

THE FLAME



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Area II Film: *The Visitor*

By *Sharanya Anath*

The last Area II film for the 2017 session of Governor's School East was *The Visitor*. This film was about professor Walter Vale, who discovers a couple living in his apartment in New York City. He befriends the man living in his home, Tarek, and he learns to play the djembe from him and attends his gigs.

Walter discovers that both Tarek and Zainab are undocumented immigrants after Tarek is arrested in an unfortunate turn of events in the New York subway. Tarek is sent to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Queens, and Walter hires an immigration lawyer to help him get out of the center.

Tarek's mother, Mouna, comes to New York as well, to check on her son, and in the process she develops a relationship with Walter. Tarek is ultimately deported and Mouna is forced to go back to Syria to find him.

This film was certainly thought-provoking, emotional, and

impactful. Students were certainly affected, and gasps were heard from the audience upon the revelation of Tarek's deportation. Many students said they cried or felt deeply sad, while others described it as a feeling of resignation and expectation.

This dynamic itself, between students' reactions, reveals the diverse experiences of students with the immigration process and their expectations as a result.

"I enjoyed the movie, but the ending was unsatisfying. However, I know that it was more realistic, and it would have been a worse movie had things resolved, since it wouldn't have been truthful," expressed French student, Laura Meshnick.

This film was also gave insight into immigrant culture in New York City, particularly that of Muslim immigrants, and dynamics between different ethnic groups post-9/11.

Lyna Cherikh, a Dance student, spoke to this: "Both of my parents



are immigrants, and they got their Greencards in college. The film made me think of them a lot, even though they had a different situation and different experiences when coming to America."

In Area II classes, students discussed the issue of immigration on the large scale, and related their opinions back to the film. While many have opinions about illegal immigration, the experience of viewing a film that expressly attempts to humanize undocumented immigrants to American audiences was definitely a new and important perspective for GSE students.

Today is the Happiest Day at GSE!



Alumni Day: Celebrating our Past and Future

By Jaelyn Wilson

July 15 was Alumni Day. It was the day former GSE students could come and meet friends, revisit their Area I, and show their support. Some of them even gave advice about life after GSE. All of the alumni looked so happy and excited to finally be back on the Meredith campus.

As they stood outside of Vann, it was like a reunion that would never end. They yelled and ran into each other's arms.

By the end of the day, most of the students couldn't wait to become alumni so they could experience the excitement of seeing their friends meeting new friends next year.

Along with going meeting their old friends, the alumni went to their former classes to see the teachers and to talk with the students. They were great examples of literal life after GSE. We learned about their accomplishments and what they had planned for the future, and some students said it gave

them hope and peace of mind with figuring out what to do next with their lives.

One thing that happened on Alumni Day was the memorial and dedication service to "Bear" O'Bryan. There were several alumni who attended to show their support.

After Alumni day was over, Noah Ingold was asked about his feelings of Alumni Day and he said, "I thought it was really interesting to see the past community and how they interacted with each other. It reminded me of how close I have gotten to people here



Photo by Laura Meshnick

at Governor's School at East."

Kia Jeffers was also asked how she felt about Alumni Day and responded with, "It was strange to see people our age called alumni. Most of them just graduated high school. I did love Alumni Day though."

By Emmy Soll

On a bright Sunday morning, GSE students got up early to participate in the Meredith Mile—a relay race stretching across the outskirts of Meredith



Photo by Sade Proctor

Running for GSE

campus. Runners lined the start of the course, which began at the fountain near Meredith's parking lot. As the relay began, GSE students enthusiastically cheered on their friends in the race.

The rules of the Meredith Mile were simple. Racers competed in teams of five. Four of the team members ran a half mile, while the last runner dashed the full mile. The goal of each team was to have all teammates finish the race with the lowest collective time. The team that finished first consisted of runners Cameron, Conner, Kiliejah, Nick, and Paul.

At the end of the race, runners described the event as "fun," with "lots of cheering," and as some jokingly stated,

"pain." Overall, students concluded that they had a great time hanging out in the fresh air with friends.

GSE students were also given the opportunity to participate as volunteers during the Meredith Mile. Student volunteers were especially appreciated, as each team needed a student volunteer to keep track of their time.

The Meredith Mile was also a great way for Governor's School East to raise money for the scholarship fund for future GSE students. Donations were greatly appreciated and prove how much students and staff enjoy giving back to the community that is Governor's School East.

English: A Diverse Perspective

By Emily Holland

The English language contains thousands of words with different spellings and definitions. These words can be strung together into sentences, paragraphs, and stories to convey a variety of meanings. English speakers refer to the act of ordering words on paper



Photos by Kelsey Rector

as “writing,” and the act of interpreting combinations of words as “reading.”

Under the leadership of instructors Chuck Sullivan, Mary Naber, and Emmanuel Lipscomb, and TA/Cs Marcy Pedzwater and Jessie Gada, the 51 English students at GSE study and perform the actions of “writing” and “reading” in their classes each day.

On the first day, each student selected a preferred focus for their time at GSE: Poetry, Fiction, or Memoirs. The students’ preferences, which varied greatly, determined the three classes for the remainder of the session.

When asked why she chose her focus Brie Cunliffe said, “I chose Poetry because I feel that the ability to convert feelings into words transcends all writing disciplines.” Cunliffe added that she is very happy with her choice, as many students are.

In the Poetry section, taught by lead instructor Chuck Sullivan, students read and examine poetry

from the twentieth century forward. These poems allow students to discover how to develop themselves as poets. The students then write original poems on diverse subjects. They have the opportunity to share these poems with each other in class and also with the GSE community at weekly poetry readings open to all of GSE

The Fiction section, taught by Mary Naber, gives students opportunities to read and analyze both novels and short stories. The class regularly engages in student-led seminars on literary works. The topics analyzed in these seminars range from writing methods to philosophical ideas within the selections

being discussed. Students also write original short stories and critique each other’s work during writing workshops. Earlier in the session, the Fiction section collaborated with GSE Art students to turn their writing into three-dimensional art pieces, which was a new but rewarding experience for all who participated.

Kelsey Marlett, a student in the Fiction class, commented on the class dynamic: “I feel that I have a strong connection with the other students. We’re all storytellers, and we’re all here because we’re passionate about what we do.”

In Emmanuel Lipscomb’s Memoirs section, students explore the various forms that personal nonfiction stories can take, including books, essays, podcasts, and even comics. They examine and discuss published pieces and then communicate their own experiences through these various forms.

Ella Fowler, a student in the Memoirs class, said the part of class she finds most interesting is sharing her work with her peers and reading others works.



“It’s their [personal life] story. We’ve all become close because of that,” Fowler added.

Although the English students are split into three sections most of the time, the classes occasionally have collaborative sessions.

They had the opportunity to have Skype conversations with two writers: podcast producer Morgan Givens and novelist Johnny Rich.

In addition, a guest instructor, former TA/C Leah Thomas, introduced the students to a form of English communication that many students had not explored before: screenwriting.

These collaborative sessions have been beneficial and enjoyable for students in all three sections.

Throughout the summer, GSE English students have had opportunities as diverse as the English language itself. Both in their respective sections and as a whole, they have gained new knowledge, critical-thinking skills, and new abilities in reading and writing. These experiences will benefit the students for years to come.

Dance: Loving and Creating

By Celie Anderson



In dance, we explore the wide variety of modern dance technique under the direction of Jessi Knight, accompanied by Dorian Ham, and assisted by TA/C Hannah Price. Modern dance is made up of many different techniques. So far we have covered Graham technique, Dunham technique, and Horton technique. Each technique has its own unique style and influences.

We explore these different techniques through different combinations in our morning technique class.

In our technique classes, we also discuss the importance of self-care, and taking time out of our day to reflect on what our bodies need.

Aside from experimenting with different techniques, we spent a lot of time working on our version of *Rosas danst Rosas*

by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, which we performed for the GSE community on July 5, 2017.

For this project, we watched the original piece choreographed by Keersmaeker. Then we watched Beyonce's countdown video, which featured very similar movements, costumes, and sets as Keersmaeker's piece. These two videos led us into a discussion of the rights of choreographers to their pieces, and how one truly owns their movement.

Keersmaeker's response to Beyonce's video was to encourage people to learn the correct choreography from her piece through video tutorials she posted. Keersmaeker also encouraged choreographers to post their versions of *Rosas danst Rosas* to her website. So as a class we learned Keersmaeker's original choreography, and we generated some of our own choreography to create our own piece.

For our final performance on July 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Jones auditorium, we performed a piece inspired by sadness. In class we discussed the physiological aspects of sadness especially where we feel sadness. We also created movements based off of words that resonated with us from a certain poem.

After generating choreography, we tied all of the different pieces and parts together to create a cohesive piece. The creation of this piece was an emotional journey that required a lot of challenging thought and input, and choreography from all 16 dancers was incorporated in this piece, making it truly our own.

Along with technique and creating, we focus a lot on the importance of failing. We have deemed Fridays as "Fail Better Fridays."



Photos by Kelsey Rector



In the dance world, so much pressure is put on a dancer to be perfect, and these unrealistic standards make growth in dance seemingly impossible at times. Every day in dance, but especially on Fridays, we try to see our mistakes and mishaps purely as information and something to grow from. In our sometimes really hot, sometimes really cold, and sometimes just right studio space, we dance, we create, but most importantly, we love.

Governor's School East has Talent

By Noah de Comarmond

GSE's annual Variety Show opened with a cheerful and uplifting song by the Community Chorus, setting the bar high for what was to come. The ensuing performances lived up to the standard set by the first act and had no problem blowing the audience away. Acts ranged from stand-up comedy and spoken-word poetry to mind-blowing vocal and instrumental compositions. There was just about every kind of variety one could desire, with boatloads of talent to spare.

After the community chorus, Kbo (Katherine Beaumont) took the stage as an emcee, bubbling with her characteristic humility while she introduced performer Daniel Hwang, who was also an emcee. Daniel got the crowd laughing with his unique brand of humor, inspired by John Cage's 4'33" and sleep deprivation; he ended his set by collapsing on stage to catch some shut-eye. Michael Corts and Donny Flores were up next, presenting a seamless duet between xylophone and marimba. Through remarkable technical ability and eerie harmonies, the two crafted a pervasive, ethereal soundscape that filled the auditorium. Noor Shehata was next to take the stage with a powerful original spoken word poem called "On My Head, In My Blood". The title was a reference to her faith, and throughout the work she explored our freedoms as Americans and our right to defend them.

Next, the curtains parted to reveal Elli Alexander, sitting behind a piano and gracing the audience with an angelic cover of "Trouble" by Coldplay. Her seamless and pitch-perfect execution of the song left the audience absolutely astounded. Following Elli was Sophie Teachout, performing an original dance. She exhibited electrify-

ing choreography, with impressive and graceful movements throughout. Once again, the second set of curtains parted to reveal the piano, this time with Iris Summerlin in front of it, performing an original song. Prefacing her performance with the fact that she has only recently begun to go by Iris instead of Kimmie, she dove into a tear-jerking song, each word wrought with raw emotion. Her unique, majestic voice and poetic mastery were wholly evident.

Kailee Miller was up next with a virtuosic piano set. She had the room on edge, listening to her impressive technical ability and rhythm as she seamlessly blazed on. Jon Su followed her remarkable grace and poise with a less conventional musical approach. Jon played a brief original clarinet song, "Fire Truck in C# minor," imitating a fire truck siren, through which he expertly mixed hilarity with his clarinet expertise. Kia Jeffers and Jalen Mills took the stage to strut a stomp and shake cheer. Both of them showed incredible energy as they danced



through the routine. Their high-energy act was followed by two of a more static nature. Madeline Yara played an original song on the piano, written for her Area III creativity project. Her vocal talent and introspective lyrics

led to a beautiful and moving composition. Right after her performance, Luke Cain seated himself at the piano and unleashed an exciting and upbeat classical piece. Skilled hands glided across the keys, never missing a note, spinning an intricate web of sound.

Kamille Graham followed with "Organs," a poem about writing. She explored the reason she writes and its place in her life with powerful, elegant language. After Kamille, the show took a turn away from poetry and back to music with a violin duet by Austin Fitzgerald and Lily Zheng. The pair weaved intricate harmonies and presented a wonderfully blended piece of music. Griffin Knock followed them with a love song. Contrary to the form of a typical love song, this one was about the ukulele. Fittingly, Griffin made use of his own ukelele and warm voice to bring his message home. Next up was Jaelyn Wilson, playing "Rise Up" on the piano. Using dynamic vocal range, she put incredible feeling into the music and her powerful voice added infinite new meaning to each word.

As the end of the show began to loom, Paul Miller, Price St. Clair, and Avery Shaffer appeared center stage. The three covered "Heart Full of Doubt, Road Full of Promise" by the Avett Brothers. Price and Paul's soft voices, Avery and Price's guitar playing, and Paul's astounding violin lines all contribute to an excellent performance. The final act of the show was a trio consisting of Grace Krell, Michael Corts, and Eric Ross. Michael carried the rhythm with his masterful piano playing, while Grace and Eric astonished the audience with the beauty and intricacy of their flute lines. The variety show was a demonstration of the enormous talent and diversity within GSE.

Opinion: What to do About Education

By Randy Whitehead

These are troubling times. It seems like social issues are cropping up more and more everyday, and they have only served to widen the gap between people of different groups, religions, races, ethnicities, beliefs, political affiliations, and lifestyles. One of these major political issues is education, and what needs to be done to fix it.

Sir Ken Robinson from Huffington Post says that in the 1970s, the United States had one of the highest high school graduation rates in the country, and now it has one of the lowest, despite being one of the most developed countries in the world. Research shows that high school graduates are much more likely to go on and have fruitful and successful careers than high school dropouts.

So, why do people drop out? According to Sir Ken Robinson, a main

part of the problem is how the problem itself is being misdiagnosed. The United States educational system is based on numbers. Numbers like scores on standardized tests and final exams and IQ tests. But why isn't education being molded and changed to be so much more human, and fluid, than so rigid?

Sir Ken Robinson also says that the one of the main answers to the problem of education is making it much more humane, and personal. He says that learning is all about being personal, and having certain connections with people. That connection allows for a better flow of information and ideas.

As Sir Ken Robinson said, teachers do not need to be just great instructors and test administrators, they need to be great mentors, motivators, and supporters for each and every one of their students.

The main step to reforming education though, is reforming teachers. Teachers need to be taught professionally in a much different way, one that allows them much more control and creative freedom with what they choose to impart upon their students. Because, if we fail to make education personal, and fair, for each individual student, the dropout rate is going to keep increasing.

As Sir Ken Robinson mentions, students perform at their best when they have in them a true sense of curiosity and inquiry regarding the subject, like the students here at Governor's School East.

Sir Ken Robinson also points out that many people will say that we can not afford to make education personal for each student. But, as he also pointed out, we simply can not afford not to.

GSE Wraps up with Area I Presentations

By Sam Cryan

Cate Center had a busy few days. As Governor's School winds down, students in Natural Science, Social Science, French, English, Art, and Mathematics showcased the creativity, intellect, and passion for their ultimate presentations.

Presentations were kicked off by Natural Science on Wednesday. The students had been working on a science dilemma which required them to either experiment or engineer to find a solution. Topics ranged from designing a video game to using CO2 data to model the number of people in a room. Poster boards were used to show off graphs and data, and models and sensors used for the experiments

were given demos.

Social Science followed on Thursday with groups of two presenting poster boards about a research topic that they had selected. By sifting through online databases and books, the Social Science students were able to form a cited board showcasing their thoughts on the issue. From Tulipomania and speculative bubbles to whether the UN was a help or hinderance for Europe, all the students dug deep and found interesting and informative topics.

Mathematics had a much tougher vetting process. During the week prior, students had been presenting to the fellow math students on a plethora of math topics, including graph theory, chaos theory, bird flight plans, and

game theory. The students voted on the best presentations and the selected groups presented on Saturday to the public. Being able to make abstract math concepts and equations simple is a challenge in itself-something which the students did wonderfully.

Art provided a spot to view the fantastic pieces which the students had created. Each student got a panel to showcase the many works that they had created in their time here. In addition to that, a group art project designed to be interactive and intriguing to the appreciators adds to the presentation. From cardboard castles to a maker tent, the completion of all projects has been a great contribution to the GSE community.

Spirit Week

By *Hanna Tischer*



One thing we have gathered over our time here is that GSE is a very spirited place. Beyond our typical enthusiasm, the past week GSE students have been dressing up to show our school spirit.

On Monday, we flaunted our team allegiance. The campus photo is now spotted with Carolina Blue and NC State Red. This day created and “ruined” the friendships that have been made these passed few weeks. At the end of the day, students were able to overcome their differences as they do with many ideals and different perspectives became understood.

On Tuesday, students brought out the tackiest of outfits. Some individuals wore socks in sandals with bright neon to compliment, while others



Photos by Laura Meshnick

dressed as their TAC. Lastly, some carried around a tac throughout the day to should their support. These clever tacky approaches show the tenacity and mindset of this amazing community.

On Wednesday, the Governor School Students were replaced with characters from many different realities. Superwoman, Kim Possible, and Spider-man came to save the day. While the Olsen Twins strutted the quad runway. Winnie Pooh and the gang showed up in math and choral music. Lastly, Scooby Doo and the gang solved mysteries all around our campus. By the end of the day the students slowly returned and then characters went back to their figurative homes.

On Thursday, the GSE students captured the past, present and future. This was

pro-
tested through
the styles of
the 20s-90s.
The scrunch-
ies and the
poodle skirts
brought the
GSE com-
munity and
the Meredith
Campus back
to the days of
old. Others
dressed as el-
derly versions
of themselves.
Lastly, a cave
woman also
experienced
the technology and

innovation of the campus. The portrayal of many different times and cultures tie the students to the alumni and faculty who made it possible for them to have this amazing opportunity this summer.



On Friday, students dressed as faculty members. Bald caps, jean shorts and boys in booty shorts roamed the campus. Pictures of idols and pupils riddle the phones on campus. Although many jokes were made, this day shows the appreciation the students of GSE hold for the faculty. Thank you.

On Saturday, students forgot to get dressed in their typical attire. Slippers and fuzzy pants made the students hot but the struggle was endured. One might have thought that the warmth and coziness of pajama day would have made it difficult to stay awake but due to GSE’s engaging curriculum, all students were alert, focused, and thoroughly enjoyed our last day of spirit week.

Argue With Me

By Angel Nugroho

It ravages its way through modern society. Something so subconscious, some might term it as a silent killer. Something that has brought down civilizations and has now reached an all time high. Something, if we do not act quickly, might just be our doom. This crisis? We don't argue anymore.



Part of the problem is the perception of arguing that exists today, like showdowns in the CNN Situation Room or angry outbursts from those crazy (insert political party of your choosing). Everywhere people fight



over religion, government, economics, even for the front seat in a car. But the key word here is fight, not argue.

In *Thank You For Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs, in a fight, “each disputant tries to win,” but when they argue “they try to win over an audience.” Arguments want to reach a solution to a problem while fights want a surren-

der, the ubiquitous “I told you so.”

While debate and debacle seem rampant in our communities, we can shift to a new direction. We must leave behind the ideologies of “I’m right and you’re wrong” and face new social issues with equally new mindsets.

Our own country is more polarized than ever before. It’s impossible to go a single day without another segment on the

this terrible bill here, or that terrible protest there, filled with clips of exasperated reporters, enraged spokespeople, and terrifying accusations. Congress appears stagnant, split down the middle like Moses parting the legislative sea.

This fierce polarization stems from a lack of compromise and collaboration, which constitutes the art of argumentation, also known as rhetoric. The growing atmosphere of “us versus them” only perpetuates tension that refuses to be acknowledged.

Our landscape demands a closer look at the rhetoric in our daily lives, whether it be a debate around hot dogs being sandwiches or America’s presence in world affairs.

Instead of government officials



constantly accusing each other and referring to misdeeds in the past, we should look to the present and the future. This is not to say that people should not be held accountable for very real crimes and neglect, but should rather see how everyone desires a prospective solution.

“If you want to make a joint decision, you need to focus on the future,” said Heinrichs, putting emphasis on deliberative arguments. Several convocation speakers at GSE incorporate this aspect into their talks. Patrick Gray referred to establishing multi-generational plans to further space exploration and Endia Beal discussed the importance of challenging biases to talk about issues like race and gender. Learning to think about the future, to compromise, and to be okay with argument can create a truly progressive country for everyone.

The solution can be found beyond the government or certain “types” of people. Programs like debate or Model UN encourage students to formulate arguments of their own and reach out to upcoming generations. Governor’s School especially promotes the concept of everyone having a voice to achieve resolution. Creating and progressing more of these institutions can end the exclusivity that surrounds argumentation and make it more pervasive in everyday culture. So let’s “foster the great rhetoric revival” and start arguing with each other.

Submissions

Photo Gallery

Photos by Kelsey Rector and Laura Meshnick



Puppy Love at GSE

By Elizabeth Moore



On Monday afternoon, the highly anticipated Pet Therapy elective finally came to GSE. Originally scheduled for the first week of Governor’s School, Pet Therapy was an exciting prospect for all the students who missed their own pets or simply wanted to take a break from the more serious classes and electives.

Unfortunately, it was originally removed from the activities calendar due to initial legal complications. Students

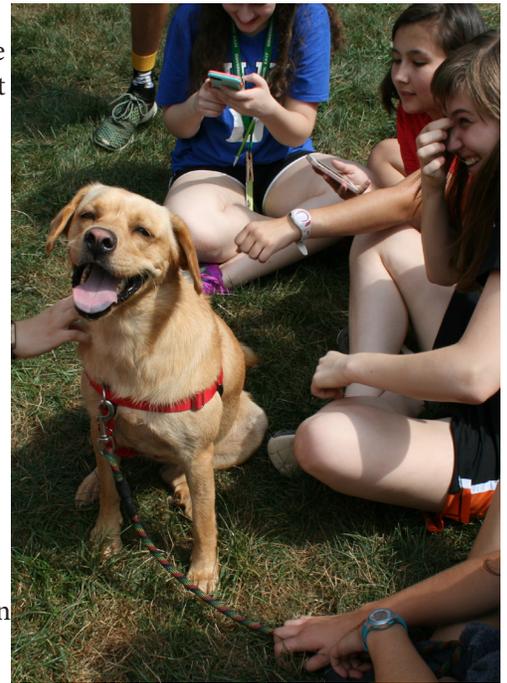
were disappointed, but Site Director Laura Sam reassured everyone that the staff would be persistent in making Pet Therapy a reality.

Three weeks later, Pet Therapy was put back on the calendar with definite plans, thanks to the efforts of Medical Coordinator Andrew Sam and the willingness of five individuals who brought their personal service dogs to campus.

Students flooded the quad after their last class of the day, gathering around the dogs for the chance to pet, play, and take photos with them.

The dogs—ranging in breed from basset hound to pit bull—were calm, obedient, and loving, making this a fun afternoon for pet lovers. Many people were excited to interact with the animals, like Ella Fowler who said, “It was so fun, I was going to cry.”

One owner even put on a show for the students with her dog’s tricks, including perfectly-executed commands to roll over three times in a row and crawl on his belly like a soldier. The students loved the experience, as Zoe Sretchings seemed to echo many people’s feelings when she said, “I miss my dog, so it was nice to be able to be around dogs, even if it was only for a little while.”



Photos by Luisa Torres and Sade Proctor

Although Pet Therapy was initially postponed, it lost none of its excitement. Instead, the anticipation of such a fun event made it that much better when it finally happened. The students are grateful to the pet owners and to GSE staff for making their dream elective come true, and during the last full week it feels as though Pet Therapy has made all of the opportunities we could have hoped for come true while at Governor’s School East.



Life Outside GSE: What's Going On?

By Jacob Woody

While contently immersed in the bubble that is Governor's School East, it might become easy to lose touch of local, national, and international news. Fear not, The Flame has your current-event needs covered! Here's your weekly briefing:

Game of Thrones Premiere

Game of Thrones premiered Sunday to 10.1 million viewers, a new record for HBO. The airing received positive reviews which included an 8.5/10 rating from IMDB and a 95% "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The one flaw most critics pointed out in the episode was a cameo by Ed Sheeran. Critics felt that Game of Thrones was above relying on cheap celebrity appearances in order to bolster ratings. Other than this the premiere was considered a strong start to the 7th season.

Wimbledon

At the 2017 Wimbledon tennis tournament, the winner in the men's category, 36 year-old Roger Federer became the oldest man to ever win Wimbledon and extended his record of major titles to 19. In the women's division, the winner was Garbine Muguruza, who defeated Venus Williams to earn her second major title.

Iran Nuclear Relations Worsen

The Trump administration attempted to reinstate former sanctions against Iran despite the deal negotiated by John Kerry during the Obama administration. Mohammad Javad Zarif, an Iranian diplomat, has accused President Trump of trying to use the current agreement to only benefit the US. Political pundits believe that the Iran Nuclear Deal was a gamble made by the Obama administration. However, the issue with the deal is not that the Iranian government is violating the conditions of this agreement. The issue may be that the Trump administration refuses to cooperate with the Iranians. The goal of the nuclear deal was to improve relations with Iran after decades of tensions that began with the Iranian Revolution and to gain an ally in the Middle East other than Saudi Arabia. This goal now seems unlikely considering the current state of the agreement.

Qatar Crisis

The UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have all severed ties with Qatar after accusing the country of aiding terrorist groups. This has caused food shortages in Qatar and has

forced the oil rich nation to rely upon food imports from planes and ships. Before Saudi Arabia ended trade relations with Qatar they provided 40% of all food imports to Qatar. This initially caused massive shortages even within the capital city of Qatar, however Qatar has alleviated these shortages by securing imports over the air and sea from Iran and Turkey. These sanctions have also caused the cost of exporting goods from Qatar to increase by more than 10 times as much. Initially, the countries condemning Qatar demanded 13 points be met which included Qatar cutting diplomatic ties with Iran, shutting down the Turkish military base within their borders, and paying reparations to other countries. These 13 points have now been relaxed, but it is unclear what the countries embargoing Qatar now want in place of these 13 points, or when this conflict will end.

John McCain Diagnosed With Brain Cancer

John McCain who has served in the senate for 6 terms and been hailed as an American hero for his service during the Vietnam War has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. McCain is known as one of the precious few non-partisan and honest senators. An excellent example of this was during the 2008 presidential election in which he took the microphone from a woman who had begun to criticize Barack Obama for being an Arab and said, "No ma'am. No ma'am. He's a decent man from a decent family man, a citizen who I just happen to have serious differences with on fundamental questions." Congress needs more people like John McCain who can do more than just launch personal attacks on people, and who value the truth more than their election. We can only hope that people start to follow his example before he is no longer able to see the fruits of his toils.



Integration Bee

By Daniel Hwang

On Tuesday, Jim Banyas, a Math teacher, hosted an Integration Bee with an amazing turnout. However, this particular Integration Bee had a few different rules from the traditional Bee held at colleges around the world. There was still a Qualifying Round and a Final Round, but the differences were that students competed in pairs and that no one was eliminated throughout, so everyone participated the whole time.

The Qualifying Round consisted of 10-15 math problems and teams got a card depending whether or not they got a question right. The teams with the top 5 cards were given “Power” and were given priority over the other teams.

However, the Final Round was different. Once again, it consisted of 10-15 math problems, but there was a twist. If a team with “Power” failed to

solve a problem, they lost their “Power” immediately, and if a team without “Power” solved a problem, they gained “Power.”

In short, teams had to answer every challenging question correct in order



to keep their place on the leaderboard. However, in the end, the team of Everett Meekins and Riley Hook managed to keep their “Power” the entire competition, leading them to win the Integration Bee.

After the main competition, Banyas

presented a rigorous question: Find the integral of $1/(2+\cos(x))$. The problem seemed impossible, but after using an unusual substitution involving the tangent half-angle identity, the difficulty was dramatically reduced and students were able to come up with an answer to this problem.

Many students enjoyed participating in the Integration Bee. Social science student Brandon Hunter stated that “It was a lot of fun and it was interesting to be able to apply different techniques and tricks to integrals beyond basic integration and using integration tables.”

Banyas commented that “The competition ran smoothly” and that he enjoyed teaching new tricks and techniques.

Even though some may dread Calculus, others embrace what it can do and what it means in the mathematical universe. The Integration Bee surely captured this marvel of math.

Meme of the Week

Your wallet after you buy t-shirts for Area 1, 2, 3, your hall, the campus, a sweatshirt and two bumper stickers



A special Thank-you goes out to all of the students who have put so much hard work into creating these newsletters. They have written, taken photographs, edited and designed the paper. Thank you Publications Staff!

A Review of *The Hunting Ground*

By Dora Pekec

On Tuesday, June 18th, a sizable group of Governor's School students gathered in Jones Auditorium ready to absorb and discuss at length a screening of *The Hunting Ground*. The 2015 documentary concerning sexual assault on college campuses. Created by two Governor's School alumni, this film explores this multifaceted national epidemic through personal accounts of victims, interviews, and shocking statistics.

The documentary, written and directed by Kirby Dick, opens with a series of seemingly joyful scenes portraying prospective college students squealing with excitement as they discover their acceptances into their dream colleges and universities. As it progresses and the subject matter deepens in its gravity, *The Hunting Ground* slowly dismantles the security we associate with institutions such as acclaimed colleges and universities and the criminal justice system.

The film features jarring accounts of students' experiences with campus rape, and how those experiences influenced the academic, physical, and familial aspects of their lives. At the same time, the packed documentary

examines the links between a lack of action around reported sexual assault cases and the colossal financial and political influences of fraternities, universities, and collegiate athletics.

Dick characterized the film with numerous interviews and countless



graphics, mainly outlining the scope and severity of the issue with striking statistics, with footnote citations included.

While Lady Gaga's "Til It Happens to You" was featured, Dick powerfully chose to illustrate interviews of personal stories without music, deepening these heart-wrenching feelings of empathy as well as motivations to spark change. Several moments throughout the film evoked feelings

of disgust and anger from the student audience, especially from those who are familiar with the victim blaming narrative, used far too often whilst characterising accounts of sexual assault.

Immediately following the film's end, TA/Cs Elizabeth Romary and Alex Velto, who both served as advocates against sexual assault at their respective colleges, allowed students to let out their pent up emotions in a collective shouting of one word describing their thoughts, among those words were "hurt," "angry," and "why?"

The floor then opened for questions, comments, and discussion. The stimulating conversation touched on how to become an active bystander, how to seek resources, and how to raise awareness and advocate for sexual assault prevention as many of Governor's School students are soon-to-be college freshmen.

The Hunting Ground's thorough and all-encompassing overview of sexual assault on college campuses should be screened for all incoming college freshman and their parents, preferably accompanied by healthy, substantive discourse.

The Hunting Ground is available for streaming on Netflix.

Challenge Results

The Area I challenges of Math, Natural Science, and Social Science are open to all students regardless of their discipline. Below you will find the final Math results. Social Science and Natural Science have chosen to reveal their winners at different times.

Math Challenge Results:

1st Place - Daniel Hwang (Math): 25

2nd Place - Mariusz Derezinski-Choo (Math): 22

3rd Place - Daniel Haller (Natural Science): 17

4th Place - Morgan Opela (Math), Everett Meekins (Math): 16

6th Place - Luke Joyce (Math), Sam Cryan (Natural Science): 15

Special recognition goes to those students who competed in all 5 Math Challenges:

Sophie Teachout, Tyler Zickmund, Ben Silver, Brandi Richardson, Morgan Opela, Everett Meekins, Mariusz Derezinski-Choo, Luke Joyce, Daniel Hwang, Andrew Hallman, Christine Gao, Robert Barnette, Daniel Haller, Sam Cryan, Sarah Staehle

Guest Writer: Katie Dukes*A Simple Solution for Ending Homelessness*

I love reading. When I got the opportunity to take a leave of absence from teaching during the 2016-2017 academic year, the thing I was most excited about was having more time to read. Scratch that; the thing I was most excited about was not waking up at 5:30am every day. But the thing I was second-most excited about was reading.

One of the first things I read was Matthew Desmond's book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. It was best nonfiction piece I read in 2016. In it, he follows the stories of people living on the verge of homelessness in Milwaukee, while describing the systems that have led to these circumstances and the policies that could change them.

In what I see as a companion piece to this Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Desmond penned an article for the New York Times Magazine in May titled "How Homeownership Became the Engine of American Inequality." In this piece, he focuses his attention on one particular policy that has contributed to housing inequality, but could also play a major role in reversing it: the mortgage interest deduction (MID).

Mortgages are loans homebuyers use to purchase homes. The lending institution pays for the home, then the homebuyer makes monthly payments to the lender over a fixed amount of time, often thirty years. Each monthly payment includes interest on the loan, which is how the lender makes money. When homeowners file their tax returns each year, they can deduct the interest they paid on their mortgage. The Internal Revenue Service caps the deductible amount of interest at \$1 million. (The cap on interest for a mortgage on a second home is \$100,000.)

In 2015, the U.S. government refunded \$71 billion to homeowners through the mortgage interest deduction. Because of some quirks in the tax code (notably the standard deduction) most of the people who benefit from the MID have mortgages worth \$200,000 to \$20 million. People who can afford these homes would typically be categorized as upper-middle class or wealthy. The mortgage interest deduction is, at its core, a tax break for wealthier Americans.

According to most estimates, there are currently around 500,000 people living without access to housing in the United States. Estimates vary based on location, but on average, the cost of the government providing a year of free housing and support services (known as "housing first") to each of these homeless people would be about \$12,500. By comparison, each homeless person currently costs taxpayers around \$35,000 in services that do not provide housing. The total cost of housing every homeless person in America for one year would be roughly \$6.25 billion.

In his New York Times Magazine article, Matthew Desmond suggests capping the MID at \$500,000 instead of \$1 million. Only 6% of American mortgages exceed half a million dollars, but this cap would save the government \$8.7 billion in tax refunds annually. That would be enough to house every homeless

person in America, with \$2.45 billion to spare.

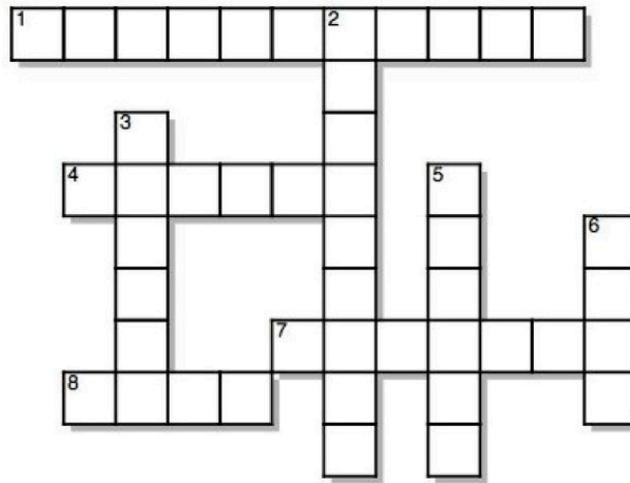
Many forms of inequality in American life can be traced back to lack of access to affordable housing and homeownership. The mortgage interest deduction is a tool the government uses to subsidize housing, but it supports homeownership for wealthier households instead of impoverished and middle-income households. I believe that if the government is going to subsidize housing, it makes more sense to do it for the millions of people who are living in a state of homelessness and housing insecurity.

This is why I get excited about reading. When I read, I learn. I didn't know much about the MID before reading Matthew Desmond's work, and his writing inspired me to learn more about homelessness and housing insecurity. By reading and researching, I developed my own idea for how to adjust policy and can now reach out to lawmakers. Maybe, just maybe, that policy will change, all for love reading.



by Romy Whitesell

GSE Buildings



ACROSS

- 1 Where you can knit
to your hearts content
4 305 Gym
7 Probably haunted
8 Where euchre and
ice cream coexist

DOWN

- 2 Completely vacant
3 When life gives you
lemons, watch them
here
5 Where you can find
French, Math, and
Area III
6 Where Fuego resides

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