

Walls Questions New Metal Detectors

Alejandro Jorge (2020)
Staff Writer

Beginning this school year, metal detectors have been placed at the entrances of Walls. This has come as a shock to many students, myself included, especially since the detectors were not present in prior years.

Suddenly, the formerly simple process of “walk in, walk out” has become “walk in, put all your belongings through the scanner, walk through the metal detector, walk out, collect your belongings, walk out.”

At first, I was confused at the new process and was frustrated at having to spend more time waiting in a line to enter the building than before the metal detectors were installed. (I’m slightly annoyed at having lost two

trusty metal forks.) Given that Walls never had metal detector procedures beforehand, I did not see any purpose in their sudden implementation.

Even today, I observe my classmates being

late for class, having been caught in the long metal detector line. Talking with my classmates, I knew people shared the same view as me. In general, many students and I were puzzled as to how the metal detectors

were beneficial.

However, I slowly began to realize that the new security procedures are not the end of the world. A prime reason many have cited for implementing them is to protect stu-

dents and staff in the event of a school shooting.

Admittedly, I had not thought about the practical use of metal detectors in depth before writing this editorial because unlike others, I do not enjoy thinking about harm coming to innocent people.

At the same time, I am not so naive as to believe that such a tragedy would be impossible. While I believe that a school shooting is unlikely and a metal detector would likely not be an effective method to stop an active shooter, at the end of the day, it is better to be safe than sorry.

Is the new system perfect? No. Does it need to be improved? Yes. However, while the metal detectors may be inconvenient for Walls students, they have made our school that much safer.



One of two metal detector entrances to Walls (Photo Credit: Savannah Waymer)

Kavanaugh Sexual Assault Allegations Spur Controversy

Caedmon Dorsey (2020)
Staff Writer

President Trump’s nominee for the supreme court Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation process has been stalled by two allegations of sexual misconduct. The first allegation, which surfaced around a week ago, was raised by Christine Blasey Ford who claimed that Kavanaugh and a friend assaulted her during a high school party.

A second allegation came from a classmate at Yale who alleged that during his time at the school he had behaved similarly. Since the first two allegations have surfaced, three more women have also made allegations.

If confirmed, Kavanaugh, a former Bush administration employee, will be another highly conservative justice appointed by President Trump after the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch last year. Even before the allegations, Kavanaugh had been attacked by Democrats as being against the

women’s rights, especially their right to choose.

Kavanaugh’s time in the Bush administration also raised questions on his beliefs about government accountability. While in the Bush administration, he

was responsible for drafting Bush’s Executive Order 13233, which restricted public access to presidential and vice presidential records.

Up until a few weeks ago it seemed that Kavanaugh’s

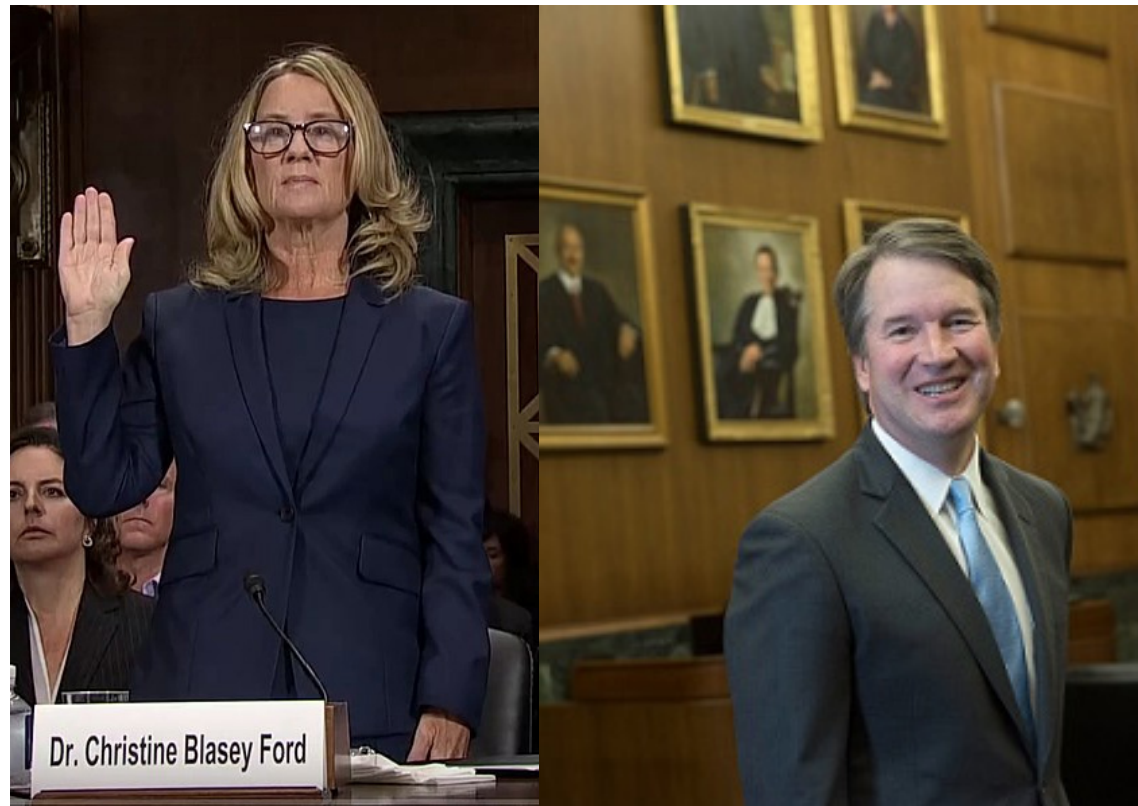
confirmation process would proceed like Gorsuch’s: quickly, efficiently, and swiftly forgotten. That was until the allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced.

Both allegations are unconfirmed in court, how-

ever, the Senate has held hearings last week involving both Kavanaugh and the first accuser, Dr. Ford to examine their seriousness. Democrats claim that these allegations further illustrate a pattern of disrespect towards women by the upper echelons of the GOP.

Republicans have cast aspersions on the truth of the claims and whether or not Kavanaugh was even at the high school party. Many, including Washington post columnist Kathleen Parker, have suggested that the alleged assault when Kavanaugh was in high school was actually committed by a doppelganger.

Following Senate hearings, Kavanaugh passed the judiciary committee on a party line vote. However, Republican Senator Jeff Flake will not vote for Kavanaugh on the Senate floor until a FBI investigation of no longer than a week is conducted, putting the judge’s odds of confirmation in question.



Dr. Christine Blasey Ford (Left) testified before the Senate, alleging she was sexually assaulted by Judge Kavanaugh (Right). (Photo Credits: Wikimedia Commons)

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Search for New Chancellor Commences

Emilia Bebic (2020)
Staff Writer

In June of this year, DC mayor Muriel Bowser commenced a national search for a new DCPS chancellor. She has assembled a committee to help with the search, but has chosen not to hire an outside firm, despite having done so in the past. The mayor has been lobbied by parents, teachers, and other DC residents to include the community in the search, making it clear that many will be carefully watching the process.

The position is an influential one. Not only will the new chancellor be responsible for a school district of almost 50,000 students, but they will be entering a system that has been rocked by recent scandals. A report commissioned by the city revealed that in 2017, 1 in 3 seniors graduated from DC public schools despite having missed too many classes or without making up credits properly.

Shortly after DCPS

made the national news for this scandal, it was thrown into a new controversy, this time regarding the chancellor at the time, Antwan Wilson. It was discovered that Wilson had circumvented the competitive lottery system for Wilson High School by instead approaching the deputy mayor for education for help. This violates a policy created by Wilson himself that bans preferential

treatment for the children of government officials, and as a result, Wilson resigned in February, leaving the school district without a permanent chancellor.

The deputy mayor for education who helped Wilson also resigned, and the two deputy chancellors appointed by Wilson confirmed that they would not be returning for the 2018-19 school year. Inter-

im chancellor Alexander has been tasked with the replacement of the two deputy chancellors.

Mayor Bowser hopes to have a new chancellor in place by the start of 2019, but several problems have presented themselves. The search has already caused a bit of a stir, due to a lawsuit brought by a DCPS teacher and several parents.

By law, the mayor is re-

quired to assemble a 14-member committee to aid the search. The plaintiffs are accusing Bowser of creating a panel that includes too few parents and students, and hope to stall the process until the issue is remedied.

Bowser was also been accused of botching the selection process in 2016, when the search committee claimed that she only showed them Wilson's resume after selecting him; law requires that the committee be shown the resume of any candidates before they are chosen. In addition to challenges regarding the panel, anyone hired from outside of the district would have to abandon their job in the middle of the school year, thus narrowing the pool of potential candidates.

Though any potential picks are yet to be revealed, it is evident that a great deal of pressure rests on the shoulders of the mayor and future chancellor to bring consistency and order to a currently unstable school district.



Pictured above: Former DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson speaking outside of Jefferson Middle School. His resignation amid a scandal has left a notable void in DCPS, that has yet to be filled. (Photo Credits: Flickr)

Homecoming 2018 Review

Teherama White (2022)
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Walls held its annual homecoming dance. Unfortunately, many students were unable to attend due to tickets being sold out, but for those of us who went, we all know how great of a job the Student Government Association did. Even the DJ they choose dropped the beat.

Everyone who came out dressed to impress

and showed off their best moves on the dance floor. All of the decorations were beautiful, the lights gave a very nice touch to an otherwise bland Commons. On the terrace there were candles, excellent lighting, great music, and a cool breeze that made for the perfect spot to take photos.

However, one criticism I did have for the dance was the lack of good food. While the choice themselves were good, there

wasn't enough for everyone, which proved to be a problem.

The Student Government Association overall did a great job organizing everyone's entrance into the dance. Coming into the building was quick and smooth; surprisingly, the numbered bag check made it easy to check in and check out.

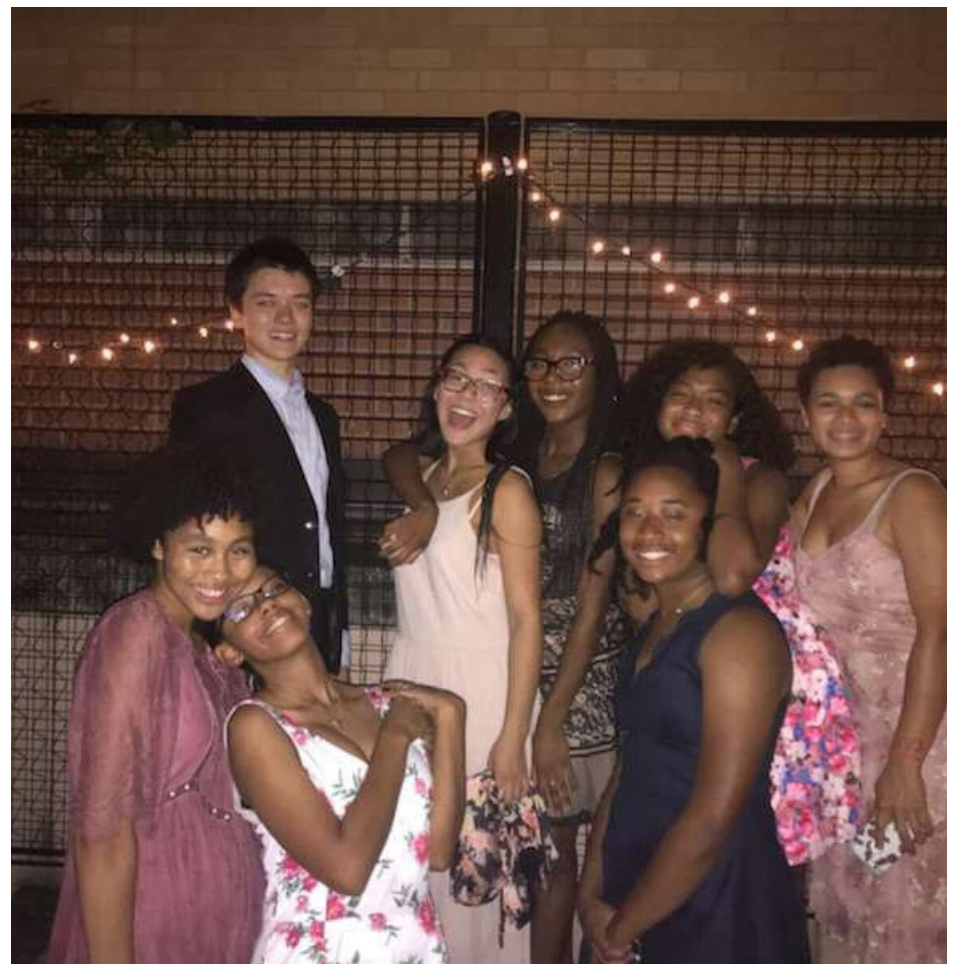
As the night came to a close, it could have not ended in a better way.

Congratulations to Vance Gootman and Paul Reif, Zakiyah Johnson and Amiri Bruce, Mendel Socolovsky and Ariana Monk, and last but not least, Usha Hippenstiel and Will Kammerer for being inducted to the homecoming court.

After the announcement of the homecoming King and Queen, it was time for the slow dance of the evening. I loved the choose of "Can't Help Falling In Love" by Elvis Presley,

a classic, as the choice slow song; not only was it the perfect tempo to begin the closing of the night, it is a song that everyone could sing along to.

After that, the night ended with upbeat music and big smiles all around. Homecoming 2018 was a huge success!



Homecoming Pictures! (Photo Credits: Ashley Cheung)

Interview with New Teacher

Amma Saunders (2021)
Staff Writer

Q: What is your name?
A: Gabe Webster

Q: What subject/classes do you teach?
A: Algebra II and Geometry

Q: What college did you attend?
A: Union College (Schenectady, NY)

Q: What are 3 adjectives you would use to describe yourself?
A: Excited, energetic, prepared.

Q: When did you decide to become a teacher, and why did you choose this field?
A: After college I worked for a company doing economic research for a year. I didn't like the job very much because it felt like I wasn't doing anything important. I've always loved math and valued it as a way of thinking. So I began to think about teaching as a way to spread my passion for math to others. I substitute taught for a year in Boston and really enjoyed it, so I decided to jump in and become a teacher!

Q: What is the greatest success you've had in teaching?
A: I think teaching is all about little successes. And I see those every day. If I can get a student to enjoy math a little more, that's a success. If I can help a student understand a concept they have been grappling with for years, that's a success. I really enjoy seeing students grow, and I consider every instance of that a big success.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to a student to succeed?
A: Ask more questions. And always ask "why?" Check your work!

Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?
A: I like cooking and reading. And I spend almost all my free time playing ultimate frisbee.

Q: What is your favorite part about teaching?
A: That I can make such an enormous positive impact on so many lives every day. I love being part of a team that pushes our students to greatness.

Q: If you could teach any other subject, what would it be and why?
A: One of the sciences. Because science is cool!

Asian Culture Club Spotlight

Minh Nguyen (2021)
Staff Writer

Asian Culture Club is a club focused on the appreciation of Asian cultures. The club currently meets Monday afternoons in Mr. Ghazi's room, 127. The club is led by Washington Ross, a junior.

In the past, the club

has done activities such as having a "Lunar Box" sale, in honor of the Chinese New Year. Each box had Chinese snacks, predictions from the Chinese Zodiac, and good-luck sayings to celebrate the holiday.

Last year at the international day assembly, they performed a Filipino dance known as "Tinikling",

in which people dance through bamboo sticks that are beat on the floor rhythmically.

This year, the club positions are named in honor of the Tokugawa Shogunate of Japan. Instead of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer; the positions respectively are Shogun, Emperor, Roju

(elder), and Miko (Shaman priest) to mimic the Japanese government and society.

Next year, the club plans to undergo a Meiji Restoration, when the emperor will be brought back to power.

Each year Asian Culture Club will change which country's government they mimic. Next up is Imperial China.

This year the club plans to learn and celebrate cultures both in the past and present. At the moment, they are learning about East Asian calligraphy.

Club members are learning to paint bamboo, water lilies, mountains, and to write their names in Chinese and Japanese. The club also plans to learn about belly dancing, fashion, and Anime.

If you are interested in joining Asian Culture Club, just email swwasian-cultureclub@gmail.com or contact Washington.

"I really want for people to learn to be in tune with their own cultures and histories and to learn about those of others. I'm half white and half Chinese, and as a kid I felt I didn't really belong in the Chinese community. I found it vital to learn about my own culture and heritage. With that, I not only did I feel more connected with my past but also with myself. I want to do the same for other people. I also feel it important that we learn about other cultures. One of the benefits of Asian Culture Club is that Asia is very diverse and there are so many different cultures to explore and learn about. I'm trying to make sure that we don't just focus on East Asian Culture, but all of Asia. There's so much to learn I am so excited for the year ahead of us."

-Shogun Washington Ross

The House of Falafel Food Truck Review

Alexis Mundle (2021)
Staff Writer

H street is littered with an array of food trucks, and chances are you may not have even considered trying a number of these restaurants on wheels. A number of Walls students opt for Chipotle,

to greasy pizza.

The House of Falafel, typically sits parallel to District House. Its bright white facade, sparsely covered in multicoloured tags concerning their Mediterranean cuisine, may be a bit underwhelming at first glance, but the food is anything but that. Most of

the menu is the chickpea salad, which also happens to be my favourite dish on the menu. At \$8, the chickpea salad can be seen as a bit pricey when compared to a piece of pizza, but the hefty price can be forgiven by the quantity and quality.

The salad always tastes as though it was

of a full stomach paining you. The same can be said about the other menu items such as the Shawarma Pita, Falafel Pita, and Lamb Gyro, which goes to show that the quality of The House of Falafel's food remains consistent and solid.

If you are looking for a cheaper alternative on The House of Falafel's menu, then look no further than the Stuffed Grape Leaves. They make a great snack for anyone who's a fan of acidic foods and wish to remain on the more affordable side of The House of Falafel's menu at only \$4. The Stuffed Grape Leaves may be under the "sides" section of the menu, but they can easily act as a full meal if you happen to be short on cash one day.

I most definitely would recommend The House of Falafel to any Walls student who has not yet tried it. If you're looking for something other than Chipotle or the GW deli, than give The House of Falafel a try!



Stuffed Grape Leaves, the cheap alternative to Chipotle. (Photo Credit: Flickr)

Chick-fil-a, the GW deli, or one of the numerous pizza places in the area when it comes to picking a lunch, but I hope that after reading this you will consider the food truck, The House of Falafel, as an alternative

the menu items allow you to choose from a plethora of protein options including beef, chicken, and lamb. All are seasoned to perfection, but my personal favourite meat is the lamb.

The first item on

made with fresh ingredients and always has an even distribution of protein and greens. After eating this salad, you will be full, a bit energized, and able to go back to school without the sluggish side-effects

Kavanaugh should not be on the Supreme Court

Alex Togneri-Jones (2019)
Staff Writer

Brett Kavanaugh does not deserve to sit on the Supreme Court. I say this for multiple reasons, not least of all that he has been credibly accused of sexual assault. But for those who are concerned about the consequences of presuming his guilt without corroboration (and as much as I believe Christine Blasey Ford, the lack of corroboration is real), I present the following.

First, Supreme Court nominees ought to be ostensibly non-partisan. The judicial branch, from the lowest district courts up to the Supreme Court itself, is an independent check to the other two branches of government. It is separate from the political system, as judges are appointed, not elected.

Judges are expected to follow the word of the law and the word of the Constitution, but overt partisan affiliation interferes with the ability to carry out that duty. For that reason, when Kavanaugh testified

to the Senate Judiciary Committee last Thursday, the outright venom he expressed towards the Democratic Party took everyone off guard.

He accused, without merit, that the accusations against him were a conspiracy organized by the Clinton family. He described Democratic senators as doing “something, anything to block my confirmation.” When he was being questioned, he was consistently disrespectful to Democratic senators who questioned him; for example, when Senator Sheldon Whitehouse asked him a question pertaining to his alcohol consumption, he replied, “I like beer. I don’t know if you like beer, do you like beer, senator? What do you like to drink?” This petulant response reflect the blatant contempt that Kavanaugh has for Democrats. So when cases of a partisan nature come before the court, if he gets confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh cannot be trusted to engage with them in a fair and neutral manner.

More importantly, however, is the fact that

Kavanaugh knowingly lied before the Senate under oath. Not only is this a crime, but also it is certainly disqualifying for anyone seeking elevation to the highest court in the land, and potentially deserving of removal from his current post in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. He was questioned about multiple aspects of his life that defined his character as a teenage student at DC area private school Georgetown Prep.

When asked if he had ever blacked out while drinking alcohol, he made an unequivocal denial. His public commentary since the accusations came out, both during his appearance on Fox News and his testimony, painted a picture of a young Brett Kavanaugh that was studious, thoughtful, and focused on sports, without time to party, drink excessive amounts of beer, or commit sexual assault.

However, from the words of many of his classmates, we know this was not the case. Yale classmate and friend Chad Ludington said of Brett’s drinking hab-

its, “I can unequivocally say that in denying the possibility that he ever blacked out from drinking, and in downplaying the degree and frequency of his drinking, Brett has not told the truth.” I won’t list them all here, but several other Yale and Georgetown Prep students said the same about his drinking habits. It’s also backed up by his own words in his yearbook; he was a member of what he called the “100 Keg Club.”

Kavanaugh was also questioned about a phrase that appeared in his yearbook that claimed he was a “Renate Alumnus.” When asked about it, he claimed that it was a way to show affection for her as a member of their friend group. He made it very clear that it was not sexual in nature, as the implication seems to be.

However, his classmates again gave away the game. One of his Georgetown Prep buddies wrote a short rhyme in Kavanaugh’s yearbook: ““You need a date / and it’s getting late / so don’t hesitate / to call Renate.” It’s clear, then, that

Kavanaugh grossly mischaracterized the way he and his friends cruelly shamed one of their peers.

Many look at these actions and see normal behaviors for a teenage boy. I not only resent the implication that this is the standard of behavior that people my age should be held to, but I also believe that Kavanaugh’s willingness to lie about them before the Senate Judiciary Committee is a character flaw too great to ignore.

Furthermore, when evaluating the sexual assault allegations against him, who would you believe? The words of a woman who was nothing but honest and helpful in her testimony? Or that of a man who chose to lie and misrepresent his past behavior?

For what it’s worth, I believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. But even if you don’t, you cannot deny that his dishonesty and lack of impartiality disqualify him from a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court.

Half a Century Later, We Struggle to Avoid Repeating Mistakes

Adam Burch (2021)
Staff Writer

In 1971, West Pakistan, motivated by ethnic hatred, launched a genocidal military operation against East Pakistan. Three million people, mostly Bengali, were killed, and hundreds of thousands were systematically raped as Bengali women were declared “public property.”

Refugees from the genocide found little refuge on mud roads drenched by monsoon rains. The United States, in a diabolical Cold War power play, sent a carrier fleet into the Indian Ocean to deter India from intervening on behalf of the East Pakistani victims.

Similarly horrific ethnic strife has gripped Myanmar (Burma) since October 2016, when an insurgent group known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army attacked Burmese military posts. The insurgents were Rohingya Muslims, who have been oppressed for decades under a system that many liken to apartheid.

Everyday life is a challenge in a corrupt system of guard checkpoints and movement passes. The attacks provoked what the Burmese government de-

scribed as a crackdown on the insurgents, but objective international sources recognize it as deliberate ethnic cleansing.

The Rohingya death toll since 2016 is estimated at over 10,000. Genocidal rape, as well as reports of Burmese military units firing on fleeing Rohingya, convinced the UN to report that Burmese forces were driven by “genocidal intent.” Over 900,000 people

have fled Myanmar, becoming refugees.

Over 600,000 of these refugees are concentrated in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh. Shelters are overflowing, often filled to double or triple capacity. Almost 100,000 of these refugees live in unofficial mud shelters bordering the camp, which could easily be washed away in monsoon rains.

It’s easy to see the parallels to 1971: refugees of devastating violence finding that their lives are still in jeopardy, the international community fearing the risk of intervening. We may be turning a corner in our response to this crisis, but it’s tough to tell.

The factors affecting the United States’ response to this genocide appears much simpler than they were in 1971; without the

Cold War, we shouldn’t have to make the inhuman calculations of weighing human life against regional power.

Still, America has taken only the limited actions of imposing sanctions on some Burmese commanders and providing financial aid to refugees.

On September 25th, in what was trumpeted as a major step towards ending the genocide, Nikki Haley announced that America would more than double its aid to Rohingya victims. Lives will be saved by American financial aid, but many have questioned why prophylactic action wasn’t taken.

The same day, the State Department released a report accusing the Burmese military of targeting civilians “with extreme brutality.” However, the report notably failed to use the word “genocide.”

Designating a conflict as genocide can have serious legal consequences, but, of course, that didn’t deter the UN. We have made strides in our response to the horrific ethnic conflicts that still hold much of the world in thrall. But we must recognize our failure to act earlier to prevent these atrocities. Lives depended on it.



Members of the Myanmar police out patrolling in the midst of ongoing conflict in the country. (Photo Credits: Wikimedia Commons)

Discrimination in University Admissions?

Maddie Engen (2021)
Staff Writer

The Justice Department recently opened an investigation into whether many elite colleges such as Yale discriminate against Asian Americans by holding them to higher standards than their non-Asian counterparts.

In 2014, the Students for Fair Admissions said that Harvard discriminates against Asian American applicants, holding them to impossible standards and limiting the amount of Asians admitted. The suit is going to trial in October where specific details on the allegation will be released.

This lawsuit goes hand in hand with the Trump administration's recent attempts to roll back President Obama's guidelines for universities looking to use race in applications.

Obama's system en-

couraged racial diversity in college admissions, which is frequently a breeding ground for discrimination based on gender, race, economic status, and religion.

Nevertheless, the Students for Fair Admis-

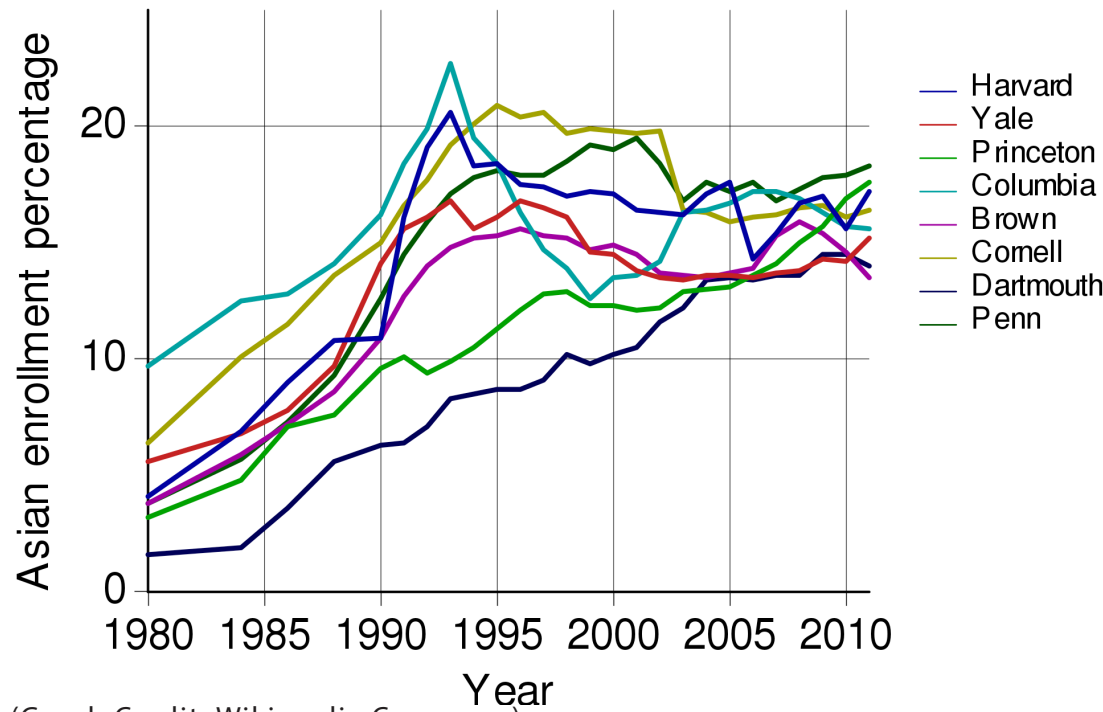
sions suit provided a reason for the Trump administration to attack the Obama administration's guidelines. The Obama administration's plan, greatly benefits students of all ethnicities. If the Trump administration's

Bush-inspired guidelines were implemented, it would make admissions much more challenging for minorities as the universities wouldn't have to be accountable for racial disparities in colleges.

Supporters of the Obama-era rules say that the suit is purely a political maneuver that will led to schools who choose to continue using current guidelines to lose funding, and ultimately contribute to racism.

The Trump administration attempting to use the Students for Fair Admissions suit and other claims from Asian-American student groups as criticism towards Obama's policies is an insult to the students' noble cause of fighting systemic racism in college admissions.

When considering the future of affirmative action, we should separate these students' struggles with discrimination from these policies. The future of this plan depends on the vote of Brett Kavanaugh, assuming he is appointed, as he may vote in favor of the Trump administration.



(Graph Credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Vents



Becca Kurtz (2020)
Staff Writer

What's buzzing at SWW - opinions on the new metal detectors ?

"I think that it's a good effort by the school to show that they care about student safety. I don't think it's a practical solution honestly. But I think it's as good as the school can do to keep the students safe." - Aaron Scott, Sophomore

"The metal detectors....I don't understand what the purpose of the metal detectors are. Is it to prevent us from bringing weapons in the school, or to stop us from doing drugs? They need to clearly express their motives/their objectives." - Anonymous, Junior

"They suck. they're really annoying because you have to arrive at school much earlier than you would. I wouldn't normally come to school this early, but I try to beat the crowd." - William Zaharia-Stremtan, Freshman

"Honestly I'm not bothered by it that much because... I don't know, we had it at my school last year and I kinda got used to it. As long as you don't hold up the line I'm not really bothered." - Anonymous, Freshman

"It's annoying when they make you go to the back of the line. It's going to get really long. Especially after lunch." - Anonymous, Freshman

Searching Movie Review

Toni Jackson (2022)
Staff Writer

If there's one movie I would recommend so far this year it would be Searching. The main character is David Kim (John Cho), a man whose daughter has suddenly disappeared; Detective Rosemary Vick (Debra Messing) is the main detective working with David trying to uncover where his daughter may have went.

The film first premiered in January at the Sundance Film Festival, winning 3 awards. It finally arrived in theatres August 24 and when it did, it was the first film months to make me completely interested in what is happening on screen. If you like mov-

ies where you have to wait for the climax and movies with very few characters, then I would definitely suggest you see this film.

The movie does not take place at a school, house, or city, but rather completely on laptops. To my surprise, the film did not mishandle accuring portraying how people interact online. Furthermore, the computers in the film were almost characters of their own, revealing different plots of the story and even helping the characters in their own development.

In his first feature film, director and writer, Aneesh Chaganty, did a fantastic job at calculating every character's choices

having the entire movie taking place online.

However, at the same time, the downfall of a lot of these films is the acting; scenes without the other person there makes it extremely challenging to feed off of each others emotions.

For many films, this unique style would not undermine the product, but for others such as Searching it can prove to be an effective model. All in all, Searching is an extremely well done film and everyone should go see it.

Inspiration Station
"My mama said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." -Forrest Gump

State of the National Football League

Tillman Lanyi (2020)
Staff Writer

With a quarter of the NFL season in the rear-view mirror, we're now getting a clear picture of the state of the league. Now with a clear state of the National Football League in this issue of the Rookery's NFL hot Takes

L.A. Rams 4-0: Cooper Kupp os going to be Jared Goff's biggest target for the next week

Kansas City 4-0: Patrick Mahomes is a beast, need I say more, but good things can't last though

New England 2-2: The Patriots aren't going anywhere. New England always looks bad... er... worse in September, 11-5 since 2014 while 40-8 in other months, discounting January.

Philadelphia 2-2: Too confident needs to cool down a bit, will not make the playoffs.

Chicago 3-1 : Wild Card Game, you heard it here first

Tennessee 3-1: The Titans get are a team to watch mostly because their players are average and they lost to the Dolphins, but they've played up to better when up against teams like teams like the Eagles and Jaguars.

Jacksonville 3-1: Jalen Ramsey's trash talking will eventually catch up to him

Baltimore 3-1: The Ravens will be in the playoff, they're taking off.

New Orleans 3-1: Rams, Saints will win the NFC

championship

Washington 2-1: Washington's defense looks excellent, especially with the recent addition of Alabama's entire defensive line.

Minnesota 1-2-1: Should have never let Case Keenum go to the Broncos.

Atlanta 1-3: The Falcons, sitting at 1-3 after giving up 74 points over the last two weeks, may need to send their entire defense to Emory University Hospital.

Pittsburgh 1-2-1: Le'Veon Bell's holdout might be the least of Pittsburgh's problems, as Ben Roethlisberger looks old and slow, actually unsurprising for a large 36-year-old football player.

Miami started 3-0, but there's little reason to be

optimistic about a team that has't done all too well in previous seasons.

Cleveland 1-2-1: Sure, the Browns might not be winless, but that doesn't make them good. Cleveland's gonna Cleveland, and this year that means losing winnable games.

Indianapolis 1-3: This isn't Andrew Luck's comeback season.

Tampa Bay 2-2: Ryan Fitzpatrick isn't good. Surprise! And neither is the Tampa Bay defense or run game. Fun fact: Tampa Bay last defeated Cleveland on September 12th, 2010, making the Buccaneers the team with the longest period of time elapsed since a win against the Browns.

San Francisco 1-3: The loss

of franchise quarterback for the 49er's is really going to put a damper on this potential comeback season.

Oakland 1-3: It's unclear exactly what Jon Gruden thinks he's doing, but it's not working. But hey... they beat Cleveland, so that's something, right? No, that says nothing? And they shanked a game-winning field goal in overtime?

Girls Varsity Soccer Kicks Off

Manuela Silvia (2021)
Staff Writer

Going into the season, the School Without Walls Girls Varsity Soccer team was instructed to set goals. These goals had to be smart; specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. The goal that stuck out the most, was the one set to not lose any games.

Going into Monday's game against Bell Multicultural High School, everyone was nervous and tensions ran high. Last

year when Walls played Bell, they were handed one of the few loses that they suffered that season. But this season, things feels different and is, as many players state, ready for revenge. This year the team is made up of many seniors, who have hope that the last season of their high school soccer career will be the best season yet. While Walls has possession of the ball throughout most of the game, the game resulted in a 2-2 tie. "We could've, and should've, won!" notes Bonnie Cabbot ('21). Up

until that point in the season, Walls hadn't faced any serious competition, winning most games by a landslide. And every year at preseason, new players are warned that the truly serious games are those against Bell and Wilson, and that was proven in the intensity of the game on Monday.

Going into her final year of high school, Liza Engman ('19), notes that while "I'm very sad at the thought of leaving all my friends, I'm happy I get this last season with the team." This

tends to be the spirit of the team, especially among the seniors. They are giving it their all in their last season with this talented group of girls, and hope to make it far.

If you're looking to support the Girls Soccer team, on Tuesday, October 9th, Walls faces Wilson in one of their toughest games of the season. The matchup is at Riggs LaSalle High School, and should be a competitive game to watch.

Walls Cross Country Takes Second At Lafayette Invitational

Nicholas Pawson (2021)
Staff Writer

On Thursday, September 20, the Walls Cross Country team ran their first 5K (5 kilometers; 3.1 miles) race, the Lafayette Invitational. The race took place at Colmar Manor Community Park, which is located on the Anacostia River just outside Washington in Prince George's County. The lightly-hilled trail weaves around fields and baseball diamonds, cutting through woods for about a mile, making this a very pleasant course.

After all of the rain that our region had, the ground was incredibly muddy. Despite the conditions, both the boys' and girls' teams placed second to Wilson High School. The top five Walls boys were Lucien Anderson (20:21), Levi Berger and Nicholas Cassol-Pawson (20:38) separated by a fraction of a second, Rajah Caruth (21:53), and Lachlan Bond (23:30). The top five Walls girls were Ellie Gorham (26:19), Alexandra Diaz (30:24), Eileen Sawyer (30:36), Annika Houge (31:46), and Alix Deybach (33:01).

The results from this first meet give the cross country team lots of hope for its performance over the rest of the season.

October 2018

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|--|---|--|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 Boys Soccer Vs Cardozo @ Riggs Lasalle Girls Soccer Vs Wilson @ Riggs Lasalle Volleyball Vs Eastern | 10 | 11 Volleyball Vs Ballou @ HD Woodson | 12 |
| 15 | 16 Volleyball Vs Bell @ Wilson | 17 | 18 HS Track Meet @ Kenilworth Volleyball Vs. Coolidge @ Coolidge | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Boys Soccer Vs McKinley @ Riggs Lasalle | 25 HS Championship Track Meet @ Colmar Manor | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Horo-scopes

Alejandro Jorge (2020)
Staff Writer

Libra: Someone is waiting for you out there on the floor. All you need to is take the first step; after all, dancing is not a crime.

Scorpio: The driver's seat may seem distant, but with the right team, you can fix up any old car. The steering wheel and the open road will be yours soon.

Sagittarius: The times, they are a' changin', but many are still stuck in the past. A goal you want to reach will not be achieved immediately; patience with others is essential.

Capricorn: What goes up need not come down. As autumn begins, look to the north, and search your feelings; you'll never know what you'll find.

Aquarius: Your diligence in most matters of life is valued by many, as is your diligence as a good friend, but sooner or later, it is time to begin running down your own dream.

Pisces: Facing trouble balancing tasks and commitments, while difficult, is not uncommon. Seek help from those who've traversed the chasm, and you will be set for success.

Aries: A fork in the road. Two choices. Which is better? Whether you find out sooner or later, you must remain thoughtful in more ways than one.

Taurus: The confidence you exude, while pleasing and attractive to some, may make others confused. The stars suggest you keep everything in moderation.

Gemini: You've hit the ground running and are gaining speed. However, while you need not slow down, do take in the sights as you drive by.

Cancer: While finding treasure may be difficult, you need not travel far to find it. Look around and keep your eyes and ears open.

Leo: Your unfamiliar feelings will corporealize soon. When they do, you must be ready to act on them. Have faith in yourself; the stars promise it will be worth it.

Virgo: While autism can be appealing to the right audience, controlling every aspect of a work can be a bit offputting. Your steering wheel can be trusted in another's hands.

Sweetener Review

Maddie Engen (2021)
Staff Writer

Ariana Grande collaborated with Swedish artist Max Martin, known for following traditional pop norms, and the more divergent Pharrell Williams for her latest album, Sweetener, which came out mid August. Already topping the charts are fan favorites "breathin" and "no tears left to cry" which follow Grande's typical songwriting style, using poppy vocals and high

falsettos to appeal to the Top 40 list.

However her newest album contrasts from her previous works as she tackles more serious topics such as her depression and anxiety after the Manchester shooting in "get well soon" or her quick engagement to an SNL writer after a tumultuous breakup with the late Mac Miller in "pete davidson."

Grande expressed she wanted to explore a new, more mellow style

while venturing into deeper topics, a bold move as it could repel many past fans, however newer listeners may prefer her chill, flowing vocals over the intense high notes she was once known for.

She collaborated with Williams and adopted some of his funkier beats for songs such as the whistle in "the light is coming," along with featuring artists such as Nicki Minaj and Williams himself.

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| | | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | | 2 |
| | | | | | 8 | | 9 | |
| | | 6 | 4 | | 7 | | | |

The Moon

Washington Ross (2020)
Staff Writer

The moon above shines a story,
A gloomful face to brighten the night.
Her watchful eyes filled with love,
For the earth she sees from above.

She longs for her earth, the source of her life,
The same source of all her toil and strife.
Her feelings sway just like the tide,
From darkness to light and back to night.

When she feels dim, the earth shines bright,
Giving her warmth to see the green of life.
And when the earth is dim, and in a sleepful sight,
She brightens the world with all her might.

Centuries of pain and loneliness,
Cratered her with scars.
Her rocky roughs cough,
And she sings a sad song.

Her mournful glow is a comfort to us,
She shines brighter than the stars.
Proving despite a million miles,
We can still find love from afar.

"To All the Boys I've Loved Before": A Repackaged Romance

Sofia Acabajon (2021)
Staff Writer

With the mass popularity of "To All The Boys I've Loved Before" after its Netflix release, it only makes sense that everyone is scrambling to find the book in order to read the full story for themselves.

Many people may be left to wonder whether it is truly worth purchasing a copy - or waiting for the hundreds of people who had the exact same idea to return their copy to the library. The short, sweet, simple answer of whether or not it is worth it is: most definitely not.

To be clear - the actual story itself has some high points, and the diverse lead is most definitely a win to be celebrated, but it was disappointing to see the lack of diversity outside of the protagonist.

The story did in-

clude it's fair share of sappy, romantic gestures, and cute lines that made it easy to forget it's lows, but was not enough to save it in the end.

"To All The Boys I've Loved Before" is yet another cookie cutter teen romance novel, simply repackaged to again be devoured by eager, naive minds as they crave a story to vicariously live through.

If you're looking for the same old story that's been retold time and time again, and are fine with relatively mediocre writing, then you'll be happy to find all the normal tropes: the outdated "girl versus girl" fighting, a love triangle mixed with forbidden love, the quirky girl thrown into the spotlight suddenly, and, of course, the jealous ex-girlfriend.

The only new addition to this frequently told story is the fact that none

of the characters are likable. Apart from a few scattered instances where characters teeter into "bearable" territory, the characters are stubborn, constantly jealous, and so short-sighted they can't be bothered to listen to another person's story if it doesn't match their mood.

This constant self-absorption naturally leads to a plethora of misunderstandings from which the reader can't seem to escape.

Granted, misunderstandings are glue for this story - being the only thing keeping the plot moving - but that in itself makes the book frustrating to get through.

Many of these unpleasant characteristics, however, only apply to main characters, as other minor roles are only included as filler for the story.

Above all, the most

exasperating aspect of the story is the once again the "cute and dysfunctional couple" seemingly worked into every fictional media. While this is written well enough in most cases, here and several other times it tends to fall flat.

Instead of being a "cute" couple, it becomes an unhealthy couple who bicker after every conversation - even the ones that began as an endearing moment. If you're looking for a cliché teen romance for a quick read, then read on, but don't expect to take away anything new from "To All The Boys I've Loved Before."

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Who are we?

The Rookery is an independent student newspaper of School Without Walls High School (www.swwhs.org), located in Washington D.C. The Rookery works to serve as the voice of the School Without Walls community and report on accurate and newsworthy stories that pertain to the SWW community. We print every other week and release during Advisory. The Rookery is located in room 127. Our advisor is Shakir Ghazi, who can be reached at shakir.ghazi@dc.gov.

Our office is open to all students that would like to contribute to the paper every Wednesday after school at 3:30. If you are interested in joining or submitting an article, art work, etc., please contact Christian Robles at crobles808@gmail.com or Savannah Wayner at scwayfls2@gmail.com or email us at theswwrookery@gmail.com.

Imprisonment of Uyghurs Continues

Tully Hochhausler (2021)
Staff Writer

Officials have denied allegations of mass imprisonment of Uyghur Muslims in China, claiming that the only people they sent to the re-education camps were extremists.

The United Nations claims that China has targeted the entire Uyghur population, which makes up forty-five percent of the population in western China.

The UN wants to have China stop detention without a trial, have all individuals sent to camps without a trial immediately released, know how many people are being detained,

and end ethnic biases in trials.

Reports from the camps claim that there is widespread torture and people are forced to swear allegiance to the government, China, of course, has denied these allegations.

Along with the UN, criticism has come from both right and left-leaning parties around the world including both the Republican Party in America and the Labour Party of Britain. These critics say that the Chinese government camps are sites of ethnic cleansing.

It is estimated that one million Uyghur people may be currently held in the re-education camps. The Uyghurs and their Turkic

language have been banned in school and they have been forced to learn Chinese instead.

Anything religious such as praying, going to a mosque, fasting during Ramadan, wearing traditional clothes or growing beards are banned.

China continues to say that this is merely for safety because of the threat of Islamic extremism.

Fun Facts

Blue whales consume half a million calories in one mouthful

There is a greater number of possible chess game iterations than atoms in the known universe

Cows moo with regional accents

Human eyes remain the same size from birth, while the nose and ears never stop growing

Honey is the only food that does not spoil

SATIRE: Government that has broken over 400 treaties with Native Americans explains the importance of following immigration laws

Adam Burch (2021)
Staff Writer

Immigration has been a controversial issue for years, but one thing emphasized by the Trump administration is that existing immigration laws, however supposedly unjust, must be obeyed.

"We must follow in the footsteps of our great ancestors, who promised the Choctaw territory

'beyond the limits of any State... which they shall possess as long as grass grows or water runs...' and then, within a year, most certainly did not kick the Choctaw out to make way for white gold miners," explained White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

"No matter how much liberals might disagree with

America's immigration laws, the fact remains that they are the law of the land, and must be followed, to the letter, until the very day that they are stricken from the law books, or start causing white people inconvenience, whichever comes first."