



Sailing Team Secures First Place in State

*Attributes Success to 'Practice
How You Play' Mentality*

By CHLOE EL HADJ '25

After three seasons without a regular competing schedule, the sailing team began the season with a commanding start. The goals and focus of the group remain largely unchanged — sail fast, sail smart and sail together. But because only a few Seniors have experienced an entire season, learning to make quick decisions with few missteps has proven to be a learning curve for many.

The team spent a week in Florida during March break for pre-season training. While in the southern state, away from the frigid Connecticut waters, the group spent up to eight hours a day on the water. Sophie Davis '22, four-year Senior and co-captain, described the trip as "a fun mix of both team bonding as well as basic boat handling." The rigorous training schedule propelled the team to a new level of skill and agility.

"The pre-season clinic is always a great way to make sure everyone is comfortable and confident on the boat so that when we return, everyone is ready and knows how to deal with the basics," Davis said.

On April 23 and 24, the Varsity Sailing team competed at the Connecticut State Championships for the third time and took home another dominant win. Three groups of sailors competed with two boats in a fleet race and finished the day with just 33 points across seven races — nearly half that of their closest competitors. Chapman Petersen '22 and Phoebe Hackett '24 on the water.

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CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Chapman Peterson '22 and Phoebe Hackett '24 on the water.



CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Steve McKibben, Letty Roberts, and John Cooper will depart the school after more than 75 years of combined service.

Life After Lakeville

Exploring the Stories of Three Departing Faculty
And the Legacy They Will Leave Behind. PAGE 4

Supreme Court Poised to Strike Down Roe v. Wade, Draft Shows

By MARISIN MCLAIN '25

A Supreme Court majority draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade was leaked on May 2, signaling the court's readiness to undo a landmark decision that had federally protected a woman's right to abortion for decades.

The leak sparked outrage among pro-abortion rights activists and concern among those on both sides of the issue who worry that it is yet another indication of the court's politicization. Protests erupted nationwide — spanning from the Supreme Court Building to justices' homes and reaching as far as San Francisco and Raleigh. Demonstrators' signs conveyed a myriad of messages and ideologies,

*Leak Puts Those on Both
Sides of the Debate on Edge*

like 'Women's rights = human rights,' 'Bans of our bodies,' 'Let their hearts beat,' and 'Unborn lives matter.'

Although the decision is not final, if Roe v. Wade were overturned, the right to an abortion would no longer be federally protected. This would allow states to take their own stance on the issue, meaning they could prohibit the procedure altogether, even in cases of incest or rape.

Many conservative states have trigger laws which would swiftly ban abortions if Roe is struck down.

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Macron Wins, But France Is Still in Danger

By MAADHAVAN PRASANNA '25

Staff Writer

Moderates and leftists across France and the entire Western world breathed a sigh of relief on April 24.

Emmanuel Macron had been re-elected as President of the French Republic after a tense battle with far-right candidate Marine Le Pen. The election result should have indicated a repudiation of ignorant ideas — Macron, despite his faults, prevailed against a candidate who wanted to enact a law banning the

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Ultimate Finishes Season at New Englands

By VIRGINIA WOOD '25
and HOLDEN BURNS '25

Staff Writers

The Varsity Ultimate team has again put together a strong season, placing fourth at New Englands. The team traveled to NMH on Saturday, May 14 to defend their New England Championship, won in 2019. The team entered the tournament seeded fifth in New England and competed in an initial pool with top-seeded Andover and four-seed Cheshire Academy. While the team lost to Andover in their first game, the players rebounded back with a dominant win 7-4 over

The Team Places 4th at New
Englands Championship

Cheshire to advance to the playoffs. In their first playoff game, the team put up a valiant fight against the three-seed Williston Northampton. While Williston began the game leading 4-1, the team stormed back in the first half to tie the score 4-4. The team continued to fight, but was eventually outplayed by Williston, who would eventually win the entire tournament. The team finished the day with a hard fought 7-6 loss to Andover to finish 4th in New England.

In many ways, the season was one of remarkable improvement and resiliency. Despite losing two out of their first three games of the season, the team bounced back, achieving a record of 15-4 as the Connecticut State Championship approaches on Saturday, May 21.

After two years without a competitive season, the players have worked to acclimate to the high-paced game. For some, doing so is just shaking off the rust, while for others, it is an entirely new and challenging experience. Through intense yet fun training, all members of the team have improved dramatically.

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TOM WERNER WINS '22 ALUMNI AWARD

HALL OF FAME PRODUCER

By KATE CHOU '25
Staff Writer

Thomas C. Werner '67 received the 2022 Alumni Award at an all-school ceremony on Friday, May 6. The Alumni Award is presented annually to a notable school graduate who has made significant contributions in their field and earned global recognition from peers.

The Alumni Award recipient is chosen by a nominating committee, which consists of eight members of the Board of Governors. Each committee member is assigned multiple alumni to research. The committee looks at a variety of factors when selecting the recipient. "The qualities of a qualified alumni winner is not only excellence across multiple fields but also giving back to the community," said Tom Terbell, the chair of the Nominating Committee for Awards.

At the ceremony, Mr. Werner was introduced by Ms. Elizabeth G. Hines '93, co-president of the Board of Governors. He then spoke with Mr. Craig Bradley, the head of school, and answered questions about his time at the school, his career in television, and his ownership of multiple sports teams. Mr. Werner also answered questions from students. In response to one question from Lauren McLane '23 about how his education at the school defined his career, he said, "I figured out how to achieve a goal and how to overcome obstacles, and I really do think that Hotchkiss gave me that. I was in a very competitive environment ... and it helped me create a path for myself."

During Mr. Werner's time at the school, he excelled as a student and was elected to the Cum Laude Society the fall of his Senior year. Additionally, he founded the Hotchkiss Film Society and served as a News editor of *The Record*. After graduating in 1967, Werner attended Harvard University, where he received a Bachelor in Arts. In 1973, he joined ABC-TV as the director of East Coast Prime Time Development. During his eight years there, he helped produce several acclaimed American television shows including *Mark and Mindy*, *Bosom Buddies*, *Soap*, and *Taxi*.

In 1980, Werner left the network and founded the Carsey-Werner Company with fellow producer Marcy Carsey. He oversaw multiple television shows as an executive producer,

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JEFF HINZ

Whodunnit? Students Perform *Clue*

HDA presented the first spring performance in Walker since renovations. Page 9.

News

Dr. Tyrone Hayes Commences Reinstatement of Beal Lecture Series

By YIXI ZOU '25
Staff Writer

The Beal Lecture series returned to campus for the first time in three years on April 28, renewing a school tradition that dates back almost 40 years.

Dr. Tyrone Hayes, an endocrinologist at the University of California Berkeley, delivered the lecture to a packed Walker Auditorium, touching on concepts of endocrine disruption, environmental justice, and accessibility of scientific research.

Mr. John Shedd Reed '35, who sat on the school's Board of Trustees, established the Beal Lecture Series in 1983 to honor his friend, Mr. Thaddeus "Ted" Beal '35. Mr. Beal was the stepson of former Head of School Mr. George Van Santvoord.

The Beal Lecture series — which was created to bring the outside world to the school by focusing on

Dr. Hayes's lecture extended to matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

current global issues — was held annually since 1983 until the pandemic hit.

Past lectures have encompassed a diverse range of disciplinary topics, ranging from Middle-Eastern geopolitics to women's rights in America. Speakers invited in recent years have included Nicholas Burns, former ambassador of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Gloria Steinem, an American feminist journalist and sociopolitical activist. This year, the community welcomed Dr. Hayes to give a presentation on his extensive work with frogs.

Born in Columbia, South Caroli-

na, Dr. Hayes repeatedly cited his experiences in his hometown as the inspiration behind his esteemed career, saying he's always been "just a boy who likes frogs."

As a child, Hayes was an ardent collector of tadpoles and frogs, fascinated by the swamp next to his childhood home. He left South Carolina for college, earning his B.A. and M.A. degrees in biology from Harvard University.

After graduating, Dr. Hayes became a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California Berkeley, where he obtained full professorship in 2003. Hayes has won multiple awards for his teaching and groundbreaking research, such as the Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002, the President's Citation Award from the American Institute of Biological Science in 2004, and the National Geographic Emerging Explorer Award and the Jennifer Altman Award in 2005.

Besides sharing his biological research, Dr. Hayes's lecture on frogs extended to matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion: He examined the correlation between environmental racism and atrazine exposure, demonstrating the environmental and socio-cultural effects of the chemical. Since going public with his research, Dr. Hayes has become an outspoken advocate of banning atrazine, illustrating connections between low-wage work and exposure to agricultural chemicals.

Mr. Keith Moon, instructor in English, history, and Russian language, has been in charge of the process of selecting and inviting the speakers for the Beal Lecture Series for the past 25 years. He considers a variety of factors when considering who to invite for each year's lecture.

"I try my best to pay a lot of at-



Dr. Tyrone Hayes addresses the community during the annual Beal Lecture.

tention to the things that have been going on at school and things that have been going on in the world," he said, "and try to use a network of people I know to try to find a speaker that would really energize the student body."

Many students on campus had not attended a Beal Lecture until this year due to the pandemic and expressed excitement about the series's return.

"[The talk] was very informative and fun," said Kiera Cason '24. "I learned a lot of things that I haven't known before, like the downsides of atrazine and its huge consequential effects. I can't wait for the ones in the next few years."



Dr. Hayes with Mr. Keith Moon and Ms. Bridget Dixon-Moon

'Deeply Moving,' As Frankenbach Wins Lufkin Prize

By AALIYAH WANG '25
Staff Writer

The community gathered in Elfers on Tuesday, May 3, to celebrate Mr. Charles Frankenbach, Russel Bigelow Chair and instructor in English, as he received the 2022 Lufkin Prize.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Frankenbach recounted the lessons he's learned from his family, colleagues, friends, and former teachers, and thanked them. He also quoted the autobiography of John Hammond '29, who is both a jazz musician and record producer who has worked with artists like Aretha Franklin, Billie Holiday, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and a civil rights activist who has advocated for racial integration in the music industry.

The Lufkin Prize was established in 2006 by Mr. Dan Lufkin '49, P'80,'82,'88,'23 and is presented annually to a faculty member of the community to award their consistent demonstration of ethical character, moral leadership, and service as a role model for all students. The award recognizes a faculty member's outstanding overall contribution to the community's growth, whether it be as a teacher, advisor, dorm faculty, or coach.

Throughout his 33-year tenure at the school, Mr. Frankenbach has

"Mr. Frankenbach always finds the humor, the sunny spot, even when he's working with someone who is having a hard time with the work."

DR. MERRILEE MARDON

"Mr. Frankenbach is a person who brings passion, and in bringing passion, he models for all of us what it is to commit your whole self to something."

MRS. CHRISTINA COOPER

made contributions to numerous aspects of the community. He has been head coach of the Boys Basketball team at the Varsity and JV level, lived in Buehler, Wieler, and Watson dorms, founded the fly-fishing co-curricular, and served as head of the English department for numerous years.

Mr. Frankenbach's reaction to the award was filled with reminiscences: "It was an honor, it was deeply moving, and it was fun to go back in my mind through how much good fortune I've had from the former teachers I mentioned, to the people at Loomis, to the people I've known here. It was full of the best parts of life," he said, adding that, "My Mom thought it was awesome, so that makes it all good."

Students and faculty alike praise Mr.

Frankenbach for all that he's given the school. He is known across campus for his humor, wittiness, and constant display of positive energy.

However, despite his cheeriness and optimistic disposition, Mr. Frankenbach is sincere about the education and well being of his students. Dr. Merrilee Mardon, the dean of faculty, said, "It isn't all fun and games [in Mr. Frankenbach's classes] — he pushes students to learn. And at the same time he always finds the humor, the sunny spot, even when he's working with someone who is having a hard time with

Mr. Charles Frankenbach addresses the community after receiving the Lufkin Prize.



COMMUNICATIONS

the work. He also has an uncanny ability to spot a student who benefits from the well placed nudge — his care for students includes holding standards."

Mr. Frankenbach also possesses a unique ability to recognize students' potential and encourage them to become the best version of themselves.

In 2020, he was named an Outstanding Educator after receiving numerous nominations for the award from former students.

He was also nominated by a former student for the Phebe and Zephaniah Swift Moore Teaching Award at Amherst College in 2018. Mrs. Christina Cooper, a past winner of the Lufkin Prize and a longtime colleague and friend of Mr. Frankenbach said, "Mr. Frankenbach is a person who brings passion, and in bringing passion, he models for all of us what it is to commit your whole self to something. He teaches all of us that if you are going to do something, engage fully and do not just commit halfway."

Margie Bowen '22, a member of Mr. Frankenbach's advisory, said, "Mr. Frankenbach is always there to listen and give sage words of wisdom. I remember the first time that I met him, and instantly I knew that he was somebody who would encourage me and push me to be the best that I could be."

Marisin McLain '25, a student in one of Mr. Frankenbach's Prep English classes, agreed. "Mr. Frankenbach is really good at telling students what they need to hear in a way that they will actually listen," she said. "He will tell you the difficult truth in a way that incorporates his humor, passion, and faith that he installs in his students. Mr. Frankenbach really helped me to gain my confidence and come to an understanding of my sense of self."

Tom Werner Receives 2022 Alumni Award

From Cover

such as *The Cosby Show*, *A Different World*, and *3rd Rock from the Sun*. The success of these shows resulted in his 1996 induction into the Television Hall of Fame.

Mr. Werner entered the sports-entertainment industry in 1990 when he joined 14 other people to purchase the San Diego Padres, a professional American baseball team. In 2002, he and colleague John Henry purchased the Boston Red Sox. They now co-own Fenway Sports Group, which includes Premier League football club Liverpool F.C. and professional hockey team the Pittsburgh Penguins, in addition to the Boston Red Sox.

Throughout Mr. Werner's 17 years of ownership, the Red Sox has enjoyed considerable success. In the last 15 years, the team has qualified for 10 postseasons and won four World Series titles. The most recent championship was their most triumphant yet. The Red Sox had a record of 108 regular season victories, capturing their 9th World Series title in history.

As co-owner of Fenway Sports Group, Mr. Werner has not only enjoyed success on the sports field, he has also launched a prolific career in philanthropy. He founded the Home Base Foundation, which partners with Massachusetts General Hospital to provide treatment to veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. Home Base has impacted the lives of over 100,000 people since it was founded in 2009.

After the ceremony, student leaders attended lunch with Mr. Werner and other board members. Mary Tyree '23, a co-head of the Veterans Club, said, "I think he's really deserving of the award, [because] he's had such a vast career in terms of accomplishing things with veterans, television and sports."



CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Mr. Bradley interviews Mr. Werner about his television career, entry into the sports industry, and his philanthropy.



Mr. Werner answers student questions after the award ceremony.



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GRAPHIC BY LAUREN MCLANE '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Supreme Court Majority Votes To Overturn Roe, Prompting Protests Across the Nation

From Cover

Over three dozen states have pending legislation that could potentially ban abortion completely. In an effort to counteract these restrictions, more liberal states like Connecticut are working to offer abortion services to women who live in states where the procedure will be banned.

On May 11, Senate Democrats attempted to include abortion rights into federal law by proposing a bill, titled the Womens Health Protection Act, that would guarantee abortion access and ban a variety of restrictions.

However, they fell short of the 60 votes required to pass the law, as Senators voted 51-49 against it. Democrat Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, who has openly expressed anti-abortion views, joined a unanimous Republican front in shutting down the proposed legislation.

The Act also lost the support of Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, who had previously backed abortion rights. They cited the proposal as overly expansive, saying that they want to preserve the status quo, not challenge restrictions that are already in place.

President Joe Biden issued a statement declaring that his administration would challenge the reversal of Roe v. Wade if the court officially votes to overturn it. He called upon the public to vote for

Activists Express Outrage As Nation Envisions Era Without Roe

more pro-choice senators and representatives to produce the majority required to support his work of codifying the case's initial ruling into law.

Charlotte Mooney '23, the head of Bluestockings, a school club that promotes intersectional feminism and gender equality, commented on how these changes might affect the school community. "Because Hotchkiss is in Connecticut, it's definitely safer for women to have the self autonomy to chose whether to have an abortion or not, but I think it's still affecting a lot of women that they have to have certain laws on their body," she said. "A lot of people don't understand that being pro-choice does not necessarily mean that you want to have an abortion, its having the right to choose."

Roe v. Wade has been the legal precedent — however controversial — for the past 50 years. With three new justices appointed in a single presidential term by former President Donald Trump, the character of the court has evidently shifted politically to a more conservative composition.

This shift in the court has opened the door for the reversal of Roe v. Wade. Duncan Griffin '22, head of the Republicans Club, agreed with the decision. "Politics aside, I'm actually very glad this is happening, not because of political views on abortion but because of questions of power in the government," he said. "[Associate Justice Samuel] Alito's whole point is the Supreme Court does not have the power to change the law so in this circumstance he's just overturning what he believes in. The Supreme Court does hold that power to oppose."

Chief Justice Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the 98-page document in a statement in which he noted that the draft did not represent a final decision by the court or any individual member. Roberts also announced that an investigation has been launched to find the person or group that leaked the document.

Prior to this instance, no full draft opinion had ever been leaked in the modern history of the court. However, there had been instances when official decisions have been leaked to the public prematurely. In 1973, the original Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade was leaked mere hours before the information was made public.

A final decision from the court can be expected before June which marks the end of the court's session until the fall.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Life After Lakeville

This summer, three faculty members — Letty Roberts, John Cooper, and Steve McKibben — will retire after decades of service to the school. Read about their stories in this special feature.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD



“She has given me a new perspective on how to approach challenging work and that having a positive attitude throughout the learning process is often the most important.”

PAIGE DZENUTIS '23



WENDY CARLSON/COMMUNICATIONS

Letty Roberts: Using Positive Psychology in the Classroom

By Helen O'Neill '23

When Ms. Letty Roberts first stepped on campus in 1991 for her teaching interview, she didn't see any students in class. Instead, she found them relaxing outside in the cool spring weather, running around the lawns and sauntering down to the lake. It was a Head of School Holiday, and that timing, Ms. Roberts recalls, helped solidify her decision to accept the job she had landed.

“The holiday was in spring, everyone was so down-to-earth and friendly. It was a wonderful experience and just a really cool vibe,” she said, adding that the dean of faculty at the time, Marilyn Coughlin, was a woman, and “it was important that a woman was in charge.”

Ms. Roberts would go on to experience almost 100 more Head's Holidays. Now a George Norton and Jodie Stone Chair, Lufkin Prize recipient, and instructor in mathematics, she is retiring after 31 years of service to the school. An avid lover of nature, she leads the Hiking & Exploration co-curricular and has coached field hockey and lacrosse.

Ms. Roberts was born in Massachusetts and graduated from Colby College in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in math and psychology. After teaching at Holderness School for six years, she obtained a master's degree in counseling from the University of New Hampshire.

She knew that she still wanted to teach math, but stated her interest in psychology and a degree in counseling would equip her with the special ability to connect with students.

Throughout her 31 years of teaching at the school, Ms. Roberts' desire to connect with students has created a unique teaching style that revolves around the idea of positive psychology. One of her many mottos is, “everything in life [is] a process, and even when you feel stagnant and stuck, you're still moving forward in some way, even when you don't have the perspective to see it.”

Ms. Roberts calls tests and quizzes Opportunities to Excel (OteEs) and makes the first question of each one based on positive psychology theories, such as, “what is something nice that someone you love has done for you?” Paige Dzenutis '23, a student of Ms. Roberts, said, “She has given

me a new perspective on how to approach challenging work and that having a positive attitude throughout the learning process is often the most important. She has made me realize how much a teacher can be there for you in more ways than you could ever imagine.”

Another positive concept Ms. Roberts uses during assessments is letting students take a “shower moment,” where they take time to reflect before turning in an OteE, citing too many instances where students make careless mistakes. Her main goal has always been for her students to realize their potential so they can achieve as much success as possible. Connie Cao '21, a former student of Ms. Roberts, said “Ms. Roberts was one of the most impactful teachers I had at Hotchkiss. She was always smiling and clearly loved teaching.”

For the next chapter of her life, Ms. Roberts is moving to Rennes, France, to work with the School Year Abroad (SYA) program. She expressed excitement about her new journey, but acknowledged that it will be difficult to leave her students and fellow faculty. “I'm ready for a different adventure,” she said. “I know I will stumble and fall on my face in France, but I've gotta leave at some point, and I know it's gonna be hard whenever I do it.”

When asked what she will miss most about the school, Ms. Roberts said, “It has been truly an honor and a privilege to have worked here for 31 years and to have been there for the high and low moments of all my students. Everything about Hotchkiss is the people.” Ms. Roberts's love for the community is reciprocated by her friend and fellow math instructor, Ms. Liz Dittmer, who said, “Letty is someone that other people want to be around. Her impact on me has been huge. She is always upbeat and positive, and that rubs off and helps make me feel happier.”

Steve McKibben: Overseer of Change

By Anthony Hu '25

Mr. Stephen McKibben, dean of community life and instructor in English, will leave the school at the end of the year, representing the end of an impactful career spanning over 10 years at the school. Mr. McKibben had also served as a Boys Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse coach.

After graduating from Wesleyan University in 1984 with a B.A. in English Language and Literature, Mr. McKibben went on to earn an M.Ed. from Springfield College, an M.A. from Middlebury College, and both an M.Ed and an Ed.D. from Columbia University.

Mr. McKibben came to Hotchkiss in 2011 to teach English, after a friend introduced him to the school. Mr. McKibben strove to make his classroom a safe and welcoming space for all students through his humorous demeanor. He said, “That was my first goal coming here, to build a culture of trust, respect, and love in the classroom.”

He has also played an integral role as an advisor and a coach. Carlos Martinez '22, one of his advisees, said, “Mr. McKibben is straight-up and doesn't sugarcoat things. He maintains a strong connection with the people he's close to. He's an energetic person who loves basketball, and although he's no longer the coach of Boys Varsity Basketball, he's still involved with the team and cares a lot about each of the players.”

In 2019, Mr. McKibben was appointed interim dean of community life. In this role, he made his three tenets of community a priority: goodwill, appreciating others, and “just being a good person.” Dr. Merrilee Marden, dean of faculty and associate head of school said in the school announcement, “Steve is known for his deep commitment to the

“That was my first goal coming here — to build a culture of trust, respect, and love in the classroom.”

MR. STEVE MCKIBBEN

“He's taught me to be a leader, and almost all of what I try to accomplish as all-school president goes through him.”

SYDNEY GOLDSTEIN '22

well-being of our students. [We] have no doubt that his professional experience, coupled with his knowledge of and dedication to Hotchkiss, will enable his success.”

Since then, with his colleagues, Mr. McKibben has undertaken major decisions regarding community safety and well-being, including helping to lead the school's Covid-19 response and considering new initiatives for the school, including policy reform.

Ms. Amanda McClure, associate dean of community life, described the role. “What we do is a lot of school-keeping. It's tending to the everyday, to the biggest and smallest problems on campus, making sure that everything functions for our community,” she said.

Over the past few months, Mr. McKibben has also played a critical role in reforming the Drug & Alcohol No Chance Policy, which has been in place for 40 years, to better align with the school's values of respect, honesty, and compassion.

Reforming the drug and alcohol policy was a goal that he had had since the beginning of his career. Ms. McClure said: “He's somebody who helped guide the process, invited people to participate, and coordinated what was going on. He really pushed us as a community to move beyond talking and actually enact a new policy.”

In his role, Mr. McKibben has devoted countless hours attending to students' concerns and working to improve the student experience, meeting with All-School Presidents on a weekly basis and regularly attending StuFac, a space for students to raise concerns and discuss important issues at school.

Sydney Goldstein '22, all-school President, said, “He's taught me to be a leader, and almost all of what I try to accomplish as All-School President goes through him.”

Mr. McKibben's impact on the community extends beyond his role as a teacher and administrator to his interactions as a mentor, colleague, and friend.

“I will sure miss his ability to bring the focus to the values of the school, but even more his laugh,” said Ms. McClure. “When we're having difficult days, he helps all of us remember that there's always things we can be grateful for and enjoy.”



“I have three tenets of a good community: goodwill, appreciating others, and just being a good person.”

“When we're having difficult days, he helps all of us remember that there's always things we can be grateful for and enjoy.”

MS. AMANDA MCCLURE



THE HOTCHKISS RECORD



JENNIFER FIERECK/COMMUNICATIONS

“I have learned more from [Mr. Cooper] about coaching a team, caring for individual players and loving what you do than any other coach I have worked with in my career.”

MS. ROBIN CHANDLER



John Cooper: Open-Armed Compassion

By Kira Nickerson '25

Mr. John Cooper, instructor in mathematics, is retiring after 34 years of teaching and service to the school community. During his time at the school, Mr. Cooper has taught all levels of math, coached Girls Varsity Hockey and Boys Lacrosse, and served as a dorm parent in Buehler and Van Santvoord. His children, Ms. Corey Cooper '08, now an instructor in English, and Brady Cooper '11, were born and raised on campus. His decision to come to the school was due to the “blissful pace of life in the Northwest corner, not to mention the glorious night sky that comes with it.”

Mr. Cooper earned a B.S. in psychology from St. Lawrence University and a B.A. in mathematics from the University of Hartford. In the fall of 1988, he and his wife, Mrs. Christina Cooper, instructor in English, came to the school after teaching and coaching at The Rectory School and TASIS-England.

In the classroom, Mr. Cooper applies math to real-world situations and allows for discussion and flexible class structure. He helps lowerclass students explore further math concepts to foster excitement for the future. Sawyer Eaton '25 said, “One of my favorite things about being in Mr. Cooper's class is when he starts talking about other fields of mathematics that I don't understand, like how something can have infinite area in a finite perimeter or calculus concepts.”

Mr. Jason Maier, head of the math department, described Mr. Cooper as a dedicated and patient teacher. He said, “[Mr. Cooper] is really caring about each and every student and he is always there and working with those who need help. He has a huge impact on me, and inspires me with his commitment in the classroom and philosophical insight. I will really miss having him as a colleague and mentor to look up to.”

On the ice, he has made valuable contributions through his work in coaching the Girls Varsity Hockey team. His care and love for the sport has allowed him to connect with student athletes and fellow coaches. Mrs. Robin Chandler, co-director of athletics, said, “His impact on the girls program has been extraordinary and our girls have been in his incredible care for the past 30 seasons. He is passionate about the game of hockey and has shared his love of the sport with hundreds of players over the years.” She added, “I learned more from [Mr. Cooper] about coaching a team, caring for individual players, and loving what you do than any other coach I have worked with in

my career.”

Known for his effusive kindness, empathy, and care for others in all areas of school life, Leanna Wells '23, one of his advisees, noted the strong bond they formed in just one year. She said, “He would always take the opportunity to stop me in Main Hallway to spend time talking about how my week or sports or classes were going, which is something I'll miss most about him.”

More importantly, Wells is grateful for his firm attitude in helping students foster independence and self reliance. Wells said, “[Mr. Cooper] valued a laissez-faire attitude and believed that the only way that we would succeed in the things we did both on and off campus and life was if we learned how to fend for ourselves. He always showed a genuine interest in getting to know me and what I wanted to do with my life [after] Hotchkiss.”

In his 34 years at the school, he recounts great memories including friendships formed, listening to the jokes and conversations with students in the math classroom, chatting with students and fellow faculty members in the main building, and raising his children on campus. A few memories that particularly stick out to him are “a time when dogs ran free across campus and lounged in the classrooms... adopting the VS rabbit that had been living in an empty day students room, and of course, beating Loomis in hockey and lacrosse.” Mr. Cooper

“Mr. Cooper helped me through my journey of life and I hope he finds his next true calling and touches [other] people's lives, like he did mine.”

LEANNA WELLS '23

added that he will miss watching students grow and discover themselves as they navigate their journey in Lakeville, and that the school has taught him the value of others' goodwill. Mr. Cooper hopes he has fostered “intellectual wonderment in the classroom as well as personal growth for student-athletes.” Students and colleagues alike will miss his unwavering support as a teacher, colleague, and coach.

Ms. Corey Cooper wrote, “A Math teacher by name, and a wordsmith, philosopher, psychology-nerd, and questioner of all things by nature, my Dad represents what many of us hope to someday be able to call ourselves: someone who has positively changed the lives of a vast array of young people in myriad ways, and someone who carries himself with the grace and class that can only be achieved through patient, reflective, and passionate practice.”

After leaving Lakeville, Mr. Cooper looks forward to a new chapter in his life, including getting a non-Hotchkiss email account and “learning how to get by without the refined delicacy that is the dining hall's famous Mulligatawny soup.”

To commemorate his three decades of contributions to the school, colleagues and friends will gather at Fairfield Farm for a celebration dinner on June 4.

Opinion

Twitter Needs Reform. Can Musk Get it Done?

BY SOPHIE
ELLIOTT '24
News Editor

Many liberal and centrist commentators have expressed outrage at Elon Musk's recent purchase of Twitter. Musk, a right-wing self-proclaimed free speech absolutist, vows to enhance free speech protection on the platform — the response to his proposal is consistent with the trend in which corporate liberals have supported a type of censorship and abandoned free speech principles for political advantage.

In truth, the internet, a technological instrument originally designed to enable communication free from corporate control, is routinely used by ruling-class power centers to control online discourse. In the past, exaggerated crises, such as Russiagate, have enabled tolerance of greater degrees of censorship under the guise of necessary protection from Russian disinformation. This use of social media has not provoked objection; on the contrary, because free speech on Twitter is ascribed to disturbing events like the Brexit vote and Trump election, Musk's proposal of extending this right has produced a liberal hysteria. The other argument emanating from the liberal sphere is protest to corporate control of communication — which seems hypocritical, since they do not object as much to Jeff Bezos owning *The Washington Post* or other oligarchical corporations.

In addition, the censorship regime is almost always aligned with powers in Washington; at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, anything other than deference to the pronouncements of Anthony Fauci and the WHO was immediately labeled as disinformation, despite questionable initial

statements, including claims insisting upon the inefficiency of masks, from those groups. Even those antagonistic to Trump — such as German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president Emmanuel Macron — were concerned that his removal from Twitter subverted fundamental democratic principles (and in fact, studies show that absence from Twitter has not impeded Trump's popularity). Furthermore, granting Silicon Valley tech executives the power to unite to remove elected leaders is also deeply unsettling. Two weeks before the 2020 presidential election, Twitter's campaign to algorithmically suppress any information regarding Hunter Biden's emails was supported by former intelligence officials, including the former CIA director under Obama, who dismissed the controversy as Russian disinformation. In general, the ability to label something as disinformation is a dangerous political tool, and the government should not be able to dictate what is true and false through binding decrees.

The ability to label something as misinformation is a dangerous political tool.

Though Elon Musk has openly stated ambitions of restoring free inquiry, many supporters question the likelihood of his following through, considering he is not known for being particularly antagonistic to Washington powers. Musk's goals, which have provoked much indignation, may turn



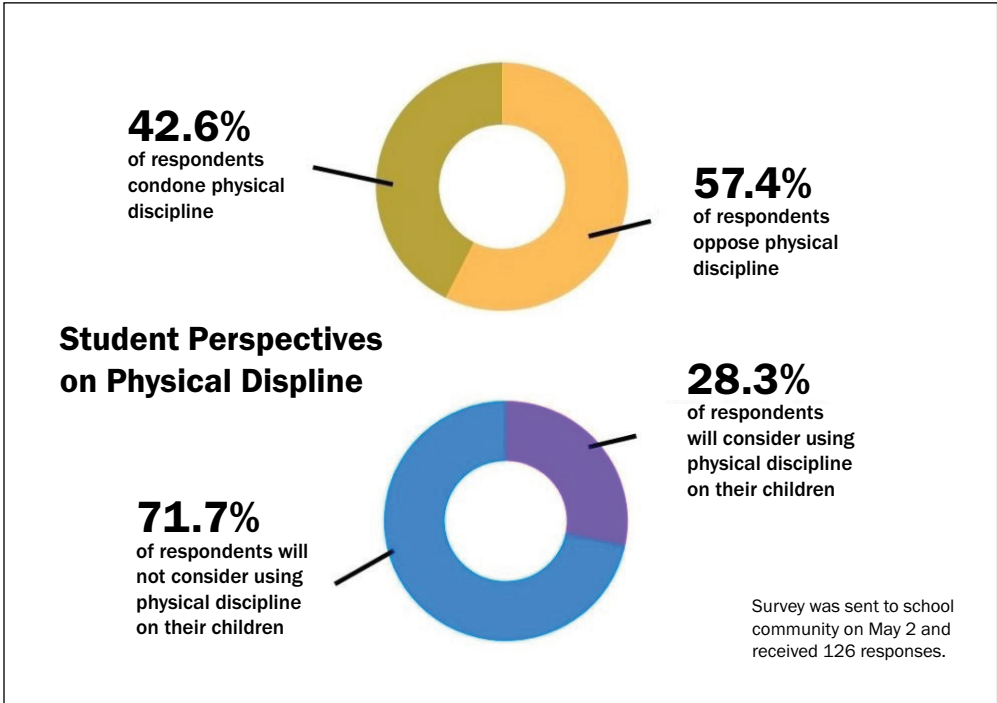
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out to be in conflict with profits, and power centers that rely on digital platforms for information control will pose challenges to his objectives. For Musk to restore Trump or banned QAnon accounts is plausible — less foreseeable is the reinstatement of the numerous Antifa accounts banned last year or Tesla union organizers who have exposed allegations of racist practices in the company. After all, Musk has a record of censoring critics and firing employees who disagree with him.

Instead of concentrating on the outrage around free speech — which is supposedly the fabric of American political life — a more important discussion should be held around reducing social media platforms' lucrative

monopolies on the attention economy. Another issue manifests in the monetary incentive of a privately owned digital platform — if public ownership were considered, the cyberspace could pursue its alleged goal of empowering ordinary people to govern themselves. This does not mean that Twitter should enable harassment, doxing, and direct incitement of violence; even among a publicly owned platform some rules must be enforced. However, it is difficult to reconcile the vision of complete freedom against the reality of censorship that exists, the former of which Musk's purchase is unlikely to restore as it necessitates democratic deliberation and cannot be entrusted to the hands of self-serving oligarchs.

We Need To Talk About Physical Discipline



QUISHA LEE '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

"Is it OK to physically punish children for the purpose of discipline?" People have various answers to this question. According to a survey of 116 Hotchkiss students, while 57.4% of students are opposed to physical punishment, the other 42.6% view it as acceptable. 28.3% of respondents answered that they would consider using physical discipline on their children in the future. We must talk more about the issue of physical discipline and bring that percentage down to zero.

Physical discipline poses a myriad of physical and psychological risks to children and does not facilitate education. It does not foster a healthy parent-child relationship.

Physical punishment is a common occurrence in many households. In the survey, 56.6% of students admitted to receiving physical punishment from their parents. There are many reasons for this. Some parents think that, in the absence of physical discipline, children will become spoiled and undisciplined. Some parents also get agitated when verbal discipline can't seem to make children comply and, thus, resort to physical discipline.

Spanking and other forms of physical discipline can severely harm children. Spanking children does not teach them responsibility, conscience development, and self-control. Spanking children implants fear,

rather than a sense of right or wrong. Is learning to "behave" in front of others the goal of education? No, it is not.

In addition, children learn from watching their parents. Parents who use physical discipline may be teaching their children to resolve conflicts with violence. According to the American Psychological Association, spanking can elevate a child's aggression levels as well as diminish the quality of the parent-child relationship. Not only that, physical discipline can lead to depression and fear, undermining a child's ability to form meaningful relationships with others.

Moreover, the constant stress of physical discipline can negatively affect brain development. According to the Child Development and Family Center of Northern Illinois University, children who were educated by using other forms of guidance or discipline showed an IQ score of five points higher than children who were spanked.

Most importantly, studies have documented that physical discipline can escalate into abuse. Elizabeth Gershoff, Ph.D., a leading researcher on physical punishment at the University of Texas at Austin said, "Physical punishment doesn't work to get kids to comply, so parents think they have to keep escalating it. That is why it is so dangerous." Physical discipline poses a serious threat to children because it could easily spiral into serious physical and psychological harm. With these harmful effects in mind, the high percentage of students who responded that they would physically discipline their children is incredibly concerning.

Spanking is only a temporary

solution to an ongoing problem. There are far better solutions when disciplining children. First, teach children what to expect. Instead of aggressively punishing them for misbehaving, teach them what they can do differently. Second, recognize their positive behaviors. Too often, parents only notice their children's misbehaviors and disregard the things they do well. Third, state your request in the positive. Have you ever noticed how we usually make a request or give directives in

Physical discipline poses a serious threat to children because it could easily spiral into serious physical and psychological harm.

the negative? Just by changing the structure of how you make requests, you can increase your child's cooperation. They are less likely to argue when you are telling them what they can have or what you will allow. Finally, take a timeout. Yes, you, the parent, should walk away. This method of discipline fosters reflection and self-awareness because it gives children the space to think through their actions.

Although many studies show that more and more American parents are starting to disapprove of corporal punishments, this issue certainly remains prominent in this country. So please, parents, if you ever feel frustrated and find yourself wanting to resort to physical discipline, remember that your actions could have serious consequences for your child.

BY RYOTO
FURUTANI '25

EDITORIAL

Acevedo and Elliott Join Editorial Board

The Hotchkiss Record would like to announce exciting changes to its Editorial Board moving forward through the end of the school year and into the 2022-23 year.

Matias Acevedo '24 will be joining the editorial board as a Features Editor, following his role as a News and Sports Staff Writer. Acevedo's interests include Formula One, the NBA, and American politics, and he has previously written a host of articles for *The Record*. He will also be contributing his diverse ideas to the Features section, such as a new "on this date" segment to Features in collaboration with the school's archives.

Sophie Elliott '24 will be joining the editorial board as a News Editor, continuing her work with *The Record* after previously serving as an Opinion Staff Writer. Elliott has previously written Opinion articles surrounding international politics and do-



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mestic US government policy for both *The Record* and *Harbinger's Magazine*, an online student-run magazine. She will now transition to editing the News section.

Rebekah Oppenheimer '24 will leave her position as News Editor as she embarks on her School Year Abroad in Rennes, France for the 2022-23 school year. Having both written and edited for *The Record* throughout her two years at the school, Oppenheimer has become an immense force in the News section, and the Executive Board is grateful her contributions.

Please congratulate Acevedo and Elliott on their new positions, and look forward to their work in our following issues. We wish Oppenheimer all the best in France, and anticipate her return to the school and *The Record* soon.

In addition, we are excited to announce that, in taking the step to expand reporting on community voices and events, we are releasing the first 12-page issue in the history of the *The Record*. We greatly look forward to the future of *The Record* and improving the quantity and quality of reporting.

Editorials are written by members of The Record's Executive Board. Have thoughts about an Opinion essay? Email recordopinions@hotchkiss.org. For corrections, email recordexec@hotchkiss.org.

Re-Thinking Violent Crime in Chicago

Since the start of 2022, Chicago has already seen over 16,551 separate instances of violent crime. Not only is this one of the highest rates of violent crime among major U.S. cities, it is also a historically large number, even by Chicago's standards (rates have jumped, in the same measurable time period, 35% from last year, 25% from 2020, and 11% from 2019). But this problem isn't shared equally throughout the city.

MACCOY
BARRY '23

Within the city of Chicago lies 77 different neighborhoods. Among these are the extremely wealthy: Streeterville, the Loop, and Near North (all with life expectancies above 80; Streeterville: 90), and the impoverished: Englewood, Washington Park, and Fuller Park (Englewood life expectancy sits under 60 in some reports). Areas like Streeter-ville have some of the lowest rates of violent crime in the country, whereas, just nine miles due south, areas like Englewood have some of the highest rates. Those nine miles equate to an average of thirty years of added or lost life per resident. How is this even possible?

In the same way residents of regions like Streeterville are in a positive feedback loop, with good schools, nutrition, policing, and healthcare spurring economic growth and leading to even better-funded schools, policing and health-care, areas like Englewood or Fuller Park are stuck in a negative feedback loop. Due to rampant gang violence, few employers want to move jobs in. As a result, residents are poorer, meaning they can afford less, thus causing suppliers to leave the area, taking whatever jobs remain with them. Finally, unable to find jobs with a livable wage, many residents have no choice but to join gangs in order to provide for themselves and their families. It doesn't help that this process also leads to the creation of both "food deserts," in which large swaths of land

The only solution to Chicago's violence problem is not in the way of policy or politics. It is through economics and business.

closing of their only Englewood location, simultaneously announcing the opening of multiple new locations in the Loop and Near North. Residents in the neighborhoods which lie in "food deserts" and "health deserts" are forced to rely on less healthy food, such as fast food, and inadequate medical care. The result, in short, is that rates of



Two Different Worlds, Nine Miles Apart

Neighborhoods in Chicago — like Streeterville and Oakland — might only be several miles apart, but they have drastically different life expectancies.

Source: DePaul University

BENJAMIN WHO '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

have no easily accessible grocery stores, and "health deserts," where residents of an area have to travel great distances to reach any form of healthcare, including hospitals. Just this past week, Whole Foods announced the closing of their only Englewood location, simultaneously announcing the opening of multiple new locations in the Loop and Near North. Residents in the neighborhoods which lie in "food deserts" and "health deserts" are forced to rely on less healthy food, such as fast food, and inadequate medical care. The result, in short, is that rates of obesity and diabetes — which are among the most expensive conditions to treat in America — are both above the national average in Englewood. Without many high-wage jobs to pay for the necessary treatment of these diseases, even more Chicago residents are forced into a life of gang violence, thus continuing the vicious cycle.

This is not a problem that can be fixed by simply spending more on police, or even by subsidizing industry (as Whole Foods would tell you). The only solution to Chicago's violence problem is not in the way of policy or politics. Rather, it is through economics and business.

Here is my solution: to start, organize a large-scale ceasefire of all gang related violence in the city. Due to the volatility of the gangs throughout Chicago, this obviously isn't a long-term solution, but I you'll have to stick with me. Next, begin building value-based care centers throughout the poorest neighborhoods of Chicago, in which healthcare is delivered by measure of the quality of care, not by the amount of care a doctor can give. This method drives better healthcare outcomes, and oftentimes costs the patient less as well. Not only will this help create better, more affordable healthcare for residents, but it will also create jobs in the construction, operation, and staffing of these clinics, as there is currently a major shortage of nurses in the medical field. Now, here's the tricky part: avoiding gentrification by staffing these facilities with Southside residents. If the jobs these clinics create are not going to the nearby residents of the area, then the intended economic growth will not happen. Instead, money will continue to leave neighborhoods like Englewood, traveling north to whoever is actually working in these clinics.

Assuming the jobs do end up in the hands of nearby residents, this plan is profitable for all parties. Southside residents get high-paying, livable-wage jobs, and they receive high-quality, low-cost healthcare. In addition, clinics who move into the area get paid more, because when life expectancy is already at 60, almost anything is an improvement on quality of care. In one fell swoop, the Southside's negative feedback loop is replaced by a positive one. Now that residents are being well-paid, employers want to move in, bringing more jobs and money, improving nearby schools, etc.

As Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago, put it: "If we truly want to end the cycle of community violence once and for all ... we must get to the root causes of violence. We can and we must invest our way out of this problem." Since she took office in 2019, violence in Chicago has reached 25-year record highs, with the only notable policy change being an increase in the Chicago Police Department's budget. Time for a different approach?

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

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Don't Count Peloton Out. It's Just Getting Started.

During the pandemic, many people were willing to pay a premium for Peloton's services.

By Armaan Haji '23

During the pandemic, Peloton, an at-home tech and fitness company, soared in value. Although it certainly had a large dip in usage and revenue post-pandemic, I believe that Peloton's value will rebound as soon as this fall.

During the initial self-isolation period of the pandemic, people were unable to go to the gym and work out normally; as a result, Peloton's app subscription service, which allows people to follow live workout sessions with verified trainers from the comfort of their homes with minimal equipment, began to take off. However, as in-person establishments started to reopen, and people were able to go back to gyms in person, usage of the app declined drastically. In fact, it is estimated that the number of daily users on the app from April to September of 2021 dropped by over 42%. During the pandemic, people were willing to pay a premium for Peloton's services, but as things started to reopen, this was not the case.

Furthermore, Peloton's 8-K form filings (as viewed from the SEC) were even more telling of their imminent downfall. In their quarterly 8-K filings, Peloton filed their quarterly shareholder's letter; in which they exhibited their quarterly total revenue. From that data, it is clear that as the pandemic started in 2020, there was a sharp increase in revenue, from 223.3 million to 466.3 mil-

lion from Q4 2019 to Q2 2020. This increase continued to be seen into Q2 of 2021 as the quarterly total revenue jumped to 1,064.8 million, and then reached its peak in Q3 of 2021 at 1263.3 million. However, as everything was truly starting to reopen at this time, vaccines were rolling out at high rates, and masking policies were relaxing, there was a steep decline in the quarterly total revenue. In Q4 of 2021, it dropped to 936.9 million, and then in Q1 of 2022, it dropped to 805.2 million.

As time went on, Peloton's user base dropped significantly, causing a massive correction in the share price. While researching stocks for a stock trading game, I saw that Peloton stock had essentially crashed, having dropped by over \$120 a share from what I had seen it at during the early pandemic. After spotting this, I assumed it was on its downfall.

In addition, Peloton's trailing P/e (price/equity) ratio from 2021 is far from ideal. Peloton had a P/e of 154.07, which is very high. In comparison, the S&P 500 typically has a P/e ranging from 13-15. The P/e ratio compares a company's earnings to share price, and a high P/e ratio generally means that a company is overvalued. Given that Peloton's is so high, that is a strong sign that it was very highly overvalued. This proved to be true, as Peloton continued to sharply drop. What was interesting, however, was Peloton's beta value: the fact that its beta value was 0.96, which is below 1, indicates that it is not volatile, and offers steady returns. I was confused by this value, as I had seen Peloton's share price sharply increase and then sharply decrease over a two year period (2020-2022) by hundreds of points.

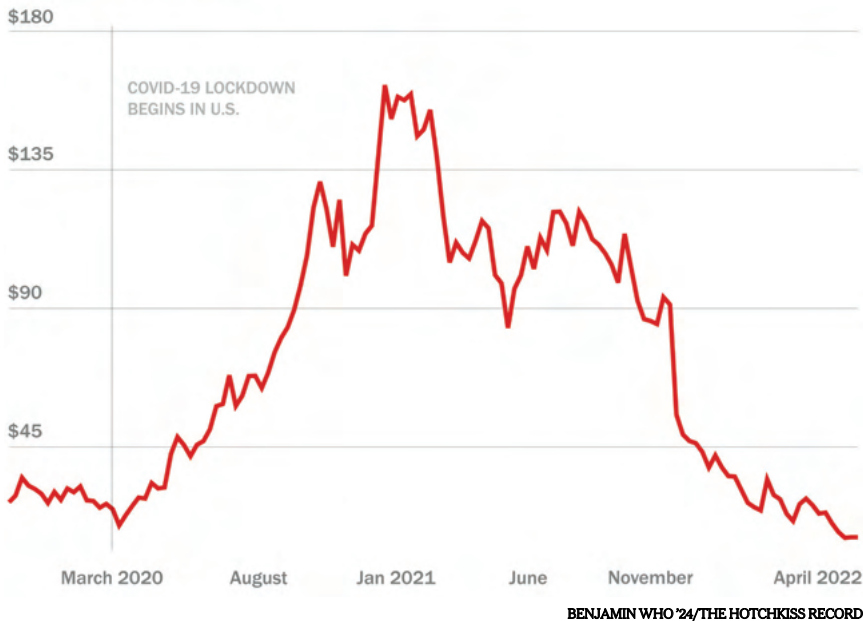
42%

Daily users of Peloton's app dropped 42% from April to September of 2021.

The confidence of Peloton insiders signals the possibility of a strong financial showing in the near future for the company.

By creating a factory within the U.S, Peloton can shorten shipping times, lower costs, and increase its user base.

Peloton Stock Price



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As mentioned earlier, I do believe that, in the near future, Peloton is going to make a shift and a move back up, rather than continuing to fall. I estimate this to begin to happen latest by Q4 of 2022. I do not believe that it will reach its mid-pandemic height; however, I think that it will at least double its current value. The reason for this is twofold. Firstly, in its Q2 2022 Shareholders Letter, Peloton shared data that displayed both its quarterly total revenue and its subscriber count being on an upward trend.

In the shareholder's letter, Peloton stated that it was in the process of building its first factory for fitness products in the USA, and hopes to have completed construction by 2023. By creating a factory within the USA, the hope is that production lines should be shortened, and production should also be cheaper. This would also aid with sales, as production would be much faster and shipping would as well. This means that customers can get their product sooner, and are more likely to buy

from Peloton.

Furthermore, a report published by the SEC showed that John Foley, a Chief Executive at Peloton, bought options to purchase shares of Peloton stock, which shows that those in positions of power and influence within the company still believe in the company. The confidence of Peloton insiders signals the possibility of a strong financial showing in the near future for Peloton.

Peloton's financial data, the news of Peloton's first factory in the US being built, and John Foley's buying options to purchase shares of Peloton stock all signal that the company is rebounding. It will be interesting to see the Q3 2022 Shareholders Letter to see if the quarterly total revenue continues to increase, or if Q2 2022 was an outlier in what is going to be a consistent decline into Peloton's ultimate demise. I strongly believe in Peloton as a company and think that it will make a return.

France Isn't Out of the Woods Yet



HANNA SUN '24/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

BY MAADHAVAN PRASANNA '25

From Cover

public use of head scarves for Muslim women. Unfortunately, French democracy is still in trouble. Le Pen was once seen as a far-right extremist of sorts and was never really a truly viable candidate for the presidency until this election. She appealed to a frustrated French people with the idea that she

is the defender of the working class, espousing the racist notion that immigrants and people of other races are the causes of some of France's problems such as employment. This is not dissimilar to the case of Donald Trump, the American president who ultimately ended up inciting an invasion of the US Capitol building. Le Pen also cast herself as a single mother who can sympathize with

the French people. The ironic idea that a presidential candidate can appeal to the voters' humanity using her identity as a single mother and simultaneously peddle hateful far-right sentiment such as support for banning head scarves and cracking down on innocent immigrants from war-torn countries serves as an analogy for the state of French democracy. The fact that such a hateful ideology can exist and be seen as mainstream, while helping a candidate to win 41.5 percent of the vote, is truly disheartening and completely unacceptable. The success of such an hateful ideology in this election foreshadows a dark future for France as unless action is taken these forces will only continue to grow and have greater influence within the French government.

Furthermore, French politics are truly in shambles; Macron is a highly divisive President, whose administration has caused a massive rise in resentment and public dissatisfaction despite his relatively reasonable policies. In the words of Philippe Marlière, a Professor of European Politics at University

The success of such a hateful ideology in this election forecasts a dark future for France.

College London, "The French people have been at once animated and anesthetized by the past five years...The national mood, given to febrile outbursts and hurt withdrawals, is uneasy." This dissatisfaction will most likely continue to increase, as the fallouts of the pan-

demic and refugee crises continue to grow. Furthermore, Macron is viewed as an elitist; this sentiment is a big part of the reason Le Pen was so popular. Macron is seen as looking down on the common people, and that type of public image is

The rise of the far right and the highly divided state of French politics show just how dire the situation is.

the opposite of what France needs. The combination of all these political factors shows just how divided France is as a country and how real the possibility of a far right takeover is. If this takeover is not going to be led by Le Pen, it could just as easily be led by Éric Zemmour, whose ideology is even more dangerous than Le Pen's, or even led from the left by Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

Emmanuel Macron needs to get his act together, and fast. The rise of the far right and the highly divided state of French politics show just how dire the situation is. For the sake of the people of France, especially minorities, this crisis needs to be resolved. Emmanuel Macron needs to start presenting himself as less arrogant and more of a man of the people, he needs to find a balance between policy that pleases the people and policy that curbs climate change and other key issues. While this is a tall order, Macron needs to somehow move mountains to make it happen, for if he doesn't, the far right just might prevail when the election cycle arrives.

Arts



CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Whodunnit? Dramatic Association Presents Clue

Experienced performers hand over the reins of theater production to underclass students

By EMILY HELLQVIST '24
Staff Writer

The Hotchkiss Dramatic Association (HDA) put on a comedy murder-mystery performance set in a secluded mansion in rural 1954 New England. From May 6 to 8, the community gathered in Walker to watch HDA's comeback show, *Clue*, the pandemic interrupted performances for two years. Originally released in 1985 as a movie based on the British board game, *Clue* was brought to life through the work of thirteen HDA members over the course of ten weeks.

The faculty involved with HDA wanted to continue the theme of "finding that special someone" after an incredibly successful *Mamma Mia* show. *Clue* became the front-runner because of its energetic and comedic mystery. HDA board member Chris Mitchell '24 said, "[*Clue*] was a great choice for the spring play — the murder mystery storyline is exciting, and the audience's role is to simply follow along."

Additionally, Mitchell noted the wide target demographic of the play. "Students want to come with their friends to see who did it, and people of the community who were alive when the movie came out want to watch a remake of what they had seen before," he said.

Casting was confirmed in early March and student performers began their individual preparation work of character analysis and line memorization over spring break. When they returned to school, the cast rehearsed every night, leading up to tech week, the last week to refine costume fittings, staging, and light and sound cues, before opening night.

Mr. Parker Reed, head of theatrical performance, directed the production. "I hope that throughout this process the students gain the work of precision. A lot of times,



CARRIE CAO '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

The murdered Cook falls onto Ms. Green in a dramatic scene in the play.

Below, Mr. Parker Reed prepares and communicates with HDA performers in Walker during rehearsal.



SIERRA ATKINS '24

students have so much to do that they get pretty acquainted with just doing what's good enough and then moving on to the next thing, especially if there's not a grade attached to it. Three weeks ago, [the performers] were [able] to make people chuckle, and since then I've been trying to get them to focus on the artistic beauty of precision," Mr. Reed said, emphasizing the importance of character execution.

During rehearsal, Mr. Reed and Mr. Derek Brashears, director of theater, have prioritized fostering an atmosphere of respect, gratitude, connection, and trust in order to allow performers to feel comfortable with taking risks and making bolder decisions in their acting. Armani Frazier '24, who played Mrs. White, said, "The show is only as good as all of us can make it, so everyone has to do their part to make it come alive, working together both on and off the stage. Luckily, the cast is really nice and supportive, so we've been very productive together."

Unlike *Mamma Mia*, the majority of the cast were underclass students. Mr. Reed said, "The cast is very young — there are just two Seniors, a couple of Upper Mids, and the rest Preps and Lower Mids. Due to Covid, we fell out of the habit of putting on full fledged productions, but now, we have a younger generation to whom we can begin to teach the values of an effective ensemble."

Zach Scrima '22 took many of the younger cast members under his wing. "[*Clue* is] their first production, so it's all very new and exciting. I've learned how to help them along and show them the ropes of theater etiquette," Scrima said.

After the back-to-back performances over the weekend, the community left Walker in praise of the cast, the stage design, and the lively plot that warranted much laughter. Ava Frankel '24, an audience member, reflected, "what made *Clue* so fun was how obvious it was that the cast was really enjoying themselves and getting into their characters."

For the HDA performers, the process of rehearsing for *Clue* as well as seeing it come together on stage was a fulfilling experience. Mehar Bhasin '23, who played Yvette, said, "*Clue* helped me grow as a performer, and I absolutely loved my experience. We all did such an amazing job, and I think the main reason behind that is the way we all cared about and wanted to support each other. I learned so much from everyone and discovered so much more about my identity as a student performer."

Yihan Ding '22 Explores Non-Conformity in Her Art

By CALLUM RODIN '25
Staff Writer

Yihan Ding '22 is a four-year senior from Woodbury, New York. Partaking in visual art for four years, Ding is currently enrolled in AR382S, Honors Studio Art Portfolio. She has worked at multiple art galleries and museums over the summer, such as the Nassau County Museum of Art and the Suzhou Museum of Art. At school, Ding is the head of Art Club and Quiz Bowl. Next year, she will continue to pursue Art at Stanford University.

Where did you first find your passion for visual art?

I have been drawing and painting since kindergarten, and my first memories from first grade were all related to visual art. This is something I have enjoyed doing from a young age because it was a relaxing outlet for me to focus on something that's not school. As I recorded life and my family, art became a second language and vessel through which I can express my emotions and feelings.

What is your art style?

I would say I'm still exploring my style,

but I definitely like to be bold. I come from a traditional background and was trained at a classical art school, so I try to be a little bit experimental and go out of the box. At the same time, I do still have certain expectations for my art: I want it to look somewhat realistic and resemble what I'm trying to get at.

Are there any people that have helped you reach your visual art goals? What have they done to help you?

My sister, mom, and dad have been great models for me when I needed some reference. Mr. Bradley Faus, director of the art program, always brings us leftover advisory snacks on Wednesday and has been an understanding teacher and mentor. Other people who have helped me are my friends and those who volunteered for my current portrait project — Mr. Andrew D'Ambrosio, head of the humanities and social sciences department, Scout McKibben, and Nick Astorian '22.

How has Hotchkiss helped you become a better art student?

The school prides itself in having a program that's very forward-thinking, interdisciplinary, and different. I personally like to think of it as a Renaissance program



Ding's newest work, "Cabin Fever No. 1," with charcoal, pastel, and ink on toned blue paper.

because it makes you learn a little bit of everything. Taking the Humanities core classes my first two years, I was exposed to a lot of knowledge in English literature, philosophy, and history that I never would have thought of incorporating into my art. The structure of the art program also allowed me to approach my subject matter in creative ways and look at the world through different lenses.

What are some advice you have for incoming visual art students?

Keep a sketchbook with you so you

can keep track of the interesting ideas that come to you at the most random times. Some of my best ideas were developed when I wasn't actively trying to come up with them. You certainly don't have to create a piece out of every idea or experience, but they will be helpful to revisit in the future whenever you need inspiration. When you look at these ideas from a long time ago, you would realize that they were actually pretty brilliant. As you grow as an artist, you will discover that you will have a completely different understanding of the subject matter.

With New Repertoire, Chorus Returns to Chapel



Hotchkiss Chorus performs in Chapel.

By NOLAN JENNINGS '24

To commemorate the changing of the seasons, the Hotchkiss Choir hosted *With a Hey and a Ho: A Madrigal Journey* in the Chapel for the school and surrounding community on Sunday, April 22. In the performance, four repertoires followed the general theme of springtime and change, a stark difference from the choir's last performance, Lessons & Carols, in December of 2021. The ensemble, rehearsing biweekly for four months, worked towards the goal of conveying their progress over the past few months and highlighting their versatile singing ability.

The first three repertoires — "English and Renaissance Madrigals," "French Renaissance Madrigals," and "20th Century Shakespeare Madrigals" — opened the performance with the underlying themes of springtime, love, happiness, and the melancholy feeling of an end of an era. Soprano Isabella Wei '23 said, "This [music] is an entirely different experience than our last performance. Mr. Jack Brown, instructor in voice and Hotchkiss Choir conductor, has chosen great pieces that the entire ensemble appreciates and enjoys. He's pushing especially hard this year to engage the audience as much as possible, especially after Covid has taken a lot of our community engagement from us. Although this isn't the first time we've sung about springtime and love, the energy we're conveying is so special and unique."

To display the choir's versatility, Mr. Brown chose a series of newer-age compositions to close off the performance whilst creating a contrast from their opening pieces. "Contemporary A Capella 'Madrigals'" showcased the ensemble's abil-

ity to perform modern pieces, a large leap from the baroque style, religious songs of Lessons & Carols, thus providing the ensemble with a rare opportunity. Tenor Ben Herdeg '24 said, "One of our greatest challenges was overcoming the hump of becoming familiar with some of our songs. We were used to 15th to late 17th century pieces because of Lessons & Carols, so there was a big adjustment from our last performance to this one. For example, "Wannabe," one of our songs with a complicated arrangement, took us a little bit of time to become accustomed to, but once we got it, it sounded great! One of my biggest takeaways from these past few months is to definitely trust the process."

Due to the entire performance being a *capella*, Mr. Brown remained diligent and focused on pushing the ensemble to listen to themselves and one another while singing. He said, "These *a capella* pieces are very vulnerable and raw, especially in a place with such great acoustics like Chapel. Being [there] without an accompaniment, although a great step towards getting back to our pre-Covid performances, makes it very obvious when someone makes a mistake. Because of this, I've challenged my singers with the task of being attentive to their own singing, their choirmates, and especially me. Watching the conductor in any ensemble is a crucial part, and without that key component that maintains that togetherness, it'll all fall apart."

The Hotchkiss Choir will be performing a series of songs at the Baccalaureate Ceremony to celebrate the moving on of the Class of 2022 and their accomplishments. To watch the ensemble perform for the final time this school year, attend the Baccalaureate in early June.

Student Music Showcase Features Diverse Instruments and Vocalists

Students plan and deliver musical performances in newly renovated Walker Auditorium.

By ELISE KANG '25

For the first time in two years, the Student Music Showcase (SMS) made its debut in the newly renovated Walker Auditorium on May 17. Directed by student musicians Giancarlo Mendoza '23 and Isabella Wei '23, SMS brings a unique perspective to the music performances at the school, as it is of the few student-led ensembles that allows for instrumental and voice musicians to work together and perform popular songs for the community audience. In this year's recital, the ensemble members worked to create a diverse setlist made up of nine songs, split up by a dance intermission performed by Stella Ren '22 and Ophelia Cham '25. The SMS featured a wide variety of brass and string instruments as well as the keyboard, drums, electric guitar, and vocalist performances. Isabella Wei '23, co-director of SMS and vocalist, said, "You can see how the dynamic of the bands switch during each song. Each student is a talented musician, which makes the music flow together smoothly." In preparation for the recital, SMS students started planning in early December, meeting once a week to gather common music interests and arrange their sets of songs. The process consisted of meeting every Sunday to study nine new sheets of music for several different instruments. Saxophonist Rahul Ka-

lavagunta '22 said, "I'm really impressed with the dedication and effort being put in by the performers, which is sometimes difficult to encourage because of their other responsibilities and obligations." For members of the SMS, the student-led nature of the club allows them to project their identity and passions directly into their work. Adriana Bellido '24, a leading singer in SMS said, "[Preparing for the Showcase] gives us a chance at more creative freedom...We're able to choose songs that the student body knows and can enjoy, and it's just lots of fun." Due to Covid restrictions last year, the Student Music Showcase was moved outside to allow for social distancing and air circulation from Walker, which was at the time in the midst of renovation, to Main Circle. The pandemic affected both the location and the content of the recital, as last year's program was cut to only five songs due to the constricted time frame, Covid restrictions, and the limited access to higher quality sound controls.. Knowing that this year's concert will upstage last year's performance in its refinement, Mendoza looked forward to the improved quality in Walker. "When I envisioned this SMS performance my Prep year, I wanted to provide the best sound quality possible and now, Walker Auditorium can provide that for us," Mendoza said. This year's SMS concert, being mask-free and back in Walker, marked the return of student-directed musical performances halted by the pandemic. Reflecting on the joy of hearing his classmates' hard work accumulate in the unique styles of music, Alex Chen '22, current



Musicians and vocalists rehearse in Walker.

first chair clarinetist in the Hotchkiss orchestra said, "The best part was just the spirit of every musician and audience member. The enthusiasm and overall vibe of our community cannot be beat." To watch the performances of student musicians in SMS, go to the school's website to watch the livestream.

Musicians and vocalists rehearse in Walker.

Sports

Track and Field Competes In-Person

By ETHAN SHIN '25

After virtual track meets last year and no meets the year before, the Boys and Girls Track and Field teams are back to in-person, competitive meets. Mr. Nathan Seidenberg serves as the head coach for both teams consisting of 62 athletes. According to Coach Seidenberg, “This is the first real competitive track season we’ve had since Covid, and just getting the program back online is a big thing.”

On April 23, both track and field teams traveled to Deerfield for the

’23, and Whittemore also nabbed second in the 4x800m relay. On the Girls’ side, Paige Dzenutis ’23, Julia Widen ’24, and Anji Ashaye ’24 secured second place in the long jump. They also secured second place in the 4x100m relay thanks to Christa Prasertsintanah ’23, Emily Wang ’25, Mackay Bommer ’22, and Fati Salifu ’22.

The two teams headed back to Deerfield on April 30th for a tri-meet, where Dobson placed second in the 3000m, Whittemore earned third place in the 1500m, and Dzenutis won the long jump and placed sec-

petition, and overall I think we put on a good showing at both meets. Our biggest takeaways were that we aren’t phased by big meets or tough competition. Our largest issue was our struggle with depth.” Kadie Singh ’25 said, “After a long time without competitive meets, our team definitely looks to build off the loss and re-establish our position in Founders track.”

This goal of re-establishment was supported by Whittemore, who also said, “Hotchkiss is perennially a powerhouse in Founders track and we look to maintain our reputation, especially on the girls side of things, as they seem to be competing very well.” He also went on to say, “Our goals are much more procedural than quantitative this year, as our team is small, so we prefer to focus on the process of getting better and doing our best before we get hung up on what place we get.”

Becoming a force to reckon with is no small task, and both teams look to new runners for help. Mr. Seidenberg said, “Driseth Anderson, a Prep, has been running well in the 400m... For the girls team, Kristian Maxwell ’25 has really done a good job for the team. Emily Wang ’25 has been a good addition to the sprinting group.” Veterans also continued to improve throughout the season. According to Whittemore, “the majority of us have made great strides in our personal improvement.” Singh has also stated, “Practices are really efficient and great for team bonding. I definitely feel as if we all get better each and every day.”

As the season progresses, the Boys and Girls Track and Field teams hope for additional improvement and further success during a season with the revival of competitive meets.



JULIA WIDEN '24

Emmanuela Frimpoma '24 competes in a meet.

62nd Hunt Relays. The Boys placed second in long jump with Anish Reid ’23, Alex Tolis ’23, and Jamil Pandey ’23. Driseth Anderson ’25, Owen Zinn-Keane ’22, and Oliver Johnson ’25. Huck Whittemore ’22 placed second in the 4x400m relay while Zinn-Keane, Axel Nzi ’24, Chase Dobson

ond in the high jump for the Girls. In addition to the Girls earning second in the 4x400, Sydney Jean ’23 and Leanna Wells ’23 placed first and second in the shot put, respectively.

Whittemore, a captain of the Boys team, stated “We went into it knowing we would have some stiff com-

Corruption is Staining the Soul of Soccer

By MATIAS ACEVEDO '24
Features Editor

Today, it is impossible to watch a soccer game without taking note of the bright colored sponsorships on players’ chests and sleeves or advertisement boards displaying an endless array of brand deals. It is difficult to shop without stumbling upon shirts, clocks, posters, or water bottles stamped with a club’s logo across the middle. £190 million signings and six-figure weekly wage bills are the effects of football clubs becoming brands and businesses. How did we get here?

In 2003, Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich acquired Chelsea for £140 million, and after investing more than £1.5 billion into the club, he transformed Chelsea from an average club to a European powerhouse. Now, Abramovich is set to sell Chelsea for £2.7b after being forced to divest the club due to his close personal ties with Vladimir Putin in light of Russia’s war with Ukraine. Chelsea’s financial takeover is not an anomaly; Sheik Mansour’s purchase of Manchester City, Qatar Sports’s investment in Paris Saint Germain, and most recently, the Saudi Arabian Fund’s acquisition of Newcastle United in October are all examples of how uber-wealthy owners with a blank checkbook are all it takes to compete with the world’s elite clubs. With every new buyout and more money being invested into the sport, money-hungry owners and executives are corrupting the heart of world soccer.

On April 18, 2021, a press release sent the sporting world into turmoil. 12 of the biggest clubs in the world announced they would leave their domestic leagues, creating a European Super League backed by a \$1 billion JP Morgan investment, in which they would compete against each other to be crowned champions of Europe. This

announcement prompted outcry from the footballing world and fans across the globe were left in distress. Due to monetary challenges, there was doubt most clubs would even survive. Thousands of fans gathered in stadiums around the world and flooded social media to protest the enactment of the Super League. In less than 48 hours after the announcement, more than half of the teams involved publicized their intention to withdraw. Only one thing drove these clubs to the Super League, unbridled greed. Executives eschew the essence and purity of the game for the opportunity to make a quick buck.

In 2008, Mansour and Abu Dhabi’s royal family bought Manchester City F.C. for £123.5m. The previous season, Manchester City had barely managed a top-ten finish in the Premier League and seemed to be forever stuck in the shadow of their cross-town rivals, Manchester United. Today, Manchester City sits amongst Europe’s elite clubs, in line to win their fourth Premier League title in five years. Multi-million dollar sponsorship deals, flashy signings, and stadium renovations make the club feel completely different from what it was before. Despite dominance on the

pitch, the increased marketability and global attraction make Manchester City, and other teams around the world, feel like a brand instead of a football club. An owner’s motive is not to maximize on-pitch performance or appeal to fans, but to profit off what seems like a business venture to them. In Mansour’s 14 years at Manchester City, he has invested over £1.4 billion into the club and the club is now worth £2.98 billion (Forbes 2022), over 2,400 times more valuable than when Mansour purchased the club in 2008. Although fans get to enjoy great success, a club once united by the passion and spirit of its supporters became a global brand over the span of a few years.

What used to be a sport based on loyalty, passion, and unity is now turning into a playground for rich executives. If this rapid development keeps continuing, it won’t be long before soccer is only about who can sell the most jerseys or rack up the biggest sponsorship deals. In a world where money is many peoples’ largest priority, soccer is proving to be no different.

Chelsea fans protest the team’s involvement in the proposed Super League



EURO SPORT



DASHA POST '23/THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Rena Peng '22 serves during a match.

Rena Peng '22 Follows in the Footsteps of Her Role Models

By JULIAN BROWN '25

Rena Peng '22 is a four-year Senior from Redondo Beach, California and co-captain of the Girls Varsity Tennis Team. In the fall, Rena is also a member of the Varsity Volleyball team. Co-captain Eliza Muse '23 said, “Rena is truly the heart of the tennis team. As the only member of our team who has had a real season as our captain, Rena leads through her technical skills and through her attitude both on and off the court. She is a great role model and example of how to be collected on the court while keeping a fierce intensity and drive to succeed.”

What goals do you have for the team after a great start to the season?

I obviously want to win the New England Championships. I have high hopes of making New Englands and placing pretty high. We have an especially strong bottom of the ladder, and I think that will take us very far in tough matches.

What challenges have you faced playing tennis here at Hotchkiss?

I recently fell off a skateboard and had a fall and I had to get a surgery so I couldn’t play for 3 months. I’m kind of getting back into it. But I honestly think I got better in the time I didn’t play.

How does a place like Hotchkiss help you grow as a tennis player?

We have had a historically good girls tennis team. Covid was a challenge with recruiting and playing in general but my prep year we were second in New Englands. I think it’s great to be able to play with very talented players and also have a chance to play with the boys team which helps us a lot.

What is your favorite part about playing tennis?

I really like how together the team is even though tennis is an individu-

“At the end of the day, we are here to win together and each match counts.”

al sport. Even for challenge matches there’s no hostility or animosity on the team. At the end of the day, we are here to win together and each match counts. So whenever someone is down, we know it is important to help them up.

Is there someone who has inspired you and your contributions to the team?

There was a player who graduated two years ago in the class of 2020. Her name is Jennifer Li, and she is an incredible player. She’s not only a good player but a great all-around athlete. I remember when I was a younger player I looked up to her a lot in the weight room or when we were running miles as a team. I played doubles with her, and her positive mindset helped me to improve everyday.

Do you have a favorite memory as a member of the tennis team?

I remember when I was a prep after we had beat Deerfield in the semifinals of New Englands, whom we had previously lost to during the season, and we all just rushed onto the court. I think I cried, it was an amazing memory.

What advice would you give to tennis players and student athletes at Hotchkiss?

Play more tournaments. What I see a lot is people practicing by just rallying with other people and they try to hit as hard as they can. They think that’s going to make them better, but that’s really not what’s important. It’s much more about other things like consistency and getting into match play.



JEFF HINZ

Rebekah Oppenheimer '24 passes to Alejandro Zheng '24 at New Englands.

Ultimate Bounces Back From Slow Start, Showing Strength

From Cover

“Whatever happens, we are always focused on the next play, the next throw, and the next catch,” said Captain Emiliano Leal '23. “The entire team has really bought into that idea of not dwelling on our mistakes, and I think that’s propelled us to success.”

That success has been the product of a combination of good team culture, high energy, and a next-play mindset. The team’s philosophy, “0-0 game to 1,” coined by Head Coach David Thompson, keeps the team motivated and focused on what’s ahead.

Varsity Ultimate Assistant Coach Eric Stone said, “As we play more teams and see more defenses and offenses, we can learn to adapt to new situations; we will take what we

have seen and apply it to our game. We always need to improve our technical skills as there are many ways to throw a disc and many ways to get open. The players are doing a good job of drinking out of that fire hose because there is a lot to learn in a very short time.”

While the result in the New England tournament was a let down for many members of the team, the team will continue to focus on the games in front of them, as well as winning the Connecticut State Tournament.

“Our goal for the remainder of the season is to just come out and play our best in every point of every game,” said Coach Thompson. “We’re not taking anything for granted. We’ve seen how good the other teams are, but if we continue to do what we’ve been doing, I think we’ll be competitive.”

NBA Playoffs Off to Exciting Start

By MATIAS ACEVEDO '24
Features Editor

At the beginning of the season, 30 NBA teams were united under one goal, to be crowned NBA champions in May. After an action-packed season, only four teams remain in pursuit of the most coveted prize in basketball, the Larry O’Brien trophy. The Miami Heat, Golden State Warriors, Dallas Mavericks, and Boston Celtics were in contention to win it all after strong starts to their playoff runs.

After a strong regular season, the Miami Heat finished atop the Eastern Conference with a 53-29 record. Led by star wing Jimmy Butler, defensive anchor Bam Adebayo, veteran point guard Kyle Lowry, and Tyler Herro, the Sixth Man of the Year Award winner, the Heat were able to amass 5 more wins than their pre-season expectations. This strong form continued through the playoffs, and they were able to beat the Trae Young-led Atlanta Hawks in five games and overcame an injury-riddled Philadelphia 76ers in six games. Erik Spoelstra’s men look to keep this momentum going in the Eastern Conference Finals.

Facing the Heat in the Eastern Conference Finals were the Boston Celtics, looking to put their hands on their first NBA championship since 2008. The Celtics started off the campaign slow but were able to turn their season around due to Jayson Tatum’s rise to stardom. Tatum’s offensive prowess, combined with the best league-wide defense, led by Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart, earned the Celtics the second seed in the Eastern Conference. After a surprising first-round sweep of the star-studded Brooklyn Nets, the Celtics carried their strong form over to their second-round matchup by edging out the Bucks in a closely contested seven-game series.

The Warriors exceeded many expectations this season and have put together a strong playoff run. Jumping out to a league-best 24-5 start, the return of five-time all-star Klay Thompson, and the emergence of young star

Jordan Poole, all came together perfectly for the team to gel and play with excellent chemistry. In the first round, the Warriors easily defeated the Nikola Jokic-lead Nuggets in five games. In the second round, the Warriors defeated the Memphis Grizzlies in six games. Although the Grizzlies put up a valiant fight following the loss of their star player Ja Morant to a knee injury, the Warriors’s victory was inevitable.

Luka Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks are in their first Western Conference Finals since their 2011 championship-winning season. Behind an MVP-caliber season from Doncic, the Mavericks and new coach Jason Kidd secured the fourth seed. In their first-round series against a talented Utah Jazz team, Jalen Brunson stepped up in Doncic’s absence in the first two games, helping the Mavs advance in six games. In their second-round series against the one-seeded Phoenix Suns, Doncic averaged over 30 points a game, helping the Mavericks edge out the Suns in a seven-game series.

Furthermore, NBA awards were announced earlier in the playoffs. Nikola Jokic was controversially awarded the league’s back-to-back MVP, averaging career-highs in both points and rebounds. Many thought the award should have gone to the 76ers’ star center, Joel Embiid, who put together a dominant season on both the offensive and defensive end of the court. He was the first center to lead the NBA in points per game since Shaquille O’Neal in the 1999-2000 season. Darius Garland was awarded the most-improved player award, while Heat player Tyler Herro was presented the sixth-man of the year award. In a strong rookie class, the rookie of the year award was given to Scottie Barnes, who surprised many with his offensive fluency alongside his praised defensive effectiveness.

With a lot to play for, the end of these NBA playoffs prognosticates to be as exciting as the start of them. Due to a strong start to their playoff run, I believe the Miami Heat will go on to become NBA champions, with Jimmy Butler picking up the Finals MVP.

Boys Varsity Golf Goes to Rhode Island, Plays at Prestigious Andover Invitational

By RAYEEF RAHMAN '24

After a large break from competitive seasons due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Varsity Boys Golf team has maintained a strong group with many returning players and some new faces.

The Boys Varsity Golf team traveled to The Newport Country Club in Newport, Rhode Island, to participate in the Andover Invitational Tournament on April 30th. The team of 8 was led by Coach Jason Maier and Captain Nick Astorian '22, who is praised by teammates.

[Nick] is a perfect balance between a fun and disciplined captain,” said Christian Waldron '23. “He motivates us to work hard during practice, while maintaining a laid back atmosphere.”

This season, the team has competed in both Founders League and non-league matches. While the top six players play at matches, only the top five results are counted towards the team’s score. Currently, the team is 12-5. Coach Maier is positive about the season and the team’s success in scoring 200 or better as a team.

“The season has gone well so far. We’ve had a couple tough matches due to rough weather. This year we have much more discipline than last year as we didn’t have a full schedule due to the pandemic,” he said.

The Andover Invitational Tournament hosted eight other schools, including Andover, Exeter, and Deerfield. Hotchkiss has sent players to the tournament for many years now. The 18-hole course is part of the Newport Country Club and is renowned for its historic significance and prestige. It was the first national championship venue in 1895 and one of five founding members of the United States Golf Association.

The team ended up placing sixth

out of eight. Astorian, Waldron, and Cam Holland '24 scored the best score on the team, each shooting an 86 on the par 70 course. Waldron said, “It wasn’t the result we were looking for, but everyone was super stoked about playing in Newport. It was a surreal experience to play the same course that Tiger Woods did when he won the US Amateur, and we all found a part of our golf game to work on after playing the course.” Coach Maier echoed this sentiment by calling the trip a “blast” and “helping build team camaraderie.”

Looking forward, Coach Maier is optimistic about the remaining matches and upcoming tournaments. “With some nice weather we can finish this season off strong. We have some big

tournaments coming up soon [Founders and New Englands]. We just have to continue to shoot 40 on 9 and 80 on 18.”

Astorian said, “One goal we have as a team is breaking 181 at our home course by the end of year. I also want to set the team up for a good future as we aren’t very senior dependent and we will hopefully have a very good team in the next couple years.” The previous course record of 181 was set last year by Captain Nick Astorian '22, Christian Waldron '23 and others.

The Boys Varsity Golf team had an unforgettable experience playing in Newport and is planning to finish its successful season strong with its core values of discipline and hard work.



DASHA POST '23 / THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

Captain Nick Astorian '22 tees off on Hole 5 during a practice round.

Sailing Team Emerges Victorious at State Event

From Cover

Hackett '24 won the A division with 17 points, and Samara Walshe '25 with Lucy Jervis '23 and Jeb Bechtel '22 with Davis tied for first place in the B division with 16 points.

This type of regatta consisted of fleet racing. In fleet races, there is an A-fleet and a B-fleet. These races tend to be more competitive with sailors racing against multiple boats from different schools. The main challenge the team faced in preparing for this race was transitioning from team racing to fleet racing. In team racing there are only two schools competing against each other with three boats each.

Davis said the main goal for this

First Place in Both A and B Levels of Tournament

season is to win Nationals and foster a strong connection within the team. The sailors try to go out on the water whenever possible, even when conditions are not ideal. The sailors have had favorable weather thus far, a rarity in Northwestern Connecticut during this time of year. However, when the wind is too strong or too light for sailing, the team continues to work to improve and hone their skills off the water by watching videos from past races or going to the gym to lift.

With this determination, the team

was able to finish in second place in the New England fleet racing championship during the weekend of May 7-8. Despite their narrow defeat by Brunswick in the final rotation, the team earned nine first-place finishes, including eight out of the 11 races in the A division from Petersen and Oscar Emus '23. The team was able to produce high results throughout each race regardless of the difficult wind conditions.

Last weekend, the team lost to Brunswick by 3 points at MIT on the Charles River in Boston. There were 16 teams total and the team came in second.

Both A and B teams will compete in Fleet Race Nationals in San Diego on June 4-5.



DASHA POST '23 / THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

The Sailing team practices on Lake Wononskopomuc.