

The Mane News

Spring 2021

St. Andrew's Oral History Project Underway

Sam Berman '22 - SAES News

While fighting in France, Robert Vidgerhouse and his platoon captured a group of Germans nuns, and their commanding officer ordered the men to return the women to Germany. Vidgerhouse and another soldier made the journey. On the way back to their base, the men heard explosions in the distance—they were unsure of the source. Upon arrival, Vidgerhouse and his buddy realized their base had been bombed. The nuns were Nazi spies. Hundreds of fascinating, humbling stories like this have been shared by the Oral History Project at St. Andrew's. History teacher and CCTL director Glenn Whitman, who introduced the project to the school in 1997, said it "personalizes and humanizes history for students who sometimes find history boring or irrelevant." Students are instructed to interview someone who has experienced a historical event, write about the topic, analyze the interview, and present their findings at an annual event that students, family mem-



Photograph from Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives. Troops approaching Omaha Beach on D-Day

bers, and interviewees attend. The project uses students' interpersonal and communication abilities, and it involves a variety of historical skills including research, writing, and presentation. Many prominent figures have been interviewed for the assignment over the years, including Congressman John Lewis, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, former Mayor of the District of Columbia Marion Barry, and Congressman James Clyburn. Still, as history

teacher Alex Haight said, "sometimes the big names aren't as good as the lesser-known ones." Compelling "lesser-known" interviewees include a Negro League baseball player named Ernest Berke, Ben's Chili Bowl co-founder Virginia Ali, and Special Agent George Piro, interpreter in the FBI's interrogations of Saddam Hussein. During Ben Mitchell's 2010 interview, Piro said that Saddam wrote poetry and often expressed disapproval of his sons. Hussein developed

Jump to 5

Students Pick Their Favorite Bagel

Caroline Zembrak '21 - News

Slightly crisp but doughy in the middle? Or toasted with cream cheese slathered on? Plain, Everything, or Sesame? There are disagreements within the St. Andrew's community about which type of bagels are best, and which local place is the best spot to grab a bite to eat.

In a survey of 91 Upper School students and staff, St. Andrew's most beloved bagel spot turns out to be Bethesda Bagels, earning 28.6% of the votes.

Senior Neeve Izadi, whose favorite is an everything bagel with cream cheese and lox, favors Bethesda Bagels.

"Bethesda is the best because there are lots of locations, it's easy to find, and it is a good quality bagel for a good price", said Izadi. "The competition for Bethesda is probably only Call Your Mother and Georgetown. Call

Jump to 2

SGA Considers Change in AP Courses

Edith Eriksson '21 - SAES News

In early April, the SGA debated whether or not a variety of Advanced Placement courses should be added to our school's curriculum. The plan, proposed by SGA President Jake Ravitch, would add eleven new AP courses to our school's curriculum; the proposal was quickly voted down by other members of the SGA. Nonetheless, his proposal raised an important question: where is St. Andrew's headed in regards to the AP curriculum?

Ravitch said that he wanted to add more AP courses to our school's curriculum because "they provide an objective measure of achievement, enabling high-scoring students to stand out in the college admissions process. They also give students the chance to earn college credit, helping students to save money on tuition and pursue more advanced coursework. In addition, AP classes are among the most rigorous and rewarding classes offered." He added that increasing the number of APs



Chemistry teacher Will Ferriby conducts a demonstration while students watch

in our curriculum will give students more freedom to explore subjects that interest them. For Ravitch, learning about global markets in AP Economics helped him find his passion in finance.

SGA members in opposition raised the concern that adding more APs

would create an overly competitive work environment for students. Senior Maya Noboa, a representative who is opposed to the AP plan, said "I was opposed because I felt that making St. Andrew's a more competitive environment would cause increased stress

Jump to 6

Favorite Bagel continued

Your Mother has worse bagel quality and Georgetown doesn't have as many options and amenities that Bethesda Bagels has."

"I love the taste and crispiness of the actual bagel, it's so much better than bagels from the grocery store, and the overflowing cream cheese is also incredible," said senior Hannah Junaideen, whose favorite bagel is blueberry with cream cheese. Einstein Bros Bagels is rated as the second most popular local bagel spot, receiving 20.9% of the votes. Freshman Juliette Naddelman, whose favorite bagel is plain with cream cheese, ranked Einstein as her favorite because it offers "many different bagel options" with great tasting bagels."

Attman's Delicatessen was voted to be the third most popular bagel place in the St. Andrew's Poll. "A big part of why I like it is the atmosphere", senior Sophie Kowitz said, noting that Attman's has great outdoor seating with heaters, which is great during the COVID pandemic. "Whenever we walk in I feel like they remember us. They clearly care about their customers and making them happy." Kowitz goes there almost weekly for lunch with her friends, and her favorite bagel is an everything bagel with cream cheese.

Oscar Lugo, a manager of Attman's for nearly seven years, said that "It's nice to come here for breakfast; the bagels are fresh and we get new ones every day, delivered from Bethesda Bagels." Attman's most

popular bagel is an everything bagel.

While Bethesda, Einstein, and Attman's were rated to be the best out of the provided options in the poll, some respondents chose to write in other places that they love. Some of the write-ins included Chesapeake Bagels, Bagel City, Ize's Deli and Bagelry, and a surprisingly common write-in—"my mom". Math teacher Mr. Gregg Ponitch, whose favorite bagel is sesame, was one of the few respondents who wrote in for Ize's. "It's chewy on the outside, cakey on the inside, good variety, and I like to support local businesses, and Ize's is a local business."

When evaluating what makes a great bagel, he also considers the quality of the toppings: whether or not they have good veggie or salmon cream cheese spreads. He stops by Ize's six or seven times a month. "Now that I've discovered their candied salmon, I've been going even more."

Although he loves Ize's and frequents Georgetown Bagelry as well, Mr. Ponitch feels strongly that "there's nowhere around here that can match up to New York Bagels." For many Jewish students, bagels are part of their traditions. Bagels' origins are disputed, but just like other foods that derived in Jewish-heavy areas within Eastern Europe, bagels are now thought of as a part of Jewish culture. Many of the local bagel shops are Jewish businesses. While they range in au-

thenticity and kosherness, Attman's Deli, Bethesda Bagels, Call Your Mother, Goldberg's, and Ize's Deli and Bagelry all have Jewish origins-- whereas Georgetown Bagelry and Einstein Bros Bagels do not. In fact, JAB Holdings, a conglomerate that owns Einstein Bros, had historical ties to the Nazi Regime during World War II. JAB Holdings is controlled by the Reimman family, whose deceased family members were supporters of Adolf Hitler, and forced prisoners of war to be laborers for their family's factories. Since investigating its history, JAB Holdings has made a plan to donate about \$11 million to a charity.v

"Most of the time, bagels are a part of celebrating the Jewish Holidays in my family, with the exception of Passover because you can't eat food that rises during it. But we normally get bagels for breakfast on holidays, and on Yom Kippur, it is one of the best foods to eat when breaking the day-long fast," Kowitz said. Sophomore Sam Segal is a fan of Goldberg's New York Bagels in Cabin John Shopping Center. "It's not a necessity to be kosher, but it shows that they take the Jewish heritage seriously instead of using it as a marketing term with nothing to back it up."

Despite the conflicting opinions over which local bagel place is best, there was one thing students who took the survey could agree on: 94.4% of respondents said yes, they like bagels. A heartwarming statistic in troubled times.

Black Alumni continued

do want to find a solution to that," said Mr. Shabazz. "Money isn't every solution, but putting money towards people who are intentional about finding that solution can certainly help that problem." Before beginning its work with students and alumni, the BAC had managed to raise a total of \$38,000.

The BAC has used this money to offer scholarships and workshops to students and alumni to better prepare them for their futures. One of the BAC's most significant investments is the college scholarship program. St. Andrew's alumni currently attending college can apply to this program to possibly be awarded a scholarship in amounts of either \$1,000, \$5,000, or \$25,000 to help pay for their education. To be considered, applicants must have strong grades, write an essay, and also attend four of the eight workshops hosted by the BAC in a given year. This past year, about 25-30 students applied to this program, said Mr. Shabazz, six of whom were ultimately selected.

Besides the Scholarships Scholars Program, the BAC has also offered several workshops in the past year. These workshops intend to support students and alumni as they enter into the professional world as students of color, ultimately to help them better understand "how to maneuver a predominantly white space," said Mr. Shabazz. While some workshops provide information about internships and job readiness, others explore the themes of identity. For example, at a recent workshop about intersectionality, St. Andrew's students and alumni who identify as members of the LGBTQ community and as people of color talked about how their belonging in both of these groups has affected both their academic and professional lives.

"I think my favorite workshop I went to was the open-ended discussion about what our Africanity is all about because we had people of all different backgrounds, all different characteristics sort of participating," said senior Mutunga Lamin, a frequent attendee of the BAC workshops. "It was more open-ended than any other because it was all about just your personal experience."

The BAC also hopes to offer a summer course this year on financial literacy and find events beyond the St. Andrew's community for students and alumni to participate in. One such event was a

Jump to 5

Black Alumni Collective Hosts Engaging Events

Hannah Dourgarian '21 - SAES News

This past summer, St. Andrew's alumni Delonte Egwatu '12, Kiah Simms '12, Jamee Williams '12, Husam Shabazz '15, and Gillian Sanford '18 came together and established the Black Alumni Collective, or BAC, to discuss recent events of racial injustice and support the equality movement in the United States.

Mr. Shabazz said that the St. Andrew's Black Alumni Collective embodies the school's commitment to deep listening and civil engagement to pursue meaningful change. This collective has dedicated itself to standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and taking action against police brutality and systemic racism. It has also worked tirelessly this past year to

enrich the lives of marginalized students at St. Andrew's to provide them support and guidance in their academic and professional pursuits; to "find different commitments to... improving and advocating for diversity, inclusion, and... diversity in inclusion, as well," said Mr. Shabazz.

The BAC began its efforts by raising money. In collaboration with the St. Andrew's communications team earlier this year, the BAC posted an online fundraiser. This fundraiser, along with personal pledges made by members of the BAC, helped secure the group some of the funds it needed. However, what gave the BAC a significant amount of support from the St. Andrew's community was the "Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation" call with faculty and staff in which members of the

BAC discussed their experiences from when they were students at St. Andrew's.

"We saw a lot of our donations increase because they were real stories, they were real people,

and there's an understanding that when you leave this community, everyone's a family, but when that family's fractured, people feel for that, and people do want to have a change and people

Jump to 5



Image by @saesbac on Instagram SAES Black Alumni Collective

Is NFL Free Agency Worth it?

Joe Masters '22 - Sports

Every March, fans of the National Football League clamor for their teams to open up the checkbooks for big-name, franchise-altering talents. Most of those fans believe big-name additions result in success but does paying large money to stars actually lead to wins? Usually, no. As residents of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, readers may know the story of the Washington Football Team signing Albert Haynesworth to a seven-year \$100 million contract in 2009... or Paul Richardson to a five year \$40 million contract in 2018 (who only played one year for the franchise)... or Josh Norman to a five-year \$75 million contract in 2017... you get the point. More recent examples of overspending include the Jets' four-year \$52.5 million deal with Le'Veon Bell, and Nick Foles' four-year \$88 million deal with the Jaguars. The Football Team, Jets, and the Jaguars all possess one striking similarity: losing.

Here is a graph from Sharp Analytics that compares regular-season wins, in green, with money spent in free agency, red, from 2014-2016. The inverse relationship is undeniable. What really leads to winning in the National Football League is value, whether that means signing veteran players to one-year deals, inking contracts after the wave of post-draft releases, or extending players early on team-friendly deals. 2021 free agent signings that appear to have particularly impressive value include edge rusher Tyus Bowser's agreement with the Ravens at \$5.5M average annual value (AAV), the Eagles' signing of safety Anthony Harris at \$4M AAV, and Marvin Jones Jr. to the Jaguars at \$6.25M AAV. Although not well-known names to the casual fan, such players on cheap deals can bring unmatched value to a franchise. This is not intended as a condemnation of all large contracts, however. Rather, it's just a reminder that spending needs to be very selective and deliberate. The Cardinals' two-

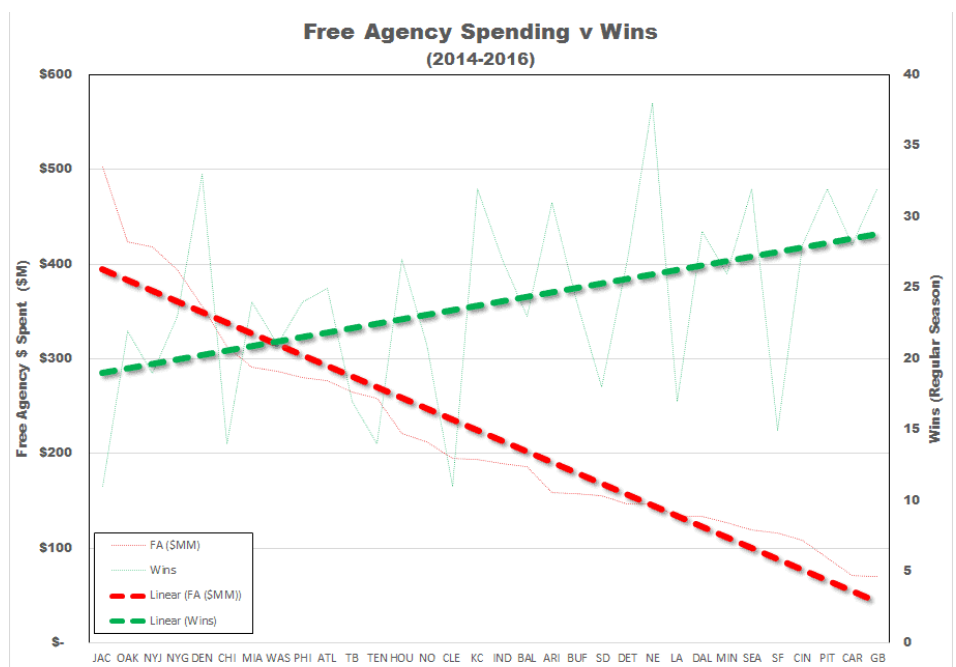


Image by www.outkick.com
Chart comparing Free Agency Spending v. Wins

year \$54.5 million--\$60M guaranteed--agreement with wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, the Chargers' five-year \$135M extension with defensive-end Joey Bosa, and the Ravens' five-year \$98.75M extension with tackle Ronnie Stanley are examples of paying premium prices

for proven all-pro, cornerstone talents. Although as a fan you may be angered when you see a star free agent signing a big contract with another team, remind yourself that winning in September and afterwards, not in March, is what matters.

What College Means for Teens

Ana Chalmers '22 - SAES Opinion

Are teenagers naive to the real world, or are some adults just overly cynical? As young adults begin to decide on career paths and majors, more students push to achieve dreams and do what they love. But is this realistic? Will these teenagers end up opting for the realistic job with financial stability in the end? Can realistic jobs still be fulfilling?

large income." This has led Diana to explore different paths, including psychology or medicine, "which is a career that could provide for the lifestyle I want," but for now "it is up in the air and I am going to college undecided." Diana said that as other seniors get ready to graduate high school and start their transition into college, the "push and pull between a high salary and pursuing a passion is stronger than ever."

Adults often tell children that they can be anything and that happiness is the long-term goal; however, as college approaches, the rhetoric changes and some parents take a more pragmatic approach and encourage their children to get jobs that provide stability. Many teenagers on social media have a different perspective though, and there is sentiment across the internet that young adults are afraid of the trappings of a cubicle and a suburban life, marked by conformity and boredom. However, sometimes the hobby or passion that someone loves and could do for years is unattainable and unrealistic.

Moreover, the pandemic has had an effect on high schoolers as Juniors start looking at options in regard to college and majors., Junior Sophia Papademetriou has noticed that "access to a wide-variety of educational tools is making it easier to learn new things and discover new passions." The effect of the pandemic has influenced Sophia; "my view on jobs and careers has changed enough to make me want to pursue my passion because it has shown me that failure is okay and there is always another thing you can do." While this healthy mindset might not apply to all teenagers adapting to lockdown, it is clear that this is a time of growth and self-discovery for young adults figuring out potential career paths.

High school students are often told to look at different extracurriculars and classes to find an area of great interest, but those passion projects can have obstacles. Finding something you love is one challenge, then figuring out if it can provide financial stability is another level of difficulty. Senior Diana Bernard has "always known I wanted to work with animals, but that path does not come with a

It is important to note how influential economic status is on this topic and the advantage that many St. Andrew's students have to access this level of education. Some students are able to pursue their dreams without worrying about the economic impact, and some prioritize supporting their family or financial lifestyle before anything



Photograph by Brian Alewite
Class of 2021 college pennants

else. Junior Oliver Bush said that his financial situation creates much more freedom to pursue what he loves. "More fulfilling majors that don't guarantee as much cash compared to others is certainly an option that is available to me, and I'll likely choose to pursue that passion."

with working hard to send your kids to college or devoting your life to helping others. In reality, happiness can be subjective, and oftentimes people don't really need to choose between stability and passion. Adults have hobbies and interests they love outside of work, and happiness can be found in any profession or lifestyle. It's natural to add more stress during the college process and worry about "the meaning of life," but hopefully students will find their way in the coming years.

While answers may differ completely based on life goals or financial situations, it seems that the overarching desire to choose careers and majors is based on what makes you excited and what truly fulfills you. That doesn't always mean a career based on self-satisfaction; fulfillment can be achieved

97% and Women

Shannon Yehl '22 - Opinion

In recent weeks, the number 97% has appeared on social media platforms across the world. This number represents the percentage of women between the ages of 18-24 in the United Kingdom who reported experiencing some kind of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, being catcalled, followed home, or threatened. The death of Sarah Everard sparked this conversation, a woman killed on March 3, 2021 in London. The young woman had been walking home and went missing. Her remains were found in a wooded area in Kent, southeast of London. The man accused of killing her is a 48-

year old police officer who was arrested on March 12th. This incident caused outrage for the women in the U.K. as many of them shared their own harassment stories. The fact that the man who killed Sarah Everard was a police officer made women question their safety, since they felt they can't rely on officials who are hired to protect and serve. This event is another reminder of how difficult it is to be a young woman, and how taking a short walk home can result in life-threatening situations. On social media, the week of March 3rd was a field day for teens' Instagrams. As I clicked through each story, I saw the recurring number again: 97%. Each story had a message or tweet that demonstrated their anger and

frustration about what happened to Sarah Everard. It was incredible how so many women were adding to their stories, talking about how tired they are of the systemic discrimination and abuse. One popular tweet was a thread of quotes by real judges during rape trials. Judge Thomas Low said, "But great men sometimes do bad things," when praising a two-time convicted rapist in 2017. These stories illustrate why women are afraid to report their incidents to police officials; the system has let countless rapists walk free while the victims remain haunted by their past. While I saw many young women post on this topic, the lack of men doing the same thing was astonishing. The silence from teenage boys

was truly loud on that day, and it is disappointing how few posts I saw that were posted by men. If the Washington Football Team has a new quarterback, that is way more post-worthy, right? It isn't. For years, the focus for parents has been on what their daughters should or shouldn't be doing in certain situations, when the focus should really be on educating their sons. Sexual assault, rape, and molestation are not jokes. When you hear someone make a mockery of the subject, be an ally. Make your support known. Women are exhausted by the lack of allyship and support from others, and it is time to fight for the justice of countless survivors.

Affecting Racial Change Through Government

Henry Freytag '24 - Opinion

The Reverse Migration Theory is the brainchild of black New York Times columnist Charles Blow. In his book *The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto*, he urges young BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) to begin a "reverse migration" to the Southern states in order to consolidate state power into the hands of BIPOC people. Specifically, Blow proposes targeting the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. The main objectives are the major cities along the "Interstate 20-Interstate 95 corridor from Shreveport, Louisiana, to Wilmington, Delaware." I believe that a plan as revolutionary and extreme as this deserves a close look at the reasoning behind it, as well as the necessity of implementing it.

migration effective. To address the risks inherent in moving across the country, Blow is pitching his idea to a "young 20-something Black person, hasn't committed to a job, still not married, just trying to get their toe in the world, still free enough to be anywhere in the country who might be considering where they want to call home." While a person matching that description might be able to move to a new city and state, the risks still might outweigh the rewards. That person would have to leave behind their community and their whole life. There might be a serious lack of people willing to uproot their entire life and move to one of the nine states mentioned previously.

First of all, would the Reverse Migration Theory be reasonable to implement? Blow would have to be able to promise adequate housing and good jobs to each of the thousands of people needed to make this

For another voice on the matter, I reached out to BSA representative and Mane News columnist Mutunga Lamin for his opinion on the possibility of a reverse migration. He responded, "I don't believe that solution would be possible simply due to the numerical disadvantage BIPOC face in comparison with the South's predominantly white population. Therefore, I don't believe that would ever be implemented."

Mutunga's point is extremely insightful, and while slowly changing, white people still make up a majority of the South and its states' legislature. Historically, in order to maintain their position, the white legislature enacts Jim Crow-style laws to stop BIPOC from voting. This starts a cycle of institutionalized oppression where BIPOC are restricted enough to where they don't have enough power to elect representatives who will empower them. The people who end up winning use their power to obstruct BIPOC from accessing the poles. There is no better or more current example of this cycle than in Georgia. The new voting law in Georgia makes it incredibly difficult for BIPOC to vote in that state. The Georgia state legislature made it illegal to give food or water to people standing in line to vote, banned voting one Sunday, and limited ballot drop-boxes. This new law is simply a reaction to BIPOC people making progress in a historically white dominated state.

Many solutions to the cycle of oppression have been suggested. One of them is registering previously

unregistered voters in key states. Mutunga believes that "there are enough unregistered voters in many states to flip the states if they became registered." Many people agree, including former Georgian state representative Stacy Abrams. She started the organizations Fair Fight and the New Georgia Project, which registered over 800,000 new voters. This greatly contributed to breaking the cycle of oppression in Georgia. The most important thing voters can do to stop cycles of oppression is to elect BIPOC candidates into office. These candidates have personal experience in the system that needs changing, so they are the best people to implement change. More BIPOC leaders in state and federal legislature will help to stop voter suppression and empower BIPOC voters. My conclusion is that moving thousands of BIPOC people to a new state doesn't necessarily guarantee them power. Voters have power not because they have numbers, but because the people in office choose to empower the voters and protect their rights.

School Summer Plans Revealed

Jonas Blum '22 - SAES News

Despite the pandemic, this upcoming summer St. Andrew's plans to offer a multitude of programs for students and athletes, ranging from summer courses for students to catch up or get ahead to athletic training camps for lacrosse.

through grade 12." She said that these will include "academic options as well as day camp, sports, culinary, outdoor science, and service learning opportunities."

Ms. Monique McMillan-Jackson, coordinator of all summer programs, said that "this summer, we will offer in-person programs for students age two

Jackson said that it is possible that sports will operate as if it was a normal summer. The school is officially waiting on Montgomery County to announce their plans. But, in a field environment, social distancing can be managed quite easily. On the sidelines, masks could be used as a precautionary measure due to the

closer quarters. No official plans have been announced for sports.

Junior Will Kaine said "the summer courses I took between freshman and sophomore year really allowed me to focus on the classes I enjoy during the school year." Kaine took the summer history course offered, which allowed him to take both Physics and Organic Biochemistry this year. Junior Hannah Newman used the summer course offerings to skip a year of math, allowing her to take Calculus

this year. She said, "taking Algebra II over the summer gave me so many more options in the math department senior year."

The school is yet to announce plans regarding testing during the summer programs, but Ms. McMillan-Jackson said that the programs will follow the same steps as the school-year if a student tests positive for Covid-19.

Black Alumni *continued*

Hackathon held in early April. This event, which also included students from other schools, was held to promote the knowledge of financial literacy, such as how to manage credit, debt, and savings. Students were assigned to groups and were then challenged to design and pitch a product to a panel of judges, many of whom are entrepreneurs themselves.

Freshman Lara Alarapon was one of the St. Andrew's students who participated in the Hackathon. Over the course of the three-day event, her group worked to create a learning website to help young adults develop financial literacy skills. Although she described the work she did with her team as a very "fun, interactive experience," what she enjoyed most about the Hackathon were the opportunities she had to listen to different guest speakers, especially Ms. Michelle Singletary, a journalist for the Washington Post. "The fact that I could see people who were so successful, that look like me, was a very eye opening experience because I've always been told that I can do it, I can do it, I can do it, but every time people say you can do it, I don't see people that have done it. And that was a very beautiful thing to see," Alarapon said.

In their mission to support the St. Andrew's community members as best they can, the BAC also aims to develop deep and long-lasting relationships with students. "I think the bigger thing about you know, what we're doing, is that we want to build and establish relationships, not only with black students, but all students," said Mr. Shabazz. "I want to be someone that if a student is having a problem with maybe their identity, or something like that, I want to be someone that if I can't give an answer, I want to be comfortable enough with them to know that I can help, or I can do something in some sort of way. And so that's really where my intentions

are in being within this community."

So far, the BAC has experienced significant success in working closely with the Black Students Alliance. "I'd say for the most part, everything the Black Alumni Collective does is rooted in the best interests of black students at St. Andrew's, so they have a lot of interaction with us," said Lamin, who is president of the BSA. "The black students are really committed and a lot of people come" to many of the events that are offered.

The BAC will continue to explore new ways of connecting with the St. Andrew's community in the future. "Next year, it might be scholarships, the year after it might be more programs, but, you know, we're in a position where the more money that we have, the more work that we can do, but we also want to be intentional about that work that we're doing," said Mr. Shabazz.

For the time being, the BAC's main focus is addressing the issues and cracks within the St. Andrew's community as a whole. "Yes, we are the Black Alumni Collective, but we push for a lot of different forms of diversity and inclusion," said Mr. Shabazz, as can be seen in their efforts to "align" with Asian American families and students as well as with SOCA and the Latinx group. "We care about diversity on a larger level than just black and white, and I think that's what the important thing is, is that you know, we have students that are culturally missing out, but it doesn't mean that they completely miss out," he said. "I think that there is a lot of beauty within this community, but I think also we do need to recognize that maybe there are some things, some spots that we're not seeing," he said. "Now that we have people that are using this information and utilizing it, how are we pushing forward, and I think that's where the importance lies."

Oral History Project Underway *continued*

an affection for his interrogator, given that Piro was his only source of human interaction. Piro stated "he definitely thought we were friends. [...] he became extremely emotionally attached to me."

The work of St. Andrew's students have even inspired teachers. After years of teaching the Oral History Project, Mr. Haight decided to conduct his own oral history by interviewing his grandmother, a German Jew who migrated to the United States in 1935.

Juniors scare Sophomores with stories of tireless work on the project, but, usually, after those same frightened students finish the task themselves a year later, they conclude that it was not so bad after all. Mr. Whitman referred to the Oral History Project as a rite of passage, saying, "most of the students come out of the project believing more in themselves, academically."

Juniors are working on their own projects currently, albeit a slightly abbreviated version because of

When and How Will Concerts Return

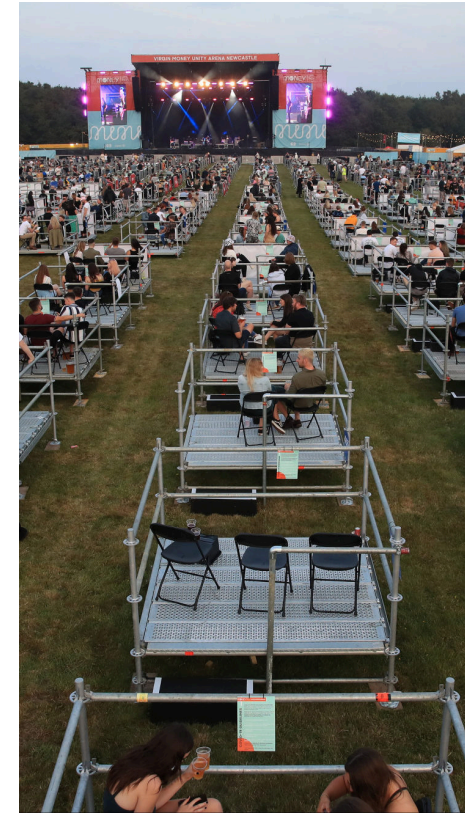
Eric Muchane '22 - News

Music helps bring everyone together, especially during concerts, but the pandemic has stopped people from coming together. At a concert you can sing the same song as someone else and be able to enjoy the moment together. Countless people in the past have gone to a concert with their friends and end up leaving with a new one. Large music venues have been shut down throughout the pandemic, and a number of the promoters and artists are saying that they've decided not to risk having large music events until 2022. For example, South by Southwest, a popular music festival that is usually held in Texas each year, is being postponed until next year.

Some artists feel differently and plan to hold large concerts in the fall. Writer Dave Brooks, who works for Billboard Magazine, believes that live concerts will happen sooner. He said in a USA Today article opinion that "we will start seeing one-off arena concerts in a matter of months, and we will return to festivals in the fall."

If large concerts do come back, some may be socially distanced with a number of new safety protocols. This year, Sophomore Tobi Akinde was looking forward to going to a rap concert, but his plans were postponed. When asking Tobi what he thought about the possibility of safety protocols in concerts, he felt that lines will be so much longer, and every time a person went to a venue they will have to get their temperature checked. If he is with friends he will have to wait for them. On the other hand, Tobi feels optimistic that the number of people allowed to enter a concert might be less and the process could even be faster.

In his opinion piece, Brooks said there will be "mask requirements and restrictions on some of the



PA/Sipa via CNN

UK's first socially distanced concert

things we are used to – less food, more restrictions on drinking and more efforts to keep people from congregating too closely. Don't expect any meet-and-greets with artists or any stage dives by the lead singer."

The biggest need for concertgoers is vaccines; without them, concerts will never return to full capacity. In an interview with The New York Times, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Chief Medical Adviser to President Joe Biden, said that when about 70-85% of Americans are vaccinated, concerts could return. Fauci thinks this could happen by the end of 2021. But, as WAMU reports, smaller venues such as the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. are more optimistic about opening earlier, possibly even this summer. If they hold fewer people and keep them socially distanced, they can better protect those individuals' health. Hopefully we will be able to create a safe, fun environment for concerts soon enough.

ter to his father: "I got the packet today.... I can't tell you how much I enjoyed reading it, and how much it touched me. These are questions I've always wanted to ask you, [...] and the war that I always wanted to [...] hear you talk about. [...] I want you to know that after reading this, even more so now, that I thank God that my father is alive and that my children have a real grandfather instead of just a memory to hear about from me."

distance learning. Historian Studs Terkel once said the purpose of oral history is to "uncover the living repositories of our past." At its core, the Oral History Project is about not just developing a greater understanding of American history, but recording a part of someone's life story.

In 1997, St. Andrew's student Graham Keithley interviewed Vietnam War veteran Colonel Paul Skoglund. After Skoglund's son read a copy of the project, he wrote a moving let-

Students React to New Schedule and Cohorts

Garlan Reading '22 and Sydney Wills '23 - SAES News

St. Andrew's changed to a new schedule and cohort pattern in the weeks immediately before and after Spring Break. Why did this happen? Has evidence emerged that our current arrangements have had a negative social impact? How do students feel about these changes?

Back in March, Assistant Head of School David Brown said, "We have invited 50% of the students in grades 7 - 12 to campus in the Hope and Brumbaugh cohorts but many students were opting to stay with distance learning from home. The single largest reason given by students was 'my friends are in the other cohort'. As numbers continued to improve in Maryland, the school made the decision to increase numbers. Mr. Brown said that students would be, "grouped by grade level in the hopes that more students will decide to come and learn on campus with their classmates." After these deliberations, students returned to campus after spring break, allowing for one week of virtual schooling first.

Only a few days into having kids back on campus, there has been a lot of positive feedback from the students. Sophomore Brooke Holland said, "the teachers are doing a great job. It is so good to be back in school, even though it is hard to get



Photograph by SAES

Math teacher Corey Null teaching Geometry students

up in the morning." Further positive comments came from Senior Hannah Dourgarian who said, "I have really loved being face to face with my teachers where there has been more accountability to pay attention in class and it has been easier to have conversations in between and after classes that are not related solely to what is being discussed in the classroom."

For many, it was their first day of inperson school, which brought

not only excitement but also a tinge of anxiety. Senior Sophia Wills thought school would be a lot different because of all the COVID restrictions and parameters; however, she was pleasantly surprised to find out that not a lot has changed. She said, "I was so happy to see my teachers and classmates and try to have one normal month of senior year."

The following week, the 9th and 11th graders returned. As the school

year continues, St. Andrew's is optimistic that more grades will be able to come back full time and no longer have to alternate weeks. When asked in March how the school will handle bigger class sizes for on campus learning, Mr. Brown said, "many of our classes, like English 9, may have more than 15 students and will need to be taught in a larger classroom space or outdoors under a tent."

How the Media Drives Polarization

Emily Wang '22 - Psych

The Context for Political Polarization in American Media

Political polarization has recently peaked in the U.S., according to University of British Columbia researchers Gordon Heltzel and Kristin Laurin. Opposing political positions have become more extreme, and a 2020 study conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 55% of Republicans say Democrats are "more immoral" when compared with other Americans. 47% of Democrats respond similarly about the republicans. Distrust, bullying, pressure to conform, government shutdown, and violent protest are consequences of this deepening polarization.

It is important to understand that political polarization isn't the same as disagreement. Disagreement over finding ways to resolve the current societal problems is a natural component of American democracy. Some political polarization would not hurt democracy. For instance,

people should be encouraged to be civically engaged to vote and protest as needed, all of which are important components of the pluralist model of democracy. The way that extreme polarization pits people against each other, causing them to refuse to even listen to a different perspective, undermines a democratic method of problem solving.

Media as a Driver of Political Polarization

A growing number of research studies have suggested that the media has generally become more partisan. For instance, two opposing media networks are CNN and Fox News. The 2020 Pew Research Report found that 65% of Republicans and Republican-leaning individual users report that Fox News is a trusted source, while 67% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning individuals say the same about CNN. The rivalry between these two networks became increasingly polarized during the Trump administration. According to the Washington Post, CNN and Fox News have been constantly

AP Courses *continued*

to the students. If we were to add a significant amount of AP classes, students would feel compelled to take those classes if they wanted to be competitive against their fellow students when applying to colleges." Jake said they would have the opposite effect "because AP courses are much more difficult, students will need to collaborate, study together, and support each other in order to attain success in these classes."

Senior Cameron Behram, another SGA representative, agreed that adding AP courses may create a more competitive environment, but he said that the "strong academic advisor system" of St. Andrew's will prevent students from putting too much pressure on themselves and taking on classes that they can not handle. He said that "as things stand right now, it is difficult for students to gain a competitive advantage in the college process when compared to other schools, like Churchill, where students can choose to take significantly more AP's."

Behram also mentioned his own experience with the AP curriculum, explaining that it would be helpful for him to be able to take more AP

science classes for the STEM programs he is applying to. The only STEM-related AP science offered currently at St. Andrew's is AP Biology. He also said that "a lack of AP classes adds a different type of stress to student's lives." He then said "stress stems from the pressure to participate in more extracurricular activities in order to compensate for our inability to demonstrate our academic abilities through APs." Headmaster Robert Kosasky said that while the original purpose of the Advanced Placement program was to allow students to receive college credit while still in high school, now many schools—especially the more selective ones—either will not accept AP credit or will only accept partial credit. He also said that our school's limited course load plays a role in such a decision. "As a school, we can only offer a certain amount of courses. So one way to think about it is, if we offer a new AP, my question is what courses are we dropping? The more courses you offer, you're either going to create more student disappointment or induce certain students to potentially take even more of that stressful load."

How the Media Drives Polarization *continued*

attacking each other by exaggerating the opponent's mistakes and turning them into news stories. Both networks have used sensationalized headlines, word choices and biased selection of news coverage.

The increasing political polarization in the media world can be explained in part by a psychological bias term: anchoring bias. Anchoring bias occurs when an individual makes a judgment that relies too heavily on the first piece of information that they obtained. This form of cognitive bias has been especially evident during the COVID-19 lockdowns when we depend heavily on the media to obtain information from the outside world. With little access to external information, viewers increasingly fall prey to the growing myopic news coverage, and many of their first impressions will all come from the same news sources.

In addition to traditional media bias, social media, which contains many distinct platforms for political debate and activism, is also becoming more polarized. With the Me TOO and Black Lives Matter hashtags trending on social media platforms, it has become fairly clear that social media can bring attention to underrepresented groups and societal issues. However, popular social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have also been criticized for driving polarization by creating echo chambers, also known as "filter bubbles." Filter bubbles are the result of algorithms

that analyze people's behavior by tracking time spent on liking, sharing, commenting, and interacting with other accounts. Based on the data collected through these algorithms, the platforms will suggest content that individuals would most likely want to see. Notably, these algorithms tend to isolate people from the opposing views. A new study by researchers at Princeton University has shown that filter bubbles increasingly divide society along partisan lines and foster an inability to compromise.

Another psychological trend that plays into the growing polarization on social media platforms is confirmation bias. Confirmation bias occurs when we search for evidence that would support our pre-existing beliefs. To give an example, if a person thinks that sushi is the best food, while their friends believe that pizza is the best food, said person might search "Sushi Videos" on TikTok. After a couple of days, the person would realize that their "For You Page" is filled with all kinds of sushi-related content because of the platform's computer learning algorithm. As a result, simply searching for sushi on Tik tok would potentially confirm the person's view that Sushi is the best food. The platform would make it appear that sushi is more popular than pizza because they would not see pizza-related content.

Social media also tends to group people into categories, such as Republican and Democrat, based on

their religion, food preferences, and hobbies. For example, posting a picture of an American flag would most likely be categorized as right-leaning, while posting a picture of vegan food is more likely seen as left-leaning. This "one size fits all" grouping into political ideologies ignores individual context and supports an increasingly insular worldview.

Previous research studies have proposed that social media giants should change their algorithms so that people can be exposed to the content of the opposite ideological side. However, a recent research study conducted by the department of sociology at Duke University has shown that Republicans became more conservative after following a liberal Twitter bot, and Democrats held slightly more liberal attitudes after following a conservative Twitter bot. This "repulsion" effect tends to make people push away from the opposing arguments, especially the ones that they identify as "extreme." Although more research is needed to conclude whether or not exposure to opposing views would bridge the political polarization gap, without some degree of meaningful democratic engagement, we would likely be moving towards even more extreme polarization.

Media bias is the result of increasing polarization. Our society has long been polarized, and it has gone through its ups and downs like the COVID-19 and an increasing sense of political isolation that has led us

to a unique moment. There is no easy solution; but at the same time, that doesn't mean there are no ways in which we can shift our cultural thinking.

Fathali M Moghaddam, a psychology professor at Georgetown University proposed a theory of Omniculturalism, which is the idea that focuses on what humans have in common. This emphasis on commonalities before differences can be helpful in building an inclusive environment.

One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing

Above is a famous phrase from Socrates, that serves as a great entry for our last psychological term: The Dunning-Kruger effect. This effect occurs when low competent people tend to overestimate their ability because they have no idea of how much they don't know, while high competent people tend to underestimate their ability because they are aware of how much they don't know. This phenomenon often plays out in political polarization. A study from the University of Maryland found that individuals with low political expertise are often the ones that overestimate their political knowledge and are more stubborn in their political beliefs. Therefore, it is important to be open-minded when considering political issues, especially in this increasingly polarized world.



We are recruiting writers and photographers for the Spring!
We are looking for talented individuals who can:

- Write updates on sports teams and clubs
- Inform the school on the happenings at SGA meetings
 - Notify students of upcoming events
- Alert readers to impactful national and regional news
 - Shoot photographs of games and events
 - Write cartoons and take community polls

If you are interested in joining contact Mr. Ferrante:

pferrante@saes.org

Battleship Minesweeper Variant

Mr. Ternes

Love the game Battleship? Love playing Minesweeper? Put them together and you have a great logic game.

Rules:

The aim is to locate the position of the fleet in the grid. The ships do not touch each other, not even diagonally. A cell with a number indicates how many ship pieces are adjacent to it.

Practice Example:

4									
	6		0	1					
	6	3	3	3					
			4	3	4				
	0								

Solution:

4									
	6		0	1					
	6	3	3	3					
			4	3	4				
	0								

- The fleet**
- Battleship
 - Cruisers
 - Destroyers
 - Submarines

Answers will be revealed next issue

Problem 1:

0		0	1						
		0	1			0			
	1					2			
2				2					
3				2					
		0		3		2			
			0						
					2				
	0	0						0	

Problem 2:

		3							
			2			1			
1						1	1		
		1							
2				3				2	
	2								
	3							2	
							5		
1		2							
						3			

Problem 2:

				1					
4									
					5				
3	2	3					2		
		5							
							2		
			3						
					5				

Word Problem

Ten red socks and ten blue socks are all mixed up in a dresser drawer. The 20 socks are exactly alike except for their color. The room is in pitch darkness and you want two matching socks. What is the smallest number of socks you must take out of the drawer in order to be certain that you have a pair that match?

The Mane News is edited by:

Jonas Blum '22 - Editor in Chief
Ana Chalmers '22 - Editor in Chief

Brian Alewine '22 - Graphic Designer
Hannah Newman '22 - Copy Editor
Shannon O'Grady '22 - Student Life Editor
Joe Masters '22 - Sports Editor

Special thanks to our faculty advisors, Mr. Ferrante and Mr. Evans.
And to Mr. Ternes for the puzzles.