

THE CARDINAL

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ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE



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"TRUMP COUNTRY"

Dear St. Andrew's Family,

We have arrived at midwinter, the time of year when the energy of the holidays dissipates, midterms have come and gone, and winter has set in with this year's especially wide fluctuations in climate.

I've never taken resolutions very seriously, and I always assumed no one else did either. But I was struck this past December by how many people had asked me if I had any, so over break I decided to come up with a meaningful resolution. Soon, I was blessed by the power of an Instagram influencer and illustrator, Jenny Walton, (@jennymwalton if you want to widen her influence) when she posted on her Instagram story about a book on gratitude. The introduction explained a study conducted on a group of men in their 80s. They had taken a test to gauge where they stood on a scale of pessimism and optimism and had all scored as mild pessimists. Each day, the men were tasked with writing down three different things for which they were grateful, and, after a few weeks, they were tested again. After slightly increasing the amount of

gratitude they expressed in their lives, the men had all crossed the border from pessimists to optimists.

In the instant world we live in of scrolling, double-tapping, and forgetting, this message stuck with me. Practicing gratitude falls under the umbrella of controlling one's own actions rather than reacting to and trying to control those of others. In prioritizing gratitude in my own life and in talking about it to others, I've realized it allows people to gain perspective. Whether one is stressed about academics, sports, or social life, expressing gratitude spurs a mindset shift to focusing on the positive rather than the negative and reminds us that the world is much bigger than ourselves.

This issue of The Cardinal largely highlights politics and current events in places near and far, shedding light on the complacency that worms its way in our lives. From Nicole Saridakis's experiences with the opioid crisis while working at Christiana Care, to Isabel Hwang's dive into the racial dynamics of Venezuelan society, Stewart Zurbuch's humbling reminder of the basic human

desire to live and support one's family to Cierra Martinez's realizations about the college process, this issue of The Cardinal will transport readers near and far and, hopefully, help gain perspective.

So, in addition to the 10,000 step challenge and New Year's resolutions, I want to motivate our community with another self-care challenge this winter: when you're feeling upset, when you're caught up in your own problems or your friend had a rough day, try writing down or saying out loud three things you are grateful for. Rather than succumbing to the dreary winter weather and the apathy that can accompany it, let's make this winter a time to lift our energy as a school, appreciate the opportunities St. Andrew's offers, and remember the world that exists beyond our own lives.

Thank you for stepping through the doors these writers have opened.

Stay healthy and happy,

Sofie Neil '19



DEFINING RACE: AMORPHOUS AND CONFUSING

IRIS HWANG '20

REPORT

In a recent issue of the New York Times Magazine, reporter Ruth Padawer published an article that questions our categorization of race. Sigrid E. Johnson is a 65-year-old woman who believed she was a black woman: Her parents were black, she had lived in an all-black neighborhood, and her cousin was a prominent civil rights activist. Johnson vividly remembers segregation and "whites only" water fountains, as well as her fear when a giant cross was burned in her cousin's front yard. As she grew up, Johnson attended Wilberforce, a prestigious historically black university. In other words, she was confident in her identity as a black woman. However, when the results of her DNA tests came back, she was shocked at the results. They said she was 45.306% Hispanic, 32.321% Middle Eastern, 13.714% European and 8.659% "other," which included a mere 2.978% African.

Some white supremacists have virulently denied having any non-European descent. Some who received such results argued that their DNA results were "rigged" to "spread multicul-

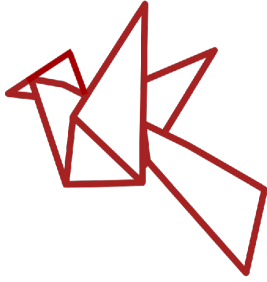
turalism" because they felt evidence of Native-American or black ancestry was so contrary to how they perceived themselves. In the case of Sigrid Johnson, she felt like "a fraud... [because she]d lived black. [She] was black." This story raises a lot of questions about how we define race: Is it merely your ancestry? Or how you were raised? What you look like? How much ancestry is necessary to claim a race?

The phrase "race is a social construct" is used frequently. Although this is accurate, I feel that it oversimplifies the complex relationships we have with race. Race is a social category, not biological. Although race impacts us in very tangible ways, it is not real. Racial differences are correlated with income inequalities, health disparities, differences in academic achievement and representation in professional sports. If one thinks that these patterns of racial differences have a biological basis, if we see them as "natural," racial inequality seems natural, and not as the product of economic, social, and political history.

However, although we can acknowledge that race isn't a biological phenomenon, it is still a significant part of our identities. Race is an integral way we perceive ourselves, affecting our lives in very real ways. "We seek out and cultivate identities to fill our need to belong, and it's through that lens of identity that we see and understand the world," said Jay Van Bavel, a psychology professor at New York University. Although Sigrid was not technically black in the sense of ancestry, she had been treated her entire life and expressed herself as a black woman. "So when you get information that challenges your identity," Van Bavel continued, "many people tune it out, just like we do with headlines and news stories when they counter our politics and belief system." This can explain why some people can react with shock and anger when their ancestry doesn't match with their self-identities. The power of DNA testing has further complicated the existing definition and qualities of race, as can be evidenced by the exceptional case of Ms. Sigrid Johnson.



THE CARDINAL



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A POLITICAL INVESTIGATION

TRUMP'S TIES TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

LILA FELDMAN '20

REPORT

Russia and the United States have always had a toxic relationship. The countries hold strongly differing political ideologies which have led to conflict in the past and continue to lead to rigidity and hate towards one another. President Trump, however, claims to have a friendship with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump even went so far as to say, "I've been nice to him. He's a competitor. ... He's not my enemy. And hopefully, someday, maybe he'll be a friend. It could happen." Given the hostility between the U.S. and Russia, this "friendship" seems potentially more harmful than beneficial. CIA agents worry that Putin "has charmed (Trump) and egged him on," and will now take advantage of the president. But, in order to better understand the CIA's worries, let's look back on how this "friendship" began.

After Trump was elected, the United States began investigations into allegations that the Russian government had interfered with the 2016 presidential election. The CIA delved into an investigation of alleged Russian hackers, and developed an interesting, hypothesis. They believe that Russian hackers were able to breach the security of the computers of many politicians within the House of Representatives as well as many largely influential non-profit organization leaders. The hacks resulted in the release of thousands of emails that revealed information about Hillary Clinton deleting numerous emails from her government account, harshly damaging her campaign. In addition, the CIA discovered evidence

in the form of payrolls from the Russian government that proves that the Russian government hired mass social media 'trolls' to create accounts and widely spread lies about Clinton's campaign. By targeting people's weakness to social media, the Russian government was able to have an influence, though we do not know of what size, on the 2016 presidential election. It was in the best interest of the Russian government to help Trump get elected as he seemed to have a 'personal' connection with Putin himself. But why is this information relevant now?

Daniel Coats, current director of national intelligence, has discovered that the Russian government may have once again attempted to interfere with the United States elections, this time in the midterms. However, this time around, the CIA is more prepared to investigate the allegations. Jim Mattis, the now resigned United States Secretary of Defense, even went as far as to call Putin a "slow learner" for attempting to utilize the same techniques to interfere with the midterm election that he did with the presidential election.

Since the U.S. was more able to detect and trace the hackers this time around, they could finally make a criminal case and charge a Russia-based accountant, Elena Khusyaynova, for interfering with the election. More specifically, Khusyaynova was charged for being part of a more than ten million dollar scheme "to sow division and discord in the U.S. political system." But this is only the beginning. Now

that the CIA is more aware of the specifics of Russian interventions, accusations, if proven correct, could damage Donald Trump's shot at reelection in 2020. Trump himself realizes this and is finally learning that many United States citizens do not seek a strong relationship with Russia. He even cancelled his G20 summit with Putin. Just a few days before the summit was supposed to occur, Michael Cohen, Trump's long term lawyer, confessed to lying before Congress, which brought up previous questions about Trump's financial ties to Russia. Though he refused to directly disclose why he cancelled the summit with Putin, he may have been attempting to distance himself from the Russian government as allegations of his ties to Russia have been widely reopened. Cancelling the summit with Putin was the most logical way to distance himself.

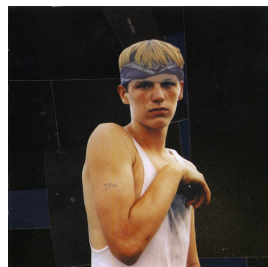
As Trump's presidency continues, it will be interesting to observe the way he continues interactions with Putin. Many U.S. representatives are on edge about Russian interaction with the U.S. as he has decided to reschedule the summit with Putin for a currently unknown time in 2019. Trump has decided to wait until special agent Robert Mueller has concluded his investigation into the alleged 2016 election interference. US reps fear that Trump is vulnerable to manipulation from the Russian dictator, and that he will somehow be taken advantage of, but only time will tell.



HERE'S WHAT I'M LISTENING TO:

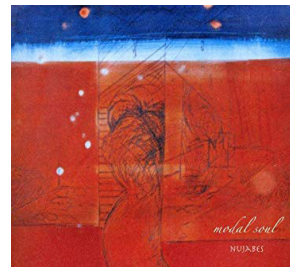
NADIA HOLCOMB '19 

"It'll All Work Out"
Break Mirrors
Blake Mills



"The Mountain"
The Mountain
Steve Earle

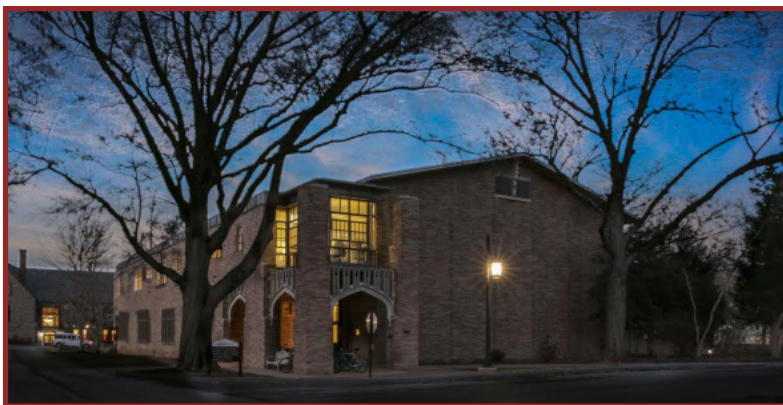
"Thank You (feat. Apani B)"
Modal Soul
Nujabes



OLD AMOS HALL

EDDIE MO '20
OBITUARY

For many, it was almost impossible to imagine St. Andrew's without Amos Hall. However, as the building undergoes renovation this year, students and teachers must confront the reality of a world without Old Amos Hall. Built in 1967, the structure was once considered to be a candidate for the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. For more than half a century, St. Andreans walked through its double glass doors, left their touches on the statue in the lobby, stood in awe at the neon rock collection, and climbed its Everest-esque staircases. Old Amos Hall had several notable physical features. Its entire second floor was, like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, tilted at an angle; this feature made it even more challenging for students to understand gravity in their already-challenging physics classes. The Amos Lecture Hall evoked a classical Greek theatre, complete with regular demonstrations of both laughter and tears. Its second-floor math classrooms held a climate that was like something between a tropical rainforest and the Sahara desert. Despite its now empty façade, the memory of Old Amos will be passed down for centuries to come.



1967 - 2018

THE OPIOID CRISIS

CLOSER THAN YOU MAY THINK

NICOLE SARIDAKIS '20

OPINION

I always enjoy when my mother and I recommend and exchange books for one another to read, because I know it will lead to ongoing and interesting conversations. This past summer, my mother suggested the book *Dreamland* by Sam Quinones. Based on the title, it sounded like an interesting book. But, it was so much more than that. *Dreamland* is a non-fiction book on the evolution of the explosive opioid epidemic from a number of different paths. While this book is incredibly informative and eye-opening, it only gave me a one-dimensional side to this severe, ongoing problem. I became intrigued and was fortunate enough to deepen my understanding this past summer; during two weeks in August, I had the opportunity to intern at Christiana Care Health System in the Addiction Medicine Department, managed by Dr. Terry Horton. This experience brought the book *Dreamland* to life.

During my internship, I accompanied the hospital staff and met with over 30 terrified patients in varying stages of withdrawal and pain. Sitting by their bedsides at the hospital, I heard many harrowing stories about what led them

to addiction. I saw firsthand that though the origins and paths to drug addiction vary, they all lead to the same dark road; for example, some addictions stem from feeling unloved and lost, while others stem from recreational experiments. Many also originate from an accidental injury or surgery warranting a prescribed painkiller; once the painkillers run out, the patients are left desperately scrounging for another drug to help them avoid the deep pain of withdrawal. That's where heroin use comes in, as the readily available and less expensive substitute. Additionally, the deadly introduction of synthetic drugs has dramatically magnified the crisis; specifically, fentanyl is so potent it can kill someone with one hit.

It has become increasingly clear to me that this is an ever-growing problem in America, but more importantly how uninformed the average person is, as he or she lives unknowingly amidst this crisis. Drugs silently take the lives of many, regardless of race, age, or economic status. Quinones states, "Overdose deaths involving opiates rose from ten a day in 1999 to one every half hour by 2012." More astounding, abuse of prescription painkillers

was behind 488,000 emergency room visits in 2011, almost tripling since 2004. More specifically and closer to home, National Institutes of Health (NIH) stated in 2016, there were 154 opioid-related overdose deaths in Delaware—a rate of 16.9 deaths per 100,000 persons, which is more than the national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, making Delaware's rate of opioid-related overdose deaths almost one-third greater than the national average (National Institute on Drug Abuse: Delaware Opioid Summary, 2016).

Dreamland, and my subsequent internship, have deepened my understanding of addiction and the fact that it truly affects everyone in some way – whether it be friends, family or an acquaintance. While it still feels to me to be a crisis just outside of my immediate world, I have become much more aware that my friends and I are still susceptible; even simple occurrences such as over-prescribed pain relief for wisdom teeth removal or a sports injury can potentially cause a deadly addiction.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL SHE SERVE?

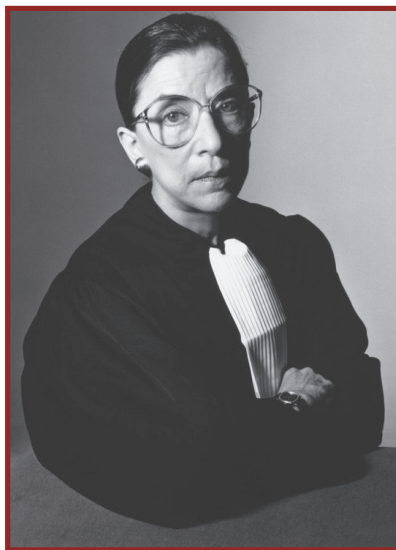
LOIS LEE '22

REPORT

A few weeks ago, 85-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had surgery to remove two cancerous growths from her left lung. Ginsburg, who was appointed by former president Bill Clinton and is a Columbia Law School graduate, was the second female justice to be confirmed to the Supreme Court. She was released five days after the surgery and has been recovering ever since. Although Ginsburg's absence from the Supreme Court has been expected, her ability to attend court after previous absences from cancer in 1999 for early stage colon cancer and in 2009 for pancreatic cancer raises questions about whether she will be returning. Ginsburg was recently forced to miss oral arguments for the first time, and hasn't given the press any indication as to whether she wants to step down.

Overall, Ginsburg's ongoing recuperation has cast an atmosphere of precariousness and uncertainty all over the Supreme Court. This and other events in the past provoked the House Judiciary Committee to approve the ROOM Act. This act mandates medical screening for close to 900 federal judges in order to assist them "with recognizing potential medical issues." This has also sparked

several questions upon whether or not Supreme Court Justices should have shorter terms. According to the results of a public poll, the analysis and essay



website THINK found that around 67% of people agreed to the statement that justices should have shorter terms, and

believed that Supreme Court justices should have shorter terms because they should be held accountable to the people. 16% weren't so sure as to whether or not justices should have shorter terms, and the remaining 17% disagreed and thought that lifelong terms were a vital part of the U.S. justice system. In addition to this poll, it's been known that age affects cognitive abilities differently. One negative factor of aging is the decrease of what is known as fluid intelligence: the ability to think and reason independently from previous knowledge. By contrast, crystallized intelligence, the ability to draw on and utilize one's sum of knowledge and experiences, increases as we age and is seen as a benefit. Crystallized intelligence enables the daily business of the Supreme Court bench and in addition promotes one's judicial development.

While this debate goes on through the prolonged absence of Ginsburg, it's known that if Ginsburg were ever to leave her bench, President Donald Trump would have his first chance to replace a confirmed liberal with a solid conservative. For this reason, many inquiries and concerns arise from Ginsburg's absence.

RACISM IN VENEZUELA: THEN AND NOW

ISABEL HWANG '20

REPORT

When you hear the word "Venezuela," what do you think? Although many countries in Latin America struggle with issues of crime, violence, and injustice, there is so much more...

Latin American nations are the closest neighbors to the United States, yet many North Americans are unaware of these nations. I found myself guilty of this ignorance but changed thanks to Profe's AS Latin American Course. I developed an interest in Venezuelan history, particularly because its current social and political troubles came up so often in the news, such as the presidential dispute between Juan Guaidó and Nicolás Maduro. Through my research, I learned that much of this present-day income, structural, and education inequality has its roots in past injustices that continue to replicate and plague Venezuelan society today - and offer a useful history lesson for racism that persists today.

In the 1920s, immigrants flocked to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for employment in its booming oil industry. For many Venezuelans, this marked their first major encounter with immigrants. Venezuelan historian Miguel Tinker Salas argues that there were stark differences in the treatment of immigrants. Immigrants from Europe and the United States were praised,

while immigrants from Asia and other Latin American countries experienced racial violence and segregated public facilities, including bathrooms. This explicit racial discrimination originated in Venezuela's *café con leche* ideal, a Spanish phrase for 'coffee with milk.' This highlighted the nation's *mestizo* or mixed identity overpowering its European and North American identity. The cause of prizing this fair-skinned fashion remains debatable, but Venezuela treasured its fair-skinned citizens much more than its darker-skinned counterparts. As a result, racism prevails in Venezuela today, regardless of specific class or racial origin.

Even as Venezuela opened its doors to the international community, differences in skin color dictated social treatment. As Salas states, "Venezuelan politicians and intellectuals openly promoted welcoming immigrants to increase the population" yet "viewed blacks and Asians with suspicion". As such, elite intellectuals like Uslar Pietri claimed that "Africans did not benefit our race in any way". In fact, this racism led the government to reject nationalization of all Afro-West Indians and Chinese because the Venezuelan middle class argued that these immigrants wrongfully took their jobs. Eventually, the government prohibited further immigration from West Indians, dubbed *El Peligro*

Negro (The Black Threat), as well as Chinese. Because of this edict, these minorities needed to carry certificates of employment and good conduct issued by oil company officials.

The newfound discovery of petroleum introduced a booming sector in an economically vulnerable nation, otherwise tied to boom and bust cycles reliant on commodities. This overreliance on one sector did not lead to a diversified economy but instead caused high unemployment. Moreover, because most oil profits ended up in the hands of *caudillos*, (military or political leaders) Venezuelans targeted immigrants and transposed frustrations on the most vulnerable ethnic groups in their community.

Unfortunately, this kind of racial scapegoating is still common today around the world. For instance, U.S. racial discourse repeats the flawed perception that immigrants "steal" jobs from "native" citizens, with similar goals of halting immigration from stereotyped undesirables. This myth should give us pause since history has frequently connected economic anxieties to dangerous racism. Thus, the Venezuelan instance of social inequality since its founding in 1815 parallels the present one in the U.S., which should help us to think about how racism works.

THE JUULING CRISIS

NOAH KATES '21

REPORT

Juuling: a crisis sweeping high schools all across the USA. Fruit medley, mango, cool cucumber, and creme brulee are just some of the deceptively alluring flavors used to attract the youth. An unfortunate, delusively unhealthy phenomenon invading the lives of high schoolers. A device meant for adults with cigarette addictions has been normalized by teenagers. It has single handedly uprooted the culture of many high schools, encouraging students to possess one. The desire to appear "cool" motivates some students to possess a Juul. This social requirement, is present in thousands of high schools. The small, yet devious device has covertly arrived at at such establishments in obvious violation of school rules. Unfortunately, these high schools have not implemented the proper rules and penalties. SAS, being an all boarding community, facilitates the adoption and execution of anti-Juuling rules.

There is an utter disregard for the ramifications of juuling among adolescents. An estimated three million U.S. adolescents currently use Juuls, many of whom have never smoked cigarettes. Juuling is a term that is so universal, it has become a verb. It has become generalized by the adolescent population as stereotypically cool. According to "High school senior sounds the alarm on teen 'juuling' trend" of ABC News, Jack Waxman, a New York high-schooler, expressed, "You couldn't be caught dead with a cigarette right now if you're a teenager, but with juuling, it's cool to Juul." Juul's success can be attributed to social coercion and the pressure to purchase one. This stigma is not only apparent in high schools but at the college level as well. At Dartmouth, 31 percent of students at the College answered in the survey that they use a Juul "when I am going out," and 30 percent of students reported that they use a Juul "with friends." This further rectifies the mindset that an adolescent uses a Juul to be generally accepted with their friend group. Drugs should not be the key to inclusivity, in any culture. A Dartmouth student acknowledged this culture, stating, "To me, Juuling is a trend, so it seems silly to start an addiction based purely on social trends — not even

because you really want to, just because other people are doing it." The student further emphasizes, "It's a trend that depends on human addiction." Juuling corporations profit, while adolescents get addicted. Health ramifications are overlooked, while pleasure is prioritized over well being.

The Juul not only negatively affects social stigmas, but also impacts an individual's health. Juul's newness poses great threat. According to "Juul e-cigarettes and teens: 'Health problem of the decade'" of CNN, Milagros Vascones-Gatski, a substance abuse counselor, describes it as "the health problem of the decade." The Juul's popularity was almost instantaneous, which is unparalleled to any other tobacco product within at least a decade. Due to this popularity, Juul can be found on campus and off. Recently, Juul Labs released a statement saying it wants to help schools get its products off their campuses. However, this still inherently encourages activity outside school. Adolescents' curiosity gets the better of them, and they are seduced by dessert-like flavors of Juul, without appraising the risks. They are negligent to the harm a Juuling might cause them, and fail to do independent research. Juul's relative newness poses a multitude of obscurities regarding health violations. Research, "has shown that nicotine exposure adversely affects cognitive function and the development of the adolescent brain". Juuling not only affects the brain but also the lungs, "Diacetyl, a chemical used to flavor some vape 'juice,' has been linked to so-called 'popcorn lung', the scarring and obstruction of the lungs' smallest airway. Research is ongoing, and many other health violations remain feasible. This "lack of information starkly contrasts the large amount of data indicating that cigarette usage has severe consequences." This negligence can be credited to the rise of Juul. Perhaps Juuls and cigarettes are comparable in terms of the magnitude of the adverse effects they inflict upon an individual's health.

Juuls not only pose a threat to one's physical health, but also to one's mental well-being. The Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes organization indicates that while

the adolescent brain is developing, the Juul is "rewiring it for other types of addictions. The change is likely permanent." Juul leads to general acceptance and experimentation with other known drugs. Individuals are even more prone to try a cigarette after Juuling. This contradicts the initial purpose of the Juul: to serve as a healthier alternative to smoking. Juuling is a whirlwind, sweeping the teenage generation, negatively influencing them. It creates the mindset that experimentation with drugs is acceptable, causing more bad than good. Initiatives and further regulations must be implemented to the general public, serving to prevent further actions, health violations, and disturbances in school and home culture.

As the Juul's popularity has increased, so has awareness. Schools and households refer to it as "our demon." It disrupts the universe of trust within each community. Parents and administrators are forced to question the integrity of their children. Every alliance helps. Every small victory is a victory. According to The Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes organization, this month in New York "over 150 parents and educators from schools across the city attended to hear from experts Dr. Sarper Taskiran of the Child Mind Institute and Katherine Prudente of Hallways" lead an informative conference raising awareness for the harsh implications of Juuling. Parents and administrators must unite and work on the vocalization of this issue. Awareness is necessary. Some progress has been made. The WCBS Newsradio 880 reports, "Gov. Andrew Cuomo plans to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes as soon as next year, possibly making New York the first state to prohibit such vaping products often marketed as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes." This prohibits and limits the future purchase of Juul products, protecting future generations from this phenomena. Hopefully other states will follow suit. Yet, how can parents and administrators take away Juuls from the teenagers that already have them? This problem is still current, and one that will be grappled with continuously. Will this cycle ever end?

THE CARDINAL



PETER
MCLEAN'S
FAVOURITES

Favourite tree:

"A bunch..." Redbud,
Sourwood, Black
Locust

Favourite ice cream flavour:

Chocolate

Favourite place:

Blue Ridge Mountains

Favourite song:

"The Sound of
Music" from *The
Sound of Music*

Favourite author:

Sue Hubble or John
McPhee

Favourite dish:

"peanuts, grits,
bread, soft-boiled
eggs..." *voice trails off*

Favourite piece of clothing:

Patagonia hat

Favourite book:

Book of Bees by
Sue Hubble

Favourite board game:

The Game of Life
Favourite holiday:

Christmas

Favourite

candle scent:

Wintergreen

Favourite

mammal:

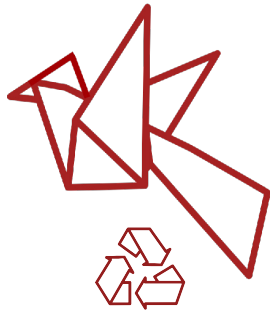
Grizzly Bear

Favourite

movie:

It's a Wonderful Life,
The Sound of Music,
October Sky

THE CARDINAL



DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE!

THIS ISSUE WAS
BROUGHT TO YOU
BY MOTHER EARTH.
PLEASE THANK
HER BY RECYCLING
IT WHEN YOU'RE
FINISHED.

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT ONE GALLON
OF GAS EMMITS 20
LBS OF CO2 INTO THE
ATMOSPHERE?

THAT FOR EVERY MILE
A PLANE FLIES, 53 LBS
OF CO2 IS EMITTED
INTO THE ATMO-
SPHERE?

GO TO **TERRAPASS.COM**
TO PURCHASE CARBON
OFFSETS AND MAKE
THE WORLD A BETTER
PLACE!

FASHION VS. CHOPSTICKS

DOLCE & GABBANA'S CONTROVERSIAL CHINA BLUNDER

CHRISTINE CHEN '21
REPORT

Bold designs, dazzling jewelry, the newest styles on some of the most recognized models... Everything is destroyed by a single clip. Dolce & Gabbana has made a terrible mistake. While the American public enjoyed their Thanksgiving dinner with their families and friends, designer apparel company Dolce & Gabbana was scrambling to make an apology video to one of their biggest markets — China.

In preparation for the winter runway extravaganza in Shanghai, dubbed "The Great Show," and to promote their cold-weather designs, Dolce & Gabbana released three short videos on the Chinese social media app, Weibo, on Nov. 21st. In the videos, an Asian woman in a lavish Dolce & Gabbana dress is shown attempting to eat a pizza, a spaghetti, and cannoli, all with chopsticks. In the pizza clip, spoken and subtitled in Mandarin, the narrator refers to this traditional eating utensil as "small, stick-like utensils," while the pizza is "great and traditional." The video ends with the woman happily using the chopsticks like "pliers," "directly shoving the pizza into [her] mouth," "careful not to drop the cheese," then revealing the countdown to Dolce & Gabbana's "The Great Show."

What Dolce & Gabbana did not anticipate was the immediate backlash of this video. Its targeted audience saw the inaccurate portrayal of Chinese culture and fashion as invoking offensive stereotypes. Many infuriated Chinese shoppers sought out and returned their purchased DG products, and Chinese retailers and e-commerce outlets responded with a boycott of Dolce & Gabbana merchandise, clearing them from the shelves.

At the same time, a screenshot of a text message conversation between fashion writer Michaela Phuong and Dolce & Gabbana's designer and co-founder Stefano Gabbana was leaked on In-

stagram. In the exchange, Gabbana initially appears to defend the campaign before making derogatory comments about China and Chinese people, revealing his real attitude towards the matter.

It was deleted from Chinese social media because my office is stupid as the superiority of the Chinese it was by my will I never canceled the post

And from now on in all the interviews that I will do international I will say that the country of 🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳🇨🇳 is China and you are also quiet that we live very well without you ❤️🙄

China Ignorant Dirty Smelling Mafia

Hahahahaha you think i'm afraid about your post????

Hahahahahahahahahahaha

Hours later, "The Great Show" was canceled.

Perhaps due to the attack he and the brand have received, Gabbana reposted that screenshot on Instagram with giant red letters "Not Me." "My Instagram account has been hacked. My legal office is working on this. I love China and Chinese Culture. I'm so sorry for what happened," he wrote.

This was again received with disdain, especially within the Chinese and Chinese American community. The clarification post has been reposted on various social media besides Instagram, including popular Chinese apps WeChat, Weibo, and Twitter, where users attacked Gabbana's lack of sincerity. Many saw the claim of a hack as "the lamest excuse," and some even labeled it "an excuse even kindergartners can come up with."

Pressured by this continued backfire, Dolce & Gabbana released an official statement on their website, as well as a formal apology

on Gabbana's Instagram account on Nov. 23rd, in which the co-founders expressed their love for China and said "sorry" in Mandarin. Gabbana has also taken down the "hacked" post. This time, the statement, with simple white letters on an all-black background and with bilingual caption (English and Mandarin), has been better received.

However, the apology has not entirely silenced this controversy. Dolce & Gabbana's Chinese market fiasco is estimated to have caused a decline of up to 20% off its brand value of \$937 million, which already places it out of the top 50 global apparel brands, and e-commerce platforms have not yet restocked their DG merchandise. Market sales in China are likely to continue at their current low, and it will take some time for DG to recover its Chinese market altogether.

"I don't think anyone will touch them," Hung Huang, a prominent Chinese fashion commentator and magazine publisher, told CNN.

As Dolce & Gabbana's China blunder reopened the debate on cultural appropriation, the Palace Museum (of the Forbidden City in Beijing), perhaps the most important museum of Chinese history and culture, approached this controversy with an intent to educate. On Nov. 22nd, the day after the promo video hit the internet, the museum released a set of 9 photos of traditional imperial chopsticks on Weibo. With the caption "Each pair is not simple," museum officials want these photos to educate the world on the different cultures, backgrounds, and the beauty of this significant utensil. "This is the real Chinese style," posted a Chinese internet influencer, "[A chopstick] is much more than just something we eat with. It's a part of our culture, our Chinese roots."

Perhaps in this fight, chopsticks won everyone's respect after all.



ANALYZING COLLEGE-PROCESS ANGST

CIERRA MARTINEZ '20

OPINION


The class of 2020 has officially started the college process. Many of our parents attended a seminar the morning everyone left for Thanksgiving Break. We had to fill out an autobiographical survey that asked for our passions and favorite subjects. We are in the stage that I can best describe as dipping our toes into university water. But even before the college process began, I was not enthused by it, and I have some theories for why.

One reason why I am apprehensive about the college process is good old-fashioned insecurity about my academic performance. This can't be surprising, because this is easily a universal source of college related dread in people around the world. What might be surprising is that the insecurity itself has uniquely St. Andrean roots. See, it all traces back to freshman year. In my freshman year in this institution, many upperclassmen assured me that freshman year is, by far, the easiest experience at St. Andrew's. In many ways, they were right—the workload was lighter, the expectations lower, and there was always someone to hold my hand through unfamiliar situations. Much of the difficulty in freshman year came from adjusting to the people and then structure of living here. It is understandable that the upperclassmen who told me that

freshman year was entirely easy did not take into account that adjusting to the way of life at St. Andrew's is not in any way intuitive. And, like everything else that one has to learn at school, some people figured it out with less difficulty than others.

The myths did not stop in freshman year. My upperclassmen told me that my sophomore year would academically be my easiest year, and that I would spend all of my time socializing. Again, I did not find this to be true. I did find my classes to be more exciting, though I wouldn't call them easy, and definitely continued to struggle with communicating with my teachers and time management. What disturbed me the most, however, was that I did not feel like I was spending a ton of time with my friends. On dorm, there was a growing chasm between the resident life of Lower and Upper Moss. I felt my entire grade succumb to groups with their own unique drama and crises. I realized how difficult it is to spend time with people when we do not share classes. I still spent time and had fun with my friends, but it disturbed me a little bit when I felt difficulty reaching out to people, almost as if, because my sophomore did not match the caricature that my upperclassmen provided, I was failing my sophomore experience. Again, I understand that my upperclassmen

would tell me this. After all, I did not have to worry about adjusting to St. Andrew's, and did not yet have to stress about the college process. My upperclassmen, who were immersed in the college process (and the anxiety that came with it), probably glorified their own sophomore year.

Another reason why I am apprehensive about the college process is simply because, obviously, I have never been to college before. Every time I switch learning institutions, I start to think of my transition as the beginning of the rest of my life. On one hand, this is ridiculous and short-sighted. On the other hand, it speaks to how easy it is to succumb to the cliché that life begins not when one is born, but when one becomes conscious of all of the lessons that one learned in the past and begins to live according to this new ethic that they developed. And because this is a trope that I have internalized from TED Talks and romantic comedies and the like, I don't blame myself for it. But it is still difficult to shake. So as this year progresses, I am trying to take everything that my upperclassmen tell me with a grain of salt, and with the wisdom that I acquired by my own singular experiences. Junior year is tough, but everything that I have done as a student has prepared me for it. 

A CLOSER LOOK AT "TRUMP COUNTRY"

STEWART ZURBUCH '21

REPORT

The date is November 7th, 2016, and the thought going through many people's minds is, "How could this happen?" Donald Trump has just been elected president, and many are in shock. First, they wonder who would vote for a man with multiple women, a tape, and numerous people who have worked under and around him speaking to his outright abominable behavior and lack of moral code. Then, many make an assumption: "One of his main campaign points was his wall. He is clearly a racist, and it showed in his campaign. His supporters must be just that, racists." This assumption, like most, is dangerous and misinformed. Sure, many of Trump's supporters we hear about on the news are some of the most despicable: the Neo-Nazis, the Klan, and other examples of bigotry and hate. But these people are not his entire base. For some, Trump is just another desperate attempt to reclaim their livelihoods and communities.

The national unemployment rate in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is 3.7% as of August 2018, but in areas of rural West Virginia, the unemployment rate, or the percentage of the population without jobs, can range anywhere from 5.9 percent to 8.6 percent in McDowell County. These are areas of the country in which coal used to thrive. In the early 1990's, the number of miners employed to work underground in mines was 21,602. Now, that number has dropped to 10,153. There are different justifications used for this drop. Some




write it up to a combination of the global outsourcing of the coal industry, mostly to China, and the rise of automation. Others blame Obama era regulations designed to limit the impact of coal mining and processing on the environment. Either way, many people lost their source of income to this decline in an industry that dominated the economy of Southern West Virginia for decades.

These people have only experienced pain and suffering due to the decline in the coal industries. While dangerous, coal mining was one of the few high paying jobs offered to people who did not have the opportunity to graduate from high school. Working as a miner, one could come in on the first day with no experience and receive a salary of \$70,000 per year. Understandably, when the coal industry hit its downward

curve and thousands lost their jobs, the newly unemployed were left with nothing; no job, no transferable experience, and no higher level education.

This is the state the people of "coal country" were in when the 2016 election arrived. The former miners were offered two options. One presidential candidate told them that coal can never come back. The other candidate promised them that once he removes regulations that he blames for the decline of the coal industry, each and every one of them will get their well-paying jobs back. Unsurprisingly, Trump won McDowell county with 74 percent of the vote.

The people of rural West Virginia are not all racists. They are not all "deplorables." They are simply people who want to live a decent life and provide for their families. Donald Trump promised a return to an era of prosperity and hope for these people, and they were, and still are, desperate. Even though Trump has repealed many of the regulations he promised that he would, unemployment in Southern West Virginia has only marginally dropped, and even these changes could be chalked up to continued recovery from the 2008 financial crisis. The coal industry was these peoples' only source of wealth, and with it mostly gone, serious and extreme change will need to happen in order to restore prosperity to the area. The people of West Virginia placed their hopes in Trump, and so far he has failed them. Now, they wait for another opportunity to change. 

A CASE FOR BEARDED DRAGONS

NADIA HOLCOMB '19

H K X B Z H P L F P W L Q L H P F G S U I Q G H P
T I D O I R D I M Z S D T O X G K S X Z M H N Z R
D R F O I S P Y P U O W N M S X P B I S Q A B R O
R E C D Z T M C V D M S Q D F Y F X G Y R P G F H
Z X X X B X I O W W E R Y R J O M N T E O P M U B
F J A E A R E O T I T D G A A Q T I T C I Y P R X
A O P H X O L L P S I O T G N F L E K O B P L K K
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REASONS, WE, SHOULD, ALLOW, REPTILIAN, PETS :

THEY, ARE, CUTE

THEY ARE **FUN**

THEY **MAKE, PEOPLE, HAPPY**

THEY **TEACH, RESPONSIBILITY**

THEY **LOOK, COOL**

THEY **DO, NOT, HAVE, FUR**

THEY ARE **SOMETIMES, BEARDED, DRAGONS**

I **WANT** A BEARDED **DRAGON**

PLEASE, MRS, DUPREY

PLEASE