

No Justice, No Peace!

Op-Ed by Sebastian Germosen '20

America. “The land of the free?” Native Americans were the first to settle on this land, but Europeans came and conquered. They took advantage of the natives, killing them with their weapons and diseases. They settled upon numerous parts of America, called it their own, and set up a type of leadership to control it. After gaining control of America, Europeans brought in natives from Africa and made them slaves. Slaves were brought to America to work. They were punished, ridiculed, lynched, murdered, and used because of the color of their skin. America was built by the hands of slaves. “Powerful” white people sat back and enjoyed the luxury of freedom and riches, while slaves worked day and night, trying to survive.

America’s first presidents owned slaves. The elected supposed “leaders” of America owned slaves and used them the same way other Americans did. Racism was widespread across this country, while attempts by slaves to gain freedom were always stopped. Numerous slaves sacrificed their lives to light the fire of hope for the freedom of slaves in America, but white supremacy reigned. It would take until Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, for the elected leader of this nation to state that America isn’t a land of freedom as long as it relies on slave labor. A Civil War was fought to determine the status of slaves. Thousands died, the Union won, the freedom of slaves was recognized, but racism continued to fester.

The great Martin Luther King Jr. believed that a march could bring about change, and make people realize that others shouldn’t be treated differently because of their skin color. He had a dream that white people and people of color would be able to join together. They would be able to hold hands, talk, and do things together; all people would be united. That dream would be echoed across the nation and it would prove to be monumental in the civil rights movement. He died because of his dream. He marched and preached to spread that dream and he died for it. The civil rights movement and its mission of equality for African-Americans was successful in that it desegregated society, but it didn’t end racism in America. People of color were still being discriminated against, and that discrimination was worse in some states than others. We have had notable figures speak out and call for change, such as Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and many others. Despite their tremendous efforts, racism remains ingrained in our society.

“There’s not an American in this country free until every one of us is free.”

—Jackie Robinson

Police brutality exists due to the country’s lack of justice and change. It has existed for as long as anyone can remember, but it has been witnessed more by the world because of social media. Police brutality has always been a “norm” for people of color. It has become a poison in a country that sees its people of color experience inequality every day. We have all become more aware of the mistreatment of people of color by police and many are outraged. Many notable police brutality cases have made news headlines in the past. These cases include Rodney King in Los Angeles, Freddie Gray Jr. in Baltimore, Eric Garner in New York, Micheal Brown in Missouri, Tamir Rice in Ohio, and countless others that have been ignored in the cry for help to make change happen and to bring justice. The protests and riots that occurred in the

aftermath of these cases were a preview of what Americans are capable of when we join in outrage at the system that exists within America.

“As long as poverty, injustice, and gross injustice persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.” —Nelson Mandela

8 minutes, 46 seconds. That was how long George Floyd was face down on the ground, pinned down by the knee of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Floyd was accused of buying cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. The police were called, and seventeen minutes after the first squad car arrived, Floyd was unconscious. He later died. This senseless act by now former police officer Derek Chauvin took the life of a man of color, who had a child and a life to live. It is one of the most disgusting, horrific, malicious, and intentional acts of police brutality and racism ever seen. Floyd did not resist arrest. He pleaded to be released so he could get in the cop car. He was literally willing to go in the car. An officer taunted him by telling him to get in the car, but he couldn’t because he was being pinned down by three officers. Floyd was calling for his “mama.” He was crying for a breath. That cry would be heard around the world. The recording of his arrest was shared widely on social media and has been witnessed by millions. None of the officers on the scene did anything to help Floyd. They treated Floyd as if he had killed someone, but he was only accused of counterfeiting. Chauvin has since been fired, arrested, and charged with 2nd degree murder. The other three officers have been arrested and charged as well. Rightfully so. Floyd’s death was yet another incident of more innocent blood being spilled. In the aftermath, protests and riots have taken place across America. While trials now await those responsible for Floyd’s death, America is once again fighting for equality and the lives of its people of color.

“A riot is the language of the unheard.”
—Martin Luther King Jr.

People are outraged. People are tired. People are hurt. People want justice. People want change. Thousands have protested or rioted as they seek justice for George Floyd’s murder and change in the “American system.” There are two systems that exist in America. One for white people; another for people of color. How were Dylann Roof, Nikolas Cruz, and other white mass shooters treated after surrendering or being subdued by police? Were they assaulted, choked, suffocated, or had a knee on their neck for eight minutes? No. They were taken care of. How were Ryan Twyman, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd treated after sitting in a car, being at home, jogging, and accused of counterfeiting? They were murdered. They didn’t kill anyone. They didn’t commit a serious crime. Did they go in a school or church and take innocent lives? No. They were just being themselves and living. These are the two systems that exist in America. A system that protects its white people, no matter what. A system that takes advantage of its people of color, unwilling to protect them as it lets social injustice run rampant. Why should a person of color have to be afraid of a police officer and fear for their life? Why should a person of color feel hesitant in calling 911? Why are a group of people discriminated against for their skin color? Why is it that two systems exist within a country that promotes freedom and equality? **This must change!**

The protests that have happened since the death of George Floyd are a symbol of change. Thousands flood the streets with signs of “No justice, no peace.” They hold signs honoring the memory of George Floyd and demanding that change be brought. Riots have erupted in many parts of the country, as many showcase their anger towards the system. They are sick and tired of, inequality, injustice, and lack of change. Many may think these riots are unnecessary and distract from the real reason that America is protesting. Really? The 1921 Tulsa race riots killed hundreds of people of color and were initiated by white racists. Rioting began with white racists. Now, those who seek justice against racism and police brutality are rioting as well in the fight for change and equality.

America’s elected leaders are failing our country. President Trump’s love for Twitter outweighs his support for the people he is supposed to protect. He is failing democracy. Why hasn’t he tweeted “Black Lives Matter” or something that’ll help the cause, instead of calling on the military to “dominate the streets”? America is on its knees, pleading for help and change, but he is not willing to help. He ignores our calls for help. He ignores the American people. Instead of bringing change, he hides in the White House. The only way America can recover from this with change and progress is with a suitable leader. Donald Trump is not that leader.

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” —Martin Luther King Jr.

Racism has and will always exist. It exists everywhere. It exists in schools, politics, sports, etc. It’s inevitable that a single person or group will disapprove of people of color. There will always be ignorant people who teach the ignorant idea that one race is superior. There is only one race: the human race. America is burning because we need to acknowledge this. For thousands of years, people of color have been seen as the minority. Why should we even label people as minority? As a Dominican Republican and Cuban, why should I consider myself a minority? Why should my friends of color be considered a minority? A cry for help has been echoing for years, but it’s been ignored. The revolution has commenced and it is now time to take action. In order to bring about change to end racism and police brutality, all Americans must stand together, united. No one can stay silent! See, the problem with America is that most people don’t understand. They don’t understand the war that people of color must fight every single day. They don’t understand the struggle that people of color have had to face for countless years. They don’t understand that Colin Kaepernick didn’t kneel to disrespect the flag. He took a knee to send a message that police brutality must end and that social injustice must be stopped.

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” —Desmond Tutu

The lives lost because of racism should not be in vain. Use your platform to spark change. Create uncomfortable conversations with family and friends. Educate yourself and others about what’s going on and what you can do to help. Take a knee during the anthem. You’re not disrespecting the flag, you’re just bringing awareness to an issue. All lives don’t matter if black lives don’t. **Black Lives Matter!** R.I.P George Floyd. R.I.P to all those who have perished because of racism, police brutality, and injustice. **God Bless!**

Fire and Fury: Armed Teachers?

Opinion by
Sebastian
Germosen '20

Should teachers be armed with weapons? This is the question President Trump has sparked controversy about ever since the Parkland, Florida shooting. The shooting that left 17 dead has left Americans grieving and wondering why an act like that was committed.

The weekend following the shooting, Americans protested the NRA, lawmakers, and Trump, as they begged for changes in gun laws to avoid more school shootings and gun violence. People have heavily criticized the NRA for their lack of involvement or “engagement” in the conversation about changing gun laws, but President Trump has responded with his own idea of arming teachers with weapons in schools as a solution to prevent school shootings. As you might expect, the majority of Americans have expressed their anger and confusion as to why the President would make such an outlandish remark to try to fix the real problem with America. That problem is that our lawmakers and politicians are unwilling to make a change for the greater good of our country, as they continue to ignore the opinions of the majority of Americans and desire for change.

To make progress on Americans’ desire for changes in gun laws, CNN hosted a town hall which would become a historic exchange between survivors of a horrific school shooting and America’s elected leaders. Students, parents, and faculty of Marjory Stoneman Douglas attended this event, as they questioned the leaders and told them that change must happen. Those leaders included Florida’s two US senators, Republican Marco Rubio, Democrat Bill Nelson, Congressman Ted Deutch, road County Sheriff Scott Israel and a spokesperson for the NRA. Before the event begins, it was announced that President Trump declined to attend the event in person or from the White House. Many believed this showed an unqualified President showing his carelessness for his own people and another problem that America faces, which is a President with no intention of making anything “great again.” To begin the Town Hall, Ted Deutch stated

that it is too late for talks of getting weapons of war out of communities and also told Senator Nelson that “the folks in our community don’t want words, they don’t want thoughts and prayers, they want action and we owe it to them.” The evening would continue with questions surrounding the topic of gun policy, thoughts and prayers for those who were killed, and a group of politicians who promise to try to make change happen, but they probably won’t. In relation to the debacle of arming teachers, I recently interviewed Br. Patrick McNamara, the US Provincial of the Marist Brothers, who is serving his 3rd non-consecutive term in that position. He recently made a tweet, expressing his disapproval of the idea of giving teachers a weapon in schools. He stated, “Give teachers guns? Really? Now that’s not compassionate listening. No guns for Marist teachers in our schools. Not now not ever!!!!” I asked him a few questions regarding his tweet, President Trump, and his beliefs on a new gun policy. My first question pertained to Trump’s presidency so far. He stated, “In his first year, the President seems to maintain a very chaotic office and often has not addressed and been sensitive to issues that are Catholic centered. So, I’m feeling disappointed.” His response raises a valid point about our President, due to his decisions on not focusing on religious or domestic problems, but only on economic problems.

When asked why he made the tweet, Br. Patrick stated, “When I watched the ‘listening session’ of the President with the students from Parkland, I was stunned that his first response was about arming teachers. Immediately, I tweeted to my Marist family and friends. I was stunned with the raw emotions those parents and students shared with the President, and truly, they only wanted to be listened to, he could only respond with guns. He had no real feeling about the pain these folks, and

the nation is enduring about gun violence.”

I think many Americans, not all, would agree with Br. Patrick and were thinking the same thing when they saw the President talking and “listening” to the Parkland survivors. It was an utter disgrace that instead of introducing a solution for school safety and a plan to prevent school shootings, President Trump can only think of giving teachers what has caused this problem.

Due to his position as US Provincial, my third question asked him if sees any changes in gun policy taking place in the near future. He stated, “A State Representative from our Marist school in Florida called me to assure me that their Governor was interested in changing gun laws especially in concern to greater school safety. I hope so. As a result of all that has happened in our nation, I support competent, trained, professional security personnel at our schools to protect our students.

However, I do not support arming teachers, staff, administrators. As professionals, their job is to educate and care for students.”

When asked if he would ever change his decision of arming teachers due to any circumstances, such as a law making it mandatory, he was firm in saying: “I do not believe a law will ever be passed that schools must arm teachers. I repeat, no guns for Marist teachers in our schools.” With his responses, Br. Patrick has given me insight into what the future holds for us: hope that local politicians can step up and fix the problem Americans are facing that the White House can’t, which is making change happen.

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The Storm: Eminem, Trump, and Politics

by Sebastian Germosen '20

There is no doubt that the Trump Presidency has caused a lot of controversy across the US, as people have shown approval and support of his actions, while others have shown disapproval and hatred for his choice of words regarding problems, issues, or events that have occurred recently. Ever since Trump has taken office as President of the United States, he hasn't fared well with the public, including athletes, celebrities, and other world leaders. He has ignited a "feud" against North Korea leader, Kim Jong Un, voiced his disapproval of the NFL protests during the national anthem, he has caused the White House to become a dysfunctional environment filled with people opposing their own leader, and is now the victim of a hip-hop onslaught.

President Trump's conflicts and troublesome actions have caused a rift with foreign countries, such as North Korea. North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, has threatened the US with nuclear war for years, but tensions have risen ever since Trump has taken office. As both men have criticized the other about being a madman, "nuclear war maniac," or a deranged leader, banter between both men has become extremely hostile. Trump's banter against the North Korean leader has included calling him "Rocket Man" and vowing to "totally destroy North Korea" at the United Nations conference. In response to Trump's comments, Jong Un goes on to call Trump "mentally deranged," "a political layman," and "a political heretic." As Kim Jong Un's threats of nuclear war strengthen and worsen,

Trump and the White House have tried to "scare" North Korea and its leader, trying to ultimately prevent what could become World War II.

September 1, 2016. This is the day when Colin Kaepernick decided to take a knee during the National Anthem. His silent protest against the anthem was to show support for people of color who are being oppressed in the United States, and to take a stand against police brutality. It's an effort to use his voice and his position as a NFL player to cause change for the people who are suffering, and don't have the same ability to create significant change. A year later, it has grown into a national controversy across the US, as numerous people have shown support, while some have shown disapproval against these protests. One of those people who has shown disapproval of it is President Trump. The president has attacked NFL players protesting the anthem, telling his twitter followers to boycott the NFL. He has voiced his opinion to NFL team owners to fire players who kneel during the anthem, but his opinions have not been supported by most in the NFL organization. Trump's campaign and task to win over the public



and gain their support has become a troubled part of his presidency, as athletes and those who support the movement of protesting the National Anthem have shown complete opposition of our President.

"It's the calm before the Storm, right here." Legendary rapper Eminem released a four minute freestyle video, titled "The Storm," attacking President Trump at the BET Hip Hop Awards, where he questions the President's patriotism, criticizing his policies and ridiculing his campaign promises. "The Storm" mentions the topics of nuclear war, his golf trips, Colin Kaepernick and the NFL protests, and the wall. Eminem disowns his fans by stating in the freestyle, "And any fan of mine/who's a supporter of his/I'm drawing in the sand a line/ you're either for or against/and if you can't decide/who you like more and you're split/on who you should stand beside/I'll do it for you with this." He excoriates Mr. Trump for his responses to the recent violence in Charlottesville, Va., the devastation in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria and the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

With these problems and others that have caused separation of the people, debate about the methods of Trump's presidency, and questioning about our President's use of words and actions, many question if "Trump's presidency has transformed America or revealed it?" Celebrities, athletes, world leaders, and those who oppose Trump from within the White House, may put back the President's antics or cause them to fail.

The Stanner Brings the Heat at The Tablet HS Press Awards

by Sebastian Germosen '20

It was an eventful morning on May 4, 2018 as The Stanner swept this year's Tablet High School Press Awards by earning 10 awards out of 12 categories, including five first place awards and first place in General Excellence. A total of eight high school newspapers from around the Diocese competed with one another in order to earn a top spot in one of the 12 selected categories. The speaker at this year's awards was Paul Moses, author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. He gave advice to the young journalists that attended the event and gave his insight on what has been happening recently regarding politics and the state of where journalism is in this day and age. He emphasized the importance of journalism in the world today, even though certain people have been attacking the industry of journalism for quite some time. His advice to young journalists was, "The key ingredients of being a journalist are curiosity and wanting to write stories." When asked about how he feels about the recent attacks on journalists and news companies he stated, "There are a lot of misconceptions about journalists. Assaults on journalism mean that it matters and is relevant in society today." To finalize his presentation, he stated that he hopes journalism becomes "something that people will talk good about and not just ridicule." The Stanner coordinators

Mr. Sommo and Ms. Sawyer have led the school to dominance in these awards and there won't be an school stopping us! It was an honor working with them and our staff, as our hard work and dedication was shown through our winning ways.



Best Front Page, First Place: The Stanner
Best News Story, First Place: "Student Activism On The Rise" by Sarah Rodriguez and Diana Diaz
Best Feature Story, Third Place: "Could There Be Mandarin At Molloy?" by Juliana Giaccone
Best Op-Ed, First Place & Third Place: "Enough is Enough" by Lauren Klein, "Fire and Fury: Armed Teachers?" by Sebastian Germosen
Best Column, Third Place: "Senior Spotlight"
Best Sports Story, Second Place: "Stanners in the Hunt" by Peter Paolo
Best Personality Profile, Second Place: "Teacher's Spotlight: Mr. Kilkelly & Ms Pizzo!" by Linet Jacome, Sarah Rodriguez and Stephanie Nath
Best Photograph, First Place: "Faculty Takes The Win" by Guitry Germain
General Excellence, First Place: The Stanner

Death of Jamal Khashoggi Leaves Many Questions

by Sebastian Germosen '20

The death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi has been the most talked about topic in the news recently as his death has been questioned by many. Jamal Khashoggi was a Saudi Arabian journalist, author, and a former general manager and editor-in-chief of Al-Arab News Channel. He served as editor for the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Watan, transforming it into a platform for Saudi Arabian progressives and to give those oppressed in Saudi Arabia a voice against that oppression. He covered major stories including the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the rise of Osama Bin Laden for various Saudi news organizations. For decades, he was closely associated with the Saudi royal family and also served as an adviser to the government, but fell out of favor and went into self-imposed exile in the US last year. From there, he wrote a monthly column in the Washington Post in which he criticized the policies of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which some believed led to his inevitable death.

Khashoggi first visited the Saudi Arabia consulate in Istanbul to obtain a document certifying that he had divorced his ex-wife, so that he could marry his Turkish fiancée. He was told he would have to return and arranged to come back on October 2. Khashoggi's fiancée waited for more than 10 hours outside the consulate and returned the following morning when Khashoggi had still not reappeared. As his disappearance was reported and his body had not been recovered, people around the world believed that he had died inside that consulate. Security footage showed a man who looked like Khashoggi, with the same clothes and facial hair, exiting the consulate but would be proven as a body-double.

As the investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance progressed, President Trump demanded to know what happened in the death of Jamal Khashoggi, but also voiced a "protective view" of the U.S.-Saudi alliance, a perspective also expressed by two of his top aides. Many questioned Trump's view because of what had happened to Khashoggi, but

his view is realistic because of the United States' close relationship with Saudi Arabia. US lawmakers, including allies of President Trump, have called for the president to part ways with Saudi Arabia in the alliance, and for Saudi Arabia to be punished, but Trump and members of his administration continue to ally with Saudi Arabia due to the risk of jeopardizing billions of Saudi dollars flowing into the US economy via weapons purchases and investments. "Many Americans have found it unsettling to watch as the Trump administration allows Saudi Arabia — especially Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto leader, who likely ordered the hit — to sweep the affair under the rug."—Vox.

Turkey initiated its own investigation into the disappearance of Khashoggi and have discovered that Khashoggi was in fact killed in the consulate. As this investigation concluded and the world demanded answers, Saudi Arabia confirmed the death of Khashoggi but say that he died in a fight. Many believed this to be unlikely, but President Trump thought that this explanation was "credible." As the US intelligence agencies told Trump that this explanation was fabricated and not likely, Trump would add that Khashoggi's death is "unacceptable." Many thought if Khashoggi really did die in a fight, then where is the body, but Saudi Arabia failed to produce an answer. Many believed the murder was premeditated and ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman due to Khashoggi's history of criticizing the Saudi government and its policies.

On October 23, President Trump ramped up his rhetoric against Saudi Arabia over the death of Khashoggi, as the U.S. took its first steps to punish the kingdom over the incident that has triggered global outrage. Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump criticized the operation that led to the journalist's death as the "worst cover-up ever" and said whoever is responsible "should be in big trouble." This response of the situation contradicts his original statement of keeping the alliance with

Saudi Arabia, due to his intent of not jeopardizing the countries' relationship, but also suggests that he will punish those truly responsible. Then, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the U.S. is revoking visas for some Saudi officials allegedly responsible for Khashoggi's death. He said the U.S. is also weighing sanctions designed to target human-rights violators, a step that was requested by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "These penalties will not be the last word on this matter from the United States," said Pompeo. "We're making very clear that the United States does not tolerate this kind of ruthless action to silence Mr. Khashoggi, a journalist, through violence." These actions by United States' leaders could prove detrimental in the future due to our beneficial relationship with one Saudi Arabia.

As Khashoggi's death remains a mystery, the questions comes of what truly led to his death and who ordered it. Khashoggi's last column in the Washington Post was about freedom of expression in the Arab world, as he informs us about the things in the Arab world that need to be fixed and things that can improve in the future. He states the corruptness of the government and says what he feels about what's going on in the government.

Khashoggi's death also brings a question about the violence directed toward journalists. According to UNESCO, over 1,000 journalists have been killed since 2006 and the latest killing of Khashoggi has proven that violence occurring against journalists is one of the problems this world faces. Journalists have been "a part of the battlefield," but are now being specifically targeted with violence. Violence towards journalists has also been a major problem in the Middle East, as "the targeting of Palestinian journalists by Israeli forces continues unabated"—TheNewArab. As Khashoggi's death becomes revealed to the world, violence towards journalists will either face more scrutiny in the global community or worsen.

The Virus Heard Around the World

by Sebastian Germosen '20

Everyone has lived through something that drastically changed society and impacted their life. Students' parents lived through the terrorist attacks of 9/11, grandparents lived through the assassination of JFK and the Cold War, and some great-grandparents lived through World War II, etc. The younger generation, dubbed "Gen Z", is now living through something that has impacted all our lives.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused the world to freeze. Hundreds of thousands of people have died, 3.7 million people have been diagnosed, economies are crippled, entertainment and sports are postponed, and millions of people are quarantining and in lockdown. What some thought to be an irrelevant and non-dangerous illness, the coronavirus reportedly originated in Wuhan, China, a province where the eating of many animals is common. It was first detected in December and was treated as a normal flu and was ignored by some as a possible threat, even though it was never seen before in humans. This would prove to be a fatal mistake, as it has become a global pandemic with unforeseen consequences. It has spread all over the world, as over 180 countries have reported cases of it. While it has touched many countries, the virus has severely crippled the US.

The United States has reported more cases and deaths than China, the origin of the virus, and "the worst is yet to come." With more than 71,000 deaths and thousands more infected, the virus' impact on the US has reached every state, and the number of cases continues to grow. Citizens have been touched by its affects, as some have been infected, loved ones have been lost, or their daily lives have been dramatically altered. All sports leagues and events have been cancelled/postponed, quarantines and lockdowns have prevented people from leaving their homes, and social distancing has greatly limited gatherings of all sizes. High school and university campuses across the country have been closed as distance learning has become the primary method of learning for schools now. Nonessential businesses have closed,

while the US economy has capsized and is plunging into uncharted territory. Millions of Americans have filed for unemployment and that number will become even greater as we slowly creep closer to numbers seen during the Great Depression.

As the effects of the virus have been seen throughout the country, New York State has been hit the hardest. With over 321,000 confirmed cases and more than 25,000 deaths, New York has experienced hell in the past two months. Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill De Blasio have spoken in press conferences daily, updating New Yorkers with new information and shedding light on the situation. Hospitals were at first "overwhelmed" with the number of people infected with the virus, as medical supplies became scarce and nurses and doctors have worked tirelessly while risking their lives to save those inflicted with the virus. According to Governor Cuomo, the "apex has been reached" in New York State, but efforts to fight the virus must continue.

Since the virus has become an epidemic in the US, the federal government and President Trump have been involved in trying to combat the virus. President Trump, with the help of Congress, passed a \$2 trillion stimulus bill in order to initiate spending on medical supplies, such as ventilators, masks, etc. The country is split on their opinion of how President Trump has handled the situation, as he continuously tries to give Americans a glimmer of hope. Previously, he stated that he'd want the country back to normal by Easter Sunday, but he eventually adhered to the CDC and decided that he would aim for April 30th. Scientists said that was not achievable and this will linger into the summer. Experimental treatments have since become a development and could help in stopping the spread of the virus. Governor Cuomo later pushed NY Pause to at least May 15th.

As we continue to fight this virus, united as a country, we pray for those who have passed, the people who have lost loved ones, and those who are fighting on the front lines of this pandemic.

Strike Two: Thoughts on Impeachment Trial

Op-Ed by Sebastian Germosen '20

Weeks ago the world awaited the fate of Donald Trump and his presidency. The impeachment trial began because Democrats had accused President Trump of seeking help from Ukraine's government to help himself get re-elected this November and "obstructing Congress." These accusations were met with support and criticism, as Democrats advocated for the impeachment of Trump and the President rebuked these accusations by expressing his anger toward Democrats in his tweets. In the days following the beginning of the president's impeachment trial, not much was uncovered regarding the situation between Trump and Ukraine. On the first day, ferocious debate unfolded as Republicans rejected the Democrats attempt to bring in new witnesses and documents that would potentially quicken the process of impeaching President Trump. In an attempt to prevent Democrats gaining ground in the process, numerous amendments were rejected, including subpoenas for documents from the White House, a subpoena for Mick Mulvaney, acting chief of staff, etc. In the following days, new evidence

was presented to build the case against President Trump, but Republicans continued to refute everything that the Democrats said or presented to Congress. Adam Schiff, a key player in the effort to impeach President Trump, was the most criticized person in the whole process, as he was comedically ridiculed. Many, especially Republicans, have continuously exposed Schiff's "lying" and his "outrageous" claims and President Trump's rapid tweeting throughout the process was seen as his defense of himself.

It is over! The impeachment trial of President Trump ended after months of investigations, angry rants, etc. The president was found not guilty on the charges of "abuse of power" and "obstruction of Congress." Though Trump was impeached, he was not convicted of these charges, which wasn't that much of a surprise. The Democrats once again suffered defeat in their attempts to remove President Trump from office, as they failed to find a connection between Russia and the 2016 election in the Mueller investigation, and now, the impeachment

trial. They have become so frustrated with the thought of President Trump remaining in office, that Nancy Pelosi demonstrated this frustration by ripping up Trump's State of the Union speech. Democrats are trying so hard to find any way to remove President Trump right now, because they possibly know that his re-election is inevitable. At least that is what many believe.

No matter how much criticism or loathing he receives, Trump's re-election feels like it can't be stopped. Perhaps, the Democrats don't believe in their candidates that hope to topple Trump? The likeliest of heroes for the Democrats, former Vice President Joe Biden, doesn't look like that hero after the results of the New Hampshire Democratic primary were recently revealed. Maybe Bernie Sanders or Mayor Pete are the Democrats "savior."

With the impeachment trial over and President Trump still in office, the people continue to watch and wait to see what is going to happen next.

The Democrats Go Hunting

Political Op-Ed
by Sebastian Germosen '20

It's that time of year again. That time of year when everyone comes up with an attempt to once again thwart Trump's presidency. Those attempts always fail. The Trump presidency has fallen prey to another scandal, which has become a recurring theme for the presidency. The scandal involves Trump's communications with Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelensky, since it seems like it's never good for a Republican, especially Trump, to communicate with another country's leader.

Trump has early history with the Ukrainian government, since he accused them of assisting Hillary Clinton in her presidential campaign and taking bribes from Joe Biden. The "witch hunt" of Russia and Trump in the 2016 election allowed the Democrats to cover up this new witch hunt? Nice. These communications between Trump and Ukraine were never brought into light, as the US and Ukraine are allies and nothing major was considered to be "scandalous" during that time. But now, people have blown the whistle and everyone in the White House is panicking, as they expectedly call for the impeachment of Trump. The complaints of the whistleblowers surface, in which they say that Trump is soliciting interference from Ukraine in the 2020 election and producing dirt on Joe Biden.

Shortly after this surfaced, the savior of the Democrats, Nancy Pelosi, called for an impeachment inquiry. I credit Pelosi and the Democrats for not giving

up on trying to get Trump impeached, but why would they rather have Pence as president? That should scare them more than a re-election of President Trump. Recently, the transcripts of the testimony by Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and Micheal McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, were released and supposedly "highlight the 'contamination' of American foreign policy by allies of the president." Yovanovitch accuses Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York and now an attorney to Trump, of trying to get her replaced as he and former Ukrainian prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko "had plans to do things." As Pelosi and Democrats attempt to impeach Trump once again, the inquiry is yet to be resolved as more testimonies occur.

In the aftermath of the Mueller investigation and the cultivation of this impeachment inquiry, the Trump presidency has been the target of "bullying". There's no way a president should have to be going through this much controversy and scandals just because people don't like him. It's obvious Democrats and others have disliked Trump since he began running for president, and they've shown this "Presidential Bullying" by consistently twisting his words, criticizing his policies, and forcing him into situations that he probably shouldn't be in. I agree with the notion that President Trump has said things that sound a little insane, but his presidency hasn't

been the worst thing in the world.

He's been beneficial to the country, he has acted on his words and promises, and he's done the best he can while undergoing a total war that the Democrats have declared on him. The Democrats are trying too hard on impeaching Trump because they know Biden, Sanders, or Warren would easily defeat Pence. This 2020 Democratic race has been what most expected it to be; Candidates badgering at each other about which policies are best and criticizing President Trump. Joe Biden has the best chance to defeat Trump, because of his vice presidency with Obama, as he gained popularity with that position. Bernie Sanders most likely has the second best chance. He babbles about free college and legalizing marijuana, but his policies create a divide among some Americans. Elizabeth Warren, another notable candidate, is has similar views as Sanders. Mayor Pete, Kamala Harris, Tulsi Gabbard, Cory Booker, etc present challenges, but have no real chance in competing against Trump and formed New York mayor Michael Bloomberg is possibly joining the race as well. I have no comment on this decision.

As yet another possible "witch hunt" gains steam and the Democratic candidates badger each other, Donald Trump is still in Washington D.C.

“Let’s Get Ready to Rumble!”

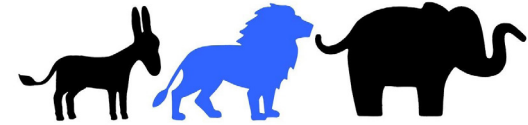
by Sebastian Germosen ‘20

As the year 2019 rolls on and our third government shutdown under President Trump proves to be the longest ever, we have already had news about Democratic candidates that plan to overthrow Trump in the 2020 election. Trump’s presidency has been criticized by numerous politicians and many of them plan to end what many have dubbed the “worst presidency ever” through an election defeat or impeachment. Some of these potential candidates include former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, California Senator Kamala Harris, former San Antonio mayor Julian Castro, Maryland Representative John Delaney, etc. They all have been outspoken about their disapproval of Trump and their plans to get rid of him.

These potential candidates have gained a lot of attention due to the lack of support that President Trump receives and have already organized rallies and their staff members in preparation for the election. Each of these candidates have been somewhat controversial as they have said or done something that has caught the attention of the media. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren has been the most outspoken and controversial of all the candidates. due to her claim of being a “person of color.” This controversy began when Warren listed herself as Native American in

staff directories, and was worsened when President Trump mocked her by calling her “Pocahontas.” Warren decided to take a DNA test to clarify her claim. The test results say Warren had a Native American ancestor dating back to six to ten generations. Many questioned if she truly is Native American, while some ignored it. Warren has already started to target states that have shown disapproval towards Trump, such as the state of Iowa. She has already declared her entry into the election, with a somewhat “controversial, awkward” video to announce it. Other strong candidates include former Vice President Joe Biden, who some say is the best hope for Democrats. Coming from a very celebrated and supported presidency under Obama, many believe Biden does potentially have the best chance. Many also believe California Senator Kamala Harris also has a chance to “dethrone” Trump due to her many criticisms of his presidency. She has recently stated that the U.S. is “absolutely ready” for a woman of color to be elected President and has announced that she will run for President. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has also announced her entry, but could find some opposition due to her “diss” of Bill Clinton and her call for popular Senator Al Franken to resign. All of these candidates have sparked interest in trying to take away the presidency from Trump and some may have a chance in doing so.

Politics



“Kiss of Death” for the Middle East

by Sebastian Germosen '20

“Jerusalem is a festival and a lamentation. Its song is a sigh across the ages, a delicate, robust, mournful psalm at the great junction of spiritual cultures.” (David K. Shipler) Jerusalem has been one of the most conflicted lands in the world, as both Israelis and Palestinians have fought countless wars over its control. Ever since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and previous conflicts, Jerusalem was only considered a battleground between armies and religions of two different peoples. Numerous attempts to stop the conflicts and establish peace have been missteps in how the world can resolve a historical battle, such as a 1980 law that unsuccessfully declared Jerusalem to be recognized Israel’s “undivided” capital. Ever since this law was passed, but failed to work, no one expected any US President to be able to recognize Israel as its capital, until now. On December 6, 2017, President Trump made a decision that will affect the world and change people’s perspectives on foreign affairs. He had declared that the US will recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and he will move the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. The US has been a primary mediator between Israelis and Palestinians, but it now takes a controversial step towards what the President calls “a recognition of reality.” During his speech, Trump said his decision is “a new approach to peace between Israelis and Palestinians” and says “that past Presidents have failed to do what he has done today.”

Trump’s decision has received massive backlash, as numerous countries and world leaders have expressed disapproval and “vengeance” towards

Trump. Protests erupted around the world, as civilians in Pakistan, Lebanon, Indonesia, Arab nations and Palestinians have committed violent acts to express their disgust of Trump’s decision, while Germany, France, and North Korea have criticized Trump. According to The New York Times, terrorist organizations, such as the Taliban, Hamas, and Shia have vowed bloodshed, while ISIS has criticized those organizations. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who says that Trump’s actions were a “slap in the face” to Palestinians have disagreed with Trump’s statements, saying it is “a step towards catastrophic results.” Saeb Erekat, the general secretary of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, stated that the move would “promote international anarchy and disrespect for global institutions and law.” Along with numerous foreign disapprovals, domestic outrage has also been shown as the UN voted overwhelmingly to condemn Trump’s decision. Nikki Haley, US ambassador to the UN, threatened to stop funding the world body if Trump’s decision was condemned. During a Christmas Day speech, Pope Francis rebuked Trump’s decision, calling for a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Weeks after Trump’s decision, Pope Francis criticized the decision stating that Jerusalem is sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims and called for its identity to remain unchanged. In addition to these massive protests and criticisms to Trump’s decision, there are some who believe that this is a very smart and “presidential move.” Israeli

President Reuven Rivlin called Trump’s decision “a landmark in the recognition of the right of the Jewish people to our land, and a milestone on our road to peace—peace for all residents of Jerusalem, and the whole region.” Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and Togo also supported Trump’s decision, as the US has provided great resources for these countries.

Many have dubbed this event the “Kiss of Death,” due to its effect in the two-state solution of finding a negotiable peace coexistence between the two states. Many have questioned why the US President would make such a controversial decision that will affect the conflicts between Palestinians and Israelis and how it will ultimately end the peace process instead of achieving it. As the new year goes on, many will have doubts about this decision and how the world will look at it, but for now, peace in the Middle East has not been sustained. 2017 was a year of controversy in politics, that defined what type of nation we are and how the remainder of Trump’s presidency can greatly effect the world as we know it.

As the struggle for peace continues in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians, many wonder: Will peace ultimately be achieved or will violence, wars, and bloodshed wreck havoc in the Middle East forever? And what role will President Trump play in the peace process and can he become the President that finally ends one of the most antagonistic conflicts in world history?

Thoughts On Coronavirus & The Class Of 2020

by Sebastian Germosen '20

The Class of 2020. This senior class has witnessed the most improbable, life-changing event to happen in their school careers and daily lives. The coronavirus pandemic has affected the world in numerous, immeasurable ways and has changed life as we know it.

We may not be able to shake hands, attend concerts, or go see our favorite sports teams play for a long time. Countries have been decimated, economies are crippled, and society has become “apocalyptic”. In promoting social distancing, nonessential business are closed, many people must stay home quarantined, and people are forced to wear masks and gloves just to be able to go out and take a walk. The modern world has never seen anything like this pandemic and the people living through it will never forget it, especially the Class of 2020.

Molloy is a second home to many students, faculty, and alumni. It is a place that some may say was where they found themselves and discovered who they are. A place where we can come together, celebrate, and become a community. Many have found their best friends, talents, best moments, worst moments, and relationships at Molloy. We have formed bonds with teachers that we'll remember for the rest of our lives, we've accomplished things that will define us, and we've done things that we regret doing, like throw food during lunch or forget to wear our ID card around Ms. Edelman. As seniors we also celebrate what we have done in four years at Molloy, together. Unfortunately, the coronavirus has put a pause on that celebration. The Class of 2020 has experienced something that they have never experienced before.

On March 12th, Principal Penikas announced we would be dismissed at 1:25. Cheers were heard, and excitement developed. I left Calculus class and went to

my locker. As I went to my locker, students were ecstatic and joyful about being dismissed early. I was disappointed that kids were happy about leaving school, as we were on the brink of a pandemic. An idea about school being closed for the rest of the year was joked about, but it felt real the moment I walked out the school door. The Class of 2020 was already impacted by the virus since the Senior Disney Trip was cancelled that morning. I wasn't going on the trip, but I felt bad for my classmates who were supposed to go. I saw the sadness that came upon their faces when they returned from the meeting about its cancellation. It's that same sadness I saw when I saw friends in the halls when school was dismissed. We all knew we probably wouldn't step foot in Molloy again. We knew our Senior year was being taken away from us.

Since that day, we've had to adjust our lives. We've had to attend Zoom classes and take Edmodo quizzes and tests. We've had to virtually talk to friends and family and wear masks and gloves outside. During this time, we are supposed to celebrate with our families, our hard work and our achievements. We look back on the stress we experienced in applying for colleges and the anxiety we had in looking at acceptance letters. With the mandated quarantine in New York being extended to May 15th and possibly later than that, we have to continue to hold hope. I am honored and proud to call myself a Stanner and blessed to have been a part of the Class of 2020.

He had a headache for three days and didn't feel like eating anything. He went to the hospital, tested positive for the virus, and was sent back home. Everyone was confused because me, my mom, and my brother were perfectly fine, but my dad was the one that the virus got to. When he came back home from the hospital, he struggled to get out of bed, he couldn't breathe, and grew weak as he failed to eat anything. My family was scared and couldn't decide whether to take my dad back to the hospital. After three days, my dad would go back to the hospital and “couldn't walk straight on his own and needed help.” My mom was scared, refusing to leave

her husband alone, but she had to. I was frightened that my dad wouldn't survive, and I grew anxious, but I felt I had to stay strong for my brother. Seeing and reading how many people have died made me more scared, but the only thing I could do was pray. Having to talk with my dad through the phone and him not being able to even talk that much was hard to experience. It was my birthday the Friday of the week he tested positive, and he couldn't celebrate my 18th birthday with me. His doctor at the hospital said he was suffering from a lung infection and I realized that this virus was not “some type of flu,” but it was capable of taking my dad away from me. My dad would stay in the hospital for a couple of more days and started to feel better. Thankfully, my dad has returned home and has recovered.

Since quarantine began, life has been different. With no sports, TV is so boring, I've had to “homeschool” my 5-year-old brother, and I am now the best teacher ever. I taught him how to play MLB The Show 20, which is a baseball video game. On certain days, if it's nice out, we'll go outside to practice baseball. I've had to take online classes, which is fine, I guess. I've watched Netflix and Disney Plus more than I usually do, and *Tiger King* is overrated. I've worked out every day, done chores, kept up with schoolwork, and have had to sign my mom into Zoom everyday for her gym workouts and my brother for his karate lessons. This whole quarantine has felt like a long spring break that will never end. This summer will probably consist of more quarantine. Sports will take a while to begin, and who knows what happens with colleges next fall. The future looks dull and this summer is going to be a bummer, but we should all have hope that normalcy is found one way or another. Hope is what brings people together and is what leads to success in what we try to achieve, and hope is something that we should all have right now.

If school is closed for the rest of the year, then I'll see everyone at the reunion. Stay safe everyone, God bless, and go Stanners!

