

## The Common Good

Alex DiBlasi, '19



This past year if you watched the news, you would think that the ideal of "equality and justice for all" in America is a mere illusion and simply does not exist for all citizens. From rallies with self-proclaimed white supremacists marching with Confederate and Nazi flags, to law enforcement officers' "shoot first and ask questions later" philosophy, and politicians and broadcasters sexually harassing subordinates, our great country's moral compass is once again being tested. Fortunately for us, the National Association of Independent Schools has remained steadfast on its mission to deal with the injustices in our world by educating students for global citizenship. On November 29th, 1600 students representing different races,

sexes, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and gender identities from across America convened not only to learn how to build bridges, but most importantly to find their voices to promote inclusiveness. Governor's Academy was one of many private schools to send students and faculty members to Anaheim, California for the annual Student Diversity Leadership and the People of Color Conferences. The purpose of these conferences is to further develop students and faculty with the necessary skills to address rising issues in our diverse nation. The Governor's group consisted of Mr. Taveras, Ms. de la Guardia, Ms. Kagwa, Dr. Palmer, Mr. Torsey, Alek Davis, Gaelle Henry, Adeliza Rosario-Vasquez, and myself. All student attend-

ees met daily as one large group where we heard inspiring speakers like Kimberle Crenshaw who is an American civil rights activist and professor at UCLA School of Law and Columbia Law School. Throughout the rest of the day we would break in and out of two smaller groups. One group, which was called "The Family", had roughly forty students from multi-racial and diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. We would have open discussions about racial, gender, and socioeconomic inequalities. One topic of conversation was "is your race the most important thing to you?" The African-American participants predominantly answered that being black was indeed the most important thing in their lives because that is what soci-

ety sees in them. However, among the Hispanics, Asians and whites in the group, the answers varied across the spectrum. The second group was named "The Affinity" and consisted of about one hundred people from the same racial background. We spent our time together discussing the morning lectures and the thought provoking exercises from our Family Group. During the three days, we were constantly engaged in an open dialogue regarding prevalent social issues. Being a white, straight male from a financially secure family, I was a minority at the conference. Even though we all attend private high schools, our personal journeys in life vastly differ. However, I was never made to feel ashamed for my privileges; I was just

asked to be aware of them. Adeliza Rosario-Vasquez, fellow Governor's participant, believes, "It was an amazing experience. It's crazy how I feel like I know someone that I saw for just two days better than most people at Govs. Unforgettable!" The vital message that echoed throughout the conference was that we all have a personal responsibility to strive for the common good. We need to respect people's differences, empathize with their struggles, and treat people with dignity. Seems like a pretty easy thing to do, right? "Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."- Robert Kennedy

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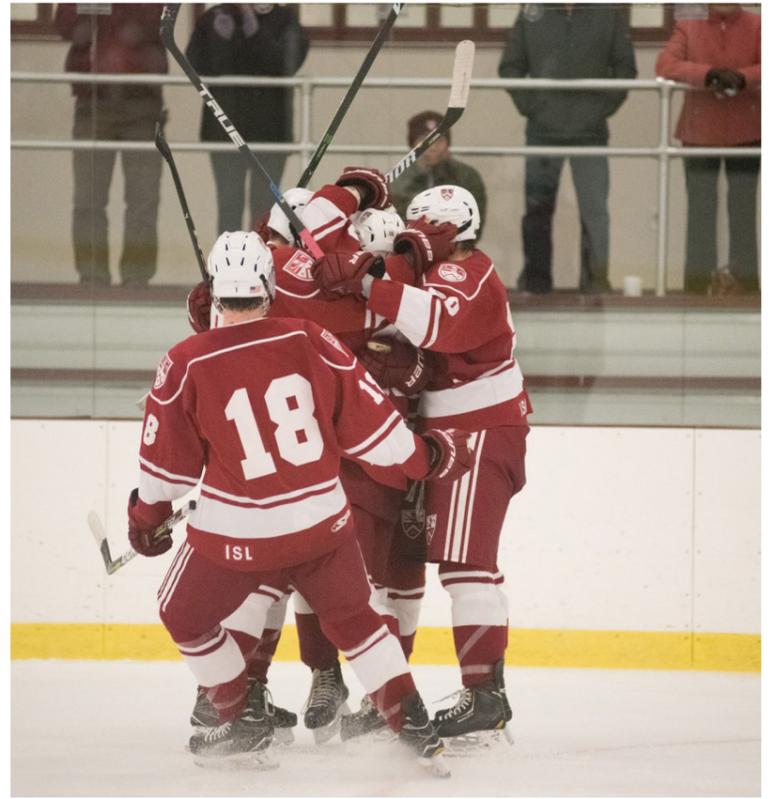
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## Govs Hockey is Here to Play

Ben Ginsberg, '18

The hockey season has started off on a strong note. The returning boys are really stepping up and are bonding together in an effort to continue and move this program forward. The new guys are stepping right in and are adjusting quickly to the fast pace of the league. With a tough schedule ahead of us, the team has a lot of work to do to perform well on a consistent basis. With some obstacles early on in the season, the team has to remain focused on the end goal. With strong senior leadership, we look forward to continue to make a mark in the ISL and prove to the league that Govs hockey is here to play.



## The State of College Athletics

Kyra Steck, '18

Your favorite college sports team might be in trouble. Under the new GOP tax bill that has already passed in the House of Representatives, donations fans make to college athletic teams would no longer be tax deductible. As of now, the donations that colleges require fans make to buy top-tier football or basketball tickets are 80% tax deductible - meaning that 80% of what they contribute will be subtracted from a donor's taxable income. Along with ticket sales and money earned from media rights, contributions made to buy in-demand seats is the main revenue stream for college athletics. In 2015 alone,

\$1.2 billion was donated to college athletic departments or related booster clubs. While this amount is shocking, it has come to be the norm for higher education sports teams - 2015 was the fourth time in five years where total donations reached higher than \$1 billion, according to the Council for Aid to Education. If these contributions are not longer considered tax exempt, that \$1 billion will rapidly decline. Jon Bakija, an economist at Williams College, calculated that giving will likely drop by 20-30% as a result. Louisiana State University and University of Virginia are prime examples of the effects this

can have on not only the athletic department but on the educational institution itself. LSU receives more than \$60 million annually in seat-licenses donations. If Bakija's calculations are correct - that is, if donations drop by even 20% - the \$10 million the Tigers contribute to LSU's academic pursuits would be erased. Robert Munson, their athletic director, admits "that is a number we cannot possibly absorb." UVA, likewise, is heavily dependent on seat-license donations, and still needs millions in student fees to cover its cost. Dirk Kastrup, the executive director of the Virginia Athletics Foundation, reveals that

although they receive \$20 million a year, "we have zero room for error." Athletic directors, including Katrina of UVA, have already begun lobbying and showing support against this section of the tax reform bill, fearing that their athletes will face its consequences. Munson states, "on the surface it may look like, 'Oh, a bunch of rich people don't get a tax deduction,' but what it's really going to do is hurt athletes." For many students, athletics are a defining element of their college experience. As the University of Pittsburgh athletic director Heather Lyke said, college athletics "provide a vital form of support and create import-

ant, life-changing opportunities for student-athletes on and off the field." The GOP tax bill, if passed, will undoubtedly hinder these opportunities and an athlete's ability to pursue their passions. As the Senate prepares to debate the bill, and therefore the fate of university-level athletics, they will hopefully find common ground on this issue, because Republican or Democrat, Alabama Crimson Tide or North Carolina Tar Heels, we all love our college sports teams.

### Scores

#### Hockey:

Girls JV vs. BB&N  
(Away): Win, 10-0

Boys Varsity vs.  
Milton Academy  
(Away): Loss, 2-7

#### Basketball:

Boys JV vs. Roxbury Latin (Away):  
Loss, 31-48

Girls JV vs. Milton  
(Home): Loss, 21-42

Boys Varsity vs.

Roxbury Latin  
(Away): Loss, 55-57



# The Effects of Two-Day Shipping

Billy Marella, '19

Online shopping has been on the rise. In fact, the United States Postal Service has stated that their total deliveries have increased by around 65% since 2009. Due to services provided by Amazon and other companies, we have grown increasingly accustomed to free, two-day shipping. It has become the gold standard and is often expected from customers. However, wonderful it may seem, two-day shipping causes distress for truckers and a large increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The trucking industry is undergoing a mas-

sive change. Due to new surveillance technologies known as ELDs (Electronic Logging Devices), trucking companies are able to monitor the speed, location and status of a trucker at any given moment. To take advantage of this new technology, federal regulations have been put into place that force truckers to work on a timely basis during closely-monitored hours. In theory, this practice would prohibit truckers from working incredibly long hours, eliminating the great threat of trucker fatigue. However, with the rise of two-day shipping, this is not the case. There

is now an increasing pressure to ship products faster, even in terrible conditions. Truckers, who would otherwise be able to choose when to put in the majority of their hours of driving (in order to ship the products when conditions are safer), are now forced to drive even when roads are unsafe. If the trucker is tired or sick, they can not stop without losing pay. The combination of ELDs and Two-Day shipping leaves truckers in an unsafe and unfair situation.

Another major issue with Two-Day shipping is the environmental impact it leaves behind. In standard

methods of shipping, boxes wait to be shipped until as many products as can fit in each truck are ready. However, as customers increasingly expect lightning-fast delivery, these trucks are forced to hit the road without having completely filled. This inefficiency in packaging leads to more trucks unnecessarily being put on the road. Similarly, the ability to return a product after a limited time promotes excessive shipping and allows customers to be even more wasteful.

Although it might now seem that online shopping should be avoided at all costs, online shop-

ping generally has lower carbon emissions than traditional shopping. However, when this shipping is rushed, it becomes much worse for the environment. The best step you can take is to be more thoughtful of how you get your products delivered. Sometimes, it is very important to receive what you've order as quickly as possible, but many times that is not the case. In these cases, consider the benefits of waiting a few more days for your package.

# Music Spotlight: BROCKHAMPTON

Eric Miller, '18

When you think of the term "boy band," you probably think of a group of photogenic young men who crank out safe, generic radio hits. The likes of One Direction and NSync may come to mind. This stereotype is one that Brockhampton, a self-described "All-American Boy Band," hopes to break.

The hip hop group was started in San Marcos, Texas by Ian Simpson (commonly known as Kevin Abstract) and four high school friends in 2013. After joining the on-

line music forum KanyeToThe, they began to collaborate online with many talented artists from all different backgrounds. After gaining ten new members from this, the group decided to move in together, settling in Los Angeles in 2015. Some new members include Jabari Manwa, a producer from Grenada, William "Merlyn" Wood, a rapper from Ghana, vocalist Ciarán "bearface" McDonald, from Belfast, Ireland, and producer Romil Hemnani, from South Windsor, Connecticut.

Brockhampton's music is as diverse as its members, creating music inspired by genres like metal, pop, country, and dancehall in their albums *Saturation* and *Saturation II*, both released in 2017. Members aren't afraid to talk in-depth about the unique challenges they have faced throughout their lives, regardless of what is deemed acceptable in hip hop music. Kevin often illustrates his struggles as a bisexual artist in a very homophobic genre. Merlyn Wood discusses the very subtle but powerful

emotions behind disappointing his parents in his career choices. Dom McLennon, a rapper in the group, discusses his struggles with body dysmorphia and self-harm in songs such as "TRIP". Ameer Vann, who formed one fifth of the original group, frequently raps about his experiences growing up in a drug and crime-infested Houston, and Matt Champion, another founding member, condemns rape culture in "JUNKY".

Brockhampton's fearlessness as a rap collective has gar-

nered them a huge amount of attention this year, and deservedly so. With rap music becoming increasingly saturated with many of the same topics, beats, and styles, it is ironic that two albums with the name *Saturation* offer something completely different to listeners. Brockhampton is a breath of fresh air in the genre, and with its third album, *Saturation III*, arriving December 15th, the group is on track to keep pushing boundaries in the foreseeable future.



# Judge Jason: Clinton's Failed Rhetoric

Jason Ho, '19

Why did Hillary Clinton lose the election? This is the question that has baffled pundits and journalists alike over the past year. The Democratic candidate's failed run for the White House continues to spawn countless post-mortem analysis on what happened. While most observers credit the unexpected defeat to a mélange of Russian meddling and misogyny, the cause of her Waterloo lies deep within the candidate herself. Fueled by political expedience, Clinton's phony rhetoric on the campaign trail crippled her chances of securing the Oval Office from the beginning till the bitter end. From the day Hillary Clinton announced her presidential bid in April 2015, her campaign struggled with putting forward an effective slogan. Cycling through dozens of official and unofficial catchphrases, Clinton settled on the term "Four Fights", referring to her four objectives of building "the economy of tomorrow", "strengthening families", "protecting America from threats" and "fixing the political system". While all four are legitimate policy goals based on sound governing principles, one could not help but find these terms to be incredibly hackneyed,

vague and bland. The word choices that Clinton used, "tomorrow", "families", "protecting" and "fixing" could arguably be found in the manifesto of every elected official. Which politician exactly doesn't believe in an enduring economy or strong families? Instead of being the attention-grabbing feature of Clinton's campaign as it was supposed to, the slogan "Four Fights" suffered the same fate as the rest of Clinton's tedious announcement speech: forgotten for good. In an age where Americans are increasingly fed up with dysfunctional political norms and stagnation, it is not hard to see why Clinton's dull rhetoric failed to resonate with voters. To add insult to injury, the "Four Fights" message kept changing during the course of the campaign, leaving voters bewildered as to what she actually wanted to accomplish as President. In response to Trump's candidacy, Clinton reworded the third "fight" from "protecting America from threats" to "maintaining American global leadership" - a rebuke to Trump's isolationist stance. "Fixing the political system" - the fourth "fight" and reform that Clinton once swore to

strive for on behalf of the American people, was replaced by "safeguarding American democracy and core values" - the change in wording being undoubtedly a retort to the populism inspired by Trump. When the primary race against Bernie Sanders became tighter than expected, Clinton stopped focusing on the "Four Fights" completely. Instead, she switched to a theme of casting herself as "not a single-issue candidate", mocking Sander's obsession with the "one percent". Later attempts at revitalizing the campaign slogan failed miserably as well. "Love Trumps Hate" looks more like a clever play on words than a genuine moral conviction. And as pundits quickly pointed out, it could be easily misread as Love Trump's Hate. The law of primacy dictates that the first word people read tends to leave a greater impression than subsequent ones. In this case, from a purely literal point of view, Trump (in both senses of the word) was associated more with love than with hate, even though, given the larger political context, one understands the slogan intended to suggest the exact opposite. The "I'm with Her" slogan was a catastrophe as well. Not only isn't there any room for "us", the American people, in that slogan, but the intentional use of a feminine pronoun unnecessarily elevates the issue of Clinton's gender to the forefront of an election in which most voters were clearly more concerned about the econ-



omy and immigration than gender issues. In fact, the phrase "I'm with Her", used extensively during the Democratic National Convention, was deemed so "phony" by Bernie Sanders that he reportedly refused to utter those words at the end of a TV commercial in which he endorsed the ex-first-lady over Trump. Clinton's failure throughout the campaign to stick to a single selling point and hitting it home speaks truth to the nature of her candidacy. "She tries to be all things to all people" - critiqued the Boston Globe. Indeed, the absence of a consistent core message reveals a career politician who lacked genuine principles or passionate beliefs. A series of awkward slogans invented solely to serve her immediate political needs destroyed Clinton's trustworthiness as a candidate. Voters could not discern the real Clinton behind a veil of insincere rhetoric. Compare this to Donald Trump's Make America Great Again slogan. This clean and instantly recognizable catchphrase embodied the spirit of his campaign

from the very beginning when he descended his golden escalator to announce his presidential bid. Throughout the primary race and into the general election, Trump's fundamental messages, that of nostalgia, nationalism and dissatisfaction with the establishment, did not buckle an iota when under fire from various candidates. Ingeniously capturing and combining these powerful emotions, the Make America Great Again slogan accompanied Trump wherever he campaigned. His nickname for Clinton, "Crooked Hilary", stuck with voters as they went to the ballot on election day. One could not hold a discourse on Clinton's character without the phrase "Crooked Hilary" coming to mind. On the other hand, Clinton tried to call Trump a "loose cannon", a "divider-in-chief" and a "bigot", all of which were reasonable criticisms of Trump's behavior, yet none of which was piercing enough to do the same damage as the infamous "Crooked Hilary" epitaph did.

Of course, Clinton's mis-



takes went far beyond a simple failure to be consistent in her message. Unlike Obama, she was unable to inspire a large turnout among minority and young voters; and unlike Bill Clinton, she barely made any efforts to woo blue-collar workers who have been harmed by globalization and immigration. Donald Trump made a bet early on in his campaign that only a fiery rhetoric backed up by a steadfast agenda would carry the day in swing states. He

was right. Clinton chose political expediency over consistency, and paid dearly for the mistake. More than anything, Clinton's failed rhetoric was the cause of her defeat. As both parties prepare for the 2018 mid-term elections, one could only hope that politicians have learnt their lessons.

## The Perfect Combination

Nastasya Woodcock, '18

The sunlight poured down onto her face. The concrete floor smelled of blood, sweat and tears. Tulle flew around her poised hips. The years of labor and pain she had endured were torturous. All the pain. All the suffering. But it was worth it. For the few minutes of glory. It was worth it. Everything was worth it.

A grand jeté, a pas de bourrée, an échappé, a retiré: a leap, a step, a jump and a stance.

Her feet hit the floor. Tears spilled. Sweat flowed. Applause sounded.

The perfect combination.

This fall, I got the opportunity to do a Special Activity in Studio Art. I focused on drawings of female anatomy and facial structure. I used charcoal, acrylic and oil paint, and carved linoleum block prints. I loved having the opportunity to try new things in art, especially printmaking, which is something I wouldn't have had the time to do otherwise. Although printmaking was challenging for me, I found that I really enjoy it. I loved the freedom provided by the Special Activity, as I was able to work in the Studio during any time of the day. Although I have done JV Volleyball every other fall, I'd definitely say that my Special Activity in Studio Art was a worthwhile way to spend my senior fall.



Art by Charlotte Collins, '18

# CHILL(IN)TERVIEW

Rose Robinson, '20

This year, for every issue of the newspaper I'll be conducting two interviews; one with a staff/faculty member and one with a member of the student body. What makes these interviews chill? These two people are randomly selected. By random, I mean I walk into the dining hall when I feel like it and interview who ever is there and whoever doesn't look too busy. I also make up these questions about ten minutes before I have the first interview. Some of the questions are silly, some of them go deeper. They are "chill" questions because these are conversational topics. They're the kinds of things you somehow find yourself engaging in conversation with your friends about, or thinking about in the shower. I want to share the voices of people in the community, whether they are ones we hear often or not often enough. I want to break down some barriers to learn things about people I wouldn't learn otherwise and to invite the paper's readers to do the same. Maybe you'll find that someone in here seems pretty chill.

Recently, Matt Nekoroski was kind enough to let me interview him as he ate lunch. Although it was a rather short interview, it was a good one. (And a great opportunity to get to know the brother of one of my best friends.)



## What is your earliest memory?

Earliest memory... Probably... Waking up from a nightmare and having Will tell me to shut up in bed.

What is one word you think other people describe you as?

Ummm... Reserved.

Friend: that's true.

## How would you want people to describe you?

Probably the same way. That's how I would describe myself. Reserved.

## What is your favorite book?

Favorite book... I don't read too much, but probably The Things They Carried. That was a good book.

## What cartoon character do you identify with most?

Cartoon character? Probably Tom from Tom and Jerry.

## Why do you identify with Tom?

I don't know... He tries despite not being able to get Jerry ever... he keeps going for it and I admire that. (To friend:) Are you judging me right now?

## Do you believe in a higher power?

Yes. But I don't think that it's any we believe in.

## Would you rather be able to speak every language or play every instrument?

Speak every language.

## Is there a reason why you would choose that over the other?

I just think when I'm older it would be cooler and it would be more flexible in the real world.

## What is one thing you want to do before you graduate?

High school?

Friend: Kiss a girl.

(To friend: \*explicit content\*)...Get an A+ in a class... Probably never going to happen but... Friend: If you have Scheintaub for

physics you will.

## How would you describe the way you want to live your life?

Probably without regrets but that's not realistic.

## What is one thing that made you smile today?

I destroyed Kelly's high score in a game on her computer.

As I found myself in the library stressing (about finishing this article), I found the perfect opportunity to have a faculty/staff interview when I looked over at the front desk. I then found myself sharing a relaxed conversation with Ms. Bennett as I got to know a kind, approachable member of the community I hadn't known before.



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## What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memory would be when I was much younger and when I used to live in Hungary and...

When my brother buried me in the sandbox at our apartment.

## What is one word you think other people describe you as?

Umm... Outgoing.

## How would you want people to describe you?

Kind and outgoing, probably.

## What is your favorite book?

Uh oh... hmmm... favorite book is probably Outlander.

## Is there a reason it's your favorite?

I really like historical fiction.

## What cartoon character do you identify with most?

Judy Jetson.

## Why her?

(Laughing) I have no idea why. I just haven't seen her in a long time and her name popped into my head.

## Do you believe in a higher power?

Yes.

## Do you want to elaborate at all or just leave it there?

Umm... I think that's sufficient.

## Would you rather be able to speak every language or play every instrument?

Speak every language.

## What is one of your favorite memories from high school?

Graduating.

## Is there any reason why that's up there for you?

I think because I was looking forward to college... I was ready to move on.

## How do you describe the way that you want to live your life?

Tricky one... How would I want to live my life... Free to be able to make the choices I want to make... Fun and adventurous.

## What is one thing that made you smile today?

Oh my God, I have to remember my day! Let's see... (Laughing) I can't even remember what I did today, why is this so challenging... I would say having lunch with one of my good friends.



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