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# The Cardinal

St. Andrew's School, Middletown, Delaware

## The Country Movement

OP-ED BY NIKHIL MALHOTRA '17

When I was in middle school, I fell in love with country music. Being from New York City, I then became a complete outlier when it came to my taste in music. While all of my friends were plugged into the world of hip-hop and rap, I was utterly absorbed in country. I was obsessed with discovering new country artists and becoming a country aficionado. Oftentimes, when people learn of my love for country music, I get laughed at and made fun of. I immediately get pinned as having bad taste in music because of the common belief that country is hick music in which artists sing solely about tractors and beer. Truthfully, I also used to think the same thing: that country was an inferior and deplorable genre of music. However, ever since I developed a deep love and appreciation for the sounds from down South, I have wanted to rid everyone of the general stigma that surrounds country music.

I will be the first person to tell you that there is some terrible country music out in the world. Throughout my journey in discovering country, I have come across songs and artists that make me cringe. I have experienced the same disgust that most people feel when hearing any country. Ultimately, these certain catastrophic attempts at country music have created an unfortunate stereotype of the genre that has plagued the entire industry. The average person associates country artists with singing poor melody structures in a Southern drawl that inherently interferes with the already dreadful tune. However, country music is like any other genre; you will find music within any genre that is simply subpar, and country is no different. In order to enjoy country, you must set aside all preconceived notions and find the songs and artists that can do country justice.

Now that I have admitted to some shortcomings of country music, I want to explain why country must be heard. Country music is a complete collaboration of mastered musical ability, unique rhythms, deep lyrics, peace, freedom, and humanity. Country offers songs that trigger a range of emotions, suiting anything from the perfect

sunny day to the night you're in bed with a pint of Ben & Jerry's crying over the person you thought was the one. Personally, I find that country music offers a path to happiness that helps me to understand myself. Country has a certain sound and lyrical style that create a genre that fights for the average American. Whether it's the upbeat vibe of a Darius Rucker classic or the slow, calm, and serene sound of Don McLean, country music speaks to everyone and everything. Country boldly emphasizes the peace and goodness of humanity while still dutifully confronting the barriers of life that trouble us on a day-to-day basis. Ultimately, country speaks to every human emotion that floats around in our world. Furthermore, while country maintains a profound message, it also consistently impresses me with its sound alone. The country vibe is not only for pickup trucks on dirt roads, but rather, it is a sound you can carry anywhere. Country artists are uniquely talented in combining classic instruments with unusual ones to create a distinctive tone. Country's ringing sound is attributed to the way country artists think outside of the box. Often experts on the guitar, Southern artists tend to utilize uncommon chords, rhythms, and strumming patterns, and most country artists attempt to create unique melodies and musical patterns. This practice of risk-taking and unpredictability not only demonstrates the musical ability of country artists, but also creates a sound essential and individual to the music industry as a whole. Ultimately, country music is a genre full of expertise and emotion whose sound is vital to the music industry and whose emotion is necessary to understand yourself.

I strongly encourage you to go out on a limb and take a listen to this whole new world. Country music has brought me so much happiness and understanding since I first discovered it, and I truly believe it can do the same for everyone else. However, you may still be reluctant to take the time to discover this new genre on your own, so I will give you a plethora of suggestions, which you can find

below. I want to erase the stigma of country music and make it a widespread genre that people can love and enjoy together. I urge you to take part in the country movement. I promise you won't be disappointed.

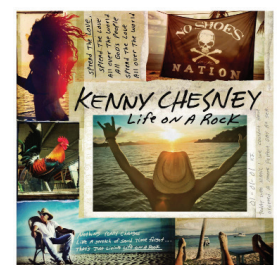
My Top 5 Country Artists and an Album From Each to Listen To:

1. Zac Brown Band, Jekyll + Hyde



Zac Brown Band is, no question, my favorite country band. Led by frontman and lead singer Zac Brown, the Zac Brown Band is renowned not only in the country world, but throughout the entire music industry. The band has been at the top of country music for years and, as time has passed, they have created their own sound. Blending classic country with classic rock, Zac Brown Band is music's biggest advocate for peace and freedom. The band's most recent album, Jekyll + Hyde, once topped the U.S. Billboard Top 200 Albums chart and is sure to pick you up on a rainy day.

2. Kenny Chesney, Life on a Rock



Rocking the classic country look, Kenny Chesney combines the classic country sound with a hint of reggae. He draws much of his inspiration from legend Bob Marley and seeks to fuse Marley's revolutionary sound into some of his songs. Chesney also offers a slower pace of music that touches the heart and soothes the soul. Chesney's album, Life on a Rock, features music legends such as The Wailers and Willie Nelson, while portraying both the relaxed and emotional aspects of country

*Continued on page 4*

### In this issue:

#### Page Two:

Career Profile: Ben Bentil  
2016: Fighting for Equity after a Wave of Xenophobia

#### Page Three:

Winter Sports Season Outlook

#### Page Four:

La La Land- A Musical Masterpiece  
A Twelve-Year-Old's Journey

#### Page Five:

Community Service  
The Carol Shout

#### Page Six:

Life in Art

#### Page Seven:

Confusing South Korean Politics  
SAISL Power Rankings

#### Page Seven:

From the Editors

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## The Cardinal



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## Career Profile: Ben Bentil

TIM LAN '18

Ben Bentil '14 is arguably the most successful student athlete in the St. Andrew's history. Born in Ghana, Bentil's athletic prowess earned him a spot on the St. Andrew's basketball and soccer teams at age 15, and he later earned a basketball scholarship to Providence College. After an explosive season during his second year in college, he was named First Team All-Big East and the conference's most improved player. He declared for the 2016 NBA draft and was selected by the Boston Celtics as the 51st overall pick. As a rookie, Bentil was first waived by the Celtics and later waived again by the Pacers, ultimately playing for the Fort Wayne Mad Ants of the NBA Development League. On November 18, 2016, Bentil signed a short-term deal with the Xinjiang Flying Tigers, a team in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), marking the beginning of his brief yet exciting professional career in China.

Signed as a temporary injury replacement for Andray Blatche, the all-star starting power forward on the team, Ben Bentil played a total of 11 games for Xinjiang Flying Tigers from mid November to mid December, averaging per game 14.1 points, 5.1 rebounds, 0.2 blocks, and 22.39 minutes. On November 25, 2016, Bentil put on his most dominating performance in his debut on the Flying Tigers: coming off the bench, he hammered two impressive dunks, scored 28 points, and grabbed 3 rebounds. During the after-game interview, Li Qiuping, the head coach of the Flying Tigers, commented that Bentil "had not yet fully fulfilled his potential." Indeed, Bentil continued his strong

performance in his second CBA game, gathering 23 points and 6 rebounds against Liaoning Leopard, one of the best teams in the league. Three days later, Bentil ushered in another meaningful game in the CBA, playing against the Shanghai Sharks led by his former teammate on the Boston Celtics—French power forward Yabusele. Yabusele was selected by the Celtics as the 16th overall pick in the NBA draft 2016 followed by Bentil's 51st pick, and went on to play in the NBA summer league as Bentil's teammate on the Celtics. Although Bentil openly expressed his excite-



ment of playing against his former teammate in China before the game, he was not able to maintain his previous sensational performance. In the game, Bentil grabbed only 3 rebounds and made only one shot out of 8 attempts, scoring merely 6 points. On the other hand, Yabusele almost completely surpassed Bentil with an impressive performance of 26 points, 14 rebounds, and 2 assists. Though starting with two eye-catching victories with the Flying Tigers, Bentil's lack of team chemistry as a temporary replacement began to emerge.

Bentil's loss against Yabusele served as a turning point in his CBA career. As Bentil's lack of coordination with the team re-

vealed itself, his game performance became largely limited. During Bentil's remaining 8 games in the season, he averaged only around 13 points, a figure significantly lower than the average of all foreign players in the league, and went 6 games without a single assist. Nevertheless, Bentil continued to fight hard for the team to contribute to the Flying Tigers' following seven-game winning streak. On December 25, the head coach of the Flying Tigers announced the official return of Andray Blatche, declaring the end of Bentil's brief yet dramatic CBA career. Although

Bentil's average statistics in CBA were not extremely outstanding, Chinese basketball fans were still impressed by his full efforts and dynamic performances. On hupu.com, a popular Chinese sports news site, many fans of the Flying Tigers left grateful notes for Bentil's contribution to the team and wished him a successful future career. "Sad to say

good-bye to Bentil, and hope to see him later in NBA," a fan commented. In return, Bentil also reflected on his CBA career with gratitude. Before his last game for the Flying Tigers, Bentil posted a photo with Darius Adams, the other foreign player on the team, on Instagram and wrote, "[enjoy] it while it last cos it's only a one time ride." Undoubtedly, Bentil cherished his brief CBA career as a valuable professional experience which would boost his confidence and hopefully contribute to his prospective NBA career. As the first ever alumnus of our school to be drafted by an NBA team, Bentil will certainly continue to a St. Andrew legend wherever he goes.



## 2016: Fighting for Equity after a Wave of Xenophobia

OP-ED BY LAWRENCE PHILLIPS '18

The year 2016 has been deemed by esteemed political analysts as the year when the "wave of populism" washed over the world's political landscape. They are, of course, referring to the controversial wins of Donald Trump, the Brexit campaign, President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte, and the ever-increasing popularity of far right wing leaders in Europe like Marine Le Pen of France, who have all made xenophobia the cornerstones of their campaigns.

However, as President Obama spoke on Trump's support from working class voters, masking xenophobia as populism is danger-

ous: "Let's just be clear that somebody who labels 'us versus them' or engages in rhetoric about how we're going to look after ourselves and take it to the other guy; that's not the definition of populism." Populism, has a connotation that makes it seem that a populist candidate fights to protect the rights of all people. This connotation of populism for the most part actually took a drastic defeat last year to what really was the wave of "xenophobia."

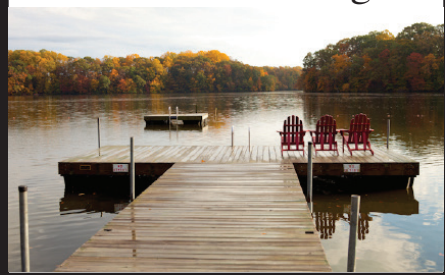
Racism, sexism, Islamophobia, at the most fundamental level, stems from this inherent fear we have of what we are not. This fear is what

dismantles our ability to see other people regardless of how we are born as humans. And it is this fear that is so destructive because it is self-fueling.

America becomes more diverse every year as the number of white Christians in America has dwindled to 46 percent of the total population from 55 percent in 2007. However, much of the demographic feels as if "America has been taken away from them" as minorities make up more of the workforce each year. A lot of this demographic is comprised of working class people without a college degree who risk losing their jobs

*Continued on page 5*

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# WINTER SPORTS: SEASON OUTLOOK

JARYD JONES '17

## Boys Basketball

Saints Boy's Basketball looks to be the program that competing teams in Delaware and the greater Mid-Atlantic Region should keep an eye out for this season. The biggest change from last year is the loss of a few key players including graduated seniors Donovan Simpson and Jack Sohm '16 as well as Zach Kent '17, who transferred to Blair Academy for his post-grad year. The loss of Sohm and Kent left a big hole to fill in the forward position, but Nnamdi Chima-Anyanka '18 has stepped up as the starting center and continues to improve as the season progresses. The Saints will also have a very young team compared to past years. This year's roster includes 2 freshmen, the most since the 10-11 season, as well as four sophomores and three juniors. The remaining five seniors hope to lead the team by example and leave their mark by taking the team to the State Tournament.

**Players to Watch-** Adrian Watts '20, Lamar Duncan '20, Nnamdi Chima-Anyanka '19, Charlie Cahill '19, Akeem Martindale '18, John McKee '18, Malik Velmar '17 (Captain), Myles Villafana '17 (Captain)

## Swimming

Despite having a smaller team, the skill level of the swim team is much higher than last year. A strong coaching staff and the leadership of veteran swimmers will push the team to the level it needs to achieve to compete in DISCs and in States. The goal this year is to send 20 swimmers (boys and girls combined) to the State Championships this year, and it doesn't seem out of reach this year for SAS Swimming.

**Swimmers to Watch-** Caitlin Cobb '17, Hannah Beams '17, Colin Campbell '17, Keegan Pando '17, Ryann Schutt '18, Dylan Torrance '18, Ann Yancy Bassett '19, Sarah Caron '19, Tad Scheibe '19, Lucy Dai '20



## Squash

**Boys:** The boy's squash team has added some new talent and brought on some JV players from last year to fill some large holes left by a strong senior class from last year. Competition will be fierce this year, but that challenge will not stifle the Saints as they look have their best record yet. They are especially looking forward to their matches against rival Tower Hill to keep their title as the best squash program in the state.

**Players to Watch-** Mac Nicholson '18 (Captain, Top Seed), Tripp Peters '19, Finlay Turnbull '20, Rhys Williams '19, Patrick Windels '17 (Captain)



**Girls:** Last year, the girl's squash team had a strong ladder but overall the team had very little match experience. They look to build upon that as the team looks to be the strongest it has been in recent years. The new members are learning quickly how to keep up with the pace of varsity, and will hopefully see more court time as the season progresses. The team will be led by four seniors who have been with the program since their freshman year. With the hard work and commitment the members of the team put into the courts every day, SAS Girl's Squash looks to redeem themselves at nationals and contend for a title.



**Players to Watch-** Sarah Pinto '17 (Captain), Isabelle Tuveson '17 (Captain), Jenna Popp '17 (Captain), Thuy Anh Duong '17 (Captain), Victoria Steelman '18 (Top Seed), Mia Beams '19

## Wrestling

Long-time wrestling coach Mr. Duffy has stepped down from his position, allowing Mr. Carroll to take the reigns as head coach. Even with the big change in staff, the team hasn't seemed to skip a beat. The seven-man roster is led by seniors Avi Veluchamy '17 and Alec Maloney '17, who both took a long hiatus from wrestling for Brown workout in their junior year, but have returned to the mat to reclaim their spots at States this year. Other returning wrestlers include superstar Brando Leggott '18 and Cheon "2k" Lee '18. Newcomers George King '18 and Andy Dupree '20 look to make a statement in their first year as well. Hopefully we will see SAS Wrestling make a comeback as one of the powerhouse teams in the state.



## Indoor Track

Last year was what most of the track team would consider a "building year". It was its inaugural season, so it was a small and inexperienced team with one coach and a dream. However, the only way the team can go is up from here. New assistant coaches Mr. Moffitt and Mr. Tower were great new additions to the team, as Moffitt helps bring a new perspective for the sprinters and Tower especially helps the long distance runners. The addition of a lot of new athletes, including some of the top runners from the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams, is sure to be beneficial to the team as well. The track team is on the hunt for the State Championship again this year, and with a year of experience under their belt there is nothing stopping them from achieving that.

**Players to Watch-** Caleigh Johnson '17 (Captain), Gillian Simpler '18 (Captain), Alex Horgan '18, Blake Hundley '20, Quentin Abramo '18, Evan Murray '18, Carson McCoy '19, Lian Bourret '18

## Girls Basketball

**Varsity:** Varsity Girls' Basketball looks to bounce back from a very rough season last year and compete within the state. With a bit of a younger team this year, they will look to their vets to be the spark that the team needs to succeed. However, this does not mean that the younger players have not been impacting the team in a positive way. Sophomore guard duo Noor El-Baradie and Leandre Pestcoe bring versatility and shooting ability whenever they step on the floor, and the addition of forwards Kate Paris '19, Emily Paton '20, and Christine Wu '20, bring the strength of rebounding to the overall team, a key piece that needed to improve from last year. Overall, the team is taking steps in the right direction. They have the skills needed to make a solid basketball team; it will be up to them to decide how they want their season to play out.

**Players to Watch-** Noor El-Baradie '19, Jas Southerland '17, Alex Cameron '18, Sam Mayo '18, Leandre Pestcoe '19, Camille Seeley '17, Emily Paton '20

**JV:** When you think of the most exciting team on campus to watch, your mind probably immediately goes to soccer, lacrosse, or maybe even crew. However, the girls' JV basketball team (otherwise known as JV Ball) is looking to make a statement with the incredible energy and huge fan base they bring to every game. Led by captain Emma Marvil '17, their season started off strong with a big win over Christiana HS, and they look to build off of that as the winter goes on. They will be combining the skills of players that have never touched a basketball in their lives with long-time vets to the game; the team will rely on the wisdom and tenacity of both sides of the spectrum in order to succeed. Overall, JV Basketball is a team to watch this winter and can offer an example of the spirit of St. Andrew's athletics.

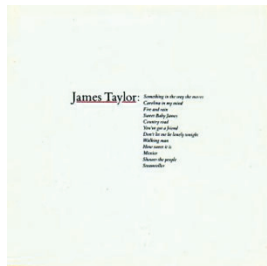
**Players to Watch-** Emma Marvil '17 (Captain), Sophia Cordova '17, Theodora Simons '17, Amelia Atalay '17, Belle Dallah '18, Dani Payne '18, Emma Tapscott '18, Aliay Chavez '20, Tien Duong '20

# The Cardinal

The Country Movement, from the front page

music. Chesney's album, *Life on a Rock*, features music legends such as The Wailers and Willie Nelson, while portraying both the relaxed and emotional aspects of country music.

### 3. James Taylor, Greatest Hits, Vol. 1



James Taylor is one of the biggest names in the history of country music. He revolutionized the industry with his calming melodies and unique guitar capabilities. You might have seen Taylor a couple of years ago perform "America the Beautiful" at President Obama's second inauguration. His *Greatest Hits, Vol. 1* gives you his classics that have ingrained themselves into music history. Taylor's melodies and guitar progressions are truly mesmerizing and are beloved by Baby Boomers. You may have accidentally walked in on your parents slow-dancing in the kitchen to the sound of Taylor's voice.

### 4. Darius Rucker, Charleston, SC 1966



Darius Rucker defeats every stereotype of the white, hick, cowboy country artist. A true gentleman, Rucker hails from Charleston, South Carolina and has been on the music scene since 1986. Rucker actually was the lead singer and co-founder of Grammy Award-winning rock band Hootie & the Blowfish. However, as time went on, Rucker realized his true calling and returned to his Southern roots. His grungy voice and upbeat melodies have rocked the country world for years. His album, *Charleston, SC 1966*, shows his ability to swoon as well as bring the house down in a unique rock-and-roll fashion.

## La La Land – A Musical Masterpiece

MOVIE REVIEW BY NAM NGUYEN '18 AND ALEC BARETTO '18

The idea of a movie like *La La Land* isn't unique. It is a musical about Mia, a young aspiring actress (Emma Stone) and Sebastian, an ambitious jazz musician (Ryan Gosling) who cross paths and fall in love. The movie revolves around their fluctuating romance and how their progress towards their individual dreams shapes their relationship. *La La Land* had everything we'd expect to see walking into the theater; charming romantic scenes, mild comedy and characters breaking out into dance and musical numbers – all included within a somewhat cliché plotline. What we didn't expect to see was a movie that managed to win a record breaking seven golden-globe awards – one for every category it was nominated for. What makes *La La Land* so outstanding despite its unoriginality is the fact that it exceeds our expectations and completely reshapes our preconceived notions of musicals and romantic

movies. It simply does everything that has already been done in both genres much better.

The music is what makes this movie. Its upbeat tempo and catchy tune gives it the unique ability to arouse feelings of delight and thrill,



as well as sorrow and concern from the audience - which only serves to amplify our connection to the characters and the scene. Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling worked perfectly together; I would even go as far to argue that the movie would have been nowhere near as successful if different actors had been casted – even if they were of the same caliber. Their captivating chemis-

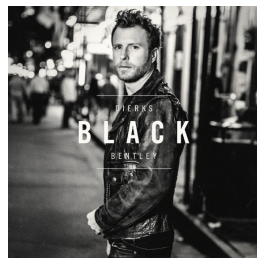
try creates a realistic and believable relationship that demands our patronage. The dialogue between these two characters is flawlessly written; every line highlights their idiosyncratic traits, Sebastian, his dry but light-hearted humor, and Mia, her bubbly and infatuating nature. The end of the movie leaves us left with multiple songs stuck in our heads and an overwhelming plethora of mixed emotions that take days to process.

*La La Land* is a unique experience that punishes our low expectations. This

hidden gem of a movie has something everybody can take pleasure in, regardless of what they think of musicals. For those who are still hesitant to watch this movie due to previous encounters with this genre, *High School Musical* has about the same amount of flair and elegance of *La La Land* as a raw potato has the taste of French Fries.



### 5. Dierks Bentley, Black



Certainly your more typical country artist, Dierks Bentley provides the more dirt road vibe that people tend to hate. However, he manages to overcome the stereotype with catchy hooks and melodies you can't stop listening to. His most famous song, "Drunk on a Plane" (featured on his album *Riser*), took the country world by storm when it was released in 2014 and is still fresh in everyone's mind three years later. His most recent album, *Black*, was released in May of 2016 and displays his rustic country sound and heartfelt notion of love.



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## A Twelve-Year-Old's Journey

POEM BY RICHARD ZHANG '18

The twelve-year-old prepared for his departure,  
Soon his cousin made him remember,  
That his parents were crying,  
But he thought he was lying.

Then he thought back,  
To when he still sat on his father's neck,  
To when the world was free of distress,  
Supported by the parents' nest.

The sun used to be brighter,  
Distinguished by the morning moon.  
The long strides were yet to be rushed  
By the sensing pressure,  
Which ridded the innocent pleasure.

Then he was back,  
Sitting below the luggage rack,  
Tormented by the tangling mess  
Within his supposedly life-changing quest.

He knew he embarked on this trip for a reason,  
"For a better future",  
But how was he supposed to change the future  
If he didn't live in the present?

He left family and friends behind,  
For his own sake, for a future only in the imagination.  
Eventually guilt would catch up,

When his grandfather had aged since five years ago,  
When he'd missed moments with family that  
Each twelve-year-old deserves to experience more.

Society pushed him to mature quicker,  
As if following countless adults' footsteps,  
He needed to become colder.  
But deep down he knew he wanted to be different.

He still believed in love and kindness  
Just like how it was when he believed in stories of a princess.

Is all of this worth it?  
He continues to search on,  
Though the question remains unanswered,  
And the answer remains unquestioned.

Hopefully, when he finds himself in the future,  
There would not be torture  
To witness wicked struggles of more children  
Who should instead be immersed in the world's garden.

Hopefully, it would not be too late  
To return to his grandfather,  
To live out that twelve-year-old's fantasy,  
And to end this tragedy.

# The Cardinal

## Community Service


OP-ED BY ISABEL AUSTIN '18

In the winter, St. Andrew's can feel like a bubble. Rather than spending afternoons and weekends walking to town or sitting on the Front Lawn, the student body seems to be confined to the limits of their dorm rooms. Although a few brave souls venture into the outer limits of the campus, and some are forced to trek across the gully, most stay near the protection of a heating system. For this reason, winter at St. Andrew's seems to be a season defined by a withdrawal from the world (and weather) surrounding us. Although St. Andrew's remains a haven of warmth—both literally and symbolically—we often forget about the broader community around us.

This isolation is remedied by one thing: Tuesday afternoons. As we load up into vans and head towards nearby schools, we are uniting ourselves with a much larger purpose. For one afternoon a week, our bubble seems to open up into something infinitely more powerful than anything we experience on campus. The relationships that are formed between teachers, mentors, mentees, and children are unmatched. The feeling of satisfaction when your mentee gets an A, or the feeling of excitement when a five year old takes his first dive into the pool or his first backstroke, is one that you can only get through participating in and, more importantly, embracing community service. The instant when you realize that you are making a positive impact in another's life is perhaps the most remedial thing that you can do, not only for a child, but also for yourself. It is a moment in our hectic week that gives us an opportunity to combat the seclusion we frequently fall into during the winter months.

Along with isolation, this winter at St. Andrew's seems centered around a nationwide feeling of helplessness. Although we are protected by our campus, many would agree that the election of Donald Trump in November has rattled the St. Andrew's community and


beyond. As we watch the leaders of this nation distance themselves from what most consider to be principles of fundamental human goodness, it is, yet again, quite easy to shield ourselves from this cold-heartedness. It is too simple to become accustomed to the warmth of St. Andrew's without sharing it with the world around us, and we fall into a mode of defense rather than attack. Through community service, not only can we resist a cycle of routine and withdrawal, but we can also help repair the fragmented remains of a rotten election. Although our impact will only make a small dent, it allows us to engage with our world rather than resign ourselves to its imperfections. Indirectly, through Adaptive Aquatics, mentoring, and Boys and Girls Club, we are fighting for a nation centered around principles of unity and goodness, therefore combating the growing influence of racism, sexism, and bigotry in a changing nation. Now more than ever, it is vital to engage in mentoring or Adaptive Aquatics so as to play a role, however small, in repairing the aftermath of a negative election.

To many, Tuesday afternoons are a chance to binge watch Netflix, sleep, or catch up on homework. Although these afternoons can seem like an escape from what is often a hectic and overwhelming schedule, engagement with the Middletown community is just as important as any class or sport. As high schoolers, Tuesday afternoons are our chance to indirectly resist a nation of Trump, of cold-blooded, singularist thinking, while also resisting what many consider to be a winter of isolation, seclusion, and helplessness. What makes these afternoons so magical is that they serve as a way to not only help others, but also ourselves. After all, many would argue that this is the ultimate goal of St. Andrew's: to create a generation ready to engage with the world and its imperfections, teaching us to center our lives around the very ideals that we embody on Tuesday afternoons. 




## The Carol Shout

POEM BY LYNDEN FAUSEY '17

Twas the night before break, and all over campus,  
 Every student was going, to shout carols out;  
 The Seniors had set up the dining hall with care,  
 In hopes that Mr. Roach soon would be there;  
 Each student was nestled on tables and chairs;  
 With lyrics to Christmas carols held in their hands;  
 With everyone ready, and I in my ugly christmas sweater,  
 We sucked in our breath and prepared to shout,  
 When suddenly from my rib there arose such a pain,  
 I bent over and wondered what was the matter.  
 A flashback to bouncy houses on Saturday night,  
 Where I raced all my friends and got kicked in the side.  
 The pain in my side from a bruised rib,  
 Gave a painful but bearable pulse when I breathed,  
 When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
 But Ms. Connors, Mr. Moffitt, and Mr. Roach too,  
 Ms. Connors, always quiet yet suddenly so loud  
 I knew in a moment she could beat Mr. Roach.  
 Mr. Moffitt, at his first carol shout,  
 Just laughed, and shouted, with confusion on his face:  
 "Now, Mr. Roach! It's, Mr. Roach! Oh Freshman, can you believe it!?"  
 To the center of the floor! At the top of his lungs!  
 Now shut up! Shut up! Shut up all!"  
 As the verse began the wild hurricane of his voice did fly,  
 As his deep booming voice, shook tables and lights;  
 So lit was the dining hall, that no one did care  
 The tables were breaking and would need repair  
 And then, in a twinkling, the whole room was jumping  
 Each jump a new hell for my bruised rib.  
 As I thought about stopping, and cutting it short,  
 Nik yelled "Twelve days of Christmas", and all was alright.  
 The freshman were confused, unsure what to do,  
 But with help from other people they soon took the reins;  
 Each grade singing their own verse,  
 But the loudest being seniors, of course.  
 Everyone's eyes—how they twinkled! Their dimples, how merry!  
 Their faces were like tomatoes, from all yelling!  
 Everyone's mouths were wide open like holes,  
 And nobody wanted it to be over;  
 But, alas, it did end,  
 But no one was sad;  
 Because tomorrow is break, and always next year.  
 Yet I would not have a next year,  
 But I laughed regardless, in spite of myself;  
 My final carol shout, performed with a bruised rib,  
 Would be the most memorable indeed;  
 I had stopped singing never, despite all the pain  
 Because each word meant something; as this was the last,  
 And moving the dining hall back as it was,  
 Hugging my friends, and spreading the Christmas love;  
 I went back to dorm, feeling accomplished and sure,  
 That I wouldn't have my last carol shout, be any other way.  
 Back on duty, ere I turned out the lights—  
 "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!" 

### *Xenophobia, from page 3*

to foreign workers and people who feel they are losing their representation to minorities. That is why Donald Trump who has vowed "to put America first", deport illegal immigrants, and bar many foreigners from entering into the U.S., has mustered significant support from much of the white working class. By appealing to the xenophobia and racism, Trump garnered support from those who felt as though our current leadership has failed them. President Duterte's merciless slaughter of thousands of drug offenders is another clear example of the death of empathy. He failed to see the thousands who committed

minor drug felonies as fellow humans. These executions will most definitely, in the long term, cause heightened depression throughout the country, and thus a vicious cycle emerges. The war on drugs and the war on crime is really a war on people. We must once more halt our actions and begin to see other people as humans. As Bryan Stevenson expressed in *Just Mercy*, our failure to provide empathy to those that are not us is perhaps the greatest cause of all evil. If we let xenophobia become the will of the people, xenophobia and populism are the same thing. 

## Life in Art

Symphony No. 4 in F Minor by Peter Lynch Tchaikovsky

STELLA ZHOU '18

Peter Lynch Tchaikovsky composed Symphony No. 4 in F Minor during the hardest time of his life. His marriage with Antonina Miliukhovna was deteriorating. He suffered from a “nervous breakdown” himself due to his “feelings of estrangement from his wife”, as he mentions in his letter to his patroness, Nadezhda von Meck. Tchaikovsky also writes in the letter that “even [his] symphony suffers in consequence” due to the adversities he faces that are “highly unfavorable to composition.” Despite the obstructive elements that seemed to hinder his inspiration at the time, this Fourth Symphony became one of the most famous pieces Tchaikovsky composed during his lifetime.

The opening fanfare in the brass section of the first movement, *andante sostenuto*, features a repeating occurrence of the notes E flat and G. The wind section, mainly the flute and oboe parts, join in solidifying this repetition from measure seven, which effectively excites the audience, as the pattern very much sounds like a leader calling its subjects to inherit this intense emotion. Although the two notes are also accompanied by the F minor scale and occasional fluctuations from these two principal notes, none of these embellishments or harmonization seem varied enough to break away from the cycle of repetition. The minor tonality of this piece also defines its gloomy and almost disheartening feeling, despite the also gallant feel brought by the tutti, especially with the help of the more sonorous nature of the brass section sound. The music seems to find its relief from measure sixteen as the

horn section rouses a more serene melody from the strings. However, the melody falls back into sequences, which indicates several phrases that follow the same rhythmic pattern despite the variations it takes. The cyclic pattern is apparently a notable characteristic of this movement.


By von Meck’s request, Tchaikovsky explained the program—the background story of this symphony—in his letter to the patroness. He writes of the first movement: “This is Fate, the fatal force which prevents our hopes of happiness from being realized... One must submit to it and to futile yearnings. The gloomy, despairing feeling grows stronger and more burning...” The melody Tchaikovsky has crafted for this movement is the perfect realization of this state he envisions in the letter: the transitions of the melody and volume from sonorous to serene carry the audience’s emotion from being caught in tension to having hope for a sense of relief. Yet the almost eternal nature from the recurring repetition of a particular phrase indicates an endless cycle of desperation, just like what he meant to create—an expression of the unattainable happiness. Although it is also a particular section that initiates a new pattern of phrase, mostly by the wind instruments. It becomes more and more predictable that the entire orchestra would gradually join in to help reinforce the theme, which echoes with how the “despairing feeling grows stronger and more burning.”

Tchaikovsky’s wife, Antonina Miliukhovna, was a former student of his. They met when she was

16 and he was 25. Antonina first confessed her love for Tchaikovsky through a letter to him in 1877, to which Tchaikovsky responded with an explanation of his lack of mutual affection for her. Yet their increasing contact through the letters gradually drew Tchaikovsky towards this rather persistent woman, who at the time was already 28 years old—an age many considered too old to marry. Tchaikovsky’s reasons for his choice of Antonina seems rather involuntary as he explains: “[if he] turned his back on her...[he] should cause her real unhappiness and drive her to a tragic end.” He does not marry Antonina out of his own will, but from an apologetic mindset of trying to save her from sadness. These rather insufficient reasons already insinuate a still tragic end for this marriage. The wedding took place in Moscow on July 6, 1877. Tchaikovsky left their honeymoon in Petersburg early for his sister’s estate, Kamenka, in Ukraine, because he found himself unable to compose surrounded by people. He spent six weeks there composing. He gradually felt a sense of estrangement from his wife due to this constant long distance and suffered from a panic attack due to difficulties in both his marriage and composing, and eventually divorced. It was during this difficult time that Tchaikovsky produced his Symphony No. 4. It becomes clearer from his real experience that the “fatal force that prevents our happiness from being realized” is in fact based on his life.

This is not the only time where Tchaikovsky’s personal experience is reflected in an art work. Throughout his lifetime, Tchai-

kovsky produced his famous opera, Eugene Onegin, which tells the tale of how the bachelor Onegin falls in love with a young girl named Tatiana. She writes him a letter expressing her affection, which he in turn rejects due to her young age. Years later, Onegin rediscovers the already mature Tatiana and falls in love with her. Yet she rejects him when they meet. The plot of the opera, although not originally produced by Tchaikovsky himself, is parallel to the trajectory of his real life, where the ultimate rejection from Tatiana suggests Tchaikovsky felt his marriage with Antonina was a personal failure.

Tchaikovsky has always been strict with himself in monitoring the quality of his composition. He explained this in one of his letters to von Meck: “What has been written with passion must now be looked upon critically, extended and, most important of all, condensed to fit the requirements of the form. One must sometimes go against the grain in this, be merciless and destroy things that were written with love and inspiration.” He acknowledges the fact that the more impulsive emotions may drive his composition to deviate from its form. Yet despite the principles he tries to keep in mind, Tchaikovsky’s music has still inevitably become the reflection of his life. He ultimately realizes this fact as he admits: “I cannot change [my composition] intrinsically.” While it does not fit Tchaikovsky’s rigorous definition of a perfect form of music, his composition does define a good musician: his emotions become the melody of the music, and his life becomes art itself. 



## Confusing South Korean Politics

OP-ED BY JIWON PARK '18


On December 10, 2016, President Park Geun-hye was impeached with over 200 votes from the congress, qualifying the first passed impeachment of the country. BBC News explains that, "At this point, a bizarre story takes an even stranger turn. The impeachment strips the dignity and rights of President Park, but not her office. This can be only be taken from her if the Constitutional Court upholds parliament's decision." It is quite shocking how the president of South Korea can lose all of her power and rights yet stay in the Blue House without any restrictions.

A witness named who testified in the congress about this corruption, Ko Young Tae, has disappeared to Vietnam; his last phone call recorded while he was in hiding, was to his family begging them, "Help me, please." Many reporters speculate that President Park has been threatening Ko and the other witnesses, pressuring them to keep their mouths shut.

The figure at the center of this case is Choi Sun Shil, whose father became very close to President Park since Park's mother (the First Lady of the country in 1970s) was killed by North Korean assassins. According to the sources, allegations of Choi's malpractices surfaced in the summer of 2016 when media outlets reported that she had used her influence on the Blue House, making illegal payments to the headmaster of the school to admit her daughter into the elite Ewha Woman's University.

A minor Korean broadcasting station named "JTBC" revealed the corruption that existed in Korean politics for years by breaching through Choi Sun Shil's personal laptop. Inspecting the files they found, JTBC reporters found incriminating facts about Choi, who became the public enemy of 50 million citizens. While much of the outrage has surrounded Choi's alleged influence over Korean politics, the scandal has also revealed the prevalence of cults and alternative religious movements of questionable morality in the country.

The resulting investigations have led to the arrests of Choi and top officials in Park's staff and the banning of Korean-registered foundations that Choi had been controlling, which extorted tens of millions of dollars from companies that represents Korea such as Samsung and Skt. Further investigations and media leaks have also raised questions about her influence on various ministries and have lead to many interview requests.

Since the first JTBC broadcasts regard Choi, the Korean citizens have organized 11 rallies, planning to organize more until President Park officially resigns. Interestingly, even though these rallies have been the largest in decades with an average of 1.5 million people attending per rally, there has been no violence on the streets, with volunteers cleaning the roads themselves. 

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SEMIFORMAL:  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

SAISL



## SAISL Power Rankings

COLIN CAMPBELL '17

### 1. Jae and the Joons (1-0-0)

Brennan Ayres '17 and Colin Campbell '17 both bagged braces in their squad's opening night 4-2 thrashing of #5 I'm With SAISL. Anchored by goalkeeper Nikhil Malhotra '17 and Captain Jae Kim '17, this team looks unstoppable offensively and rock solid defensively, making them the clear #1 pick.

### 2. Popped Collars (0-0-1)

Despite missing creative genius Nick Loh '19, the newly formed squad of Popped Collars fought to a 1-1 tie with defending champs Dirty Mike and the Boys on opening night. Oiled with German efficiency, this team will only run smoother when Nick Loh returns to the lineup.

### 3. Dirty Mike and the Boys (0-0-1)

Defending champions Dirty Mike and the Boys flagged on the opening night of their title defense campaign, tying newcomers Popped Collars 1-1. Despite taking the early lead on Shridar Singhanian '18's upper 90 golazo, they were unable to stop the Panzer from equalizing later on in the half. Expect manager Rick Townsend '18 to whip his squad into shape as we enter February.

### 4. Elite Africans (1-0-0)

The powerful and physical Elite Africans marched to a 3-0 victory over the Muffin Dynasty in their opener. Roger Broussard '18 and Rick Townsend '18 both slotted home brilliant individual efforts that allow their team to crack the top four.

### 5. I'm With SAISL (0-2-0)

Despite getting schmacked on opening night and losing their second game to a miscellaneous team The Ladybugs, I'm With SAISL is a talented sophomore team led by Captain Jamie Rowley '19, Jessica Boyer '19, and Leandre Pestcoe '19.

### 6. Help (1-0-0)

Help showed no mercy in their 4-0 shellacking of #8 Varsity soccer. Both teams agreed to call the game at halftime due to the disrespectful scoreline. Their victory over an admittedly abysmal squad earns them the #6 ranking.

### 7. The Muffin Dynasty (0-1-0)

The Muffin Dynasty were unable to impress in their 0-3 capitulation versus the dominating Elite Africans. Several injuries cast doubt on the future of the team, including star goalkeeper Ginger Mullins '20's concussion.

### 8. Varsity Soccer (0-1-0)

They're pretty bad, regardless of Captain Eric Winiarczyk 17's boasts.

### 9. 20% Skill (1-0-0)

20% Skill rolled over bottom-ranked Rusty T and the Dentists 6-3. However they also arrived with a stacked roster that gave them a higher percentage of skill than their name suggests.

### 10. IDK (0-0-0)

Due to a managerial oversight, they haven't played yet—so Idk.


### 11. Team Ginger Mullins (0-0-0)

Not even sure this team still exists due to Captain, namesake, and superstar Ginger Mullins '20's concussion. We wish her a speedy recovery.

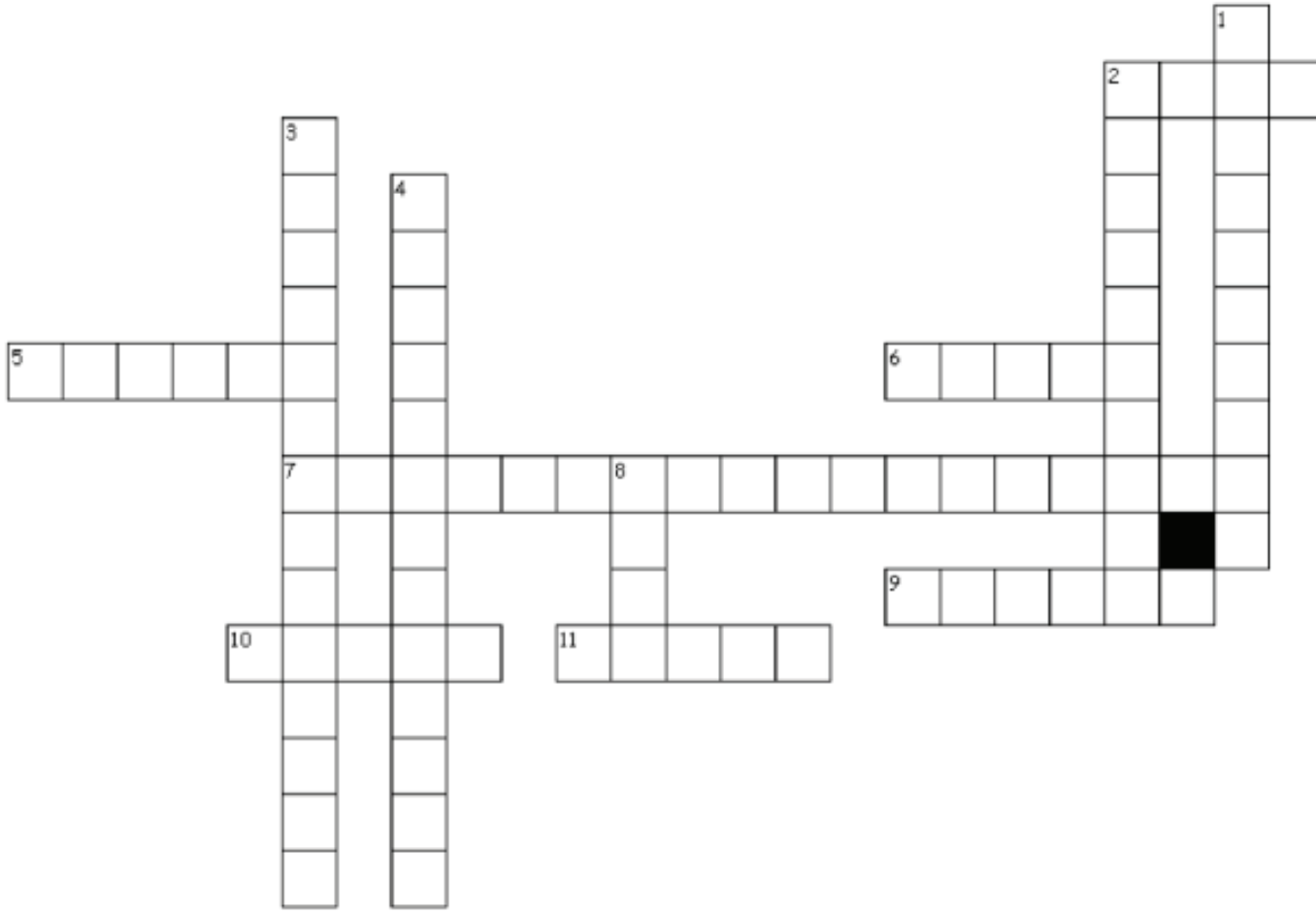
### 12. The Ladybugs (1-0-0)

Propelled by the dynamic attacking duo of Jenna Popp '17 and Rick Townsend '18, the Ladybugs won vs. #5 I'm with SAISL. However the team included only two players from the actual roster—Jenna Popp '17 and Caleigh Johnson '17.

### 13. Rusty T and the Dentists (0-1-0)

Got 100% wrecked by 20% Skill. The only redeeming factor was Colin Campbell '17's vintage two-goal performance, tallying him four on the season. This puts him two scores ahead of Rick Townsend '18 in the 2017 SAISL Golden Boot race. 

# FROM THE EDITORS



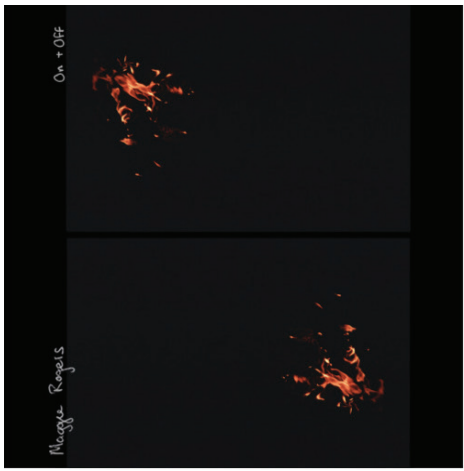
**Across**

- 2. This school is surrounded by \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. The best way to start off your Mondays
- 6. What makes our school different according to Mr. Roach
- 7. The winter musical
- 9. Freedom runs on \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. A computer repair GOD
- 11. A favorite and somewhat deadly SAS winter pastime

**Down**

- 1. Looking for a bike? Find her
- 2. The only way to break table without getting in trouble (hint it's always the night before Christmas Break)
- 3. A social justice activist coming to speak to us in January
- 4. SAS "all time favorite" lunch
- 8. SAS's favorite gas station

LIAN BOURRET '18



Maggie Rogers '12's newest single, On + Off, is now available on SoundCloud and Spotify. Check it out.



## This Day in History: January 26th

1837- Michigan becomes the 26th U.S. state.

1838- Tennessee enacts the first prohibition law in the United States.

1870- Virginia rejoins the Union.

1915- The Rocky Mountain National Park is established by Congress.

1962- Space probe Ranger 3 is launched to the moon. Unfortunately, Ranger 3 ultimately miss the moon by 23,000 miles.

1998- On national television, then-president Bill Clinton claims "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" in reference to White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

# 2017- The Class of 2017 has 0 more exams.

