep school similar to CA, which he says was quite a contrast.

When asked about teaching at CA, Bargar says, “It’s the best work environment I’ve ever been in!” Calling upon an analogy used by a favorite teacher in college, he continues, “When you’re a teacher, you have this laboratory where you get to try out different ideas and experiments and see what you discover. So for me, selfishly as an artist, I have this room full of intelligent, motivated people who want to learn and play, and I get to try things out and see what works and see what inspires [them] and what [they] create. I learn so much from seeing what makes students excited and what they discover, because some of it is stuff I’ve never discovered, some of it stuff I’m going to discover again, and some of it is stuff I’ve never even imagined, and that’s awesome.”

Jonathan Golden

by Ellie Stetson Dibble '18



Jonathan Golden, Assistant Librarian
Photo by Molly D’Arcy

Jonathan Golden, Concord Academy’s new Assistant Librarian, began developing a love for reading as a child, when he explored books about space and physics. It wasn’t until high school, however, that he discovered a passion for literature. As a freshman, his class was assigned *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, but having read it already, his teacher instead told him to read *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier. The next assignment featured *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Golden hadn’t read the book and didn’t want to, so he told his teacher that he had in the hope of reading something else; his teacher gave him *Going After Cacciato* by Tim O’Brien. Golden’s thus found himself in love with literature, and the freedom and pleasure he found through reading in high school inspired him to work with books.

In addition to his position at CA, Golden also keeps the stacks in good order as an Assistant Librarian at the Whittemore Library at Framingham State University. He is also studying at Simmons College to obtain a Master’s of Library Science, the degree required of head librarians. Golden reports that he enjoys life in grad school: “It’s nice to be around a bunch of people that are of the same mind...everyone there is kind of a huge library nerd.” This library nerd hopes to receive his master’s degree in two years and to then take on a role as a head librarian. Even with all of this going on, Golden still nurtures the love for books that has animated much of his life, and he is currently absorbed in works of science fiction fantasy and creative non-fiction.

Kevin Parker

by Raphi Kang '19

Kevin Parker -- former camp counselor, stage manager, substitute teacher, and engineer -- is now a part of the Office of Student and Community Life at CA. Parker is a versatile Wilcox Fellow from Burlington, MA, who originally applied for a theater position at CA, but ended up taking a job in Student Life. He was later contacted by the CA when a spot opened up in the Student Life Office, and promptly joined the community.

Despite owning a B.S. degree in engineering, Parker declined a job opportunity in the field due to his desire to branch out. With experience as a Resident Assistant in college and a camp counselor, he felt prepared for the job.

Parker described his job in the Student Life Office as “a lot of behind the scenes to get the activities set up.” Kevin loves working with this particular age group, and says, “I probably spend 30% of my day talking to students.”

So far, Parker said he is having a “great time” at CA. “I’m honestly surprised by how much I do enjoy it. Because it’s not just the



Kevin Parker, Student and Community Life
Photo courtesy of Molly D’Arcy

job itself, but everyone here is great - having worked at a number of places, I can tell you that half the battle of finding a job is finding a group of people that are fun,” he said.

Carmen Welton

by Sofie di Tommaso '17

“I think studying any language, regardless of if it’s modern or classical allows the way that you frame the world to be expanded, because all of a sudden you have access to texts, and people, and perspectives that you wouldn’t have been able to access if you were just speaking one language,” says CA’s newest Spanish teacher and assistant cross country coach Carmen Welton.

Welton was drawn to CA because like her previous school, the Buxton School in Williamstown MA, CA operates under a progressive educational philosophy. She’s used to values such as Common Trust and close relationships between students and teachers. Although it was a difficult decision to move both herself and son to Concord, aspects like these made CA a comfortable transition.

Within the classroom setting, Welton’s primary concern is not to have her students speak perfect Spanish; instead she hopes to instill an appreciation of Hispanic culture and open their minds to a new world-view.

Welton also expressed enthusiasm for her new position as a cross country coach. She ran in high school, and continued running track through her college experience at Oberlin. She is no stranger to teach-

ing athletics and has previously coached girls’ soccer.

Her interest in teaching was sparked by her mother, who was a bilingual resource specialist at a public school in Wisconsin, where Welton and her siblings grew up. She says, “I never questioned that I would be a teacher. I just assumed that’s what I’d do with my life and happily so.”



Carmen Welton, Spanish Teacher
Photo by Molly D’Arcy

Not the Final Grateful Dead Concert

by Leo Feininger '16

On July 3, 4, and 5, Chicago was filled to the brim with Deadheads young and old alike from all over the country. The city was flooded with them. You couldn’t go anywhere without seeing a Dead logo or tie-dye shirt. The scale of the event was so great that the the normal day-to-day Chicago activity seemed to pale in comparison.

On the second day of the concert -- the day I attended -- my brother and I went skateboarding from our hotel to find a new park that had opened recently, not too far from the concert venue. Even there, alongside Chicago locals there were many concert-goers.

That night, my family and I got a taxi to what was essentially the back of the line to enter the venue. This “line” was a great mass extending almost a mile out from the stadium and into the city. If you had come to see the shows but not yet realized how crowded they would be, this was the moment in which you would’ve known.

Officers directed the human traffic along a set pathway indicated by barriers or fences. It was quite claustrophobic. All sorts of people lined the path to the stadium. Many sold homemade T-shirts (some of which were quite well designed), while others begged the crowd for “one or two tickets only,” referencing the Dead by singing “I need a miracle every day!”

In a smoky and crowded stadium, the band opened with a well-known and memorable song, called “Shakedown Street,” which incorporates some disco influences while staying true to the band’s sound. As it was the 4th of July, they also played a few of their songs celebrating that, including “US Blues” and “Freedom.”

Shifting gears a little, I learned quickly upon returning to school that CA Science Teacher Max Hall had also been to two of the shows the past summer. Hall and I are from completely different generations, so it was interesting to hear some of his thoughts alongside my own.

On his experience with the Grateful Dead, he said this: “1983-We’re talking about whether or not to go to a show, and we started saying: Well you know, these guys are getting pretty old, this band has been around for 20 years now, we should probably go because these guys might not be around too much longer. And that’s pretty funny to think in retrospect, going to a 50th reunion show this summer.”

While Max stated that he doesn’t necessarily consider himself to be a “Deadhead,” as the saying goes, he appreciates the music of the Dead and what they have done for the greater musical world. When prompted to compare the show to some that he saw back in the 80s, he went on to say: “At this show, they were really polished. *Really* tight, *really* practiced. And really calm; restrained, in a way, but not in a way that sucked any of the joy or energy out of the music, but this kind of focused energy that was really great.”

These final shows overall seem to be seen across the board as great successes for the band, and definitely a good finale for the group, even without lead singer and icon Jerry Garcia, among others, present.

However, despite all the hype for Chicago, the band recently announced that they will be playing at least one more time in Worcester with John Mayer. So if you’re absolutely dying to see them, this may finally be your last chance.

Ned Singh

by Stanley Mo '18

From performing in multiple bands as a high school student to being an intern at live Woodstock concerts, Ned Singh has lived a fascinating and purposeful life. He joins Concord Academy this year as an assistant to Technology Director Jessica Cloutier-Plasse. Singh will be spending much of his time helping with sound design in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and addressing other audio and visual needs on campus. Ned is also a new house parent in Admadjaja House and hopes to have a relaxed, “big brother”-style relationship with boarding students.

Singh’s love of recording and sound began in his teenage years. He was a singer in several bands during high school and recorded songs with sound producers. After studying sound technology and taking formal vocal lessons at Ithaca College for four years, Singh quickly began recording songs for musicians in studios; however, he soon found himself disappointed by being shut off from the rest of the world and by the small impact he was making in life.

“At the end of the day I would ask myself, ‘Okay Ned, what did you do to make a difference today?’ and I was always like, ‘Uh I recorded a good song that might make someone feel good someday...so there’s that,’ but I wanted to

be able to help people in a bigger way than that.” After a friend introduced him to the idea of working at CA, he found an opening in the theater production staff and got the job. Singh says that CA has remedied the lack of satisfaction he felt while working in recording studios: “I think being at CA is a really great opportunity to share what I’ve learned and some insights and interests with other students.”

When asked about his ultimate goal in life, Singh said, “I think if every day I could wake up with just a minimal level of dread about what the day’s going to be like and every day I could go to bed feeling like I did something that made a difference, that would be great.”



Ned Singh, Assistant Theatre Technology Director
Photo by Molly D’Arcy

Popping the CA Bubble

by Armando Herreria '16

Cecil.

Perhaps the name conjures up images of cute fuzzy lions, animal conservationists, or scary patriarchal dentists. All of these responses are valid.

What isn’t valid, however, is the fact that we, as Americans, have a stronger reaction to this name than we do to that of Cynthia Hurd. Or Susie Jackson. Or Ethel Lance. Or DePayne Middleton Doctor, Clementa C. Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons Sr., Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Myra Thompson.

These are the names of the nine black individuals brutally slain this past June in a Charleston, South Carolina church.

Here in Concord, with our intense course loads and our creative passions, it is easy to lose sight of what is happening around us. It is easy to ‘check out,’ so to speak, from the harsh realities of the ‘real world.’

However, along with our privileged Concord Academy education comes inherent responsibilities. We have responsibilities to our community, yes, but we also have responsibilities to the world around us. It is important that we neglect neither.

It is important that we recognize how lucky we are to have outlets for dialogue, expression, and commentary. It is important that we recognize how lucky we are to have such a wealth of information at our fingertips. It is important that we recognize how lucky we are to have support at all.

In class, we are encouraged to ask questions, to find our voice. We analyze texts, tear them apart, and spit back revolutionary ideas.

We act on our ideas. But frequently, only through assignments.

Why do we not do so in all facets of life?

Too often, we accept mainstream media at face value, refusing to look beyond. Too often, we use the term “CA Bubble” as an excuse to ignore the daily strife of our brothers and sisters around the world. Too often, our only activism is passive. It is hashtags and comments and retweets. It is Tumblr. It is T-shirts.

Or it is nonexistent.

At CA, we are taught to be active in our community. We are taught to be leaders. To be creative. Innovative. We are taught to become “committed citizens.” We should strive to fulfill these roles.

This year has already seen the inception of the Inclusion Council, the C&E Circular, Social Justice Club, and Current Events Club. We have begun to redefine campus dialogue. Opportunities to get involved are, quite literally, at our doorstep.

In class, many of our teachers favor progressive education by banning hand-raising. They tell us that we should not wait to be called upon; that we should simply speak up when our time comes.

I think this same ideology should be applied to our everyday lives.

Do not wait to be called upon.

Your time is now.

The Centipede

Concord Academy
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The *Centipede* is the official student newspaper of Concord Academy. The paper encourages comments from its readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. No anonymous letters will be printed. The *Centipede* reserves the right to edit all articles for length and content.

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Alternatively, you may send letters electronically to:
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The mission of the *Centipede* is to inform, spark curiosity, and generate discussion within the community and beyond. The majority of the content relates to school issues, events, and news, but occasionally writers voice their opinions on politics, sports, and other contentious topics.

Help Me, Rhonda!

Dear CA,

I am back. For those of you who do not know — I am Rhonda, your loving source of advice at CA. Please, write to me about your problems, questions, and anything else that you would like me to reply to in the upcoming issue of the Centipede.

Place your notes into my dropbox, conveniently located in the library.

Don’t forget to sign them, a nickname instead of your name will do the job.

I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Love,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,
How do I get a bae?
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous Writer,

Thank you for your question. People have been investigating this issue for centuries, and there is no simple answer. One helpful tip you might want to use is to get to know more people. Who knows, maybe bae has been near all along?

If you’re too scared or you’re unsuccessful, I hear there’s this hip new app called Tinder.

Love,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,
How do I nicely tell frosh to leave the senior section? It’s so awk :(
Helpless Student

Dear Helpless Student,

The Senior section gives seniors a place to spend time together during their last year at CA, and it is a very appreciated tradition. If you spot a freshman enjoying the space, politely tell them about the tradition and maybe point out another space they could use. Freshmen, don’t worry if you weren’t aware of this unspoken rule, but please avoid sitting in the senior section in the future.

Love,
Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,
My swag is too on point and it is scaring girls away. What do I do?
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous Writer,

Share the swag. Honestly, you would kill two birds with one stone. First of all, you might be able to bring them up to your level, at least partially. Secondly, you would turn your swag into an attractive quality, rather than a scary one.

To share your swag you could consider starting a club, where you would teach people how to have more swag; you could also join an existing club with similar purpose, for example the freshly formed Spikeball Club.

Love,
Rhonda

Fantasy Sports Changes the Nature of Sports

by Jeremy Liang ’16

It is no secret that fantasy sports have slowly begun to dominate the sports culture we see today. Fantasy sports -- the most popular of which is football -- are online games where users can build virtual teams using real life players and compete against other players based on their statistical performances in games. DraftKing banners envelop all of the ad space in North Station. SportsCenter now runs a regular fantasy football segment to suggest who to start this week. DirectTV advertises features that allow customers to check their fantasy lineups from the comfort of their couch. TV shows like The League, a comedy centering around the fantasy football league of five friends, are able to come into existence because of how popular these online games have become. In 2013, Forbes estimated that Fantasy Football alone was a \$70 billion dollar market, and that number has only grown since. However, the fantasy sports industry is much more complex than the simple game suggests. In fact, it’s possible that the nature of the business will drastically affect the relationship between teams and the league, and possibly even redefine what it means to be a fan. Teams are at a loss in dealing with the fantasy sports business; in fantasy, virtual versions of the real life players are drafted, traded, praised, and scrutinized. Fantasy sports are all about the players, and besides providing their logos, the teams serve no role. As a result, an almost cult-like following starts to form around players, an ego

boost that will inevitably encourage players to ask for bigger contracts and better deals. Similarly, in the case of fantasy football, the online game continues to polarize the offensive and defensive sides of the game. While fantasy football players are required to draft offensive positions like quarterback, running back, and wide receiver, defensive players are not drafted and cannot be acquired. Instead, players must draft a team’s defense, but even so, one’s starting fantasy lineup will include eight slots for offensive players and only one for the team defensive. Of course, this concept of an offensive player being more popular than a defensive one is nothing new to sports; a high scoring game will always be more exciting than a low scoring one, and individual success is much more easily allocated to offensive players than defensive ones. However, fantasy football only brings the two sides to greater extremes; now, it’s not even an option in standard leagues to draft defensive players, and as a result, defensive stars are left in the dark as the fantasy spotlight shines upon the offense. More importantly, though, the fantasy sports landscape is redefining the way sports are followed from the fan’s perspective. On any given day, it’s completely possible to be rooting for both sides of a sports game: he or she could be rooting for their favorite team, but at the same time, also be rooting for the opposing team because they have one of the players on his or her fantasy team. However, this seems awfully counter-intuitive to the exact nature of sports, where there is always a winner and loser. How can one be rooting for both sides to succeed? Ultimately, sports teams must

grapple with this new reality that even the most dedicated of fans will succumb to rooting for both teams and a new era in which sports teams have even less exclusivity over their fans. Recently, the fantasy sports industry is coming under fire for an issue entirely separate from its effects on sports. As more and more are examining the fantasy sports market, many have equated daily fantasy sports sites like DraftKings and FanDuel to online gambling. In essence, users on both sites wager a small amount of money and set a daily fantasy lineup in the hopes of winning the grand prize, usually in the million dollar ranges. While this notion of wagering money for large amounts of money certainly sounds a lot like gambling, the sites assure users and the public that it is not. FanDuel’s “Why it is Legal” page of the site says that daily fantasy sports is a game of skill, not luck. Supporters of daily fantasy sports will also point to the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, which carves out a distinct path for paid fantasy sports to exist. However, the law being formulated in 2006, it should be noted that fantasy sports used to only exist in a league form, where teams were drafted and then managed throughout an entire sports season, and daily leagues had not yet existed. DraftKings and FanDuel, daily fantasy sites, operate much differently than those of Yahoo Sport, CBS Sports, and ESPN, which most of us are used to. For example, with daily fantasy football leagues, users must compete against hundreds of thousands of others on a given Sunday- their lineup against the others’. However, to have the best lineup and win the grand prize, one must predict the absolute best NFL

player performances for every major offensive position - a seemingly impossible feat. One cannot simply just select the best players in the league, since DraftKings caps off a roster with a certain dollar amount - the better the player, the higher his dollar amount is. Instead, winning lineups of the grand prize usually include a series of seemingly unknown NFL players, all holding small dollar amounts, that have incredible performances and leave the media wondering “Who was THAT guy?” the day afterwards. Thus in order to win a DraftKings league, one must be an incredibly skilled talent evaluator with a keen eye on how every single player in the league will perform on the upcoming Sunday, or perhaps a little easier, incredibly lucky. Perhaps I write so partially against the legality of fantasy sports because I hate the type of fan that fantasy sports has turned me into. On some weeks, I will not be concerned with the Patriots performance this week or the upcoming matchup: I’ll be yelling at my computer over why my wide receiver only got me two points this week, scrutinize myself over not starting a running back that outperformed one of my starters, etc. Well-oiled offenses are reduced to one or two players that are on my fantasy roster, and sometimes I feel like I’m only turning on the TV on Sundays for some arbitrary, made up fantasy points. Just last year, completely head-over-heels for fantasy football, I joined five leagues in pursuit of a league trophy. This year, I’m only in one. And while I’m off to a strong start with a record of 5-0, it might be the last league title I’ll ever pursue.