

# The Cardinal

Friday, May 15th, 2020

St. Andrew's School, Middletown, DE



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Good Luck to Next Year's Editors

Editors: Iris Hwang '20, Isabel Hwang '20, Nicole Saridakis '20, and Tim Odutula '20

## SAS on Zoom: A Student's Review

William Zhuang '21

It's been over a month since our SAS life has been transformed into its online form, I'm sure all of you, student and faculty alike, have felt the drastic changes that followed the school's suspension. In this article, I will be reviewing my post-quarantine experience under the following categories: Classroom, socializing, and free time/extracurriculars.



### Classroom

As far as teaching methods go, nothing has shifted as much as some may expect. Most of my classes are still run under the classic Harkness style, which doesn't require much other than people's preparation before classes and in-class participation. Even for math classes, where the students often split into smaller groups, Zoom's breakout room function makes it very easy and accessible. However, what Zoom doesn't offer is the daily chit-chatting that takes place in any normal classroom. Though teachers might be slightly relieved by the lack of disruptions during class, it has been weird not being able to poke the people that usually sit next to you and talk about completely off-topic subjects until the teacher cold-calls on you. Furthermore, unlike at school, where teachers usually ask you to shut off your computer, we now, quite ironically, need our screens on at all times in order to pay attention to a class. Without anyone supervising, the temptation to browse through random websites is magnified, and as guilty as one may feel, sometimes it's just as hard to resist clicking on the newest video from your favorite YouTuber. Ultimately, though the classroom experience is maximally preserved in terms of structure, it's inevitably difficult for students to hold nearly the same level of engagement.

### Socializing

This is an interesting one. With how immersed everyone is with social media nowadays, many of us may not feel disconnected from our friends at all. Surely, the vibrant internet culture we are exposed to makes it easy for people to catch up with friends through FaceTime, Zoom meetings or even gaming. However, one aspect that is hard to retrieve is the "collective" experiences we share with one another. At school, all of us are constantly under the same roof, engaging in similar activities, which makes it almost impossible for people not to be a part of each other's memories. But as a result of social distancing, people are now limited to their own spaces, unable to participate in

events with the presence of many others. Another interesting factor to consider is the concept of acquaintances. At school, we talk to a lot of people who we may not think of as our close friends, but it may not necessarily feel comfortable to reach out to these people over the internet since we never want to bring ourselves to what could potentially be an awkward situation. Regardless, we should still try and take the risk by branching out as we do at school, for that an unexpected message does have the power of brightening up someone else's day.

### Free time/Extracurriculars

One of the major complaints people have, while on campus, is the lack of free time we are given. We are so used to the hectic routine the school plans for us: Friday night form functions, Saturday morning lectures, sports practices and games... There are times when obligations just seem to pile on and on. Well, now we are facing quite the opposite. Other than classes from 8:50-12:50 and occasional meetings, we basically own all of the time to ourselves. Unfortunately, it's also challenging to find fulfilling ways to spend this abundance of time with the boundaries created by the pandemic. Mixing in the irrational pressure to be using our time productively, it is really easy for anxiety to foster itself over time. That's why it is so crucial for us to recognize this time period as an opportunity to contribute to our families, who are also facing an extremely challenging situation. As boarding school students, we spend the majority of the year on campus, which makes the quarantine a rare occasion for most of us to reconnect with families. Even if you feel like you've run out of things to do at this point, simply tending to your family's needs can go a long way.

### Conclusion

Overall, while it is apparent that our lives have been affected in dramatic manners, it is equally as important to see that not everything is pointing in a negative direction. There is certainly a lot that we are unable to do at the moment, which makes creativity and positivity even more needed than usual. Since the community can't be physically reconvened as of now, the responsibility of protecting the unity as our school falls into the hands of the students. Even though it is a hard task to accomplish, the best all of us can do is to stay engaged with the community, both academically or socially, to set ourselves right back to full speed once we return to campus.

## Community During Quarantine

Teddy Pyle '21

Much about our lives has changed due to quarantine. From online classes to three day weekends to a pass-fail grading system, our isolated way of living may seem antithetical to the St. Andrew's community we value so much. In spite of this, many of us have worked hard to sustain and uphold our community, despite our circumstances. Billy and Steph have created virtual school meetings that unite our community, Ms. Pressman founded the Lyceum to help us engage intellectually, and our RLs have devised dorm functions to help us connect despite our isolation. I decided to interview various students to answer the question, "How has our community changed during quarantine?"

Dorm life is the most obvious way that our quarantine has altered our community. Without students living together on dorm, it can be difficult to foster a sense of camaraderie or dorm unity. To combat this, many dorms are hosting virtual functions. When asked if dorm dynamics had changed, one RL noted "Definitely, since less people come to our functions. The people who come are the people who are willing to be more active in seeking the preservation of the social bonds in the dorm. Under these conditions, the students in the dorm have a choice as to whether they want to be social or not, whereas at school it was more required". Under quarantine our dorm communities have become limited to those who seek them, rather than being a mandatory part of everyday life. This creates a community by choice, where students only interact with each other when they choose, rather than interacting based on circumstance and casual contact.

This new community by choice is a change from what we are used to, but it is not all negative. The same RL added, "Rather than creating new bonds with people we might not interact with as much, we are strengthening the dynamic with the people who are willing to keep it going". The growth and development of new connections have been stopped for the time being. Rather than branching out and talking to new people, students are turning to the friends they already have, and strengthening those bonds.

This community by choice is not just limited to dorm life. In agreement with this sentiment, one student noted, "It definitely takes more effort to talk to people than before, ... but by having to seek them out, I feel like my conversations have become less small talk in the hallways and longer and more meaningful conversations". Due to our isolation and separation from a common space, we have lost the random conversations with people we don't know. However, perhaps in response to this, our conversations with friends have become more significant. The increased rarity of these conversations seems to make them more valuable.

While nothing can replace cheering a classmate on the field, striking up a conversation during morning break, or listening to music on the front lawn, meaningful conversations are still happening, and some friendships are growing even stronger. For those who opt in, our bonds are as strong as ever.

## Survival is Insufficient: Why Arts and Writing are especially important during this Pandemic

Christine Chen '21

It's been four weeks since you've last stepped out of the house, other than to walk the dog or take out the trash. You're bored. Instinctively, you open up a book that's been on your to-read list for too long and play some music. Or perhaps you click open Netflix and binge the next season of the Tiger King. Or the latest blockbuster movie that is now streamable. Perhaps you're singing in the bathroom again, at the mirror, in the shower, or to your goldfish. If you're feeling fancy, you might try to find that coloring book you bought that one time—if you can find it.

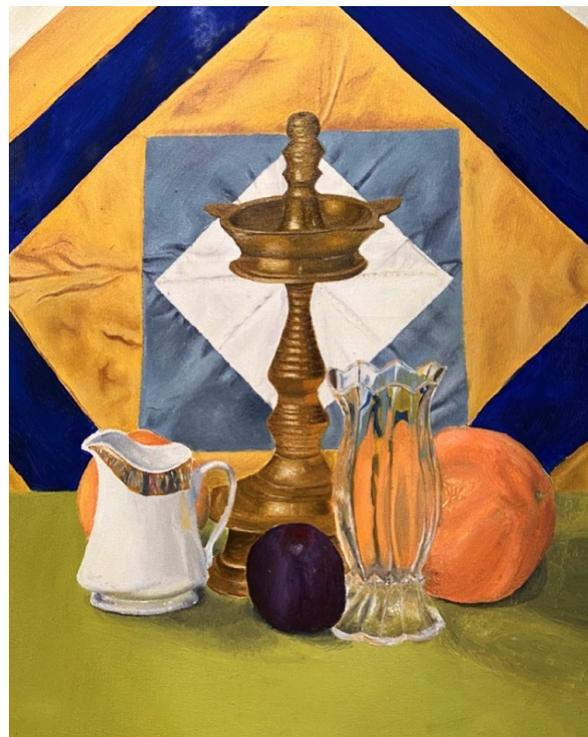
The point is, no matter the form, we all turn to artists in this difficult time, even without realizing it.



Top: Ashlie Doucette '21

Right: Aina Puri '23

Credit to @sas\_visualarts



Yes, it is scary to have our lives uprooted. Yes, it feels weird to have our routines disrupted. Yes, many of us are tired of being stuck at home, even though we understand it's the safe and smart thing to do. Life seems so uncertain and the future so out of reach. But there is one constant—art.

Whether you do it to pass the time, destress, or procrastinate—it's ok, you can say it—or if you're seriously interested in the plot and character development of a particular story, you are turning to different forms of art to cope, to slow down, to find a sense of peace and normalcy in an unprecedented time. Whatever you need, the arts can provide.

The truth is, “in times of uncertainty, art can be a steadying force.”<sup>[1]</sup> Just as Alexandra Chaves has written in her blog, it reminds us of the human capacity to create and endure, that there is beauty even now, or, to borrow a phrase from a recent movie I've watched, “there are bright places, even in dark times.”

What if you can't find an art form that helps you right now? What if you feel like life is too turbulent for you to enjoy something? Well, like what the main character Finch has told Violet in *All the Bright Places*, “if there isn't, you can be that bright place.”

As a writer myself, I believe that if I cannot find the story I'm looking for, it just means I can get to write it. The same applies to all art forms. My personal experience during this pandemic so far has not been the easiest or the most pleasant, but every day I remind myself that if I put pen to paper, I can regain some control over my narrative. I can write my own story. This is why I started journaling, to recount and to reflect on what every day is like. This is why I've been writing poetry and performing them, too. By putting words to a difficult experience, as this is for everyone, I strive to give it less power; I'm acknowledging how I feel and grounding myself that way. The same applies to all other art forms. In creating, we are able to look back at a piece of ourselves and begin to process this difficult, confusing experience we all share.

And it doesn't matter if you are good at writing or art. You don't have to ever show your work to anyone. It can be for yourself, for healing, for growth. But if you do choose to share your creations, know that these are your records of a historical event, that you are writing history as well as your life story. It's how we leave our marks.

So go pick up a book, a pen, and let your heart sing. Remember to let art into your life because survival is insufficient.

## Whistleblowing Doctors to GitHub – The fight for Independent Journalism in COVID-19 China

Jun Choi '22

The Communist Party of China, commonly known as the CCP, is a subject tentatively discussed in the United States. Due to a large sum of foreign trade occurring with the global superpower, there is a growing hesitancy to offer criticisms of the CCP's leadership and history.

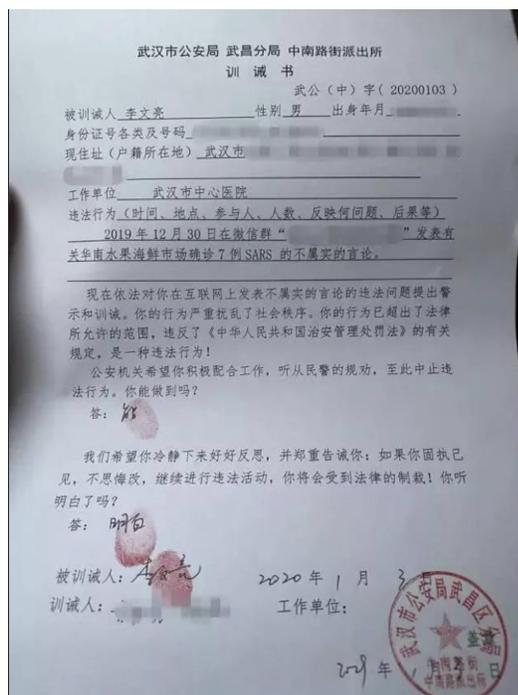
The famous quote from philosopher George Santayana reads, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" rings loud and true for the CCP's blatant censorship. However, how can you recall something that is wiped from history? Censorship runs rampant in the CCP, ranging from censorship of Mao's Cultural Revolution to the deaths at the 1989 Tiananmen Square student protests. The political censorship of such atrocities dangerously screams 1984-esque tones of George Orwell's famous dystopian novel.

It was expected, given the CCP's historical trend of censorship, that news surrounding COVID-19 would be heavily monitored and suppressed. It is also worth mentioning that Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international non-profit and non-governmental organization dedicated towards press freedom, ranks China 177th out of 180 possible nations on the World Press Freedom Index. All news outlets are controlled by the state, meaning there is no freedom of speech for the press. Complete oversight of all social media channels leads to severely restricted sources of information, coupled with fears of jail sentences for speaking out against the CCP's narrative. According to CNN, on May 1, Chen Jieren, a "former Chinese state media journalist turned anti-corruption blogger," was sentenced to fifteen years in a Chinese prison for statements against the CCP. While Chen's case has no relationship to COVID-19, it sends a firm message to independent bloggers and reporters that would dare report against the CCP.

Despite knowing the full extent of the risks associated with independent reporting, several heroes rose to the call for information in the early days of the pandemic. On December 26, the Hubei Province Hospital observed an unknown pneumonic virus that had attacked the lungs of a patient. The lab report was forwarded to the Wuhan CDC, where several researchers and doctors were able to analyze it. The late Doctor Li Wenliang was a 33-year-old ophthalmologist that analyzed the virus as a SARS-like (Severe Acute Respiratory Symptom) pathogen. On December 30, 2019, he sent the report in a group chat of seven other medical workers in an effort to warn them. The message was spread to family and friends and consequently distributed extensively throughout Weibo. Several days later, on January 3, the Public Security Bureau of China

summoned him and the seven others, interrogating and forcing them to sign a letter of admonition that effectively declared their message as “false rumors.” Attached below is the official letter of admonition, courtesy of Terminus Endpoint Star Project (aka Terminus2049).

However, the censorship didn’t stop there. Doctor Li Wenliang’s message had the potential to alert the world at an extremely early stage in the pandemic. Instead, CCP officials saw it fit to ban the following terms from Chinese social media apps on December 31. Attached below is a list of words banned from the social media app YY.



seen, all terms indicate the beginning of censorship and scrutiny surrounding any terms that were related to COVID-19. The early days of this virus were spent maintaining normalcy instead of spreading public awareness. After more information regarding the virus was made public knowledge in January 2020, independent interest in the virus began to peak.

It didn’t help the CCP that on February 7, Dr. Li Wenliang passed away from COVID-19. The doctor and whistleblower’s death sent shockwaves of anger throughout the nation, as the social media giant Weibo saw the hashtag “#WomenYaoYanlunZiyou” trending. If translated, it means “We want freedom of speech”. Of course, the hashtag was quickly censored and removed, but not before being circulated nearly 2 million times and viewed by countless people.

As Table 1 provides a selection of censored keywords in this category.

Language	Keyword	English Translation	Date Added
Simplified Chinese	武汉不明肺炎	Unknown Wuhan pneumonia	2019-12-31
Simplified Chinese	武汉海鲜市场	Wuhan seafood market	2019-12-31
Simplified Chinese	沙士变异	SARS variation	2019-12-31
Traditional Chinese	爆發sars疫情	SARS outbreak in Wuhan	2019-12-31
Simplified Chinese	武汉卫生委员会	Wuhan Health Committee	2019-12-31
Simplified Chinese	p4病毒实验室	P4 virus lab	2019-12-31

Table 1: A selection of keywords added to YY’s blacklist on December 31, 2019

The death of Dr. Li Wenliang, the first whistleblower, shined a light on the CCP's systematic failures. His death incited anger and political dissent within China, as it rightfully should have. Publicly shaming the doctors and labeling them as liars did nothing for the nation except incite fear amongst medical workers and uncertainty amongst the people. Dr. Li Wenliang's death was a wakeup call for millions. It released pent up frustration of censorship and lies the CCP was feeding them.

Nevertheless, Dr. Li Wenliang wasn't the only citizen committed to the truth. There were multiple independent journalists committed to finding the truth and uncovering lies. Even so, going against the CCP's narrative carried grave risks. The first victim was Chen Quishi, a human rights lawyer. He recorded videos of Wuhan's hospitals in late January, from the chaotic scenes of COVID-19 victims lying in trolleys and hospital corridors. As he continued to record and upload, it quickly garnered the attention of government officials. In a video he recorded days prior to his disappearance, he says, "As long as I am alive, I will speak about what I have seen and what I have heard. I am not afraid of dying. Why should I be afraid of you, Communist Party?". He has not been seen or heard from since February 6, 2020.

Mr. Fang Bin, a businessman from Wuhan, has been missing since February 9, 2020. He gained online notoriety after spreading videos of victims in makeshift morgues to show the world the full extent to which the virus had impacted China. His computer was seized several days later by the police. On the day he disappeared, Fang Bin uploaded a 12-second video with a roll of paper that read, "Let all citizens resist! Power to the people!".

Other notable disappearances include Ren Zhiqiang, a longtime influential member of the CCP. After publishing an essay that criticized the current CCP leadership's response to COVID-19, he hasn't been heard from. In an essay that called for China to "wake up", Ren Zhiqiang alluded to President Xi Jinping as a "power-hungry clown". His relatives believe he is currently held in an undisclosed location in Beijing.

However, it isn't only the work of independent journalists that are being censored. One of the few websites to seep through China's "Great Internet Firewall" is the US-based coding website GitHub, a free online software repository. Due to its availability, journalists and citizens use "projects" to document experiences and articles. Chen Mei and Cai Wei, two volunteers that participated in the GitHub project titled "Terminus2049," were recently arrested and have not been heard from. Cai Wei and his girlfriend were arrested under the crime of "provoking trouble" on April 19. Chen Mei has also been missing since that same day. The only link between these three is the Terminus2049 project.

So, what is the Terminus2049 project? The website self-describes the Terminus2049 project as a "decentralized way to back up deleted articles on platforms

such as WeChat and Weibo.” If you were to scroll through the project, you’d find hundreds of articles written by citizens that have been censored by the CCP. The project allowed millions access to independent journalism in a severely restricted internet environment. However, with the recent arrests of Chen Mei and Cai Wei, Terminus2049 was finally blocked in mainland China. A sister project titled 2020 nCOV memory had decided to temporarily suspend operations. Ran by seven anonymous volunteers around the world, the targeting of Terminus2049 has successfully instilled fear within those dedicated to the truth.

It’s crucial to note that if we ask ourselves, what there is to gain from levying fault and blame on any nation for the spread of COVID-19, the answer would be simple – absolutely nothing. Each nation and its leadership are solely responsible for their systematic failures and issues regarding leadership that has enabled the spread of this global pandemic. The world had weeks and months to prepare for this virus. While challenging to accept, every nation must realize that it is impossible to self-absolve by redirecting blame elsewhere. Despite President Trump’s speculative claims of COVID-19’s origin, no amount of blame can help those currently suffering from this deadly respiratory illness.

It would be a belittlement and an act of disrespect to let the names of these men and women fade away into history, especially given the circumstances in which they disappeared or died. The least that we can do as compassionate human beings is remember those that risked everything to speak up and find the truth. It’s possible to say that it isn’t within our rights or interests to report or dictate anything about sovereign matters in foreign countries such as China. Nonetheless, we must maintain conscientiousness concerning the flagrant human rights violation committed against these journalists. The stories of these brave individuals invoke the humanity and morality we are taught on a daily basis.

## A World Without Sports

Arvin Vanikar '21

The financial impact of the Coronavirus is currently being felt worldwide and has affected businesses both small and large. No business has been impervious to the worldwide shutdown that has taken place. Not even the billion-dollar sports industry that should be in full swing right now. But the effects of the virus itself are not the only thing standing in the way of a return to sports normalcy. Social distancing measures have made it nearly impossible for the four major sports leagues in the United States; NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, as well as many others, to operate as they typically would, and several leagues including the NBA, MLB, and NHL have been forced to suspend their regular seasons. Many experts fear that if things do not change soon seasons may have to be canceled. But the implications of such a decision are far-reaching as it is not just the billionaire owners' pocketbooks who will be hurt. Thousands of arena and team workers have been laid off or are currently furloughed and do not have adequate funds to support themselves.



While many athletes and organizations have committed to helping offset lost wages (NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell recently forgone his 40 million dollar salary), there are still many workers worried about how they will provide for their families while unable to work. Many solutions have been proposed including but not limited to; the idea of playing all games in a single city, shortened seasons or going straight into the playoffs, and even the possibility of playing games without fans in attendance. But all these proposed solutions have logistical issues and experts remain skeptical about whether any of the proposed solutions would be feasible as many governors have already stated that resuming sports should not be the priority. However, President Trump recently hosted a call with the commissioners of many American sports leagues expressing his hope that sports can resume sooner rather than later as they can provide a sense of comfort for Americans. In the meantime, however, with the sports world on pause, ratings for the few sports-related things still happening have been skyrocketing. The NFL draft recently drew 55 million viewers which is an all-time high. The sports

documentary *The Last Dance*, which details the story of the 97-98 Chicago Bulls, has averaged 5.8 million viewers per episode, far surpassing any other ESPN documentary debut. And while live sports may not return anytime soon fans can take comfort in the reruns of famous games that are currently being shown on nearly every sports channel and can remain hopeful that one-day sports will return.

## Coronavirus Shapes Delivery Industry

Tracy Yuan '22

As the number of coronavirus cases breaks 800,000 in the U.S. and social-distancing becomes established as a norm, the food delivery industry sees both an opportunity and a challenge. On one hand, due to the mandated shut-down of restaurant dining rooms, restaurant workers have plenty of free time, providing shop owners the labor force to start self-delivery services. On the other hand, the demand for third-party delivery services has surged. According to data from market research firm NPD Group, food delivery orders in the United States skyrocketed 67% in March compared to the same month last year. Responding to the economic pressure coronavirus has placed on local restaurants, UberEats waived delivery fees for consumers and Grubhub hasn't been collecting commission fees from restaurants. Although these are meant to be temporary changes, they might have lasting effects. Melissa Wilson from Technomic, a foodservice industry research company, suggested that "it's going to be really hard to reinstate delivery fees." There are two major reasons: first, the common usage of the subsidized delivery fee has changed consumers' behaviors and many of them are price-shopping their delivery providers now. Second, restaurants are unlikely to be in strong shape in the aftermath of coronavirus, making it hard for them to afford a 20% or 30% commission fee. While delivery services are adjusting flexibly and helping restaurants stay afloat during this time of the pandemic, in the long term these changes can likely be heavy blows on the profitability of third party delivery platforms such as Grubhub and UberEats. How they will cope with these threats are yet to be seen.

## North Carolina's Senator Burr - Profiting while Americans Suffer

Jun Choi '22

The financial markets have seen quite the hit in recent months, as global markets reel from the devastating impacts of COVID-19. The American stock market began to see its fair share of the global pandemic on January 31, as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted nearly 600 points in one day. This was just the icing on the cake. Despite record highs in early February, the international spread of COVID-19 and the inevitable nature of its spread in the United States provoked the single largest one-week drop since the 2008 financial crisis. As stocks entered a period of high volatility, the market saw one of the biggest sell-offs recorded in history, reaching a 30% drop at its lowest point. This sudden volatile market hurt countless American families and their investments. However, the hurt didn't stop there. In the last six weeks, the United States has received over 30 million jobless claims from American citizens, all furloughed or laid off due to limited business revenue during the lockdown. But there was one man amongst multiple that betrayed the trust of the American people during these trying times.



It was a man elected into office by the people. No, it's not President Trump. The man is Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr, a Republican from North Carolina. As the Intelligence Chairman and a member of the Health Committee, Senator Burr was part of multiple closed-door briefings on COVID-19 in late January. This was weeks prior to the historic sell-off, and he gained insider information on the potential impacts of COVID-19. Conveniently, Senator Burr sold his stock totalling a near sum of 1.5 million dollars on February 13, a day after multiple indexes reached record highs. ProPublica's report details 33 single-day transactions, the most he's traded in the last 14 months. Many of his stocks included holdings in hotels, which have nearly halved in value since.

But the outrage doesn't lie within the fact that Senator Burr was potentially protecting his assets and investments. No, the outrage lies within the fact that Senator Burr co-published an op-ed on February 7, telling the American Public that "the United States today is better prepared than ever before to face emerging public health threats, like the Coronavirus". Then several days later, he sells over a million dollars in stocks. If this wasn't the cherry on top, NPR obtained a damning recording from a private luncheon Burr attended on February 27. At this stage of COVID-19's spread, there were less than a 100 cases in the United States. Burr told everybody at the luncheon that COVID-19 would be "much more aggressive in its transmission than anything we have seen in recent history". But the public was never told any of this. In any of Senator Burr's public conferences or published pieces, he never warned Americans what was to come.

This should incite outrage and anger. Senator Burr was informed of the virus's threat weeks ahead, but decided to publish an op-ed for people to remain calm. He used information obtained from these meetings to silently profit as he proceeded to sell a fortune in stocks at the market's peak. The message he relayed during the luncheon was not a message relayed to Americans. The same Americans that voted his name in ballots, with the hope that he would represent and take care of them. In a cowardly act, the Senator didn't recant his earlier statement, and decided to remain silent.

Since this has hit major headlines, Senator Burr has denied that he acted on insider information. He has faced calls for immediate resignation, and the Justice Department has opened an investigation into his sales. Amongst many crimes that should anger Americans, Senator Burr's incompetency and reluctancy, coupled with his schematic sell-off, is a moral crime that calls into question his integrity and character. In a time when millions of Americans are experiencing financial difficulties, the appalling actions of Senator Burr deserve thorough scrutiny and examination. His betrayal is not only to his voters, but to the American public. Senator Burr's appalling actions only divide our Nation in this time of crisis, as elected officials should strive to serve the American people in this pandemic, not their financial interests. History will not be a kind judge to Senator Burr's actions.

## Racism & Xenophobia During the Pandemic

Sonal Bhatia '22

It's the same story with a different target. As an excuse to single out communities, fear has become a repetitive occurrence in modern history. When Muslims look similar to members of ISIS, people begin to make obscene generalizations. The Muslim community faced prejudice after 9/11 and the war on ISIS. Islamophobia grew so strong that approximately 82% of Americans today feel that Muslims are subject to some form of bigotry, according to a study at the [Pew Research Center](#). The number of hate crimes continues to grow by hundreds each year. When you thought that racism and misdirected hatred could not get any worse, another occurrence took place. All that changed was the target.

During the times of COVID-19 pandemic, fear has permeated our society once more. However, that should not allow bigotry to flourish on the pretext of panic. The country is under attack, as the president claims, by the "invisible enemy" - one he names as the "Chinese virus" without faltering. Racism feeds off of the pandemic, with fear as a justification for contempt. Across the globe, Asian-Americans are victims of hate crimes and bias.

In Sydney, a 60-year-old Asian man died on the streets of Chinatown, after bystanders refused to give him CPR in fear of the virus. The hashtag #ChineseDontComeToJapan trended on Twitter. Tik Tok videos blamed the Chinese for "eating bats." In Malaysia, 250,000 people signed a petition for the nation to ban Chinese citizens from entering the country because of their "unhygienic lifestyle." Several businesses in Vietnam and South Korea are hanging signs saying that Chinese customers are not welcome. A Korean man in Jordan was severely assaulted and mocked for his Asian appearance. A Chinese woman in Germany was sprayed with disinfectant by her neighbor. An assailant brutally stabbed an Asian family in Texas, claiming that they were spreading the virus.

These examples are only a handful of the thousands of reports across the world. The Asian community is being considered responsible for the virus, when, in reality, it was the lack of immediate response that caused the immense spread. Singling out communities will not result in a cure for the virus. Blaming, attacking, and hating one another will not solve the pandemic. The time is not to hate or blame; instead, it is time to support one another by staying at home. Instead of differentiating one another, we must stand together. The only way we will get through this pandemic is together - together but apart.

## The Current Food Crisis

Emily Wei '23

After baking for five days in a row, I hear my mom in the room next door jumping around to her Zumba workout. In the past few weeks, I've made countless recipes thanks to the extra time on my hands and weekly grocery deliveries. Whenever I watch Netflix, I unconsciously consume bowls and bags of snacks. Recently, I stumbled upon a What Would You Do? video by ABC on Youtube of a woman being shamed for buying food with food stamps. Unaware, the autoplay function led to another video about the current food stamp situation as many people are unable to find food stamp eligible products in empty grocery stores. As one video led onto another, I found myself down a rabbit hole of researching the current food situation in the US.

Around 38.1 million Americans live in poverty, and gaining access to food is particularly difficult during COVID-19. Currently, 22 million students in the U.S. rely on free or reduced lunch in schools, and a majority of these children and teenagers are eligible for free breakfasts as well. But as of April 23, 26 million people have filed for unemployment. This puts many parents in difficult positions to bring food on the table for their families. While food pantries are experiencing shortages, many people are forced to put themselves in danger by going to ravaged grocery stores to fulfill their needs.

Meanwhile, farmers around the country are dumping and trashing most of their produce due to lack of business. Many farms in the US do not directly supply grocery stores; they instead supply larger food businesses such as school cafeterias, restaurants, and other greater food vendors. However, farmers are now left with tons of food no one is paying for. According to the Dairy Farmers of America, 2.7 to 3.7 million gallons of milk are trashed each day, and 750,000 eggs are smashed each week by one single chicken processor. In addition, RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness concluded that Americans have an evident habit of constantly eating out.



Around 35% of vegetables and 15% of fruit is consumed outside of households which is a large portion of business for many farmers.



Ironically, despite all the food being thrown out, many households in the US struggle to stay fed and food banks work hard to keep food on the shelves. At first, I found it extremely upsetting that many farmers would rather trash food than donate it as many people remain hungry. However, after more research, I found that plenty of farmers have attempted to donate to food banks and to package small portions of their produce to sell in grocery stores. But because of the limited space on farms and food banks with only so many refrigerators, lots of items continue to be discarded. On top of that, many farmers have experienced great financial loss and are not able or willing to increase financial spendings required in the process of donating food.

All over the world, hunger has become a prevalent issue during this crisis. The United Nations estimated that amidst COVID-19, 265 million people in the world would face hunger. Despite being a first world country, lack of access to nutritious food continues to be an obstacle for many Americans. Although the percentage of people living in poverty in the US is only around 11.8%, it is important to recognize that these are still tens of millions of people who are hungry and deserve help.

## A Farewell to the Seniors and a Welcome from Jill '21 and Nick '21

Noah Kates '21

We don't normally have sympathy for the seniors. By this time of the year, they know what college they will be attending. Standardized tests are behind them. They get to cruise through the last semester, looking forward to a fun summer.

Yet we are in an unprecedented time. Our seniors will miss their prom. They will miss senior spring. They will miss SAS graduation. It is essential to stay connected with our community and with the seniors. Together, we should come to appreciate their important leadership throughout the year and especially during this unusual time. It is a sad reality that we are not able to finish the year together, but we appreciate the grace in which the senior class has handled this situation. Although the seniors are moving on to their respective universities, they are and will continue to be a part of the community. Thus, it is important to hear some of their final reflections with great respect and admiration.

Below, two prominent members from the senior class share their individual reflections, their plans to stay connected with St. Andrew's community, what they hoped to do during their senior spring, and their ideas for St. Andrew's going forward.

Billy: St. Andrews is so much more than just classes. Be bold, take risks, play four square on the front lawn, make a new friend, join a new club, try a new sport, don't take yourself too seriously, go for a hike, play a game with your roommates, walk to town, GO OUTSIDE! But most of all, treasure every moment like it's the last because these are the good days.

James: Our class is bonded by having missed our spring. Going forward, we will seize every opportunity to bring our class together. I hope to never lose frequent touch with the people I've known for so many years now. Of course, the final time at St. Andrew's with my classmates was the very thing that was stripped from us. Everything our final time held encapsulates the one thing we lost: that time. I most miss the time I would have had left to seize and use as I please. I hope St. Andrew's can do everything possible to help our class redeem the loss we've faced. At the very least, we can have our main lost experiences redeemed. We can only hope circumstances will allow St. Andrew's to return to business as usual.



Each senior has had a St. Andrew's experience individually to them, and these reflections depict the thoughts of just two seniors in a class of 84. However, to hear more insights and experiences for these seniors, be sure to check out Nicholas Lampettei '21 and Gwendolen Mellon's '21 powerful senior narrative and interview project. Despite the seniors' unexpected and prompt departure, we look forward to welcoming them to campus for a possible overdue graduation in the fall or wintertime.

As the seniors sadly depart, new leadership is on the horizon for St. Andrew's, starting with the class of 2021 to which I am lucky to be a part of. Despite the current circumstances, Ms. Berl has been more than ever dedicated to my class, helping to prepare and educate us on what type of leaders we should be for the school and opening us up to many opportunities. The most vital leadership position, perhaps, is the co-president position, for which I am extremely happy to congratulate Jill Tora and Nick Lilley on their elections. I am privileged to be their peer and am inspired by their leadership. I am excited to see where this leadership role takes them and the St. Andrew's community. Below, the newly elected class presidents share their initial thoughts and reflections, plans to bring the school together, and agendas for the future. Jill Tora:

I think our biggest thing next year will be making sure that we learn from this experience and truly value the time that we spend together as a community. St. Andrew's is a really special place, and while it's unfortunate that due to the circumstances we cannot be together right now, I think that this time is a real eye-opener to the various ways that St. Andrew's has become a home and how connected we all are. This time is another way for us all to understand our diversity, and once we come back as a larger community, I believe that the time that we have spent apart is what will make the community stronger.

Nick and I are already planning ways to reach out to the incoming freshman and reassure them that they made the absolute best decision in choosing St. Andrew's. I think when we return we will all be trying to readjust to living and thriving in a large

community, so in that sense, they will not be alone as they navigate through their first year at SAS; we as seniors will also be constantly available and a resource to help make the transition smoother.

This school year, I hope to emphasize the importance of connection, whether that be with peers, faculty, teachers, or staff. The community that we live in is a result of all of the individual stories and backgrounds coming together, and I think that understanding that our differences are what built such an amazing place is really important. I just hope to bring all grades closer to one another and continue to build the community that has helped so many grow.

-Jill

Nick Lilley:

I want to start off by saying that this time away has allowed me to be more introspective and reflective on my time at St. Andrew's, and I hope others feel the same. From being away from SAS, I couldn't help but notice just how fortunate we all are to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. As we are away, we are reminded of how much this school means to us. Speaking for the rising senior class and myself, this period of time truly allows us to grow as leaders by learning more about ourselves and the ways in which we want to vigorously bounce back from this unprecedented time.

I plan on bringing back a sense of excitement, gratitude, and energy that allows for one of the most important aspects of St. Andrew's to flourish: the social interactions and relationships we develop. What I want to be, more than anything, is the medium through which the community can coalesce. Through politics, the environment, or a passionate love for learning, our development as future leaders and learners is a function of our foundational experience at St. Andrew's. I want to establish an environment in which incoming students can have the experiences that I have been so fortunate to have. This will, in turn, provide them with hope and gratitude for all that St. Andrew's has done for them.

Speaking to the Upperclassmen, I don't want us to mourn the past nor focus on what we could have done better; I also don't want us to allow our anxious and overwhelming feelings as high school students to get the best of us. What we can control for certain is our attitude at any given moment. But, along with an optimistic attitude, we will enjoy ourselves the most when we live during the moment, day to day. Taking the time to look up at the trees when you walk in the woods, or hugging and jumping up and down for a friend when they compete in a sport, dance, or activity, these are what will stay with us for years to come. We are not going to remember the times we wrote college apps, crammed for a late-night test, or stressed about an assignment that is so minuscule compared to who we are as people. I am learning this myself as well, and we are going to want to create the most memorable times of our lives at this wonderful

school, and it starts by choosing what makes us happy. We can't go wrong if we lift each other up, fully maximize the time that is ticking, and stay motivated by our relationship, which can propel us forward.

-Nick

At this point, it is reassuring to know that such great leadership from both Jill Tora and Nick Lilley, the class of 2021, Mr. Roach, and the St. Andrew's faculty will help carry the community in the next year. We are especially fortunate to have many things to look forward to in the upcoming academic year and the many important contributions the class presidents will make on the community. Furthermore, because of all of this lost time, we as a community must make the most of our remaining time together and with Mr. Roach during his and the class of 2021's last year at St. Andrew's. Together, we must continue St. Andrew's legacy into the future as we hope for a year not marked by such distance.

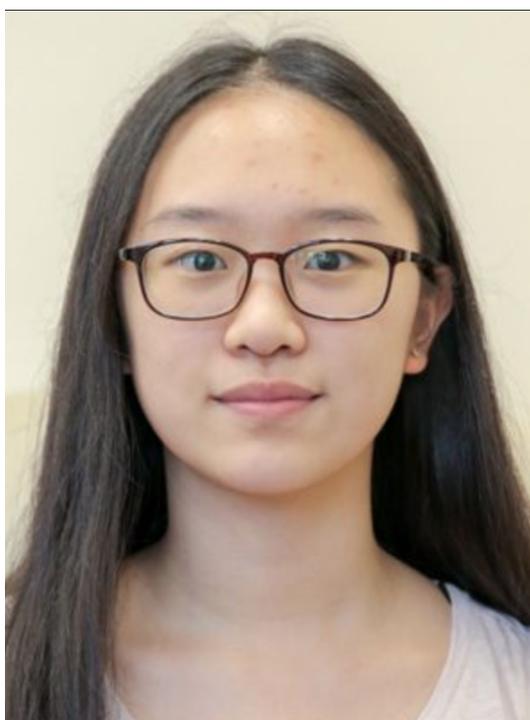
Good Luck To Next Year's Editors!



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