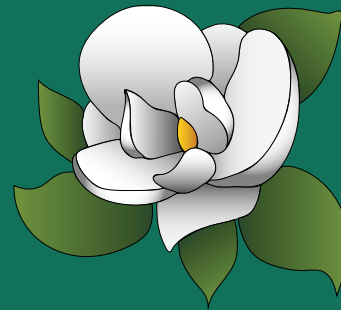


LOGOS



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Wellness in the Woods wins out as HH's newest wellness course

BY MIRIAM JOHN
News Reporter

Harpeth Hall introduced their newest wellness course, Wellness in the Woods, for the 2024-2025 school year. The class will take place in the span of three days in August before the start of the school year, and will allow students to partake in activities outside of their usual wellness class.

For many years, Coach Buffy Baker, Upper School Wellness teacher, has wanted Harpeth Hall to be more involved in outdoor education. She knows from her own experiences that kids learn well in many different environments, including the great outdoors.

"As a wellness department, we could be offering more classes. I think to be an effective wellness department, we need to expose our students to a myriad of things," said Coach Baker.

Wellness in the Woods will be an immersive experience to challenge students to grow outside of their comfort zone. The course will borrow MBA's Long Mountain campus on August 8-11, and students will stay in barracks at the campus. Their Harpeth Hall instructors will be Coach Baker and Natasha Robinson, Senior Associate

Director of Admission and Financial Aid at Harpeth Hall.

Some events planned for the trip include ropes courses, hiking trails, caving and other activities designed to introduce students to nature and push them out of their comfort



WOOD YOU RATHER?: Madi Whiteley, Katherine Lutrull and Caroline Thomas canoe on a retreat at Montgomery Bell Academy's Long Mountain campus. Photo Courtesy of M.A. Pierce

zone. There will also be some aspects that are similar to Coach Baker's usual wellness class, Wellness of the Mind and Body, such as journaling and reflection.

This year the course will only include fifteen students as a pilot for the class. If more than the allotted number of students

sign up, a lottery will take place to decide who will go on the trip. This could, however, potentially change over the next few years. There will be five students from each of the rising sophomore, junior and senior classes on the trip.

"I love the fact that our classes are mixed. I don't want just one grade. So there's mentorship; there's the youth of a freshman's energy with a junior who's having a tougher year. There's so much to be learned with the intermixing of the grades" said Coach Baker. Wellness in the Woods will also count

as a semester long wellness course. This is very appealing to some students because anyone who chooses to take an elective along with their five core classes can now have a free wellness block, which is normally reserved for upperclassmen in Strength and Conditioning.

"As an athlete outside of Harpeth Hall, who also wants to participate in electives, I want the benefits of an outside of school wellness that would give me a free block and wouldn't otherwise be accessible to me," said sophomore Lulu Kohler.

Experiential education is a very important aspect of Harpeth Hall's curriculum. Many students look forward to their off campus Winterim trips or internships. Wellness in the Woods will be an additional opportunity for students to undergo a style of learning which differs from a normal school schedule.

Ultimately, Wellness in the Woods will give students a chance to branch out of their normal wellness classes in a fun and innovative way.

"We look to our schools to provide new opportunities that wouldn't normally be given even though it is good to have the experience," said Coach Baker.

Once-in-a-lifetime cicada summer expected to hit America

BY EMMA CROPSY
Freshman Intern

To many, the cicada emergence this summer may sound like something from a horror movie—hundreds upon thousands of insects emerging from the soil, crawling and flying across cities. This phenomenon, however, is completely real, and it will be making its way across the country this year.

By the end of the summer, over a trillion cicadas are expected to have made their way above ground in one of the world's largest insect breeding events.

So, why exactly are all these cicadas suddenly surfacing? To answer this, it is important to understand what a cicada's life cycle looks like.

These insects actually spend most of their lives underground, feeding on the sap from plant roots and preparing for the moment when they can venture to the world above. They only make their way up when the soil reaches a certain temperature, which is why they can only be seen in the summer.

They are expected to start appearing when the temperatures climb above the 60s, likely around mid-May. They won't all emerge at once, however.

"It can depend on the microclimate they're in, or how deep the cicadas are buried," said Ms. Bekah Hassel, Middle School Science Department Chair, who has a background studying a variety of insects. "But they'll

probably come out over the course of 2-3 weeks."

Cicadas fall into two main groups, each with slightly different life cycles and characteristics. The cicadas that one usually

sees—and, more often, hears—each summer are known as annual cicadas, and they emerge every two to five years. They are often a dark green-gray color and can grow up to an inch and a half.

Periodical cicadas, on the other hand, are the type we will be seeing this year. They are much smaller than annual cicadas, with striking orange markings and red eyes.

Periodical cicadas rarely come up to breed, and what makes this summer special is that not only one, but two broods of these cicadas are emerging at once. These two broods only come out every 13 and 17 years, and due to their different cycles, it is not often that they

happen to surface at the same time; in fact, it has not happened since 1803.

When periodical cicadas do finally emerge, they have one goal in mind: finding a mate, and fast. To attract mates, male cicadas create

a distinct mating call. This is the sound often associated with a warm summer night: a high-pitched buzzing noise, often joined by others to create a noisy chorus.

The songs of the two broods emerging this summer are almost deafening to human ears. Their loudest mating songs can reach up to 100 decibels. That is almost as loud as a lawn mower or a hand drill, when standing nearby. Hundreds of these songs at once will be quite a nuisance to hear.

Once the cicadas have emerged, they will not be staying around for long. They have a short life expectancy of about one month once

they are above ground.

Since their primary objective is to breed and lay eggs, their life cycle will be complete once they have accomplished this goal. By late June, the majority of them will be gone.

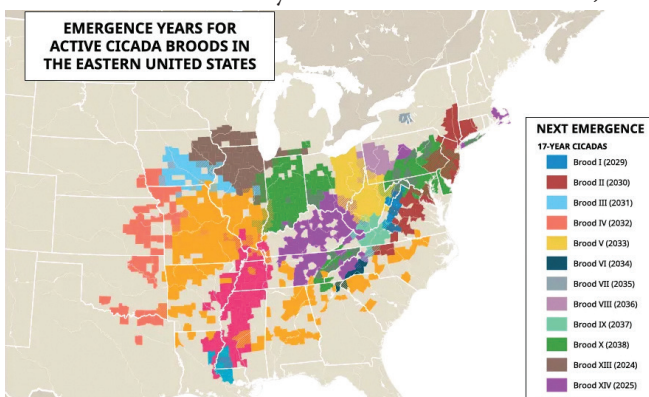
Ultimately, the biggest emergence of cicadas will be in Illinois, as this is the only state where both the 13-year and 17-year broods will be surfacing. Nashville, however, will still be seeing its fair share of cicadas, as the 13-year brood will be coming out in areas all over the city.

Some have taken to calling this event the "cicada-geddon" because of the huge quantities of cicadas that will be emerging. However, though they may look intimidating, cicadas are completely harmless. They cannot bite or sting humans, and they pose no threat to pets or property. If anything, they have a positive ecological impact.

"It adds nutrients to the soil after their bodies have decomposed," Ms. Hassel said, "They can also be food for other animals to eat."

Local birds and mammals, and even domesticated animals such as chickens, will enjoy full bellies this summer.

Some Americans love insects, and some Americans hate them. Nonetheless, the cicadas are coming, and sooner than we might think. It is safe to say that the country might be looking at a very noisy summer ahead.



BRING ON THE BUGS: A map of the cicadas' emergence years are plotted on a map of the U.S., marking the overlapping of the 13 and 17 year cicadas. Photo courtesy of Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc./Kenny Chmielewski



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@LogosNowHH

The clock is ticking for Tiktok: Biden approves ultimatum

BY CAROLINE KATH AND SOPHIA HARRIS
Freshman Interns

TikTok, which has captivated the attention of nearly 170 million users, is on the precipice of a major ban in the United States as long-held tensions between China and the United States continue to heighten.

Since Americans first began using the popular social media platform in the late 2010s, suspicions of the Chinese government's involvement have been a continual concern.

TikTok is currently controlled by a Chinese company called ByteDance, which, as an organization, is obligated by law to provide the Chinese government with any and all user data should they request it.

Faced with this potential cybersecurity threat, the U.S. government has decided to take legislative action. It has given TikTok an ultimatum—the app must detach from ByteDance in order to continue to be used in the United States. If TikTok chooses to remain under Chinese ownership, U.S. citizens will no longer be allowed access to the app. “The choice is TikTok’s,” said Washington Representative Cathy Morris.

The controversial law has already attracted significant attention from the public eye, and many questions have arisen, particularly regarding the ban's alleged violation of the First Amendment, which grants U.S. citizens the right of free speech. According to a poll conducted by Pew Research Center, only 18% of teens (ages 13-17) support a government enforced TikTok ban.

The U.S. House of Representatives and more recently, the Senate, on

Apr. 23, approved the bill, titled “The Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.”

President Biden, who has publicly declared his support for the act since its introduction, stayed true to his word and, on Apr. 24, signed the law, which includes the following terms: TikTok must be acquired by

higher offers. U.S. companies may show interest in acquiring the app, but the situation is convoluted—the app is currently worth billions of dollars, so only extremely large, wealthy corporations could afford it.

Even if ByteDance does consent to sell TikTok, the Chinese government must give the buyer approval to purchase the app, and China is

location elsewhere in order to stay on the app.

Although many people believe that the act has its issues, it addresses a prevalent problem. TikTok has insisted to U.S. lawmakers that they have not given the Chinese government any of their users' personal data; yet, former TikTok employees have reported incidents that refute this claim.

The Chinese government has also been accused of using social media to affect politics, such as swaying Taiwanese elections. Given that over 100 million Americans monthly rely on TikTok for their sole news source, governors worry that China will influence popular opinion via TikTok in the upcoming 2024 Presidential election.

Students in the Harpeth Hall community are opinionated about the TikTok issue as well. “I do not have TikTok because it has been proven so many times... that TikTok is heavily influenced by the government,” freshman Lizzie Wimberley said.

Other students, however, do not share the same sentiments. “I spend an ungodly amount of time on TikTok... my daily average ranges from one to five hours,” said junior Cailin Rork.

There is merit to both sides of the argument; the fear that China could use TikTok to gather intelligence on U.S. citizens and sway elections is certainly a possibility, but millions of people could feel silenced if the platform is removed altogether. TikTok may become permanently banned in the U.S., or it may remain the app used by one fifth of the world's population—the decision rests on the outcome of the battle between ByteDance and the U.S. government.



TIME'S UP: CEO of TikTok Shou Zi Chew argues against the House of Energy and Commerce Committee on March 23, 2023. Photo courtesy of Evelyn Hockstein/Reuters

an American buyer within a nine-month period—an additional three months to be added should a sale be in progress—after the law's approval, and if this does not happen, U.S. app stores will not be allowed to offer TikTok as a download option. Additionally, internet companies will be required to block TikTok from all American internet browsers.

Despite the law's passage, ByteDance says it has no plans to sell TikTok; however, this is likely a temporary decision made in hopes of receiving

unsupportive of the United States' law.

However, TikTok is not the only relevant media platform in the U.S. Apps like Instagram, Snapchat and Youtube are not facing any similar issues and can therefore provide other outlets for citizens to express themselves should TikTok be banned.

Nonetheless, if the government takes action and implements the bill, U.S. TikTok users who already have the app downloaded may go to extreme measures like using virtual private networks or manually setting their

Princess Kate reveals cancer diagnosis after theories emerge on Internet

BY LUCY FARRINGER
News Editor

On March 22, Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales and wife of Prince William, announced in a video message to the public that she had been diagnosed with cancer in January. She announced this news after mass speculation over her recent health.

Discourse over the Princess' health emerged because of her absence from the public eye following an abdominal surgery in January. According to a press release from Kensington Palace, however, she wasn't formally supposed to resume public duties post surgery until “after Easter.”

The widespread conjecture over Princess Kate's health only deepened after a family photo she posted on March 10

attracted immense attention as news agencies declared that the photo had been manipulated. Princess Kate formally apologized the next day, claiming the editing was merely an “experiment.”

Her apology, however, didn't stop the



THE PEOPLE'S PRINCESS: Kate Middleton smiles as she visits the National Stadium Belfast in Northern Ireland on 27 February 2019, 2 years before her cancer diagnosis. Photo courtesy of Charles McQuillan

media and public from continuing to speculate over the Princess's health. The media's conspiracy theories coupled with the palace's silence regarding Princess Kate's whereabouts fueled mass discussion on the internet.

“We always want to know things,

and when there is nothing new, that's when all these conspiracy theories pop up—people fill in the blanks and start spreading these ideas. Anyone in a public position, especially celebrities and the Royal Family, is scrutinized even more,” Upper School English teacher Denise Croker said.

Two weeks after posting the edited family photo, Princess Kate revealed in a two minute video that she had been diagnosed with cancer in January and was currently undergoing chemotherapy.

“We hope that you will understand that, as a family, we now need some time, space and privacy while I complete my treatment,” Princess Kate said in the video message.

The cancer was reportedly found in post-surgery tests after her abdominal surgery. She did not specify what kind of cancer in the message, but urged for the public and news media to give her privacy as the last two months had been “incredibly tough” for her entire family.

“Anybody's health is seemingly their own private matter...I can understand as a woman how very personal that diagnosis could feel, and, especially once they actually found some evidence of cancer, how private you might want to be,” Ms. Croker said

The Princess' diagnosis is particularly devastating as it follows that of King Charles III's, which he announced

in early February of this year. King Charles, while also calling for privacy during his treatment, set a new precedent by announcing his diagnosis, marking a departure from the past when a monarch's health was typically concealed from the public.

According to the King, he wanted to share his diagnosis in order to not only avoid speculation, but also aid public understanding of cancer as a disease. Since his diagnosis, he has used his public announcement to encourage others to look into their risk of developing cancer and how to gain support.

“His [King Charles'] cancer diagnosis announcement was hoping to inspire the nation to get cancer checks--that's his role as a leader, but I think Kate, as a Princess, is in a different role. She deserves to have some privacy in her life,” Ms. Croker said.

It is unclear whether Princess Kate's announcement was originally planned like King Charles' or if it was heavily influenced by the public and media's numerous conspiracy theories regarding her absence.

With both the current monarch and the wife of his heir facing serious health problems, however, the British royal family is facing lots of uncertainty, and ultimately, their main desire at the moment is privacy.

Anti-war protests take hold of U.S. college campuses

BY AMELIA ALEXOPOULOS
Editor-In-Chief

On April 21-22, 2024, students protesting at Columbia University, Yale University and New York University holding “Let Gaza Live” signs and wearing keffiyehs were detained, arrested and suspended on grounds of trespassing.

May 7, 2024 marks eight months since the beginning of the war in Gaza. On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas, a designated terrorist group and the ruling authority of the Occupied Palestinian Territory of Gaza, perpetrated the most devastating act of violence against Jewish people since the Holocaust and left 1,420 Israelis dead.

Since Oct. 7, in response to Hamas’ attack, the government of Israel, led by the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declared war on Hamas, causing the deaths of around 34,000 Palestinians, according to AP News. Additionally, 77,000 Palestinians have been injured. The total population of Gaza is two million people.

At Columbia University, students have created encampments in an “occupation” of the campus to protest the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Specifically, they are calling for Columbia to divest ties with companies that have connections to Israel. This would entail pulling invested money from the University’s endowment out of these companies’ stocks. “We asked that Columbia University pull all investments away from companies that profit off of the genocide of Palestinians or Israeli companies that profit off of the oppression of Palestinians,” said a student protestor named Althea who was quoted by CNN.

According to CNN, “Universities have largely refused to budge on this demand, and experts say divestment may not have a significant impact on the companies themselves.”

The arrests at Columbia and Yale have galvanized students and faculty across the country at many other universities such as Brown, Princeton, Harvard, the University of Southern California, UC Berkeley, the University of Michigan, Ohio State, the University of Minnesota, UT Austin, UNC Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt, MIT, Emory, Tufts, Northeastern, Boston College and Northwestern to protest the war in Gaza. Each campus protest has a unique request, with some calling for divestment and others asking their universities to publicly demand a ceasefire in Gaza.

A student organization at Columbia involved in the protests, called Apartheid Divest stated, “At universities across the nation, our movement is united in valuing every human life...As a diverse group united by love and justice, we demand our voices be heard against the mass slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza,” as quoted by ABC.

Avery Eddy, a Yale student who spent four weeks in Israel and one week in the West Bank in 2019 told the Guardian, “Seeing the brutal horrors of the apartheid system firsthand absolutely destroyed me, and destroyed my worldview.”

This student’s motivation for protesting came from what they witnessed on their trip and their feeling that now is the opportunity to speak up against the oppression of Palestinians. “Walking through Bethlehem, for instance, there being separate walkways and caged channels for Arab people or people with darker color, and having felt the bullet holes in the walls with these children showing me where their families were killed, like: I don’t get to see that and remain silent,” said Eddy.

Daniel Dow, a Jewish student at UC Berkeley, who has been donating to relief organizations for Gaza but is

not participating in protests, told the Washington Post, “I feel like things need to change in this drastic way to keep our eyes from averting away from what’s going on in Gaza... The best way to do that is to mess up the status quo.” The Washington Post wrote, “Dow, who is Jewish, rejects any assumption that his ancestry means automatic support for Israel’s war in Gaza. He is critical of the Israel Defense Forces and what he says their actions have done ‘for the identity of a Jewish person.’” These actions of the Israeli Defense Force, currently being protested by students, have included bombing civilians in their homes and neighborhoods, destroying and invading hospitals and creating famine-like conditions in Northern Gaza, among many others. On April 25-26, mass graves were found at two separate hospitals in Gaza, amplifying concerns of genocide in the midst of the protests.



PRO-PALESTINE PROTESTS: Protestors rally in demand that U.S. cuts aid to Israel amidst war in Gaza. Photo by Ted Eytan

moment when freedom of speech at college campuses is being re-examined. It has happened before in history, but the arrests of students and professors (as occurred at Emory University on Apr. 25) on their own campuses and the use of physical force by police who sometimes have employed tasers when detaining protesters is appalling to many people. During the arrests at Emory, the Atlanta Police stated that they “used chemical irritants during the incident.” While freedom of speech and the First Amendment do not necessarily apply to a full extent at private universities, these schools, as centers of higher learning

and intellectual advancement have come under fire for curtailing free expression by allowing their students to be arrested. However, the universities maintain that they cannot allow their campuses to fall into chaos, especially as graduation and final exams approach. Furthermore, concerns and claims of antisemitism, violence and hateful speech at these campus protests “go to the heart of a question that has been swirling around the protests: How much of the movement is driven by sincere concern for the suffering of Gazans, and how much is tainted by antisemitism?” according to the New York Times.

While students maintain that their protest is entirely peaceful, and not anti-Jewish, but rather, pro-Palestinian, antisemitic language and threats have been a chief concern at the universities. At Columbia, the situation became unstable on Apr. 22, as protesters from outside the university attempted to join student protests on campus. For these reasons among others, Dr. Shafik announced that classes would begin to be held online indefinitely. The group protesting at Columbia said, “We are frustrated by media distractions focusing on inflammatory individuals who do not represent us,” and that they “firmly reject any form of hate or bigotry,” as quoted by the New York Times.

However, there have been antisemitic attacks on Jewish students which many feel are contributing to a threatening and unsafe environment for these students. The Rabbi Elie Buechler from the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life sent a letter

to Jewish students on Apr. 21, saying that the university “cannot guarantee Jewish students’ safety in the face of extreme antisemitism and anarchy,” and that Jewish students would be safer staying at home. Nicholas Baum who is a freshman at Columbia said, “As a Jew, I no longer feel welcome on campus. I no longer feel safe on campus,” as quoted by NBC.

Jonathan Lederer, a Jewish student at Columbia, stood with a small group of students in the middle of the Columbia encampment. They were draped in Israeli flags and singing peaceful songs in Hebrew. In an article Lederer wrote for The Free Press, Lederer said a protester held a sign with an arrow pointing at the group of Jewish students that read “Al-Quassam’s next targets.” Al-Quassam is the militant group of Hamas. It is unclear whether or not the person with the sign was a student protestor or from outside the school. Lederer said that protesters threw objects at him, shoved him and chanted, “We say justice, you say how? Burn Tel Aviv to the ground.” In his article, Lederer shared a video of a protestor lighting an Israeli flag on fire.

Andrew Bates, White House deputy press secretary, said on Apr. 21, “While every American has the right to peaceful protest, calls for violence and physical intimidation targeting Jewish students and the Jewish community are blatantly antisemitic, unconscionable, and dangerous — they have absolutely no place on any college campus, or anywhere in the United States of America.”

“Echoing the rhetoric of terrorist organizations, especially in the wake of the worst massacre committed against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, is despicable,” Bates said.

These incidents of antisemitism completely undermine the message that most pro-Palestinian activists are trying to project—one that advocates for an immediate ceasefire demanding that Palestinians are accorded human rights with the ability to live freely in peace.

In an article published by the Harvard Crimson at the end of December, written by Bernie Steinberg, a prominent Jewish leader in the Harvard community, Steinberg wrote, “Let me speak plainly: It is not antisemitic to demand justice for all Palestinians living in their ancestral lands.”

“The activists who employ this language, and the politics of liberation, are sincere people; their cause is a legitimate and important movement dissenting against the brutal treatment of Palestinians that has been ongoing for 75 years. One can disagree with any part of what these activists say, but they must be allowed to speak safely and afforded the respect their morally serious position deserves. I have learned much by listening and carefully considering the positions of these activists,” wrote Steinberg.

As the death toll in Gaza rises, and Israeli hostages continue to be held in captivity by Hamas, issues surrounding the war and freedom of speech will remain of paramount concern in the United States.

To our seniors, a final farewell from your HH peers

BY CAILIN RORK
Features Editor

The April and May months bring the heat. From humid rain showers to schoolwork ramping up and dreaded AP exams, the final weeks of the school year are chock-full of activities.

Amidst all of the chaos, however, the end of the year brings so much joy. In the spring sunlight and mild heat, loud cheers can be heard from wall signings, music blasts from the Senior Patio and everyone is filled with a warm feeling of pride for her fellow Honeybears. The excited energy is palpable.

Awards Day brings club song parodies, complete with unorganized dances, cheers from the audience and many congratulations. Step Singing brings sweet songs under an early summer sunset and the passing of the torch to the next class. And, finally, Graduation brings the last hurrah; one final moment of celebration with your classmates in your white dresses (that you have hopefully purchased by now).

For freshmen, sophomores and

juniors, this is just the end of another school year, filled with anticipation for summer and the promise of at least one more year as

faced the challenges and now it's your time to shine. Soak up the spring sunlight, or feel the rain on your skin (the rest is still

there won't be any time left, and there will be no more memories to be made.

While endings can be bitter, they can also be sweet.

Senior Mabry Neuman said, "Sharing these final special moments as a class has been so rewarding and meaningful. I've loved seeing everyone accomplish her goals and achieve her dreams."

Seniors, you will all go on to do amazing things. Whether you're four miles away at Vanderbilt or 2,000 miles away in California, Harpeth Hall will always be here. The tears you shed after a difficult math test, the laughs you shared with your friends at the lunch table, that feeling of pure joy when you looked at the Sage menu and saw General Tso's listed: the memories you've made will always be here.

Harpeth Hall will miss you just as much as you will miss it. But while your days in Campbell plaid are coming to an end, this is only the beginning. College brings an exciting new adventure, and everyone here knows that you will all take on the challenge with the same energy that you have tackled the past eight years. Congratulations, seniors. This is it! We're all rooting for you back here at the Hall.



SIGNING OFF, SENIOR HOUSE: Seniors Chloe Gray (left) and Sohpie Sellers (right) join together to say their farewells to the senior house. Photo by Olivia DeCastro

a Honeybear. But for seniors, this is it: the end of your time at Harpeth Hall.

You've put in the work, you've

unwritten). Make the last few moments that you have with your fellow Honeybears your favorite HH memories yet, because soon,

Calling curious minds: a summer current events course

BY MEG WINSTON
Features Reporter

As summer rolls around, Harpeth Hall students are free from classroom learning for three months. However, the desire to continue learning, absent of the pressures of tests and grades, lingers for many curious girls.

Luckily for interested students, each summer a supplementary history and contemporary issues class is offered by Upper School Social Sciences teacher Dr. Art Echerd.

The appeal of the class is simply the curiosity and urgency to learn more. They have been offered to upperclassmen and graduates alike for many summers.

The course is not graded, only employs occasional optional readings and is flexible to a student's schedule. The only requirement is to show up with a ready and open mind.

The classes' subject matter usually draws from relevant current events but could also continue a deeper study into material covered in the previous school year.

In summer 2023, the course covered the Vietnam and Korean Wars. Additional past courses have covered both World Wars, the Cold

War, Venezuela during Chavez, 17th century Stewart England, the country of Brazil and Chinese-American relations.

The courses have also taken more specific and unique paths of study, such as investigating Dante or reading Geoffrey Chaucer in Middle English. In the latter class, students spent time studying the musicality and rhythm of the poems, as well as tackling an unfamiliar version of the English language.

All examples go to show that there has not only been a breadth of topics covered, but that each topic is given the time and dedication to be understood in more depth.

Enforcing the course's benefits, junior Kate Stankewicz, who attended the class last year, said, "It's a fun way to continue your learning about something that's

going on".

A wholesome aspect of these classes is their potential to reunite girls of all ages. From current students to recent graduates to

have joined in interest of the current topic. The informality, he admits, is something that makes the class very special and enjoyable.



CURIOS ABOUT CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: Dr. Echerd speaks with student in optional summer class. Photo by Olivia DeCastro

alumnae who return 10 years later with the same zeal for learning about the world around them.

In the past, Dr. Echerd admits even parents and grandparents

As spring arrives, Dr. Echerd pays attention to what girls would be most interested in or what events are being highlighted in the news. While in the past this has been a continuance of a school lesson in more detail, summer 2024 will take the current events route.

This coming summer, the class will most likely cover the Middle East. Girls who are interested in gaining a footing about its history and connection to current events, as well as engage their minds in the class, are encouraged to go.

May Day to Step Singing: traditions of Ward Belmont

BY MAGGIE MEACHAM AND SOPHIA HUDDLESTON

Freshman Interns

As the most cherished Harpeth Hall traditions, the Lady of the Hall and Step Singing ceremonies hold a special place in the hearts of each and every girl who has walked these halls. The Lady of the Hall, as stated in the handbook, is a student who “exemplifies the highest ideals of Harpeth Hall – integrity, kindness, and loyalty to others and to her school,” and she is celebrated on the eve of graduation in May.

Despite the tradition being beloved by all, the community is less familiar with the origin of the Lady of the Hall and Step Singing, which both come from Harpeth Hall’s predecessor, Ward Belmont.

The story of Ward Belmont starts with the Ward Seminary School. Ward Seminary began accepting students in 1865 as the first all-girls school in Nashville, Tennessee. Located downtown, the doors that once opened the school are now positioned as a decorative piece at the entrance to the Frances Bond Davis theater here at Harpeth Hall.

Ward Seminary continued as an independent college preparatory institution until 1913 when it was bought by Belmont College, an establishment that also exclusively accepted women. Belmont College, which is located on the same campus

as what is now known as the current Belmont School, then combined with Ward Seminary, thus becoming Ward Belmont.

As an institution, Ward Belmont generated many traditions that students hold close to our hearts at Harpeth Hall, such as the club system, the Milestones yearbook and most importantly, Step Singing. Although the Harpeth Hall community continues this tradition, Step Singing at Ward Belmont looked a little different.

Ward Belmont’s celebrations

selected girls occurred during the May Day Festival, a celebration of spring in which the girls of Ward Belmont wore white and danced barefoot as they paraded before their friends, family and teachers.

Step Singing was performed the following weekend on the steps of the academic building on campus for juniors to sing to the seniors, much like today’s ceremony, simply without the Lady of the Hall. Adapting these celebrations from Ward Belmont, Harpeth Hall designates its own

ceremonies for both what Ward Belmont knew as the May Queen and Step Singing as beloved traditions that are celebrated every year.

Mrs. Leigh Mantle, Resource Librarian and Archivist, commented on the traditions of Step Singing and May Queen saying,

“Step Singing comes directly from Ward Belmont, and the May Queen and her attendants were folded into the Step Singing ceremony at Harpeth Hall because they wanted to hold on to some of the traditions they had known from Ward Belmont.”

At Harpeth Hall today, the Lady of the Hall is decided upon by the entire Upper School and faculty. Students do not nominate themselves like many other leadership positions in the school, rather they are voted based on their contributions to the campus and community.

Mrs. Kate McGowan, Upper School Dean of Students, said, “I think the person who is usually selected to be Lady of the Hall genuinely holds the same values that are upheld at Harpeth Hall, and that is what comes through to other students and faculty.”

While the students of Ward Belmont did not refer to the selected senior as the Lady of the Hall, instead calling her the May Queen, the same principles and characteristics applied. The May Queen was the senior who most possessed the ideals of Ward Belmont.

The Lady of the Hall is exactly that, the senior who most wholly represents everything that Harpeth Hall stands for. Despite the slight differences between these two honors, the Lady of the Hall was completely derived from the May Queen, meaning when our community celebrates this special senior, we also celebrate the origin from Ward Belmont.

The Step Singing ceremony has also stood the test of time, starting at Ward Belmont and remaining today as a favorite end-of-year tradition. On the Sunday prior to graduation, the Upper School students, faculty, staff and families gather on Souby Lawn to watch the passing of the torch from the current seniors to current juniors. Although Ward Belmont’s Step Singing did not include songs such as “I’ll Always Remember You” from Hannah Montana or “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac like Harpeth Hall’s current ceremony, the juniors and seniors did perform songs for one another on the steps in the Ward Belmont ceremony.

As the school year nears an end and graduation celebrations begin at Harpeth Hall, the students anticipate our long lasting traditions that not only honor the senior class but also honor all the traditions and legacies of Ward Belmont.



SINGING ON STEPS: The Lady of the Hall and her Court ready to celebrate the long lasting tradition of Step Singing at Harpeth Hall. *Photo by Alan Poizner*

included a May Queen who represented the best ideals within the senior class. She and her attendants were presented the weekend before graduation and Step Singing. The celebration for the

Senior Sara Mac Wallace commits to creativity at SCAD

BY LOUISA WANG, FRANCI BECK, AND LIDDY MCEVOY

Freshman Interns

Senior Sara Mac Wallace, AP Art and Studio Theater student, has engaged in art from a young age, stating, “I wanted to do that (go into art) since I knew you could go to college for art”.

Wallace will be attending the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to major in illustration. SCAD’s mission statement reads, “SCAD prepares talented students for creative professions through engaged teaching and learning.” One thing that drew Wallace to SCAD was how SCAD’s program makes sure every student has a job before graduating, making the instability of a career in art much less daunting for new graduates.

In preparation for her journey into

college, Wallace dabbled in a variety of art classes at Harpeth Hall, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and more, saying,



COMMITTING TO CREATIVITY: Sara Mac Wallace, Savannah College of Art and Design commit, works on an art piece in the AP Art Studio. *Photo by Louisa*

“I’ve really enjoyed them all because they challenge you in different ways”. Because of her love for multiple art mediums, Wallace has decided to major in illustration, which

gives her many opportunities for different career paths.

Wallace, culminating years of art and illustration at Harpeth Hall in her AP Art portfolio, explained the theme of her pieces, saying “my portfolio is based off of music, so all of my favorite songs, I’m turning into pieces”. Creatively transforming her favorite songs from audio to visual art, Wallace has worked since the beginning of the year to build her portfolio, which is currently displayed in Frances Bond Davis Theater.

In addition to being a skilled artist, Wallace is also an avid thespian, having participated in every single Harpeth Hall show since the seventh grade. Most recently, she played Mrs. Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* and served as the stage manager for the combined MBA and Harpeth Hall student directed and written one act plays. She is also a member of Playmakers Club, the theater club in the Upper School.

As both theater and visual art have played important roles in her life from

a young age, she hopes to combine her experiences in visual and performing arts during college by continuing to participate in theater.

Wallace draws inspiration from famous artist and director Andy Warhol, particularly his bold, bright colors and 60s and 70s vibe, and his influences are evident in Wallace’s art portfolio. As Wallace aspires to do, Warhol was able to express his passions for visual and performing arts during his career.

Lisa Keene, an illustrator for Disney, also impacts Wallace’s work. Keene’s work on beloved movies such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Enchanted*, *The Princess and the Frog* and *Tangled*, many of Wallace’s favorite movies, contributes to her love of character design and her aspiration to one day work as an illustrator for Disney.

Wallace’s AP Art portfolio, extensive history of art classes at Harpeth Hall, inspiration from other artists such as Andy Warhol and Lisa Keene, and the opportunities that await her, have helped her decision to commit to SCAD for illustration.

Is there life after Logos? Alumnae take on college papers

BY CAILIN RORK AND MEG WINSTON

Features Editor and Features Reporter

Logos is a student-led paper, crafted by the hard work, dedication and passion of young journalists here at Harpeth Hall. Since its inception, Logos has grown to be a collaboration of 52 girls. However, it goes without saying that its successes would not be possible without the impactful contributions of its past staff members.

For many alumnae, Logos is proudly the origins of their journalism careers, which are often continued into their college lives.

College journalism is, without a doubt, different from high school journalism. The volume of media, breadth of subject matter and audience are much wider at the collegiate level. However, the creativity and joy for the art of journalism that these college writers have were humbly born right here at Logos.

A collaborative, spirited aspect of Logos is pitch meetings, which kickstart every edition by presenting the article ideas in a group format. These meetings are held particularly close to these alumnae's hearts.

Hallie Graham, Class of 2023, a former Editor-in-Chief (EIC) and current news contributor for *The Daily Princetonian*, said, "To be honest, I miss the pitch meetings. Harpeth Hall girls in Logos were passionate about their work. They wanted their pitches to be selected ... Those meetings were always our liveliest."

Sarah Cook, Class of 2021 and current University Desk Editor for the *Yale Daily News*, echoed these sentiments. She said, "I was always intrigued by Logos pitch meetings, and I finally decided to go once with one of my friends ... I had always been someone who was well-read on the news, but being in Logos is what really sparked my broader interest in journalism."

Amidst the shouts of article ideas and delegation of assignments, being a member of Logos requires working with a team and asks more pressingly of

its EICs to manage many different voices.

Fellow Class of 2023 Editor-in-Chief and recent addition to Boston College's, *The Heights*, Ava Sjursen, said, "Logos taught me so many great leadership



FRONT PAGE MATERIAL: Hallie Graham, Class of 2023, poses with a copy of "The Daily Princetonian". Photo by Alex Bevertson-Smith

skills, like how to effectively communicate with a team, how to be patient and understanding, when to take the lead and when to sit back and let the staff do their work."

While Logos offers a vibrant introduction to journalism, college papers carry the spirit of journalism at a faster, more intense pace.

Cook explained how university level papers have a much wider reach than high school papers, as well as a far quicker turnaround. She said, "At the *Yale Daily News*, we cover breaking news, and even for non-breaking stories, the turnaround is very fast."

Sjursen also commented on this. She said, "I think the biggest challenge for me is the 24-hour cycle of the paper."

At the college level, the quality of content expected is much higher than what is produced at our high-school level, even if a little more zeal for the work is held at Logos.

Graham said, "The standards for 'good writing' are higher at the Prince by virtue of it being a collegiate newspaper with a wider audience, but I would in

no way say that the passion at the reporter-level (my level) matches the passion of reporters at Logos."

The same is true at Yale. "The bar for the quality of writing is much higher, and the stories are often more nuanced and complex than those I edited or wrote while in Logos," Cook said.

College-level journalism also increases the outreach that writers can build into their wider school community.

Cook said, "My favorite part of being on my school's paper, and honestly journalism itself, is being in the know in a way that makes me feel intricately connected to the community around me."

She said, "Student journalism, for me, not only connects me to my community, but it also provides me an opportunity to serve the people of Yale and New Haven with our reporting."

Graham expressed similar sentiments, and that by being a journalist, you are able to create deeper connections with individuals in your community, noting an interview she conducted with a Princeton senior at his exclusive Eating Club.

"Student journalism does not just provide a cannon of work that you will leave your school with upon your graduation. Student



ALL SMILES: Sarah Cook, Class of 2021, continues journalism at the "Yale Daily News". Photo courtesy of Sarah Cook

journalism fosters connection with figures in your community. I feel so blessed to continue telling stories here at Princeton," she said.

One part of journalism that transcends the years of high school and college is the community it builds.

While at Logos, the famous pitch meetings and Saturday

workdays, complete with music blasting from the Media Arts Lab T.V., bad singing and a lot of Diet Coke create a strong sense of community, alumnae have found the same source of affection and fun in their new posts.

Sjursen said, "The paper does not only give me something to do on those late nights and during Sunday productions (kind of like weekly Logos workdays) but we also have an office that I can hang out in at any time ... I love the camaraderie that I've built with the rest of the board and the environment that they have created here."

Finally, Logos's former EICs offered some thoughtful advice to anyone interested in college journalism.

Cook highlighted the diversity of experience that is available in college journalism. "I really encourage everyone, even if they are not planning to pursue journalism long term, to try out a role on their school's paper because there are infinite options, particularly with more and more opportunities in multimedia," she said.

Graham offered a tough-love piece of advice. She said, "If you decide to join your school's newspaper, don't be afraid to write and pitch as often as you

can. Don't be the dead-weight writer on the staff. If you sign on to write, then write."

Sjursen voiced encouraging words. "If you are interested in joining your college paper, I would definitely recommend taking the plunge and just going for it. Even if you decide that it isn't for you, you will meet so many awesome, passionate people," she said.

What Logos leaves its alumnae with is a passion for journalism, mindset for teamwork, and an overwhelming sense of community with a diverse group of girls who hold a common interest.

Logos alumnae are able to better the world of journalism by working on collegiate papers with a broader audience and faster-paced publications, with many more HH writers yet to come.

Focusing on the now in the age of the afterparty

BY KELTY JONES
Columnist

It's a chilly May morning, with the end of the year just around the corner. The daily walk across Souby lawn may have begun to feel more like a trek than a stroll, and, in keeping with the senior theme, the finish line is near enough to envision.

What really draws the appeal, however, is not the final day of school but what happens next: summer. To what extent do we look forward to Graduation, and to what extent do we sit through it in anticipation of the coming graduation parties? To the seniors and juniors, did the details of attending prom take up more or less space in your mind than those of the "afterparty"?

Students' focus on the "after" is a trend that is not inherently detrimental. It serves us well when we look ahead to study for tests, even after a rough class, and motivate ourselves to get through said studying by planning something with friends for Friday afterward.

Every day, every assignment and every email can make students feel that looking perpetually at the horizon is the only way to stay both productive and proactive.

So what happens when we are truly enjoying ourselves, at a perfectly planned event, but cannot stop thinking about where we are going next, who will be there and what will happen, overcome with the stress of sociability that goes along with it?

To answer this

question, we must first look to an endless source of entertainment that has provided audiences and enthusiasts alike with a manual of how to execute a glamorous, well-planned chain of events: awards shows.

The Academy Awards ceremony, hosted in California just this March, was a main event of recognition

So what happens when we are truly enjoying ourselves, at a perfectly planned event, but cannot stop thinking about where we are going next, who will be there and what will happen, overcome with the stress of sociability that goes along with it?

and congregation in the entertainment industry, and it was heavily covered by the

exclusive guest list since 1994, the party was initially a small gathering at a steakhouse



BUT FIRST, LET ME TAKE A SELIFE: Seniors snap a candid at prom. Photo by Rory Fraser

and had not quite cemented itself as the only afterparty considered worth attending.

After expanding to bigger venues in the following years, the event became the hallmark of the magazine's branding that it is today. However, as celebrities started hosting their own afterparties, they upped the ante.

By the 2000s, the ordeal had come to attract a growing horde of press, as its actor attendees had turned to higher fashion. The afterparty scene was a tough one to break into and an even tougher one to

stay relevant in, but Vanity Fair has seemed to have more than made it, for better or for worse.

So what is the goal, exactly? Perhaps it is to give winners a chance to remain a cut above the other talented

and arbitrarily successful attendees, attracting publicity for both its brand and its guests. Perhaps it is just to make money. So let's compare it to our lifestyle here at the

Hall.

We do enjoy the occasional publicity, whether through Bears Broadcasting or our official photographers. We have many recognition assemblies as well, and we certainly have a lot of people who meticulously plan and love to dress up.

Yet, imagine if Hallmarks

or Logos hosted an exclusive afterparty after the All Club Celebration and Awards program.

While I would love to be your host and jot down "Campbell plaid, Parker uniforms" to record what designer you're wearing while music blasts, a chocolate fountain whirs and chandeliers sparkle overhead, it would require us all to overlook the actual event when making preparations and concentrate on our ideal, yet tiring, end of the night instead.

While the concept of an afterparty does give its guests a chance to relax and cultivate an atmosphere usually more upbeat and intimate than the previous events, it can prey on their insecurities by promising the fleeting status of being "in," and it can cause attendees to lose perspective.

So maybe it's for the best that we all attend Graduation with a live-in-the-moment attitude, not worrying about the future or who we will need to impress in the hours after.

However, I will certainly be sure to make extensive celebratory plans with friends for the afternoon of the last exam day. I will try my best to enjoy the anticipation while still staying present, and I suggest that you all do the same!



POSING AT PROM: (From left to right) juniors Mary Jackson Tatum, Emily McKay, Cailin Rork and Meg Winston smile for a quick picture. Photo by Mae McNally

press. Commercials, a red-carpet lead in and, per usual, Vanity Fair magazine's iconic afterparty sandwiched the event itself.

Having sported a highly

--LOGOS TAKES ON S

Our almost day at MBA- let's take a rain check

The Logos Editors-in-Chief got to live out every HH girl's dream (or possibly nightmare): going to Montgomery Bell Academy for the day. Though our tenure as gentlemen, scholars and athletes was brief (a mere three hours), we're here to share our thoughts on infiltrating our brother school.

As soon as we stepped on campus, our status as outsiders was clear. Our Campbell plaid and dress shirts stood out amongst the litany of khaki and Sperry shoes. We felt almost like celebrities, or even unicorns, when middle school boys would stop in their tracks in pure disbelief. *A girl! Three girls! The shock of it all!*

After laughing at our inadvertent effect on young MBA students, we met with some of the staff on MBA's newspaper, *The Bell Ringer*. Anna Cate shadowed Editor-in-Chief Jack Farringer, Amelia followed Editor-in-Chief Raleigh Maxwell and Josey spent the day with Analytics Editor Luke Keller.

Our hosts greeted us as we donned our yellow lanyards labeled "Visitor" on our necks. Then, it was time for advisory.

Unlike our place beloved, MBA advisory is a daily affair. It's the first part of the schedule, lasting for only 15 minutes. Advisories are composed of highschool students of all ages. Freshmen laughing with seniors, sophomores asking juniors for help on math homework. A student sticks with the same advisor and group of peers for all four years of high school.

Admittedly, we wish Harpeth Hall advisory was modeled like that of MBA. Our advisories do not play as large of a role in our schedules. The block only occurs once a week, our meetings include solely girls in our grade and we change advisories halfway through the Upper School. MBA's advisory system allows for more continuity and increased bonding between the students.

As for the rest of the schedule, we prefer Harpeth Hall's structure by a landslide. MBA students have every class every day. Let's repeat that: every single class every day. Sure, the instructional periods are shorter than our 75 minute classes, but that means each night is full of homework in every subject. We can't speak for every

Honeybear, but we have grown quite fond of having two days to complete assignments.

Our schedule also allows time for students to enjoy life outside of the classroom. Though MBA students have study hall blocks built into their schedule, they lack much of our freedom.

With Community Times, Late Start Wednesdays and the same lunch period, we have ample time to pursue our interests, get extra sleep and spend time with friends. We're sure our MBA counterparts are jealous of these elements of our life here at the Hall.

Like Harpeth Hall, the MBA students rely on a bell to signal when class is over. The comparison ends there. The HH bell is a lengthy, melodious sound, loud enough to reverberate over the chatter of girls in the hallways. MBA's bell, on the other hand, was so quiet we barely noticed it. We were confused as students stood up to leave at the tone, as we hadn't even registered the sound.

After attending various classes with our hosts, we reconvened in the band room. Imagine the dulcet tones of the Harpeth Hall orchestra: The students pluck their violins, cellos, violas and basses under Mrs. McDermott's watchful eye; The audience full of parents

sighs in awe of the talent of these musicians.

In contrast, the MBA Basie Band is much more riotous as it is open to all students. Fifty boys (and us!) shoved into a cramped room trying to manage their instruments. The guitar players

schooler said.

"Well, we do today!"

We can assure you that we were the only disappointed students on campus at that moment. We watched as a line of cars filed out of the parking lot, honking their horns in glee. All around us kids



-highlights outside the classroom for our brothers of the Hill-

1. We met the MBA version of Dr. Echerd. The longest tenured staff member at MBA, Dr. Compton teaches AP Calculus BC. He has taught three generations of a family a grandfather, his son and his grandson.

2. We tried the famous cookies, the ones MBA boys speak of in hushed, reverent tones. Here's the truth: they are the EXACT same as the chocolate chip cookies provided by SAGE dining services every Monday at lunch. The magic ingredient of the MBA cookies is that they are heated up, but HH girls can easily achieve the same effect by using the panini press. MBA, we're sorry to burst your bubble, but we eat the same cookies.

3. Fights in the student center are incredibly common. Not a sinister kind of fighting, but more of the playful shenanigans you expect from your little brother. And it was happening everywhere around us. It felt as though we were intruding on some treasured MBA ritual just by our virtue of being there.

strummed against the back wall, the drummers anxiously tapped with their sticks, the trumpets shrieked, the trombones bellowed, the saxophones squealed.

We were tempted to include a QR code to a video of the band class, because words cannot describe how chaotic, loud and fun this class was. The Basie Band is the perfect space for students to experiment and be creative.

In need of a quick break, we took a trip to the bathroom (of course, all three of us went together because us girls travel in packs). We promptly heard cheers from the band room. We came racing back, wondering what we had missed.

"School's out!" someone yelled.

"Let's go!"

"Whooooooooo!!!!!"

Hooting, jumping, screaming boys plastered their faces to the window. The clouds overhead looked ominous, but to MBA students, those clouds were the golden ticket out of school.

We raced out to the quad underneath the apocalyptic sky, surrounded by hundreds of MBA boys storming out of their classrooms. The chaotic excitement was palpable.

"We never get school off!" a middle

called their parents in a frenzy, asking how soon they could be picked up.

The rain started sprinkling as we watched our day at MBA come to an abrupt end. It is only fitting that this article follows suit.

Thank you Jack, Raleigh and Luke for hosting us at MBA this year.

-- Josey Beavers, Anna Cate Graham and Amelia Alexopoulos

STUDENT JOURNALISM--

Our time as tigers: perfect day with the Peabody Press



On Apr. 23, three editors from Logos--Lily Bowen, Lucy Farringer and Cailin Rork--visited the University School of Nashville as part of the annual journalism exchange and what a day it was! From horror movie viewings to a delicious lunch at SATCO, we now know what it's like to be a USN tiger for the day.

After scoring a coveted parking spot in the visitor lot, we entered the building along with other USN students, blending in fairly well

because of the open dress code. We met Asher Hirt, Henry Gatto and Simon Fox in the lobby, and each departed to our various classes for the day.

The daily schedule at USN almost mirrors that of Harpeth Hall's block schedule with only four classes a day, an X-block period and some in-between class breaks, with the only real difference being that their Community time block is before lunch and their third class is after.

As we traveled from class to class, here are some of the biggest differences we noted:

1. Of the academic classes we each visited, their structures were much less lecture-based and almost solely discussion-based, even history classes. While most Harpeth Hall history classes, especially AP classes, are entirely lecture-based, USN's American history, AP U.S. History and AP Government classes mixed mini lectures with discussions, projects and videos. In both Psychology and Spirited Away: Ghost Stories, we watched the films "Silence of the Lambs" and "The Shining," while completing worksheets. Even in Pre-Calculus, students spent most of the class completing worksheets on a topic they were learning, rather than taking extensive OneNote notes.

2. USN structures their student paper, *the Peabody Press*, differently from Logos. Other than their Editors-in-Chief, they have little in terms of designated roles and sections; rather, their journalists pitch and write whatever stories they are interested in. In contrast, Logos has a slightly more stratified structure with section writers, section editors and Editors-in-Chief. Additionally, journalism is a graded class at USN, whereas Logos is a club. This provides arguably greater incentive for students at USN to write their stories and write them well than at Harpeth Hall. Being a class, the Peabody Press meets roughly every other day, which allows them to put out issues more frequently than Logos does. Also contributing to their publishing frequency is the fact that they have the application to format their paper--InDesign--on their laptops; Logos has to use the Macs in the media lab to format.

3. Lastly--you guessed it--USN's phone policy, or rather, lack thereof. However, the absence of a strict policy was not what surprised us the most; rather, the little phone use from students despite the lack of a proper policy was one of the most astonishing details we observed from the day. In most classes, except for a couple where teachers collected phones, students were able to use and keep their phones whenever and wherever they wanted. Yet, even though they had this freedom, the majority of students put their phones away during class time. Even in the halls between classes and during lunch, we saw students socializing with others more than scrolling on their phones.



One presidency, two sides of the story: HH changes clubs

New policy allows for equality in Harpeth Hall leadership

BY ANNA BROOKS OZBURN

Opinions Reporter

Equality is at the core of Harpeth Hall's mission statement, yet it feels like the same select people run every club, win every award and are a part of every organization Harpeth Hall has to offer.

Why should only a few people dominate all the leadership positions when there are others who deserve a chance as well? That is not equal nor fair. A new policy will hopefully change that.

Based on feedback from both students and faculty, a one-presidency policy has been put into place in the Upper School. This policy limits the amount of clubs or organizations one person can be president of and will begin to be enforced in the coming school year.

The policy extends to class officers, student council and club leadership positions. You might be asking yourself, why does this even matter?

Part of Harpeth Hall's beauty is the ability to dive deeper into any possible topic of interest. Everyone has the chance to lead if she wants leadership, begin a club if she wants to and learn whatever she wants to learn. If the same few people run several organizations, it limits opportunities for other students to fully embrace the beauty of Harpeth Hall's system.

Ms. Frances Fondren-Bales, Director of the Upper School, agrees, saying, "We want all of our girls to learn to lead confidently. This is part of the school's mission. Therefore, making sure that more girls have the opportunity to be president, rather than the same girls being president of multiple organizations, better serves our community."

Each student at Harpeth Hall is smart, capable and able to run a club successfully, and I believe that limiting how many clubs one can be the president of will ultimately be beneficial

for our student body. It opens up opportunities for those who may feel intimidated to run for a

position because the same people seem to win every year.

I so firmly believe in my opinion that I would go as far as saying that we should limit the amount of consecutive terms one person can serve as student council representatives or class president, vice president, etc. If one person has held the same position for

two years then maybe it is time to give that position to someone else. There are more than a few, select people who are capable of leading our grades well.

This policy will allow those who are truly interested in certain issues and clubs to explore those deeply. People should join and run clubs because they are interested

HH compromises mission to accommodate new leadership

BY ANNA CATE GRAHAM

Editor-in-Chief

The school that has long encouraged girls to challenge themselves and the culture around them has suddenly become a place where work is valued only to an extent.

Recently, in an Upper School

Live honorably.

While many students accept the reasoning of overextension of students, this argument holds little water.

The beauty of Harpeth Hall is its adaptability to every girl's wants and needs in an education. The choice of classes, rigor and clubs affords every girl the opportunity to customize her schooling to her life.

Students who want more, take more. More classes, more clubs and more work entail a strong work ethic and responsibility. Harpeth Hall does not force its maximum, so it should not force its minimum.

Harpeth Hall girls know themselves and their limits better than anyone else. If this policy were really about balance of schedule, more time would be given in the schedule to clubs, not less.

Once again, some advocates of the new rule would argue that the motivation is the possibility of equality of opportunity. However, to diversify leadership positions, more girls have to be interested and invested in their clubs: a problem that will certainly not be solved by limiting hope of leadership.

The creation of a one-presidency policy suddenly prompts numerous questions.

Why embrace hard work when mediocrity is tolerated? Why stay up late to do work when the bare minimum is celebrated?

Another problem with the newest of the administration's gripes with student independence is the number of exceptions or possibilities.

What if a girl is elected? What if a girl is the only option for a leadership position? What if a girl is the founder of a club? What if she is the only upperclassman?

Harpeth Hall boasts inclusive and innovative clubs, sending every prospective teacher, parent and student through Bullard

Hallway to stare in awe at our poster-lined corridor.

This cheerful setting has become disingenuous-

tainted with a decision that will lead to the deterioration of clubs, college applications and Harpeth Hall's culture of cultivation of hardwork and dedication.



PRESIDENTIAL POWER?: Logos Editors-in-Chief take charge in their Sun Club meeting. photo by Mabry Neuman

in that particular club, not because they want to check a box on their resume. An incredible aspect of Harpeth Hall's Upper School is the amount of clubs that students

form and create. Bullard Hallway is lined with those clubs, and it is important that our clubs are something that are enjoyed

rather than something that is forced.

My hope is that this new rule will open doors for those who want leadership positions and allows equal leadership opportunities for all. Our school is too full of talented girls to limit leadership jobs to only a few.

Assembly in the Green Gym (another story for another article), Upper School Dean of Students, Mrs. McGowan announced that for the next school year, all Harpeth Hall girls would be limited to being the leader or president of only one club or on-campus organization.

Start a club! But do not be angry when it is taken from you as a senior.

Put in the extra work! But do not be surprised if the praise does not match the outcome.

It seems our place beloved's mission statement now has a qualifier.

Think critically.

Lead confidently (in only one club maximum).

Why embrace hard work when mediocrity is tolerated? Why stay up late to do work when the bare minimum is celebrated?

"We want all of our girls to learn to lead confidently. This is part of the school's mission."

- Director of the Upper School, Frances Fondren-Bales

Dear Juniors, Here's Some Advice for the College Process

BY JOSEY BEAVERS

Editor-in-Chief

College. Just the sound of the word is enough to send juniors into a chaotic spiral. With an inundation of essays, emails and questions from nosy relatives, those four years can feel incredibly daunting.

To help, here is some advice from the seniors and the College Counseling Department on how to tackle the college process.

First, let's address some common misconceptions regarding college admissions.

Number #1: No one has it figured out.

"And if they say they do, they are not telling you the truth," Ms. Amy Evans, Senior Associate Director of College Counseling, said.

We often get caught in a hamster wheel of comparison, unable to stop measuring ourselves against our peers. My parents can attest that throughout this process, my go-to phrase was everyone else knows where she's going to college except me! Little did I know that every other girl in my grade was riddled by the same doubts.

Mrs. Janet Weller, Director of College Counseling, said, "There is a misperception of what the norm is of this process here".

The reality is that most students have no clue where they want to go to school or what they want to major in. In fact, by Spring Break of senior year, usually only around 30-40% of the senior class is committed to their colleges.

Take a breath and remind yourself that we are all still figuring it out.

Misconception number #2: admissions offices do not directly compare Harpeth Hall students to each other.

Ms. Evans said, "Thinking local is a misunderstanding of the college process. Students and families think it matters how many students are applying from their own highschool and that students are compared high school to high school".

You are not in competition with your peers. If your friend applies to "your school" (there is no such thing as your school!), she is not taking the place you feel is yours. Understanding this reality can help you to compare less with your fellow Honeybears and enjoy your individual processes.

Misconception #3: applying to many schools with low acceptance rates does not improve your chances of being admitted.

Take a look at the math: applying to 10 schools with an 8% acceptance rate does not mean you have an 80% chance of being admitted. Rather, you have 10 separate chances of being admitted to an institution with a low statistical acceptance.

Mrs. Weller said, "More risk doesn't increase your chances of admission at a highly selective school. More targeted lists increase your chances".

Thus, you should focus on

diversifying your college lists with a variety of schools that you love.

Now that some common college myths have been dispelled, here are some practical tips you can utilize in your admissions journey.

Listen to the College Counselors. I could feel your eyes roll reading that, but seriously, read their emails and follow their instructions. It sounds simple, but the College Counselors give targeted

workload depends on the number of schools and scholarships you apply to, so keep that in mind when your overachiever self wants to apply to 30 schools "for fun".

As for the essays, be sure to include your voice. Senior Sophie Sellers said, "Be yourself in your writing! It will be much easier for you to write naturally, and it will come off more genuine to the people who read your essays."

do not want to apply to. From there, continue refining your list with the help of your College Counselor.

Now that I have shared my favorite tidbits, it's time for advice regarding the emotional side of the process.

Senior Isabel Johnson said, "I would advise everyone to choose a college for herself and not let others dictate her college decision."

Mrs. Weller echoed this sentiment.

She said, "Investigate for yourself rather than letting someone else's opinion or experiences of a place be the exclusive guiding principle."

Comparison is one of the main struggles of this process, so I would challenge you all to truly make this decision for yourself.

Mr. Brad Kloha, Associate Director of College Counseling, said, "You personally have to live the experience when you go off to college."

This means that you, not your friends or parents, will live the day to day at your chosen school. This makes it doubly important to select a college that suits what you want.

Next, it is important to relieve the pressure from yourself. There truly is no right or wrong. It is merely right or left.

Senior Linden Alldredge said, "You really can't go wrong because you're meant to be at multiple colleges." Take it from us seniors, avoid having tunnel vision for one school as much as you can.

Mrs. Weller said, "Love the likelies". If you can picture yourself at each college you apply to, your admissions decisions will take less of a toll on your emotions.

Finally, remember that so much of this process is not in your control. Senior Presley Schick said, "You can't predict college at all. Do your best and try hard but at the end of the day, wherever you are supposed to be is where you'll end up so don't take it too personally or too seriously."

Applying to college can be incredibly emotional, but try to remind yourself that admissions decisions are not personal. Getting accepted into or denied from a school does not change who you are.

Ultimately, the college process is just a small piece of your lives. Amidst the bustle of application season, take the time to enjoy senior year. You only get one chance to run through the theater during Convocation, sit on the Senior Patio and support your friends at Beargate.

Before you know it, college applications, this feat that once felt so insurmountable, will be over. Everyone will know where she is spending her next four years. And you will regret having spent precious time crying over your Common App essay.

I wish I had spent more time laughing with my friends, asking my teachers about their lives and appreciating my last moments as a student here. Learn from my mistakes, and cherish your college process, but more importantly, your senior year.



SIGNING SENIORS: (first row, left to right) Chloe Gray, Eden Powell, Macy Mertz, Chloe Graham, (second row left to right) Lilly Bartholomew, Mimi Proctor, Kate Morad and Sophia Mendoza pose after signing the wall. *photo courtesy of Josey Beavers*

advice at specific times to guide you throughout the process. The easiest way to help yourself is to listen to the professionals.

Next, focus on finishing your semester strong! Junior year is full of distractions, and it is difficult to not get overwhelmed by everything there is to do. My advice is to prioritize your studying and exam preparation. These grades will play an important role in your transcript, so try to put your best foot forward.

As for time management, senior Marit Davis said, "Stay on top of it! It's so much easier if you don't get behind and wait till the last minute."

Working ahead during the summer months, particularly on the Common Application essay, is crucial to soaking up the fun of senior year.

This is the message I wish I had internalized during my process. As a chronic procrastinator, I caused myself additional stress by putting off my admissions to-do list.

Mrs. Weller said, "If you are thoughtful in advance, you can lighten the load for yourself significantly."

Many juniors have asked me about this load, and here is the truth. The college process does feel like an eighth class from the start of school until Nov. 1.

After that date, the workload tapers off as you await your decisions. Your

Now, let's talk about stress. One of the best ways to minimize your anxiety during this process is to limit discussion with friends and family.

Ms. Evans said, "I think what is most exhausting about this process for students in spring of junior year and fall of senior year isn't the actual work itself. It's the amount they feel they have to talk about it."

Within your family, establish one time a week for talking about college. This solution requires effort and accountability from both you and your parents, but it is helpful in surviving college applications.

The final tip I'll share is how to narrow down which schools to apply to. Start by filtering schools based on geography. Grab a map and a pen and circle the regions and cities that sound appealing.

This sounds like a waste of time, but thinking about your future college as the place you are going to live is so important. You want to make sure that the weather, distance from home and opportunities available suit your needs.

Then, consider what size of school fits your learning and socializing style. Do you want massive lecture classes or do you prefer a more intimate educational environment?

These simple tricks can at least help you figure out what types of schools you

Working ahead during the summer months, particularly on the Common Application essay, is crucial to soaking up the fun of senior year.

BY KELTY JONES
Columnist

At Harpeth Hall, the barring of generative AI's use in students' work is outlined in no uncertain terms, and the consequences are relatively straightforward.

However, just a few miles away, in the bustling atmosphere of Nashville's music venues and recording studios, regulations regarding artificial content have been significantly murkier – until now.

On March 21, 2024, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed into law the Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security Act, or the ELVIS Act, a piece of legislation designed to protect musicians and other creators in the state's music industry from the unauthorized production of artificially created content of their likeness, voice, or image among other similar types of content.

Introduced this January by the Governor himself along with Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson (R-Franklin) and Tennessee House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-44), the bill has enjoyed widespread bipartisan popularity in addition to receiving the support of artists and organizations, like the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA).

Under the previous terms in place, unapproved use of one's name, photo, or likeness was banned only for the purpose of advertising. However, artificial intelligence's use in both images and audio has recently created a media firestorm following incidents surrounding major artists such as Drake and Taylor Swift, and it has become clear that any previous legal protections did not adequately prevent fans from getting scammed nor protect the reputations of artists. Independent writers and performers alike are keeping a watchful

eye on the future, though many believe that the genuine artistry of music is, for now, irreplaceable.

Sophomore Ava Ericson, who has enjoyed performing in writers rounds and open mics at the famed Bluebird Cafe as a singer-songwriter, has grown up around the culture and business of the Nashville music industry. She notes that while AI can be perceived as simply an engaging tool, it can quickly escalate into more dangerous territory.

"I do think that in some ways the voice-faking can be hurtful because it's putting words in someone's mouth. It's making people say things they didn't say [and] sing things they didn't sing."

Chloe Graham, a senior planning to major in songwriting at Belmont University next year, is also experienced in songwriting, having spent her junior and senior Winterims with Blackbird Studios. Having served roles in writing, vocalizing, producing, recording, and marketing for her 2023 demo "gas station breakup" and her 2024 single "records," she is aware of the leap of faith artists often make when putting music out into the world.

"People are doing and uploading music in ways that they've never been able to do before and reach so many different audiences... I am trusting a company that has my music. I'm the owner of it, but I don't have any legal representation. I don't have any people to support me in that sense," Graham says.

Concepts such as copyright protection can seem intimidating to artists, especially in a world of technology that changes daily. Nashville-based lawyer Maria Spear Ollis, owner of legal consulting firm The Legal Apothecary, formerly Spear IP, specializes in

protecting clients' intellectual property, which she describes as any type of content created from artwork to videos released under a brand name.

"We have to act, even if technology will quickly evolve. There was a time before the internet, and some areas of the law

Johnson.

The bill's exact terms, according to Thomas Reuters Practical Law, state that both creators and knowing distributors of the illegal content can be held responsible in civil contexts. Many fair use exceptions are also allowed to keep the bill in



STRIKING A CHORD: Governor Bill Lee signs the ELVIS Act on March 24, 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee. Alongside Lee is House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland and singer-songwriters Luke Bryan and Chris Jansen. Photo by Stephanie Amador

line with the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech, and the terms are similar to other acts currently before the United States Congress.

"It's important to know that there are people that have our backs as artists... knowing that our Tennessee government is working to make sure that it doesn't get out of hand and our voices are still our voices," Graham adds.

were slow to adapt, but they did... We don't have to know every intricate detail of the computer science to recognize the behaviors, patterns, and possibilities of how AI will impact the arts," Spear Ollis says.

Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson (R-Franklin) who was extensively involved in the creation of the bill, echoes Spear Ollis from a governmental perspective.

"The rapid advancement of AI is exciting in many ways, but it also presents new challenges – especially for singers, songwriters and other music professionals. I was proud to work...to modernize our laws to ensure AI does not threaten the unique voices and creative content of Tennessee musicians," says

When asked if there are any essentially human aspects of the art that Ericson believes technology cannot adequately copy, her answer was immediate.

"Words," said Ericson, hitting on how sincerity and ingenuity are valued in songwriting.

"You cannot fake emotion and words and the way that people write things... the way that they illustrate their hurt, or their love, or their passion... A computer will never match up to an incredible songwriter."

The bill goes into effect July 1, 2024, Nashville may have to wait to see if Billboard will follow Tennessee's lead when determining eligibility for its coveted Song of the Summer.

Acting Up: Harpeth Hall students direct One Acts for the first time

BY ANNABEL FARRINGER AND ELIZABETH EYLER

Freshmen Interns

On April 17, 18 and 19, Harpeth Hall and Montgomery Bell Academy presented a collection of one acts at MBA's Pascall Theater.

The five plays, each lasting around ten to fifteen minutes, totaled around an hour. Every act was written, directed by a group of studio theater students and the acts were the final projects for HH and MBA's advanced theater classes.

Usually seniors and juniors from MBA direct, write and cast the plays, but this year Harpeth Hall seniors were allowed to as well. Harpeth Hall theater students were ecstatic to finally be a part of this production, whether it was through acting or directing.

There were a wide range of acts, from noisy neighbors, to a robbery, to a high school horror movie. Many of the mini-plays were comedies that had plot twists leaving the audience excited to see what would happen next.

While the acts included humor, they also had a deeper message that everyone in the audience could learn from.

The sets were simple, because each act had its own design; however the technological side was

more complex. The directors, tech crew and other members of the production had to work tirelessly at finding, citing and timing sound effects, effectively using lighting and quickly transitioning between acts.

Senior Kate Franklin, who directed, said, "Tech was one of the most challenging parts because my play has a lot of sound cues." Although almost all the plays had sound cues, some required a lot more timing and details than others.

When asked about the writing process, senior Caroline Luttrull said, "It took about a month, and I worked primarily on my own, but I also had help editing and fine tuning my ideas to make sure everything made sense."

Both Franklin and Luttrull have

been in theater for multiple years, both starting in fifth and sixth grade drama club. Through their



SETTING THE SCENE: Harpeth Hall freshmen Lizzie Wimberly and Caroline Walsh listen to MBA junior Philip Held and sophomore Brennus Cotton in a rehearsal for their One Act play on April 16, 2024. Photo by Rick Malkin

years in theater, they have learned responsibility, especially in their most recent directing roles. All of the actors were relying on them to have a well-thought-out idea and to stay on task.

HH and MBA work together on most plays but every play brings new actors and experiences. When asked

what collaborating with the MBA boys was like, Luttrull said, "They are very committed to the role and if

I had to say one word to describe them it would be woah."

The acts were rehearsed between one and three times a week, with tech "week" only being two days, compared to the traditional five day school week. Franklin said, "Tech week was very short so that was a little stressful, but I loved

seeing all my peers' plays in the final performances."

Casting for the play was student-led, and it involved a very simple audition process.

Other high school students interested in theater auditioned for the plays and the senior directors got to cast the roles.

BY MICHELLE IKEJANI
Arts & Entertainment Reporter

Every year, according to Billboard Music, 125,000 music listeners attend music festivals in the U.S. Ranging from the most well known shows, such as Coachella in California and the Governors Ball in New York, to small local shows, music festivals receive support and praise for the way they are able to bring thousands of strangers together to celebrate a shared love of their favorite artists.

Tennessee is known for its culture, including the ever-popular hot chicken, showing out in cowboy boots and of course, the infamous country music.

Throughout the summer, Tennessee provides music fans the opportunity to attend some of the city's biggest events: music festivals.

Known as one of the biggest music festivals in America, Bonnaroo Music Festival, located in Manchester, Tennessee, welcomes a wide variety of well-known and up-and-coming artists to the stage over a span of four days, June 13-16. This year, Bonnaroo has a diverse lineup of artists ranging from Post Malone, Libianca and Renneé Rapp to genres such as EDM, bluegrass and rap.

Ashley Capp, the founder and CEO of AC Entertainment and Bonnaroo, and Tennessee native, said "Sometimes you have the opportunity to see this growth

before your very eyes and you realize that it's not just about your festival, but it's about the whole environment that enables music



FESTIVAL FRENZY: The stage at Lollapalooza lit up ready for performances in 2022. Photo by Lulu Kohler

fans to tap in and weigh in and help to grow somebody's career, because it's all about the fans when it all comes down to it."

Festivals are a place to bring people from all parts of the

world together, and in terms of Nashville's most well-known aspect, country music, the Country Music Association Fest happens to be one of the city's biggest events of the year. This summer, it is set to happen June 6-9.

With over 90,000 attendees each year and over \$2.5 million raised for music education, CMA Fest reached its largest numbers in participation during the 2023 festival since its start 51 years ago.

Sarah Trahern, CMA Fest's CEO says, "One theme has persisted—the incredible connection between Country Music fans and the artists."

In 2023, music fans from over 51 countries and all 50 states were in attendance, representing how music knows no boundaries.

"I just love getting to see all the people I know. Everyone there is so friendly and nice and just wants to enjoy the music," said senior Macon Fowler.

In addition to Tennessee's larger music festivals, the state hosts many local shows Musician's Corner,

home to Centennial Park, annually showcases new artists. Family-friendly and spanning various genres, it's an event anyone around Nashville can enjoy.

This year, the lineup will consist of well-known locals, such as the Nashville Symphony's annual guest star appearance, as well as developing solo artists and bands.

Shows being put on every Friday and Saturday from May 17 through June 15 means there is plenty of opportunity to discover new music and hear some favorites as well.

The Pilgrimage Festival, located in Franklin, Tennessee, is on Sept. 28-29 and is ready to present popular headliners, including Noah Kahan and Hozier, and smaller artists such as Stephen Sanchez and Allison Russell.

Orchestra Director Mrs. Lori McDermott has been an annual attendee each summer. "My favorite thing about the Pilgrimage festival is the lineups and the diversity of music. Everything from grunge to bluegrass to folk—I just love it," said Mrs. McDermott.

These festivals provide space to explore new genres, meet strangers who love similar music and enjoy the company of friends and family. With Nashville's vibrant music scene, festivals celebrate the power of music and being together.

Booming and better than ever: The Basement East is on the rise

BY EDEN POWELL
Columns Editor

Popular sites, such as Broadway and Bridgestone Arena, provide music shows, but they often cater to performance culture, rather than focusing on the music itself.

At The Basement East or "Beast" as some locals call it, the owners pride themselves on displaying music as the number one priority. The venue provides an intimate space, allowing increased connection between the crowd and the musicians.

Established in 2015 by Dave Brown and Mike Grims, The Basement East quickly evolved into one of the largest and most beloved music venues on the East side of Nashville. Contrary to the popular country music Nashville is known for, The Basement East provides a grungy, alternative aesthetic that many people enjoy.

Because of the Nashville tornado in March 2020, The Basement East was leveled, leaving East Nashville folk without their musical safe-haven.

Brown and Grimes, who describe themselves as "grown teenagers with a love for rock n' roll" according to an AP News article, had wanted to celebrate their five-year anniversary of opening. These plans were interrupted by the tornado and the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the five years it took for the owners to turn a profit on the venue,

they were in disbelief over the storm.

"You just don't want to believe it, I was in shock" Grimes said.

After reconstruction and the pandemic, The Basement East's doors were "flinging open... for a much needed socially distanced hang", according to the venue's Instagram account. After reopening with a larger venue and love from the East Nashville community, the space boomed like never before.

In 2022, The Basement East received the Award for Nightclub of the Year by the Awarded Academy of Country Music.

Grimes said, "Our programming is very much all over the map. We book country music, we book hip hop, rock 'n' roll, DJs, everything. And to be singled out by the ACM for this award is amazing, humbling. We're grateful."

In addition to the love from the people of East Nashville, underground and upcoming musicians are the main attraction of The Basement East. On April 1, 2024, the emerging band Tiny Habits performed, receiving an outpour of



UNDER THE LIGHTS: Claire Rosinkranz performs at the Basement East on February 8, 2024. Photo courtesy of Parker Holley

appreciation from the crowd which included well-known artists such as Kacey Musgraves.

Bass player Paul Reinhold said, "I think that of the tour, Nashville was one of my favorite places to play. The crowd that night was singing so

beautifully. Of course it would because it's Nashville. The one thing I found to be coolest in the venue was in the band's room. The ceiling tiles were decorated each differently with unique designs. Some were album covers or 3rd landscapes. Really cool stuff. Nashville also was one of the more diverse crowds in age and race."

Many Harpeth Hall students also love to enjoy The Basement East on a weekend night out and can't wait to go more during the summer.

After attending the Tiny Habits concert, junior Lucy Farringer said, "I'm definitely going back soon. I was there for four hours. The staff kept coming around giving out free water bottles, and everyone there was so nice!"

As well as concerts, the Basement East also offers fun shows and parties. This upcoming summer on June 29, for example, the venue is hosting a 2000s dance party called "Hot in Herre". With the highest ticket at just \$16, The Basement East could be the next big entertainment scene for young adults in Nashville.

Nothin' but net: Women's basketball viewership is on the rise

BY CAROLINE MURPHY
Sports Reporter

The dribble of a basketball. The swish of a net. The buzzer blares, and the crowd goes wild. This reaction is a relatively new scene for women's basketball games.

The 2023-2024 collegiate basketball season came with record-breaking statistics. Most notably was the fact that the women's March Madness tournaments had more viewers than ever before.

The Iowa v. LSU game brought in 12 million viewers. According to PBS news anchor John Yang, "[The game] was bigger than any Major League Baseball game since the 2022 World Series and bigger than every National Hockey League game since 1971."

The Final Four matchup between UConn and Iowa brought in a whopping 14.2 million viewers, while the Championship game between UConn and the University of South Carolina brought in 18.7 million viewers.

The rising popularity of women's basketball in recent years is largely credited to Caitlin Clark. Clark, who attends the University of Iowa, rose to stardom in the 23-24 basketball season.

She has become an inspiration to girls all over the country, as well as at Harpeth Hall. An admirer of Clark, junior Clara Scott Harden said, "She is a pioneer in women's sports and she's bringing life to a dying organization."

During her season, Clark averaged 28.47 points per game, thus granting her the NCAA Division I scoring

record.. Because of her success in collegiate basketball, she entered the 2024 WNBA draft, which was held on April 16. She ended up being the

despite tearing her ACL in Aug. 2022. However, she was still able to lead her team, both in the regular season and playoffs. Securing UConn's

faster for the women's games than the men's..."

Another notable fact is that women's basketball merchandise has seen an increase in sales. For example, after Clark broke the NCAA's all-time scoring record, her jersey was the highest-selling ever. Additionally, Nike announced that it would be selling college basketball jerseys of four current players. Three of the four were women.

However, the rise of women's basketball does not come without setbacks. Many people are upset that Clark, who is the number one pick in the WNBA, will only make \$76,000 in her first year as a pro.

The top pick for the NBA will make \$10.5 million in the 2024-2025 season. The wage gap is not the only difference.

There are other gender disparities beyond paycheck present in the basketball world. For example, the men's basketball teams normally have nicer equipment, food, training facilities and merchandise than the women.

A law firm was recently hired by the NCAA to investigate gender inequality and found an interesting fact: Even the NCAA has bias toward its male athletes and prioritizes men's basketball over women's basketball.

Although there is still gender bias, there is no doubt that women's basketball has had an astounding season. From record breaking views to historic signings, there are no signs that the popularity of women's basketball will dwindle soon.



A HAWKEYE AND A HUSKY: Caitlin Clark and Paige Bueckers on the court during the Iowa and Connecticut game on April 5, 2024. Photo courtesy of Getty Images

number one overall draft pick, and was chosen by the Indiana Fever.

In addition to Clark, basketball star Angel Reese also had a record year. She attends LSU, where she leads the SEC in scoring and rebounds, with an average of 18.6 points per game and 13.4 rebounds per game. She also is one of the top paid female athletes, earning \$1.7 million a year. Like Clark, Reese was recently drafted into the WNBA, signing with the Chicago Sky.

UConn's Paige Bueckers had an outstanding year too. She averaged 22 points and 3.9 assists per game,

spot in the Final Four by scoring 28 points against USC, Bueckers is regarded as one of the best college basketball players. According to UConn freshman and teammate Ashlynn Shade, "She is basketball. She embodies greatness every time she steps on the court."

Because of Clark, Reese and Bueckers, women's basketball's popularity has continued to rise, while men's basketball is on its decline.

According to Business Insider, "there was more demand for the women's three Final Four games than the men's, with sales surging 20%

Gracie Meriwether shoots for the stars at the Junior Olympics

BY PARKER HOLLEY
Freshman Intern

Sophomore Gracie Meriwether recently competed in the 2024 Rifle Junior Olympic Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The event, hosted by USA Shooting, brought together over 150 women ages 15 through 21 from more than 40 states.

These women competed in the multi-day event, participants shooting both air and smallbore rifles. Air rifles use compressed air and metallic pellets and are similar to BB guns, while smallbore rifles are often used for hunting. Meriwether competed in the 60 shot standing using an air rifle.

In this event, shooters have 75 minutes to fire 60 shots at a target 10 meters, or around 33 feet away. Scoring is based on the distance of each individual shot from the middle of the target.

Meriwether, who has been at Harpeth Hall since her freshman year, took up shooting during the summer of fourth grade. She said that when her summer camp in North Carolina, Camp Kanuga, offered the activity, she tried it and fell in love immediately.

Finding out her family has a connection to one of Montgomery

Bell Academy's riflery coaches, Coach Gather, she began to practice every Saturday during her rising-fourth grade summer.

To qualify for the Junior

Olympics, Meriwether competed in a preliminary competition, shooting women's air rifle. She was able to shoot a score that allowed her to advance to the national competition in Colorado Springs.

The event took place at the Olympic training center and competitors stayed at the dorms on the facilities campus.

While at the championship a few weeks ago, Meriwether was able to meet lots of girls from all over, even rooming with a girl on the University of Mississippi riflery team.

Meriwether admitted that she was

initially nervous about competing because of the skill level of her competitors, but ultimately enjoyed the opportunity. She said, "It was really an amazing experience and



SHOOTING FOR GOLD: Sophomore Gracie Meriwether focuses as she competes in the 2024 Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Photo courtesy of Gracie Meriwether

I learned so much." Because of her experiences she plans to compete again, since this event is annual.

Because of her commitment to her sport, Meriwether has been an active member of the Harpeth Hall riflery team since her freshman year. She said, "It's a really nice environment and the coaches are amazing and really helpful."

Merriwether really enjoys the team bonding that comes from the fun Wednesday practices where the team is allowed to listen to music while shooting.

Meriwether is trying to decide if she will compete in college, as she also wants to focus on her academics.

Many colleges offer riflery teams, such as the University of Kentucky, Texas Christian University, University of Mississippi, the University of Nebraska, the University of West Virginia and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. In total there are over 25 collegiate teams in the NCAA.

She is still deciding if she wants to shoot at the collegiate level.

When asked what makes a good shooter, Merriwether said, "It's different for everybody, for me it's just been practice". Her mentality is evident in the way she competes and how she used her skills to qualify for the Junior Olympic competition in Colorado.

USA says “bonjour” to 2024 Olympics in Paris

BY LILY BOWEN

Sports Editor

This summer, the best athletes from around the country and around the world will gather to compete in U.S. Olympic Trial events and the Paris Olympic Games. These events have highly anticipated programming, complete with competing Harpeth Hall students and alumna.

Harpeth Hall has a long history of graduates competing in the Olympic Trials and Olympics, particularly in swimming. One of the earliest Harpeth Hall alumni to advance to the Games was swimmer Tracy Caulkins, who, after being unable to compete in the 1980 Olympics due to the U.S. boycott, made her Olympic appearance in 1984. She did so in dominant fashion, winning three gold medals in the 200m and 400m individual medleys and 400m medley relay.

More recently, Harpeth Hall graduates Alex Walsh, Gretchen Walsh and Ella Nelson all competed in the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in the most recent Olympic cycle. Alex advanced to the Tokyo Olympics, winning a silver medal in the 200m individual medley.

All three are set to compete in the Trials once again, where they will be joined at the meet by current senior Maggie Petty. Petty qualified for the Trials in the 50m freestyle, fulfilling a longtime dream of hers.

“As long as I can remember I’ve always wanted to qualify for Olympic Trials one day,” Petty said. “But I didn’t really focus on it until one and a half or two years ago.”

Though Petty’s competed at several prestigious under-18 meets, including junior nationals, the Trials will be a step-up in caliber for her, and she’s excited for the novelty that will bring.

“I’m just really looking forward to getting the experience. I’ve never competed at that high level of a meet,” Petty said.

Of the swimmers, both Walsh sisters are favorites to make the Olympic team. Also likely to make the team for swimming is 3-time Olympian and 7-time gold medalist Katie Ledecky, who is once again looking to dominate the long-distance freestyle events and lead the United States to the top of the medal tables in swimming.

In addition to swimming, the United States is looking to have a strong showing in gymnastics.

Gymnastics greats Simone Biles and Suni Lee, both of whom won medals in the Tokyo Olympics, are both returning and are hopeful about leading the Americans to a team title. Additionally, Gabby

Douglas, who medaled at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, is looking to stage a comeback and make the team after eight years away from

and women’s teams for a sport that will be making its Olympic debuts in Paris: breaking.

More commonly known as breakdancing,

breaking first appeared in international competition at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. The competitors, or breakers, will go head-to-head in a tournament-style competition.

Additionally, the three sports that made their Olympic debuts in Tokyo—skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing—will all be returning in Paris.

Conversely, baseball

and softball will not be in the 2024 games, but both are set to return for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

This year’s Olympics will mark the centennial anniversary of the 1924 Paris Olympics—coincidentally around the same time the U.S. began having trials for most sports instead of selecting teams. While these events have changed significantly over the past 100 years, what hasn’t changed is how they continue to celebrate athletic excellence and foster widespread sportsmanship and camaraderie.



TACKLING THE CHALLENGE: Women wrestle at the 2024 Olympic Trials Women’s Freestyle on April 19, 2024. *photo by Anne Sachs*

competition.

Track and field is another sport in which the U.S. is a powerhouse, having taken home 26 medals at the Tokyo games. The Americans are looking to return five individual Olympic champions from Tokyo, including Ryan Crouser in the shot put, Athing Mu in the 800m, Sydney McLaughlin in the 400m hurdles (though she is likely to run the flat 400m this Olympic cycle), Katie Nageotte in the pole vault and Valerie Allman in the discus. The U.S. is also the defending champions in both the men’s and women’s 4x400m relays.

The United States is fielding men’s

Third time’s the charm: two HH teams look to defend back-to-back titles

BY LILLY WATKINS

Sports Reporter

After two successful years, the Harpeth Hall lacrosse and track teams have proven themselves as a hardworking group of athletes.

Lacrosse beat Hutchison in the state finals in 2022 and Ensworth in 2023, clinching the state title both years. Track also completed this feat, beating their top two competitors, Baylor and Ensworth, both years in a row.

As the spring season kicks into gear, the lacrosse team has already faced Ensworth once, beating them by one point in an

eventful overtime win. Ensworth has historically proven to be a

challenging opponent, and Harpeth Hall has faced them every year, sometimes more than once. When playing in important games like this, the Bears definitely prepare to play well and stay in the zone.

Each time the teams face each other, it’s been an eventful matchup. Whether it is an overtime win or a steady climb to victory, junior Gracie Lucas

play these teams again. I love the highly competitive games because they’re a lot of fun and playing for the state title just adds a whole new amount of pressure which makes us play at a very high level that is hard to beat,” Lucas said.

Mental preparation plays a big role in making sure the athletes do not psych themselves out before an important game.

When it comes to the lacrosse

Bears, they do not take this idea lightly.

“I try not to think about it the whole day. When we have a big game, I block it out of my mind during the school day.

We also usually hang out as a team before and try to avoid talking about it so we don’t get in our heads,” senior Liza Brown said.

As for the track team, the state championship meet falls at the end of May. The distance runners,

sprinters, throwers and jumpers are ready to face their biggest competitors on the biggest stage, and they have not fallen short in preparation.

“As we get closer to our biggest meets, we tailor our training to meet their needs. I would say the biggest key for us and our program is the fact that we have a high number of girls who prepare starting in September for what

they’ll be doing in April and May,” Head Coach Jim Romero said.

Overall, both teams are ready to take on their biggest challenges this season.

Whether it is a game or a meet, the help and motivation from coaches and teammates have been a huge aspect to the Bear’s success over the years. Fans of each team are very excited to see how their season’s pan out, especially after a promising beginning.



LAXIN’ BEARS: The Harpeth Hall varsity lacrosse team poses for a team photo on April 25, 2024 after their game against Webb Bell Buckle. *Photo by Abby Miller*

has had lots of experience against Ensworth.

“I’m really excited to possibly



S schoolology[®] wrapped

you watched **27** homework videos on 2x speed

you ignored **12** tests until the day before

you internally cursed WebAssign (way more than) **3.14** times

you skipped **1776** pages of history reading

you messed up your sig figs **6.022×10^{23}** times

you correctly answered **-9.8** questions on your physics homework

Strands

H	O	N	L	S	A
Y	E	A	L	E	G
B	E	R	A	P	L
W	S	H	B	I	A
A	L	H	L	O	G
A	L	T	M	S	O
C	A	E	A	Y	E
E	H	R	P	S	S

TODAY'S THEME

Oh place beloved...

Before prom...



The Senior Slide

