



# the spectator

VOLUME V ISSUE I

THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2019

## Kashmir in Contention

### *Emotions Run High Following Removal of State's Autonomy*

Rachael van der Linden '21  
Editor-in-Chief

On August 4, 2019, the federal government of India revoked the autonomy, statehood, and residency rights and special privileges of the now former state of Kashmir. As the only majority-Muslim state in India, its inclusion within the country serves as a tangible example of the nation's commitment to secular principles. Despite this, the country's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and many members of India's Hindu Nationalist Party, have sought for years to bring the state of Kashmir to heel. On the 31st of October, the Indian government plans to split Kashmir and Jammu into two union territories, thereby bringing Kashmir under direct federal control. These actions have reignited historic tensions about the hotly-contested region between India and its Muslim neighbor, Pakistan.

Before the announcement was made that Kashmir's autonomy had been revoked, the state was put on lockdown. Phone, cable, and internet were all shut off within Kashmir, and thousands of soldiers were deployed to the highly militarized region. At least 2,000 politicians, community leaders, lawyers, and students were arrested under the Public Safety Act, which allows an individual to be jailed for up to two years without charges if they are considered a threat. Many see these arrests, which were often

made in the middle of the night, as a direct attempt by the central government to silence dissenting voices in Kashmir.

The semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir was taken away by a presidential order--superseding a similar order from 1954--obliging Kashmir to abide by many articles of the constitution that they had not previously been required to follow. The manner in which the Indian government put this order into effect has been hotly debated and seen by many as undemocratic. In Kashmir, power entered

*"As large numbers of troops move on both sides of the border between India and Pakistan, fortifying the Himalayas, many Kashmiris fear that a war between the two nuclear weapon-possessing nations may soon break out."*

the hands of the governor, who is close to Modi, and appointed by India's president, after the Kashmir branch of the Hindu Nationalist party pulled out of the assembly and left no majority. Elections were then delayed past June by the governor and were then postponed indefinitely when, in August, Modi revoked the autonomy of the state, claiming the central government's power to do so on account of there being no state as-



Soldiers often fire tear gas and buckshot into crowds of protesters. Photo Courtesy of Atul Loke for The New York Times.

sembly in place.

Residents of Kashmir were left with very little access to information regarding the Indian government's actions towards their autonomy both before and after the announcement of its revocation. With soldiers stationed on nearly every street corner, most Kashmiris were left essentially under house arrest. Though the Indian government stated that it would lighten restrictions on Kashmir the week after August 4, it is unclear whether or to what degree this has gone into effect. As large numbers of troops move on both sides of the border between India and Pakistan, fortifying the Himalayas, many

Kashmiris fear that a war between the two nuclear weapon-possessing nations may soon break out. Perhaps more worrying still is how these events seem to echo the bloody trauma between Muslims and Hindus that resulted from the 1947 Partition that split Pakistan away from India and created the semi-autonomous Kashmiri state. Now, once again, religious and political tensions arise between India and the majority-Muslim state within it.

Despite PM Modi's assurances that the actions taken by India's central government regarding Kashmir were intended to improve governance, restore peace, and increase foreign invest-

ment in Kashmir, many are skeptical of the intentions behind the government's actions. Since the announcement of August 4th was made, the UN Security Council held a closed meeting to discuss matters in Kashmir. While nothing was decided in this meeting, it bodes well that this matter was considered in such a significant forum. It remains unclear whether war will break out between India and Pakistan, though hostilities seem to be intensifying in this land where peace was already elusive. As of now, plans proceed to put Jammu and Kashmir under the direct control of the Indian state starting on October 31 of this year.

## The Helm Changes Hands

### *Madeira Searches for a New Head of School*

Megan Schmitz '21  
Staff Writer

In order for institutions to grow, their leaders must eventually pass on their position, at which point a search for a successor begins. This year, The Madeira School arrived at this transitory period. In October of last year, Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, the current Head of School, announced her intention to retire after the graduation of the class of 2020. Since then, the school's Board of Trustees has begun determining her replacement, forming a search committee comprised of eight members and co-chaired by Madeira alumnae Mses. Anne Faircloth and Tracy Savage. After reviewing a multitude of qualified applicants, the committee narrowed their pool to three finalists who are experienced educators.



Ms. Gretchen Warner talking to Madeira girls at CMT. Photo Courtesy of Amy Yoo '20.

The Head of School guides Madeira's operational programming, hiring faculty, shaping the curriculum, and acting as Madeira's representative within the broader academic community. Thus, in selecting the finalists, the committee examined the candidates' perspective on growth along with their experience, passion, and charisma. Based on that criteria, the committee will

ultimately recommend one of the three finalists to the Board of Trustees, who will then vote to formally confirm Madeira's next Head of School.

Prior to presenting their chosen finalist, the search committee will accumulate as much data as possible, including the assessments of community members. "The opinions of the community will weigh heavily into

our decision," Ms. Gaither Deaton, Chair of our Board, pledged. Upon witnessing the candidates in CMT and Q&A settings, students could then fill out a survey with which to convey their personal evaluations.

*"...the committee examined candidates' perspective on growth along with their experience, passion, and charisma."*

While communicating with the student body, the candidates each presented a conversational narrative indicative of their respective approaches to leadership. Ms. Mary Fielder consistently focused on the role of interpersonal relationships in improving both institutions and individuals. At her Q and A session, she revealed that

she regards teacher enthusiasm as the factor which most impacts student success. In contrast, Ms. Lisa Nagel anchored her CMT speech to the foundational principles of Madeira, thereby suggesting a devotion to tradition. The third candidate introduced, Ms. Gretchen Warner, related in her speech her vacation to the Faroe Islands to the importance of open-mindedness. Students expressed appreciation for her perceived amiability, opining that she felt "accessible."

When the Board of Trustees announces its decision this autumn, The Madeira School will have a leader deemed by Board trustees and students alike to personify the institution's values. Whoever she may be, this future Head of School will hopefully possess a defined, thoughtful vision for the school's future.



In the past decade, the world has become an increasingly dangerous place for journalists. The career too frequently entails risking one's life to provide an audience with accurately informed information about the injustices, elections, culture, and celebrations across the globe. Without their valiant work, the world would be a dimly misinformed place, and one in which we would be forced to trust the partisan version of events issued by politicians. This year, journalists have brought attention to instances of racial injustice, such as police brutality and racial gerrymandering, and they risked their lives while criticizing international suppressions of civil liberties. Thus, journalists are an integral aspect of all social justice initiatives, and we are all indebted to them. However, the recent treatment of journalists constitutes a

crisis within itself. Issues of national sovereignty and international law collide and create seemingly unsolvable chaos. Nations with an inclination to produce propaganda particularly fear journalists, and for good reason. To many nations, journalists are viewed as western expats bent on undermining the national government or formulating pro-western propaganda. The United States has also risen on the list of nations most hostile to journalists, a fact that has compromised the accuracy and scope of the news we receive. In these especially dire conditions, it is important to celebrate and revere the work of journalists and the contributions they have made to social justice. Without journalists, we would essentially all live in the dark, with little knowledge of human rights abuses occurring near or far.



We hope that our readers enjoy the thematic attention in this paper paid to articles written and compiled with social justice in mind. We sought to bring to light issue areas that are both relatively well known as well as those that are less so to illustrate a fuller picture of our world today. But how can an individual make any effective change in a world where most news stories seem inaccessible? What is important is to try and make changes to one's perception of the world and to pay attention to different stories of how life is lived by others. While this alone is most certainly not enough to have any effect on others around us or others living in different countries, it is impossible to do anything of consequence without first seeking to understand the stories of others. Social justice is varied, but at its core it is about honoring the dignity of people near to and far from us—both people we may never truly know and people we hold dear.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie articulated this issue best in her reflections on "the danger of a single story." The stories we are exposed to and the information we consume about ourselves, each other, and the world around us determine who we are and what we think of others. In forming these opinions, it is paramount that we also question them. If one made no effort to examine the basis and formation of their opinions, and likely their bi-

ases as well, then they would have no means of better understanding themselves or, subsequently, the world around them. If we rely solely on a single news story to determine an impression of a country about which we have no other knowledge, we are preventing ourselves from learning the whole truth as well as being less respectful towards the dignity of people of that nation.

As members of an increasingly global society with increasingly instantaneous methods of communication, it is our responsibility to remain informed about the world around us and its stories. Additionally, as we attend an elite school, we have an obligation to pay attention. It does not take long to learn something about another person or society, and it is one way in which we can make an active, however small, contribution as teenagers. This is not just to say that we must check the news regularly, but we must read history books as well, we must read novels that illustrate human experiences other than our own, we must truly make an effort to learn about and understand all the others with whom we live upon this planet. We do not live alone in this world, and it is important that we recognize the beauty in that.



## Removing Their Colonial Shackles

### Debate on Abolishing an Outdated Colonial Currency System

Isabella Han '21  
Assistant Layout Editor

Colonialism in Africa. This phrase most likely evokes thoughts about the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century or the various independence wars fought during the 20th century. Unknown to many, though, are the colonial residues that permeate various countries, and recently a debate has emerged about abolishing a symbol of post-independence, exploitation — the CFA franc.

France introduced the CFA franc, originally the Colonies Françaises d'Afrique ("French colonies of Africa") franc, in 1945. It is a currency with fixed exchange rates tied first to the franc and later to the euro with 14 countries currently using it, including Senegal, Mali, and Chad. While at first this currency might seem like a great stabilizer, there are several reasons for opposing it.

Economically, countries who use the CFA have little say in their currency's value: France holds a de facto veto right on their boards for the currency. The countries cannot make significant changes to their currency without the consent of the French. Also, as the CFA franc is tied to the euro, the European Central Bank (ECB) essentially decides the value of both currencies.

The CFA countries, then,

cannot adjust their exchange rate to accommodate potential economic hardships, such as to depreciate the currency during a recession to increase exports and therefore the GDP, or to appreciate the currency to slow a rapid inflation down before it grows into hyperinflation.

Moreover, the French require CFA countries to deposit 50% of their foreign exchange reserves in the French Treasury in exchange for an unlimited convertibility from francs to euros.

*"Whereas the French are profiting from controlling another nation's reserves, CFA countries are suffering from inestimable economic losses."*

This causes a lot of problems. The French offer the interest rate of 0.75% for all CFA countries' foreign exchange reserves; however, the French inflation rate was 2.1% in 2018. As foreign exchange reserves usually include foreign currencies, which in the CFA countries' case is the euro, the foreign exchange reserves' real value (purchasing power) depends on the prices in the euro market. And as their interest rate is below the inflation rate of France, the CFA countries are losing money by depositing. It is absurd — who would expect to lose money by



depositing?

Unsurprisingly, then, the involvement with the CFA franc is closely correlated to poverty: 11 of the 15 CFA franc countries are labeled Least Developed Countries by the United Nations, while Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, who all withdrew from the CFA franc system, are now labeled as strong economies in Africa.

France, on the other hand, seemingly does not profit from the term; however, by controlling the currency and therefore the money of the countries, France and other European nations can easily extract profit. Worse, though, are the political and social impacts their insistence on monetary gain produces. France has repeatedly removed heads of state who pushed for withdrawing from the franc system. With this constant political turmoil, there is no way to establish an effective and well-accepted government, and without an

adequate government, departure from the remnants of colonialism will be hard to achieve.

This control also creates an unhealthy social construct: while a few elites and heads of state who cling to power conspire with overseas corporations and bank executives, the masses suffer in an unnecessarily suppressed economic environment with decreasing life quality.

As of now, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has proposed an alternate, collective currency for 8 of the CFA franc countries. While the community planned to implement it in 2015, the plan has been deferred to 2020 and postponing it further is possible.

No matter what the outcome is, by quitting the CFA franc system and attempting to achieve true independence from colonialism's influence and legacy, the franc countries are already stepping up for their own well-being. On a broader level, though, this debate is but another example of the global south's, and especially Africa's, emergence in the 21st century. Africa is breaking off the last layer of shackles that colonialism imposed. And while its impact is only starting to be seen by the international community, the rise of a long-suppressed continent will almost certainly provide a critical addition to the world's culture, economy, and politics.

### The Spectator Staff

Lila Cahill '23  
Abby Major '23  
Brooke Slingluff '23  
Kate Chamberlin '22  
Elizabeth Lloyd-George '22  
Haojun (Amanda) Xu '22  
Yining (Helen) Zhao '22  
Ceren Ceylan '21  
Yingying (Jenny) Rao '21  
Megan Schmitz '21

### Contributing Writers:

Elena Jochum '21  
Gabby McClellan '20

### Layout Team:

Linzhe (Kareny) Zhong '23  
Rachel Adler '22  
Shuyang (Corinna) Chen '21  
Yuchen (Candice) Wang '22  
Gabrielle Russo '20

### Photography Staff

Chaiwoon (Amy) Yoo '20

### Assistant Layout Editor:

Yunqing (Isabella) Han '21  
(Fall)

### Layout Editor:

Nisreen Marabe '20 (Fall)

### Assistant Editor:

Jackie Ayers '20 (Fall)

### Editor:

Rachael van der Linden '21  
(Fall)

### How to Submit to The Spectator

At *The Spectator*, we encourage any member of The Madeira School to submit to the newspaper. Articles submitted are subjected to a staff peer review and edit, then submitted for editorial review. Submission does not guarantee print, but it does help! Of particular interest to the staff are articles concerning the Madeira community, club news and events, and sports. Submissions should be sent to the editors or the advisors, Ms. Heishman and Ms. Sundberg at [thespectator@madeira.org](mailto:thespectator@madeira.org)

### Corrections

Any corrections should be sent to The Spectator advisor, Ms. Sundberg, at [ssundberg@madeira.org](mailto:ssundberg@madeira.org). The publication seeks to always publish corrections as they come to our attention.

### Disclaimer

The contents of *The Spectator* are the opinions of the student staff of Madeira publications. The content does not necessarily reflect the opinions, ideas, or attitudes of the advisor, The Madeira School or its administration, board of directors, and faculty/staff. Madeira student staff is protected by and bound to the principles of the First Amendment.

# OF HEART AND MIND

## When Horror Becomes Routine

*How Repeated Exposure to Horrific News Dupes Us into Numbness which Our System Exploits*

Isabella Han '21  
Columnist

How would one feel about a dog exploited to death? Laika, a 3-year-old female husky-spitz stray, was taken in by her country to be the first living creature launched into space. She was trained to live in pressurized capsules for weeks, to react to drastic pressure and noise changes, and to remain attached to uncomfortable sanitary devices. The plan was for her to circle the Earth for 7 days and then die, since the USSR did not yet have the technology to permit re-entry.

On November 3, 1957, Laika was launched into orbit. An accidental loss of the heat shield, though, increased her capsule's temperature to more than 40°C (104°F). She suffered a torturous, heated death within hours. The Soviets, however, continued to broadcast assurances of her health, and only announced her death as a result of consuming poisonous food to avoid a painful re-entry. The truth was kept from the public until the USSR dissolved. Laika's story is tragic and the Soviet exploitation is despicable, right?

Let us shift our attention to another case. Starting April 7, 1994 as a result of deep ethnic

tensions between the Hutus and Tutsis, the Rwandan genocide resulted in casualties of around 1 million people within 100 days. Half a million women were raped, and 750,000 children orphaned. This atrocity was motivated by irrational hatred and an obsession with citizenship.

But what do we feel? Rationally, we acknowledge the brutality of the genocide; but emotionally, do we really sense the despair and trauma? Unfor-

*“Why does empathy matter? Because our numbness is constantly exploited.”*

tunately, many of us would shed tears for Laika but only “have sympathy” for the genocide victims. We usually attribute this to our modern-day “loss of sympathy”; but is that really the case?

Maybe not. If we can cry for one dog, can we not empathize with millions of humans? Our feelings, then, perhaps sprout from the presence or absence of connection we feel with a story. In an age in which school shootings and terrorist attacks have become an all-too-familiar presence in our lives, we are numbed by the regularity of horrors from our

24-7 media feeds. We no longer feel the same shock from sensational news. Another school shooting? *Oh. How sad.*

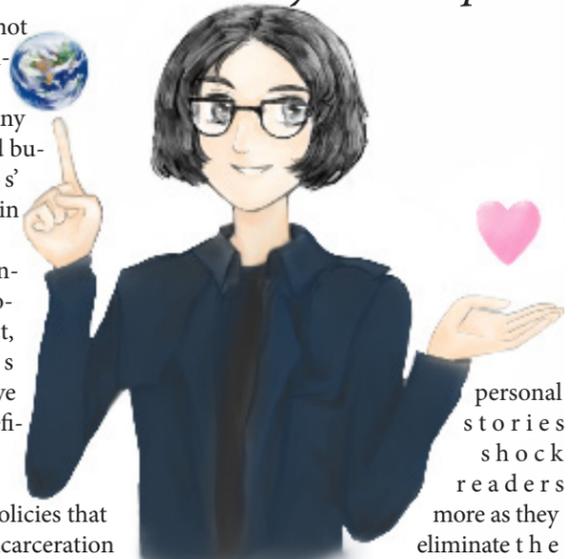
The key to our stronger reactions to Laika's story, then, lies in the distance we feel from the story. Instead of sympathy, we are experiencing empathy. Why? Because we connect with the individual. But in the case of the Rwandan genocide, a list of abstract facts and numbers is too hard to contextualize, so while we intellectually recognize the cruelty, we can hardly feel it.

Why does this empathy matter? Because our numbness is constantly exploited. It is how we walked right into our current antipathy. Through repeated exposure to shocking, horrific news, the public is led into oblivion. When rape and abuse are frequent and unpunished, mass incarceration is met with antipathy, and locking children into concentration camps just becomes “a thing that happens”, our sense of justice and our resolve to work towards solutions weakens and eventually fades.

Moreover, sadly, our system feeds on this apathy to grow. While ideological differences justify most people's political

stances, let us not forget the economic motivations behind many politicians' and business groups' urging of certain actions. For example, by hindering the Affordable Care Act, politicians might receive aids from benefiting corporations; and preserving arrest policies that lead to mass incarceration stabilizes the profit for businesses that supply food, clothing, and infrastructure to private prisons. By exploiting humans' natural curiosity for gore and novelty to dupe the public into numbness, these elites easily wring profit from others' suffering while most of us watch nonchalantly, having accepted horror as the norm. This numbness, in turn, is exploited to justify society's injustices, and for the elites to gain even more profit, thereby “progressing the society”.

Fortunately, our ability to connect with individuals through their stories is still intact. Much like how one individual's story provokes more empathy than numerous cold, hard facts,



personal stories shock readers more as they eliminate the

distance between the reader and the issue. So what can we do? Start with ourselves. Before terming the next horrific event just “another tragedy” and then moving on to our daily feed of Instagram posts, we can try reading a personal account so we can actually feel the event. We can decrease superficial exposure to tragic news and prevent the increase in our numbness and apathy. In essence: we can contemplate the impact of the issue as if it had happened to ourselves and our loved ones. Only by eliminating the distance between our external and internal realities can we preserve any empathy. We need to start now.

## FLASH DEBATE

### Retributive vs. Restorative Justice

Elena Jochum '21  
Contributing Writer

“For these palpable crimes, justice demands stern retribution,” concluded James Monroe McHaney, a prosecutor during the Nuremberg trials. Throughout history, criminal justice systems have been built upon the idea of retributive justice, which has been implemented countless times throughout history. Perhaps most colloquially known through the Bible's “an eye for an eye” interpretation, the concept is explored in the texts of many major religions. First cited in ancient Mesopotamia in the Code of Hammurabi, retributive justice is based upon the idea that those who commit crimes should have a fitting punishment inflicted upon them. This punishment should be proportional to the crime, so that a serious crime would merit a more severe punishment. The idea also works in reverse, in that it is immoral to inflict punishments that are disproportionately more severe than the crime. Ultimately, the goal of retribution is not vengeance, but redress.

As one of the most well-known series of trials, the Nuremberg trials are widely considered to be a successful implementation of retributive justice, and such an extreme case would logically merit a due response. In the Nuremberg trials, which lasted from

1945 to 1946, judges from the Allied powers tried 22 major Nazi leaders for war crimes in the first international war crimes tribunal. The verdict ran as such: twelve were given the death penalty, three were imprisoned for life, four were imprisoned for ten to twenty years, and three others were acquitted. In the case of the Nuremberg trials, retribution took the form of severe punishments, including capital punishment. In order to both hold accountable those involved in creating and perpetuating a system that took millions of lives and prevent them from further damaging society, the figures most directly involved in the genocide, such as Hermann Goering and Wilhelm Frick, were given the death penalty. Retribution was a necessary first step that the international court took in bringing justice; however, it alone is not nearly enough to right such egregious wrongs. “Vengeance is not our goal; nor do we seek merely a just retribution,” affirmed Ben Ferencz, another prosecutor during the trials. Retribution was not just implemented to inf-

lict punishment, but also used as a means to affirm the basic human rights to live in peace and dignity regardless of race or religion. Because although retribution was a necessary part in bringing these criminals to justice, since it concerns genocide, it will never be enough. The lives of twelve men and the imprisonment of many others are not proportional to the deaths of eleven million people, nor can mere penal actions atone for such atrocious crimes.

Nowadays, there are many different opinions regarding how retribution should be implemented and to what extent; some questions delve into the very nature of the justice system, questioning retribution's fundamental role. Perhaps the most charged debate in today's political world concerns capital punishment: its morality, its lack thereof, and whether it is effective in deterring crime. Though the issue is a central one concerning the future of the criminal justice system, not all applications of retribution are so severe. Proponents of a retributive approach to justice argue that it brings a sense of closure for victims, as well as being a preventative measure. Like most sectors of government and administration,

the justice system requires a range of perspectives and approaches to be effective, so retribution may work best in tandem with restorative justice; together, the two approaches can create the foundation of a versatile, holistic system capable of dealing with a variety of criminal cases.

Jenny Rao '21  
Staff Writer

Restorative justice is a relatively new method used in the justice system. Instead of making a criminal “pay his or her price” through similar violence such as jailing or the death penalty, the criminal has to compensate the victim or victims through actions that will benefit the community or the harmed individual. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa is a perfect example of restorative justice. After Apartheid (1948-early 1990s) ended, the new leaders of South Africa—many of whom had been harmed violently during Apartheid—decided not to punish those who committed crimes during Apartheid, but instead to grant them amnesty if they told the truth. Led by the chairperson Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the goal of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was to collect the once hidden truths of Apartheid. The Truth and

Reconciliation Commission was composed of three major committees: the Human Rights Violation committee, which focused on the violation of human rights during Apartheid, the Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee, which focused on the economic recovery of the victims, and the Amnesty Committee which focused on story-telling and truth-telling. The Commission unearthed many acts of political and social violence. The establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission allowed many of the hidden crimes to come to light, and this would not be as successful without their method of restorative justice.

Certain modern justice systems are gradually implementing concepts of restorative justice into their previous judiciary structures. This method encourages the criminals to face the crime they committed, the consequences of their actions, and, more importantly, the impact of their actions on the victims. It helps to rehumanize the criminals and teaches them to function in society. Instead of using traditional methods to punish the criminal, which could lead to more mental devastation, restorative justice changes the mentality of the criminals and eventually help them become better people, which makes restorative justice more beneficial for society.

# You Are Your Best Thing

## A Tribute to Toni Morrison's Life and Her Transcendent Work

Gabby McClellan '20  
Contributing Writer

Beloved author Toni Morrison passed away on August 5th, 2019, leaving behind legacies of rich prose and powerful messages that conveyed American society and the experiences of black women and men. Born in Lorain, Ohio, Morrison graduated from Howard University and later Cornell University before teaching English at the university level. By the late 1960s, Morrison became the first black female editor of fiction at Penguin Random House; her work, however, was only beginning.

Morrison faced hardships as a child, witnessing the evils of humanity firsthand. At the age of two, Morrison's family home was set alight by her parents' landlord over an issue of rent, risking the lives of Morrison, her working class mother, father, and her siblings as they sat at home at the time of the incident. In spite of the cruelty shown to her family, Morrison developed a pride in her sense of self through her connection to the African American community and her family. As a young girl, Morrison converted to Catholicism, taking the baptismal name Anthony that would later become her nickname, Toni. After developing an intellectual curiosity and nurturing her love of the written word in high school through diverse extra-curricular activities, Morrison began her

education at Howard University in 1949.

Toni Morrison's undergraduate life was transformative. In Washington, D.C., the reality of institutionalized racial segregation shook Morrison to her core, developing in her a desire to tell the truth of the racism she faced and so many around her had to overcome. After earning her graduate degree from Cornell University, Morrison worked as a professor for several years before entering the publishing world. Her time spent as an editor was

*"Her words were transcendent; the story of each character breathes strength, passion, and relevance while pulling readers in so deep that the lines between literature and reality blur."*

dedicated to bringing light to the lives of black men and women in America through literature, drawing attention not only to the deep-rooted racism in American society but to the culture and lives of African Americans. It was not long, however, before Morrison saw a hole in the literary world; in 1970, Toni Morrison published her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*. Praise immediately rained in for *The Bluest Eye*, and soon Morrison's first novel was integra-



Author Toni Morrison speaking at the Town Hall in New York City. Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

ted into university curricula. Her second novel, *Sula*, was nominated for a National Book Award, while her following novel, *Song of Solomon*, earned the National Book Critics Choice Award in 1977.

Toni Morrison's literary worlds were beyond fiction. They touched history, love, family, and youth while invigorating the audience with a prose so elegant yet haunting that each word beat together like a pulse, bringing life to paper. Morrison wove the hardships of growing up, acceptance, understanding, and self-discovery together as she voiced the lives of her characters as they faced the horrors a racist American society inflicted. Her words were transcendent; the story of each

character breathes strength, passion, and relevance while pulling readers in so deep that the lines between literature and reality blur. In 1987, Toni Morrison published *Beloved*, one of her most widely recognized and celebrated novels. After receiving praise from critics and authors alike, *Beloved* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988, and it continues to shape the lives of readers young and old to this day. For her work as not only a powerful storyteller but a captivating teller of truth, Morrison received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993, becoming the first black woman in history to win the award. Toni Morrison reflected American society in her novels, her unparalleled prose weaving stories out of reality.

## Good News

Brooke Slingluff '23  
Staff Writer

The Dutch enterprise Kromkommer is giving the fruit that the supermarkets consider too ugly to sell a new purpose by making them into packaged children's snacks.

A painting called the *Delacroix*, lost in 1850, has been found in an apartment in Paris.

An Ikea store in Catania offers refuge for stray dogs, giving them food, water, and a place to rest.

Dublin is offering training for their homeless population to become tour guides so that they can make money to afford homes.

A 73-year-old teacher in Italy made a mobile library to take to the rural parts of his town to keep his young pupils reading.

In Germany, politicians are passing a bill to reduce pesticide use that would put money towards research.

A plan in a small town in The Netherlands is offering the opportunity for people to turn the parking spot in front of their homes into a small garden or play space. In return the residents can park for free at a park.

A theme park in France trains birds to help pick up and get rid of trash.

5,000 baby eels found in checked luggage headed for Vietnam to become food were freed by customs officers.

# Planned Withdrawal from Afghanistan Spells Disaster

Jackie Ayers '20  
Assistant Editor

America's eighteen-year foray into Afghanistan has joined the graveyard of foreign wars that weigh heavily on the public consciousness, but to most Americans excessive spending is the war's most notable achievement. Learning from the correlation between the tainted tenures of Presidents Lyndon Johnson and George W. Bush and the prolonged, seemingly unwinnable wars they supported, President Trump has abandoned his recklessly cavalier rhetoric (having previously mentioned that "Afghanistan would be wiped off the face of the Earth") in favor of an outwardly diplomatic approach. However, upon inspection, Trump's change of heart is no more than a hastily concealed political ploy, conveniently announced in the prelude to primary season. Though there are significant merits in the President's desire to pull out of Afghanistan, his approach acknowledges neither the thousands of American soldiers who have given their lives for the stabilization of Afghanistan nor the Afghan people, most of whom stand to lose the tenuous rights they have gained in the last decade.

The initial deployment of American troops to Afghanistan in the aftermath of 9/11 aimed to topple the Taliban's hold over the Afghan government and to end the Taliban's tendency to harbor terrorist groups like

al Qaeda. In recent years, the American approach has morphed into nation building as the United States has tried, often in vain, to simultaneously counter terrorist insurgencies and to prop up the nascent democratic government which has introduced personal liberties suppressed by the Taliban. Although the Taliban's political leverage in the re-

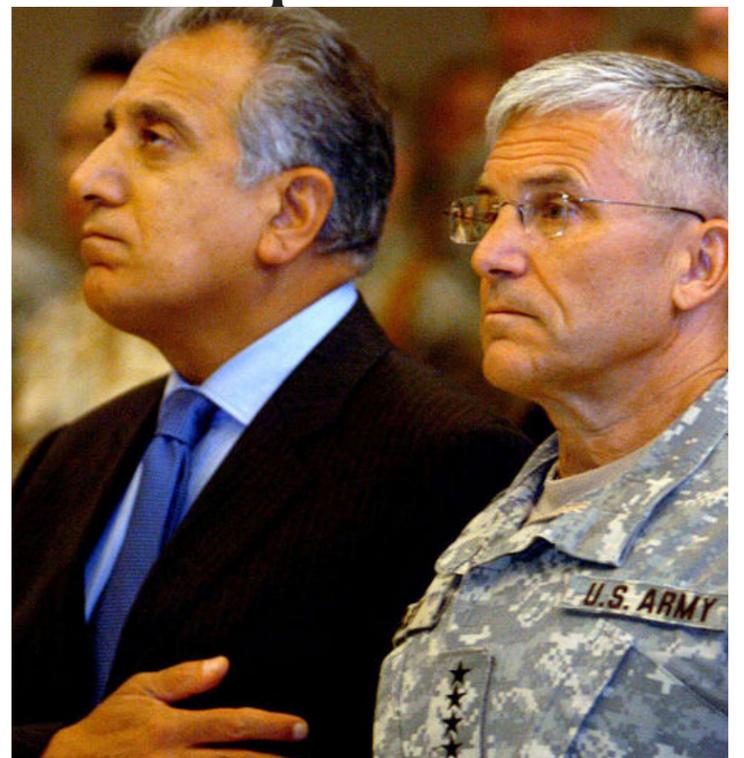
*"Although it is easy to sympathize with those who resent the extended presence the United States has maintained in Afghanistan, the present moment seems a particularly odd time for a ceasefire agreement given the atrocities the Taliban has committed within the last two weeks."*

gion has been markedly reduced since American forces entered, they continue to pose a major military threat both to the longevity of Afghan democracy and to American national security. In the weeks since President Trump and his top State Department official in the negotiations, Zalmay Khalilzad, initiated peace talks, Trump finally canceled a planned meeting with the Taliban at Camp David after a bombing outside the U.S. embassy in Kabul was attributed to the group. However, he has indicated that he intends to proceed with his goal of with-

drawing troops from the nation in the near future.

To the President's credit, he has at least temporarily realized that such a withdrawal would lead to a Taliban resurgence that would probably also result in an overthrow of the government the United States has invested in so heavily. But as the 2020 election looms, Trump will face heightening pressure to fulfill his campaign promise of withdrawing from Afghanistan. Though he denies any correlation between the two events, the absurdity of even considering a pullout given the Taliban-initiated violence currently raging in Afghanistan is evident not only to the President's dependable critics but also to high-ranking Republicans like Lindsey Graham.

Though it is now unlikely that the withdrawal will proceed before the looming presidential election, given the current conditions in Afghanistan, it is exceedingly negligent for the President to continue pushing for such a potentially disastrous end to this eighteen-year long commitment. Pundits predict a swift takeover of the Afghan government by the Taliban coupled with violations of the ceasefire agreements ending Taliban ties to terrorist organizations in neighboring states. Although it is easy to sympathize with those who resent the extended presence the United States has maintained in Afghanistan, the present moment seems a particularly odd time for



Zalmay Khalilzad meets with American troops serving in Afghanistan. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

a ceasefire agreement given the atrocities the Taliban has committed within the last two weeks. This fact should prompt any reasonable observer to conclude that it is almost foolish to believe that a premature end to such a fragile, costly endeavor should rely upon the cooperation of the Taliban. If history has taught us anything, it is that a pullout in the present conditions would probably mirror the Soviet pullout of the 80s that contributed to the current turmoil in Afghanistan.

Though it is unsurprising that the war in Afghanistan has become such a politicized issue, it is important to remember the human rights and lives, both Afghan and American, that would be compromised should the President proceed with his withdrawal. At this point, we can only hope that his plan is an empty, aptly-timed sound bite meant to appease his voting bloc as he faces serious competition from a diverse Democratic field.

# Protests Across the East

*Commonalities in Activist Movements from the Volga to the Pacific*



Muscovites march against alleged electoral manipulation. Photo Courtesy of Maxim Shemetov/Reuters, the New York Times.

Megan Schmitz '21  
Staff Writer

From the Yellow Turban Rebellion to the Salt March, organized protest has long served as a tool for the masses to express their political grievances. In consequence of its intrinsic ties to human society, the practice has both instigated and evolved alongside societal change. This year, itself a datapoint within a greater positive trend in public demonstrations, has illustrated this relationship: from Hong Kong to Moscow, protesters have utilized social media platforms to communicate calls to action, coordinate rallies, and in-

spire participation. Furthermore, movements worldwide all share a similar goal despite their distance. Whether shouting for nationhood or for more freedom in politics, this year is marked by calls for self-governance from groups who believe themselves disadvantaged by the current global hierarchy.

Hong Kong: Beginning on March 31 of this year, the protests in Hong Kong initially arose from popular outrage regarding an extradition bill. Introduced by a group of legislators including the Prime Minister, the proposed legislation would have sent political defendants to mainland China for trial, a measure which

some Hongkongers viewed as denying citizens their right to a peer-comprised jury. Since then, the movement has adopted more structurally radical demands, including the release of all political prisoners and democratic liberty. Whether organizing a march, sit-in, or strike, protesters have communicated logistics through encrypted posts on apps such as Telegram, WhatsApp, and Signal. Using this technology, activists have brought an unprecedented number of citizens into the streets to clamor for governmental autonomy.

West Papua: In the Indonesian province of West Pap-

ua, protests erupted after footage surfaced of a violent encounter between soldiers and West Papuan students on August 17. In response to their raising a separatist flag, federal troops blockaded the students into a dormitory, berating them with racial slurs. Ethnically dissimilar from most Indonesians, West Papuans allege governmental discrimina-

tion in the form of police brutality and low investment. The data supports the latter claim: despite possessing an above average GDP, the province has the highest maternal mortality rate and lowest literacy rate in the country. Outrage about this discrepancy induced the creation of an independence campaign long before 2019. Nonetheless, in the wake of the recent incident, thousands of West Papuans have taken up the cause. Initially sparked by a video disseminated via the internet, the situation in West Papua illustrates how governments have responded to technology's newfound role in protest: Indonesia has blocked internet access in activist hotspots

*"...this year's protests indicate that previously peripheral groups have gained a digital voice, one that is decidedly difficult to silence."*

since August 22. Demands for independence, however, have only grown louder.

Moscow: Since mid-July, Muscovites have gathered near-weekly to rally against the barring of opposition leaders from running in City Duma elections. Disqualified due to their petitions' allegedly containing falsified signatures, one dissenting politician nevertheless regained the ability to run. This motion has not quelled the protests, which now include clamors for the release of 1,000 activists detained in July in addition to the continued calls for a more transparent electoral process. To coordinate efforts similar to their counterparts in Hong Kong, Russian advocacy groups have utilized encrypted sites such as Telegram. With such measures, protestors orchestrate marches against the ruling party in a city which criminalizes that very act.

Throughout the eastern hemisphere, and the world, protestors currently seek greater control over who governs them. While their success remains undecided, the movements under which they operate continue to enlarge engagement through online messaging. Whatever their outcome, this year's protests indicate that previously peripheral groups have gained a digital voice, one that is decidedly difficult to silence.

## Where Is Puerto Rico Now?

*Two years after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico is Still Struggling*

Lila Cahill '23  
Staff Writer

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, killing nearly 3,000 people and injuring thousands more. In addition to the loss of life, the Hurricane created instability as communities and towns were destroyed. In its wake, Puerto Ricans have spent almost every day cleaning up. And even after all their efforts of the past two years, many believe they have not made enough progress. Plus, Puerto Rico feels largely alone in their effort.

When the storm hit the island, nobody was prepared for what the next few years would bring. Immediately after the island was hit, 1.5 million families and homes were left with no power, damaged houses, no running water, and fallen trees and landlines. 30,000 families had a blue tarp for a roof. There were long lines for gas and many places already have or will run out of water.

These challenges brought large health problems too. According to The Medicaid Program in Puerto Rico, approximately half of Puerto Rico's 3.2 million inhabitants are poor and

depend on the public health system for their medical care. The hurricane damaged an already fragile system and left many people struggling to find care.

Why is Puerto Rico still being affected by Hurricane Maria nearly two years later? Is the answer because the U.S. government hasn't been giving Puerto Rico enough money or help? Or is simply that it is just taking a long time to fix everything? The answer is a mixture of both.

*"Nearly 3,000 people were killed, thousands more were injured, and communities and towns were destroyed."*

President Trump claims that he has given \$92 billion to Puerto Rico but a recent Puerto Rican newspaper counters the government's claims, stating, "Mr. President: Your Numbers Are Fake." The newspaper, El Nuevo Día, states that United States Congress approved \$49.4 billion for disaster aid and yet Puerto Rico has received only \$20.5 billion of that amount so far.

On Tuesday, September 4th, the United States government



A woman tries getting out of her house after being hit by Hurricane Maria. Photo Courtesy of Chris Gillette, AP.

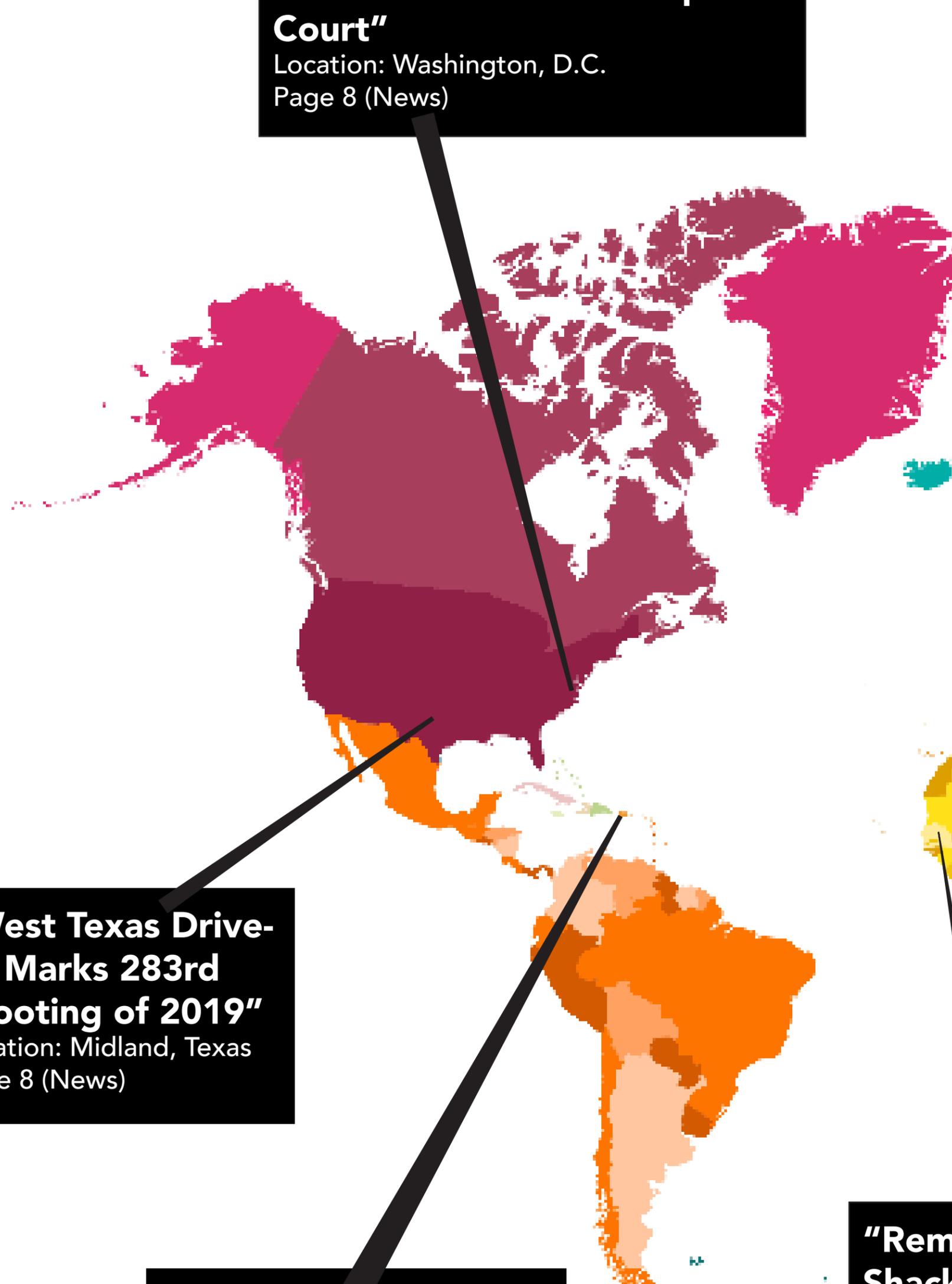
took from Puerto Rico's recovery money and projects to help fund the President's border wall. A Defense official said, "We are fully committed to the recovery effort for Maria," but according to the Washington Post, the Pentagon is defunding Hurricane Maria recovery projects. After hearing the news, Puerto Ricans were furious with his decision to take this money away from them.

Additionally, social workers in Puerto Rico have been evaluating property losses and

urging vulnerable families to take proper precautions. In an interview by WAMU 88.5, director of Puerto Rico's Bureau of Emergency Management, Carlos Acevedo, stated, "What happened in Maria can happen again." Because of this, making sure everyone knows how to adequately prepare is important.

Furthermore, just last month Puerto Rican Governor Ricardo Rossello stepped down after massive protests asking for his resignation. Now, activists are

working hard to put everything on the island back into place. Before Maria hit, there were not many big problems with the island, but now a little less than half of the island is in poverty, houses are still destroyed, and Puerto Rico has roughly \$70 billion in debt. Workers on the island say that they are proud of the work they have done and feel that if a storm were to hit, the government would help them to clean up faster after knowing what happened with Maria.



**"Social Justice at the Supreme Court"**

Location: Washington, D.C.  
Page 8 (News)

**"West Texas Drive-By Marks 283rd Shooting of 2019"**

Location: Midland, Texas  
Page 8 (News)

**"Where is Puerto Rico Now?"**

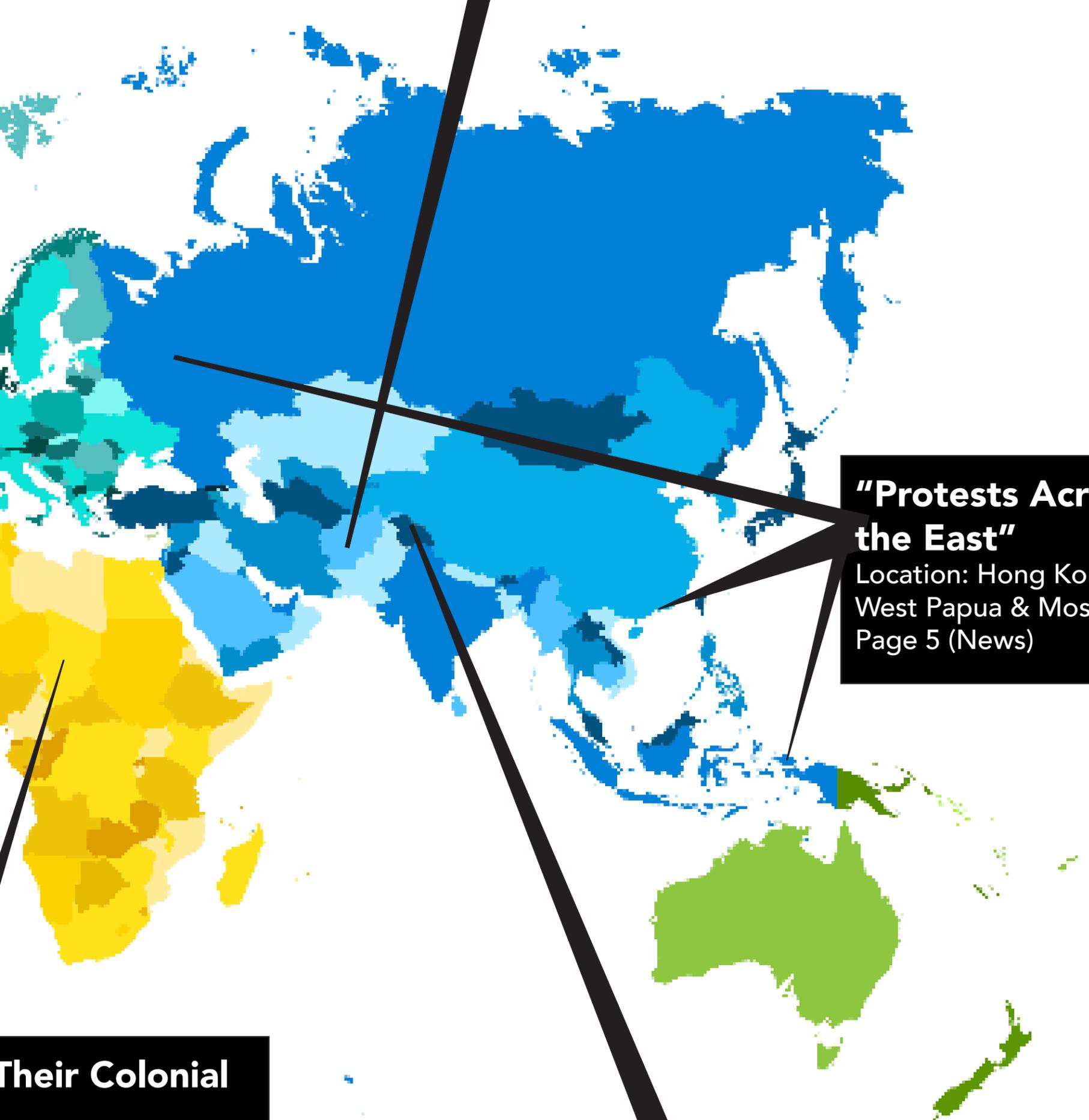
Location: San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Page 5 (News)

**"Removing T Shackle"**

Location: Senegal  
Page 2 (Opinions)

**"Planned Withdrawal from  
Afghanistan Spells Disaster"**

Location: Kabul, Afghanistan  
Page 4 (Opinions)



**"Protests Across  
the East"**

Location: Hong Kong,  
West Papua & Moscow  
Page 5 (News)

**Their Colonial**

l, Mali & Chad  
)

**"Kashmir in Contention"**

Location: State of Kashmir  
Page 1 (Front Page)

# Social Justice at the Supreme Court

Jackie Ayers '20  
Assistant Editor

For most liberals, the departure of Justice Anthony Kennedy from the Supreme Court spelled disaster. In particular, many believed cases involving racial justice were poised for emphatic defeat as Kennedy was replaced by the more conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh. However, the dynamic of the Court never remains predictable for long. Following Kennedy's departure from the judicial limelight, a new and not entirely unexpected justice has replaced him: Chief Justice John Roberts. Though Roberts has been an outspoken critic of affirmative action and has cast himself as a vehement opponent to key provisions of the watershed Voting Rights Act, the opportunity to assume the role of swing justice has prompted subtle changes in his ideology on matters of social justice.

In the case of *Flowers v. Mississippi*, the Mississippi Supreme Court had ruled against Curtis Flowers, a death row inmate, on his request for a new trial given his claim that the state had racially discriminated against potential African American jurors throughout his four trials. Justice Kavanaugh provided four particularly compelling reasons to affirm Flowers' claim that he had faced unlawful discrimination; the State had, in its interrogation of potential jurors, incessantly questioned Carolyn Wright, a po-

tential black juror, whereas it had failed to do so for every potential white juror. Moreover, throughout Flowers' extensive judicial proceedings, the Court found that the State had continually and unapologetically denied black jurors without providing a "racially neutral" reason for doing so. However, though many may find it refreshing that justices from the traditionally conservative bloc joined the majority opinion, Justice Alito remarked that had the injustices in the case been "less unusual," he likely would have sided with Justices Thomas and Gorsuch against Flowers. Thus it is unlikely that the issue at stake

*"However, the Supreme Court's refusal to issue a more definitive decision will have profound implications on minority voters as state elections loom in November."*

in Flowers, that of how discriminatory intent is proven, has been unequivocally settled.

In the highly anticipated case *Virginia House of Delegates v. Bethune Hill*, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that was insufficient for all parties involved. The case had the potential to be of landmark significance; it concerned racial gerrymandering, an issue the Court has grappled with



The Supreme Court, rebuilt in the 1930s, faces the Capitol. Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

for years. The Republican-controlled Virginia House of Delegates allegedly "packed" African American voters into the fewest number of districts possible, thus hoping to mitigate their electoral sway. The issue at the heart of the case was whether such action constituted a violation of the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, an issue the Supreme Court has yet to definitely resolve. However, in an unusual majority opinion, the Court declared that the House of

Delegates has "no standing to sue" and that the body represents the populace that elected it. Chief Justice Roberts voted with the atypically nonpartisan voting bloc to dismiss the case, however, the majority ruling had a more profound effect on the issue of racial gerrymandering than it may initially have appeared. Because the Virginia Attorney General declined to appeal the decision issued by the lower court, which ruled that the gerrymandered districts be redrawn, the issue has been tem-

porarily resolved. However, the Supreme Court's refusal to issue a more definitive decision will have profound implications on minority voters as state elections loom in November.

This year has been rather uneventful in the realm of social justice legal precedents. The two cases had the potential to resolve issues of racial justice that have been allowed to fester due to judicial passivity, but the Court was, according to many, unwilling to rise to the occasion.

## West Texas Drive-By Marks 283rd Shooting of 2019 *Shooting in Odessa-Midland Leaves 7 Dead and 22 Injured*

Kate Chamberlin '22  
Staff Writer

On average, there is an active shooter every other week in the U.S., according to FBI special agent Christopher Combs. Unfortunately, another shooting was added to the rapidly-growing number on August 30. A thirty-six-year-old man was pulled over in Midland, Texas, for failing to use his turn signal. The situation quickly escalated as he pulled out a rifle and began shooting at authorities before speeding away.

Later identified in an official statement, Seth Ator had

*"One thing the majority of politicians agree on is that there needs to be a change."*



Man prays outside hospital in Odessa, TX. Photo Courtesy of USA Today.

been rejected in several attempts to buy a gun due to failed background checks before finally purchasing one in a sale that did not require any. One neighbor told police that he hunted from his roof and another said that he had once threatened him with a gun. Ator had arrived at work in a "disturbed mental state" and was fired an hour before the shooting

began. Continuing into Midland's sister city Odessa, the rampage concluded in a movie theater parking lot where the gunman was shot and killed. The shooting lasted several hours due to Ator switching vehicles from his gold Honda to a hijacked mail truck partway through. Originally, this confusion led authorities to believe that the shooter had not acted alone but eventually they

concluded that it was indeed a solo act.

With seven dead and twenty-two injured, the shooting's victims included the owner of the hijacked mail truck, a 29-year-old USPS mail carrier named Mary Granados who was on the phone with her twin sister when she was killed. Rosie Granados knew her sister's route and found her sister after fifteen minutes.

She was the one to identify her to authorities. Others killed include a veteran who served in Afghanistan, a middle-aged man who had moved away from Las Vegas after the shooting there, and a 15-year-old girl who was a student in Ector County. Few victims have been identified, but among those injured was a 17-month-old named Anderson Davis who was shot in the face. Anderson's moth-

er has confirmed that despite the toddler's injuries, which included bullet remains in her chest, she is safely at home and is expected to make a full recovery.

The West Texas shooting occurred the day before Texas changed its state gun control laws to be less restrictive. These new laws permit citizens to carry guns at school and into places of worship. The new bills have been criticized by leaders of gun control groups, including one of the presidents of the Brady Campaign. Despite their defiance, politicians in Texas try to reassure citizens, insisting that this will make things safer by "arming the good guys." This is just another way of showing that people are torn between opposing views on what is the right way to approach gun control. There are many who do not believe gun control should even exist. However, one thing the majority of politicians agree on is that there needs to be a change. Residents of Odessa agree, still on edge as the dust settles from the tragedy. Many share their fear, and their worry, but most important of all there is a shared feeling around America – that in the current political climate, these tragedies are almost expected.

# Boarding School: An Incredible Experience

## *A Guide from One New Boarder*

Ceren Ceylan '21  
Staff Writer

Welcome all of our new boarders to the Madeira School! While successfully surviving the first weeks of the 2019-2020 school year, new students may be trying to deal with mixed feelings. If this year is anyone's first time away from family, it is normal to feel nervous. As new students try to find their way, this adaptation process can make them feel lonely. Being a boarder means more responsibility than before. Having to take more responsibility than before can also make new boarders feel anxious. However, in the end, being a boarder is a great opportunity that is full of surprises and challenges. Madeira has outstanding teachers who truly care about every single one of us because they want to be sure that we do well and have a variety of experiences in high school. As Ms. Tippens (Dorm Parent in Main Dorm) pointed out "I just want new boarders to know who their resources are, who they can go to for answers." They are not only our teachers but also our dorm parents, and some of our teachers live on the campus with us! Along with dorm parents, every dorm has RAs (Residential Assistants).

If there is anyone who has a question about boarding life, or who is struggling with something related to their dorm room, feel comfortable talking to your RAs. They know everything about Madeira and they are here to help students. Alexa Ekhehar ('21, RA) suggests that a student should "have a variety of friends and try to find cozy spots for yourself on the campus." RAs also organize events such as Dorm Olympics. We have lots of

*"Being a boarding student is a great opportunity that is full of surprises and challenges."*

fun, and we have both academic and non-academic activities here. My suggestions about activities are to try to join clubs and different activities and to be an active participant because it will help students get to know you better.

Being a boarding student has lots and lots of advantages. For example, since boarders live at school, they do not have to wake early in the morning, they can always visit their friends to eat together, to study, or to just spend some time together. Boarding schools are certainly different from day schools. We do have



Dorm Meeting on the Main Terrace. Photo courtesy of Ceren Ceylan.

rules in school, but they are not meant to bore students; these rules are there simply to protect us. Another one of my suggestions is to be careful with the rules as they guarantee not just one person's safety but every other person's safety in this school too. Girls are surrounded by a great and diverse community at Madeira. If there is

anyone who needs help, whether it is about classes or anything else, ask for help. Because there is always someone who is willing to assist. My last suggestion as a new boarding student for all new students and boarders would be to get assigned work done on time and do not forget to socialize. During the first few weeks, it can

be hard to try to stay on top of the schedule but try not to fall behind on anything. Also, because Madeira offers many events to students to take part in, you should become a leader and try to gain experience on these positions. Do not forget that boarding school is a great adventure, and this one is off to a terrific start!

# Around the Oval: *Campus Bumps and Babies*



On the left is Ms. Heishman from the English Department, showing us her nine month baby bump. Photo Courtesy of Amy Yoo '20.



Ms. Goodman's around one month old daughter, Collins Starin Goodman, in a baby seat. Photo courtesy of Ms. Goodman.



On the left is Ms. Keller's child, Clementine Hope Westermann, who was born on September 4th. Photo courtesy of Ms. Keller.



Ms. Rhodin, from the History Department, showing us her five month baby bump. Photo Courtesy of Amy Yoo '20.

# What is Social Justice?

*The Meaning of Social Justice in the Words of Madeira Students*



**Diana Fernandez '22**

Diana Fernandez '22: Social justice represents the notion that people of different social status or background are treated fairly in society. Personally, I believe that social justice is intrinsically interconnected to environmental justice, especially in this modern age. Climate change is slowly, but steadily increasing to affect a large amount of the population in the world, specifically marginalized communities. If we respect the idea of social justice and the equal protection of all people, then it is crucial to understand the connection between social and environmental justice.

Fara Alade '21: To me, social justice is fighting for equal access to opportunities for every member of society, no matter the form of opportunity, and ensuring a level playing field or equal starting line for everyone so people are not held back by characteristics or situations they can not control.



**Fara Alade '21**

Annie Sallick '23: Social justice is everyone being included and having access to equal things. To me, personally I hope everyone gets access to every education opportunity. Specifically, good or developed sports facility like the field or the playground should not be limited and be available to everyone rich or not.



**Dominic Wong '21**

Dominic Wong '21: Social justice is basically equal access to opportunities...My way of pursuing social justice means to fight for transgender students who are not offered the same opportunities as other students at school.



**Annie Sallick '23**

Lyric Thornton '20: To me, social justice is exposing the unconscious biases that we all have and working actively to create spaces of equality and opportunity. It involves participating in all issues, even when they don't involve you, because justice needs to reach all circles of diversity for there to be true inclusion.



**Lyric Thornton '20**

Liya Savasman '20: Social justice means to fight for what you believe is the right thing. It has affected me when I joined a march for banning guns after the school shootings. I fought for the lost lives of children and wanted to prevent further deaths.



**Safiyyah Bennett '22**

Safiyyah Bennett '22: Social Justice means equity and equal opportunity for everyone. To me, it means advocating for people who don't have a voice as loud as yours, and having the power to educate yourself and stand up against injustices even when they don't directly affect you.



**Liya Savasman '20**

## Grade-Wide Sleepover Event

*The New School Year Brings New Friendship*

Amanda Xu '22  
Staff Writer

On September 6th, the whole Madeira community kicked off the grade-level sleepover event on Friday night. The sleepover is a newly emerged grade-level community event designed for both boarders and day students. Since Madeira has a close-knit community with many people who are willing to share their time together, it was a brilliant opportunity for day and boarding students to get to know more about each other.

During the sleepover, students in each grade spent their nights in different assigned places on campus. Freshmen were in the Hurd Sports Center, Sophomores were in the CA, the Student Center was for all the Juniors, and Seniors slept in Main Living room. Starting on Friday afternoon, people crowded around the oval to attend the Mini Carnival which was offered lots of delicious food and wonderful games such as water-balloon toss on the Oval. Besides various activities that happened on campus, there were also shuttles to take students to different places, such as bowling, laser tag, rock climbing, and the Silver Diner.

When nighttime came, students started to pack for their grade-level sleepover and went to their assigned place. It was interesting to see what students carried with them. Some took their own card games or board games

with their quilts and pillows, some took a small radio box so that they could sing and dance with others, and some even carried air mattresses.

The sophomores spent their night in the CA. Pushing open the door to the big auditorium hall, there were groups of dancers who were dancing energetically with music on the huge stage, girls who were chatting on

*"It was a great chance to get to know each other more and a chance to break and cross boundaries to discover new relationships and get to share great experiences while spending an exciting night together."*

the floor, and a group of people who were playing card games with each other. One girl stood on the stage and started to sing as she turned on the radio, and another girl, her friend, stood by her and pretended to be her piano accompanist while playing songs in the air. Other girls sat on the audience seats, sang along with the music, and waved their hands along with the rhythm. It was an ocean of laughter and joy.

Places for fun were not limited to the auditorium. Going downstairs to the basement, there were girls in the yoga room and old choir room. While others enjoyed the bustling in the auditorium



Madeira freshman getting to know each other during the sleepover. Photo Courtesy of Amy Yoo '20.

and had a small party, girls down in the basement gathered in groups of five or six and had close talks with each other. Different people met inside their rooms and started new conversations and built relationships. It was a great chance to get to know each other more and a time to cross boundaries and discover new relationships and share great ex-

periences while spending an exciting night together. Friendships grew in a brand-new atmosphere where everyone could laugh and play without concerns and bravely step out of their comfort zone by trying something new. Although the assigned places were not as comfortable as dorms, excitement filled the whole CA.

The Sleepover ended

the next morning at six. Many boarders were sad to say goodbye to their day student friends and were already looking forward to the next community event. The sleepover connected people with distinct personalities, and represented the bonds between day students and boarders and created lots of unforgettable memories for the Madeira Snails to cherish.

# An Equestrian Interview

## *An Exclusive Interview with Ian McCartney*

Abby Major '23  
Staff Writer

When walking into a horse stable, the first thing one notices is the slightly foul scent of horse manure. But upon walking further in, the stench is soon covered up by the sweet smell of hay and horse feed. The Madeira barns are no different. With a rich history of success, the Madeira Riding program is one of its oldest and most treasured programs.

An important member of the Madeira's riding department is Mr. Ian McCartney. Before Mr. McCartney came to Madeira, he was an instructor of riding and IHSA coach at Sweet Briar College. He also spent twelve years as a professional trainer in New York's lower Hudson Valley. His students have won many United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) A-rated horse shows, including Old Salem, Ox Ridge, Fairfield and HITS.

AM- Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Ian McCartney- This is my eighth year as director of the program. I live on campus with my daughter. I've lived on campus for the last eight years and one of my favorite things about working at Madeira is working with all the great students.

AM- What interests you about the history and legacy that Madeira's riding team has at this school?

IM- The history of Madeira's riding program is almost as old as the history of Madeira itself. When the school started and was out on Dupont Circle, the students would go out and rent horses, and they would ride through places like Rock Creek Park. And then they started doing more formal lessons where

they would have what they called riding masters and they would have that as one of their physical activities. They started riding here in the early 20s, around 1923, and we have had Olympic riders

*"You don't have to be on the team, you don't have to be a competitive rider, you just have to want to try it, and you just have to like the horses and give it a shot."*

graduate from the program, we've had riders of national acclaim and they even used to hold very nationally recognized horse shows here in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. And today, this tradition continues.

AM- What do you think people who are considering riding should know about the program?

IM- "That we have riding for every student. We have students that ride who have never seen a horse before, and we teach them to ride, and they can have fun doing it. You don't have to be on the team, you don't have to be a competitive rider, you just have to want to try it, and you just have to like the horses and give it a shot."

AM- What were some of the biggest (if any) changes in the school's program over the last few years?

IM- This year we have two new staff members, one being Teresa Shatton who is our stable manager and riding instructor, she is also a campus resident and a dorm parent, so we are excited to have her. We also have Biran Ranarow and his wife, who are also campus residents. He oversees the stable hands and takes care of the thirty-plus horses in the morning.



Madiera rider with her horse. Photo Courtesy of Amy Yoo '20.

So we are excited about having them on the team.

AM- Are there any plans for the future?

IM- I'm always looking to improve the program. This year we are looking to add more events. Last year one of our most popular events was when we did what we called "Barn Day" in the spring where we invited families and students who didn't ride to come down to the stables. Our students put it on. We had people come, and they got to ride some of the horses and give the horses carrots and baths. And it was pretty fun seeing some of the other faculty get onto the horses and have the students teach them, kind of flipping the roles. So, we are definitely going to do that again in the spring. We are also planning on doing one in the fall as well, which will be new, so

I'm looking forward to that."

AM- Is there anything else that you would like to tell the Madeira community?

IM- I have a couple things. One, as I said earlier, we have riding opportunities for every student here. We have the intro to riding class. That class is during C block, and it's a five-week intensive where they learn about horsemanship and horses and do a little bit of riding. There is no cost for that class, and so if someone wants to try [riding] and see what they think, that's a great thing to do. And again, for the riding activity, some students think "oh, it's a team" or that they have to try out or they're not going to be good enough, but we have riders of all different levels, some that are interested in competing and some that aren't, they just

all like being around the horses and each other. Another thing is that we do hold some events here, Barn Night, and our IEA shows. The more support we get from the faculty and students, it really helps to pump up the girls that are participating. They really enjoy it when their friends and classmates and teachers come out to support them. So, if they could make it out here, that would be great.

For over seventy years, the Madeira School riding team has had a very prominent place in the history of the school. Teaching both beginners and experienced riders, the team consists of girls who have never touched a saddle, and girls who have won national championships. Madeira's riders have played a crucial part in the school's history, and we hope they continue to do so for many years to come.

# Rousing Rallies:

## *Madiera's Varsity Volleyball Team Begins Season*

Helen Zhao '22  
Staff Writer

With the start of 2019-2020 school year, the Madeira sports teams jumped right in. One of the strongest Madeira teams in the fall season is volleyball, whose past achievements are numerous and whose future achievements many Madeira community members are excited to see. Madeira Varsity volleyball started off their season with a match against Georgetown Day School. The two schools competed for three matches, and Madeira Varsity volleyball won with a winning streak for all three matches. A new year brings a new season and many new members have joined the team. There are also two new coaches on the volleyball team this year for both JV and Varsity: Coach Casey, a new JV coach,



Madiera Varsity Volleyball match against Georgetown Day School. Photo Courtesy of Helen Zhao.

and Coach Michael, a new assistant Varsity coach. The Madeira volleyball team is excited for the new improvements and higher accomplishments that they hope to bring the community this year.

so I would like to win a lot. Also, it is a new team, a lot of underclassmen, so building spirit amongst the people on the team would probably be a goal as well.

HZ- About the game on Friday, September 4th, how did you feel about the game?

*"One of the strongest Madeira teams in the fall season is volleyball, whose past achievements are numerous and whose future achievements many Madeira community members are excited to see."*

AH- I think it went really well; I think our spirit was very high, which is great for the beginning of the season. I think

of course there's some areas where we could improve on, on communication and blending as a team, but that comes with every new team. I am very excited to see how this season turns out.

HZ- Was it easy to win?

AH- I think in that type of game, the hardest person to compete [against] is [one]self. Because if [a player] know[s] [she] [is] better [than her opponent], [she] just start[s] to play down to their level, and I think that started to happen especially with the first set. But after we realized that, and played our hardest each time, it was really was pretty easy to win. There are going to be a total of ten home games here at Madeira for the Varsity volleyball team. Anya also stated that Flint Hill high school would be the biggest opponent this year. It is going to be an exciting year, so get ready!

# Illegal to Be You

*New Exhibition at National Museum of American History celebrates LGBTQ History*

Elizabeth Lloyd-George '22  
Staff Writer

In June, a new exhibition opened at the National Museum of American History displaying the history of LGBTQ rights. It is based on one of the most prominent historical events within the movement for gay rights; the uprising against the police that took place at The Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York. The display focuses on celebrating the culture and events that pushed the

*“The main focal point of this exhibition is to shine light on all the efforts it took and how long it took to make gaining simple rights possible for the LGBTQ community.”*

efforts of the LGBTQ community forward. Some items on display in the exhibition include a bullhorn and different badges used and worn during protests. During the 1950s and 60s, the treatment of those who were gay was extremely cruel, and often times many people didn't know where to turn for fear of being arrested, beaten, or harassed. As a result, in



*Illegal To Be You on display at the National Museum of American History. Photo Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.*

searching for a community, many people turned to bars, churches, and classrooms, but also to books, magazines, and nowadays TV shows and the internet for a sense of representation and common identity. Many of these books, records, magazines, and other artifacts are visible in the exhibition. The main focal point of this exhibition is to shine light on the effort it took to gain basic rights for the LGBTQ community.

The Stonewall Inn was always a significant institution for

the LGBTQ community because it welcomed drag queens and was a nightly home for homeless gay youths. A group of police officers arrived at The Stonewall Inn on June 28th, 1969, and harassed the occupants. Infuriated neighbors and patrons proceeded to hang around outside the bar rather than separate. After an officer hit a woman over the head, the crowd proceeded to throw pennies, bottles, and other objects at the police and soon a riot had begun. The mob attempted to set the bar



*Bullhorn used in protests. Photo Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.*

on fire after police, a few prisoners, and a Village Voice writer had barricaded themselves in the bar and after repeated attempts were made to breach the barricade. The police were able to rescue those inside Stonewall and put out the flames, but protests ensued in the area for some time. And a time when people sought liberation from the forces in society that sought to suppress their very existence.

The exhibit features this moment in history because it was

a landmark event in the struggle for LGBTQ rights. This event also led to the formation of many organizations for gay liberation and social justice. These organizations have taken the vanguard in gaining recognition and acceptance of their community in American history. The exhibition is still on display at the National Museum of American History, providing visitors with a great opportunity to learn about a community that is often glossed over in our history books.

# The Other Boleyn Girl

## *A Historical Fiction Book Review*

Brooke Slingluff '23  
Staff Writer

Philippa Gregory tells a captivating story in her 2001 novel. The book follows the story of King Henry VIII and the woman who became his second wife, Anne Boleyn. This was not a regular marriage for Henry, as he was having an affair with Anne's younger sister, Mary. The narrative follows Mary's relationship with the king. The pair had a complex relationship and even had two children. Despite this, even the beautiful Mary could not hold King Henry's attention for long, as he soon becomes bored with her and pursues her sister Anne. Anne refuses to marry Henry before he annuls the marriage to his wife. The marriage between Anne and the King ends in her execution in the same place where she was crowned only a few years prior. Throughout the story there is love, heartbreak and death. It is the disturbing yet truthful portrayal of King Henry VIII's power that makes the book interesting until the very end.

I appreciated the writing, as it uses a different kind of language that paints a picture without the authors voice sounding forced. The way that this story

is told gives the reader a taste of how different life was in the Renaissance. The patriarchy in the book demonstrates the way in which women were treated like little more than property, as families used their daughters to gain

*“The situations presented in the novel reflect many issues that modern women must deal with in their day-to-day lives.”*

social status. The coldness shown by the families towards their daughters can open one's eyes to how little women were valued in that society. When the king got bored of Mary, he was simply able to move on while Mary's reputation was shattered and even her family wanted to disown her. After one mistake, a woman's life could be ruined forever, while for having done the same thing, a man could walk away unscathed from the whole ordeal.

Additionally, the subjects that this book deals with in regard to the affairs of women remain relevant in the present day. The way that women are treated as social pawns in this novel re-



*A portrait of Anne Boleyn. Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

sembles at once the progress that has been made for the rights of women and their societal value as well as how far society still must come to provide true equality for its female citizens. This is demonstrated in this novel as Mary loses her social status and her family's support after the king casts her

aside. Her family, which had once been incredibly supportive of her, no longer views her as valuable because she has lost the affection of the king and the support of his court. The king, however, after this whole affair unfolds, is entirely unaffected and moves on from Mary in a matter of days.

This shows to what degree women were not valued in Tudor society. In her family's and everyone else's eyes, Mary's worth rested upon her relationship to the king and her position in court. The situations presented in the novel reflect many issues that modern women must deal with in their day-to-day lives, such as being affected to greater degrees by the dissolution of romantic relationships with men and being seen as less valuable in the eyes of their families. I enjoyed the way the book made me think about life. Its style makes the reader ponder what life would have been like in that century and the relevance of the issues in the book to the present day. It is a part of history each person should hear and think about. The mix of the good and bad helps the reader to come out of the book with a sense of understanding of the time and subject. Though this book covers topics that can be hard to read and think about, the parts of the book about true love and family leave the reader with a sense of peace. These small moments of hope are what makes a book. Overall, I would highly recommend this as a read for anyone because it is a well-written work relevant to modern society.