



The News

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Gilman School

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Polls Show Evolving Attitudes at Gilman Towards Homosexuality

With a potential expulsion of ROTC from Gilman's campus being debated by the faculty while students vie for roles in Bryn Mawr's production of *The Laramie Project*, the sometimes awkward issue of sexual orientation has been increasingly visible of late. Last week, in form meetings, the Gilman Upper School filled out polls prepared by the staff of the *News* to gauge student opinion on the issue of homosexuality.

Only 29% of those polled considered homosexuality always or almost always wrong, while 46% thought that homosexual relations were not wrong at all. 58% of those polled identified themselves as knowing a homosexual person; among this group, only 24% considered homosexuality wrong, a trend suggesting that a lack of tolerance among some Gilman students may be linked to a simple lack of visibility.

Perhaps most strikingly, 52% of the school claimed that they heard negative language about homosexuals, including

derogatory comments and slang, "constantly." A further 44% heard such language often.

(364 students and several faculty members completed the poll – roughly 75% of the Upper School Community. Full results of the poll are available on the *Gilman News Online* website.)

Gilman prides itself on its diversity and, as the handbook says, expects its students "to respect other people as they are." This sentiment is also echoed in the mission statement, where it asserts that Gilman will "respect the dignity and rights of each individual." Mr. Schmick therefore says that if a homosexual student wants to "come out", it would be his sole decision, and the administration would not do anything to sway his choice. Such was the case three times in Gilman's history. One announced his orientation in a *Gilman News* article, another in his senior speech, and the

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John Allen '03 created this likeness of folk artist Harry Chapin for a benefit concert organized at Gilman by Mr. Christian. (Photo by Alex Forbes)

Musical Groups Brighten Gilman's Holiday Season

BY MATT YOUN AND JOHN DAVISSON

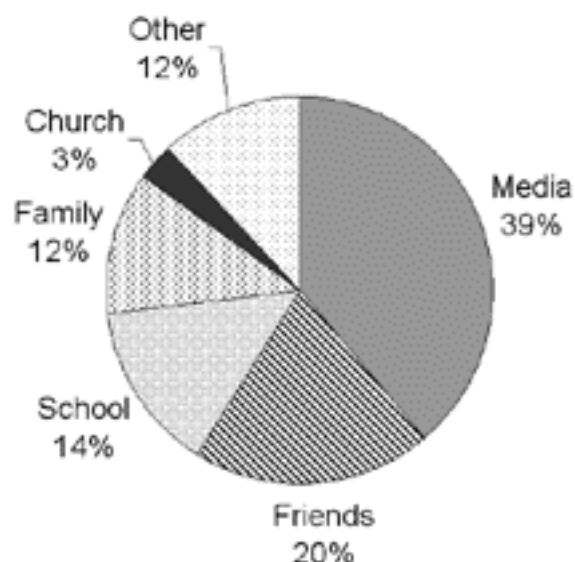
Gilman upheld its perennial holiday practice this December in a shower of musical performances. Following a new entry of Harry Chapin's music on the holiday scene, students from the tri-school area presented traditional holiday music in three separate concerts.

The season was kick-started on December 6 with the first of two Harry Chapin tributes. A Gilman/BMS/RPCS ensemble performed three of Chapin's

songs, ending with a theatrical staging of the fan-favorite "A Better Place to Be". They were joined on Saturday by local groups Terra Nova and Side by Side on what would have been Chapin's 60th birthday. Under the guidance of Mr. Daniel Christian, the event offered a refreshing edge to the holiday arts schedule. Helped by a strong Saturday turnout, the evening worked to increase awareness of Chapin's music,

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Where do you get most of your information about homosexuality?



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character, and humanitarian efforts. Proceeds were donated to The Harry Chapin Foundation and The Donald Bentley Food Pantry.

The following day, the Gilman Glee Club performed with Bryn Mawr's Dayseye and Camerata choruses in the Alumni Auditorium. Messrs. David Doherty and Greg Bullen of Bryn Mawr led the two schools in a strong showing despite their shortened preparation time.

"The point of the concerts is to further the relationship between Gilman and Bryn Mawr arts departments and to foster the spirits," said Doherty of the program. This was the second installment of the now annual tradition. The group performed Zulu and Israeli folk songs in addition to Jamie Apgar '05's original arrangement "Kyrie," the first movement of the "Missa Quarti Toni."

Apgar explained, "It's for four parts, soprano, alto, tenor, bass, and it's written in the sixteenth century Franco-Flemish Polyphonic Style."

The Traveling Men, a subset of the Glee Club, performed the numbers "Ave Maria", "On This Day", and their traditional parody of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Senior Tommy Mayer commented, "It seemed well attended. I thought we performed well, and it was good to work with the girls. Gilman gave a good setting." Their Gilman performance came amid a whirlwind concert tour, includ-

ing engagements at the American Can Company of Canton, the Roland Park Women's Club, a community center, and a local senior center. The group is currently slated to sing as part of Maryland Governor-Elect Robert Ehrlich's inauguration on January 15.

The Traveling Men have seen a significant spike in the number of concerts this year, owing to renewed organization and commitment. Under the leadership of seniors Tommy Mayer and Matt Morris, the ensemble has developed into what Mayer deemed, "The strongest group of T-Men we've seen in several years." While Mayer has been the vocal front man for most performances, he holds his co-leader in high regard, saying, "Matt Morris is an unsung leader who does a lot of work and takes very little credit."

The group has thrived similarly under the leadership Mr. Doherty, whom Morris hailed as, "an agent in helping us get performances and such."

The season was brought to a close during the final week before Winter recess with Gilman's Holiday Concert. On December 15, the Band, Jazz Band, and String Orchestra joined vocal groups in an afternoon performance. The Jazz Band returned to the event with the new leadership of Mr. Ken Ebo. In assembly on Thursday, the event was repeated for the Upper School student body, bringing an bright end to a high-paced holiday season.

Gilman Debate Team Confronts Iraq Question

BY ANDY PASTERNAK

In one of their debates this fall, the Gilman Debate Club reached the same conclusion as the rest of the Gilman student body. In one of the previous *News* issues, polls showed that students overall opposed a unilateral invasion of Iraq by the U.S. The senior debate team also raised the question of whether the United States should unilaterally invade Iraq and install a new government. As with the polls, the opposition won.

Each debate team consists of three speakers and an alternate. Jake Baker, Amol Narang, and Sounok Sen comprised the Areopagus team, which tried to defend Bush's unilateral proposal. The Pnyx team consisted of Steven Bressler, Alex Gold, and Tim Wilkins. Each of the team members spoke for five minutes, with the affirmative going first. After everybody had gone, each speaker had three minutes to make rebuttals, beginning with the negative. Steven Bressler and Sounok Sen debated most eloquently and shared the best speaker award.

"The primary reason the negative side won," says Tim Wilkins, one of the members of the Pnyx team, "was by showing that it was not right or beneficial to invade the nation of Iraq

with the intent of installing a new government without the approval of other nations."

The affirmative defended their case by pointing out Hussein's evil past and by implying what might happen if we do not attack Saddam first. In addition, they stressed the importance of the oil resources in Iraq and potential consequences in Israel if Iraq were left uninhibited. They also tried to show the corroboration between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, a connection President Bush is trying to make right now.

In response, the Pnyx team also pointed out the possible casualties and deaths that would result from a war, as well as showing how financially costly a war with Iraq could be. They argued that more attention is needed elsewhere, like in North Korea and in the United States itself. Establishing a democratic government Iraq would, ironically, not be democratic at all. Forcing the natives to accept a political system would be in violation of freedom. The U.S. is rather hoping to bolster freedom, the very core of democracy.

It seems Mr. Bush has many who oppose him.

LETTERS...

To the Editor...

Whenever an issue of the *Gilman News* is published, a little bit of talk and maybe some disagreement about some of the pieces and editorials is to be expected. I have never seen anything, however, that rivaled the livid discussion in the Senior Room of the editorial that called for the "euthanasia" of the Pep Rally. This traditional show of spirit has its roots throughout the school and we would be remiss to abandon it.

Although the author of that editorial made some good points about the implementation of the rally, we should not get rid of it completely until there is a compelling and permanent reason to do so. To say that the raiders' lack of contact is a problem is one thing; to stop all future pep rallies because of this is absurd. Mr. Finney's speech was long, but why shouldn't Gilman School promote one of its graduates when he becomes the governor of Maryland? It would be a mistake to ignore the role that Gilman played in his life. There is certainly room for improvement, and the junior class of this year should remember that if there is to be a strong Pep Rally next year, the leadership role falls to them, as does the blame if it fails.

As for the role that the Pep Rally plays in elevating school spirit, it is true that a rally a single day before a football game cannot create school spirit. Basically, football is the most convenient for the Pep Rally to support directly because of the rivalry that takes place the next day. If track has a decades-old rivalry they would like to publicize, I would support it with a rally. As was said, "spirit is spontaneous" and if you feel that this rally was an attempt to "turn on" school spirit where none existed before, I am sorry that you did not feel a "profound affection and pride for the community." before the Pep Rally. Maybe if one stops to consider some other events of the Pep Rally – the lower school cheer and Harry's "relief", for example - one will realize that not everything is as ridiculous as it seems. These spectacles actually add to the spirit and character of the Pep Rally. If anybody has become hardened and embittered towards this display of school spirit, I am truly sorry for you. Gilman is not a perfect place, so therefore we should not expect a perfect Pep Rally.

Long live this tradition.

-TR Jordan
12th Grade

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The Gilman News welcomes letters to the editor, columns, and artwork from Gilman students, teachers, faculty, alumni, and from the community-at-large. The News reserves the right to edit all articles for length and grammar. Send correspondence to:

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Acceptance of Homosexuality Varies Across Gilman Community

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last just told his friends. The faculty was very supportive of these boys' decisions and Mr. Schmick got the impression that the students understood as well. In fact, the only time students came to the administration upset about sexual verbal abuse was when straight kids were called "fag."

Gilman also permits students to bring same sex dates to prom, a decision that is approved of by a narrow 51% of the school. This has only occurred once and according to Mr. Schmick the student felt extremely uncomfortable.

Recently, the question of whether military recruiting should occur on campus brought the issue of homosexuality before the faculty. Certain teachers felt that ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Core) and other army affiliated programs should be banned from Gilman because of their "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which essentially forces gay members to remain silent or risk expulsion. Others, though, felt that these programs should be allowed regardless of the policy. Mr. Wolf commented on this issue by saying, "the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy and whether the military is allowed on campus are not necessarily connected. Therefore, the military should be permitted." Gilman's policy has not changed. Many agreed that the military offered the key benefit of further education, and students must decide for themselves whether they wish to attend. Mr. Schmick feels that this conclusion did not compromise the mission statement, "because it is the military, not Gilman, that discriminates against homosexuals. On a similar note, the Boy Scouts are still allowed on Gilman's campus since it is the national, and not the state, policy that rejects gay scout leaders.

Overall, Mr. Schmick thinks that Gilman has come a long way over the last thirty-five years in terms of homosexuality, transforming from a school that kept

everything quiet to one that accepts all choices. Yet, he is "not satisfied with the level of tolerance at Gilman, because kids can be very mean." Gilman being an all boy's school makes it more difficult for boys to come out and this is only exacerbated by the misinformation, stereotyping, and misunderstanding that exists among some students. "We can always be more tolerant," Mr. Schmick says, "but students have been working hard and acceptance has been getting better and better."

Meanwhile, at Bryn Mawr, the issue of acceptance of homosexuality is being directly confronted, on the stage. On the weekend of March 7, the play *The Laramie Project* will be performed by students from Gilman and Bryn Mawr. *The Laramie Project* was written based on a series of interviews about the real-life murder of Mathew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. In 1998, Shepard, a homosexual university student, was kidnapped by two men who beat him and left him tied to a fence for over eighteen hours. He later died in a hospital. In court, the two men confessed to having committed a hate crime.

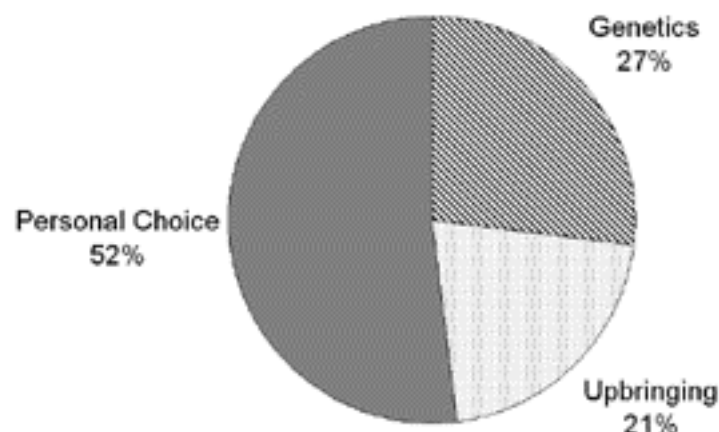
Mr. Shoemaker, director of the play, wanted to put on the play last year, but the producers were not ready to sell the amateur rights for the play. Mr. Shoemaker found the script to be quite powerful and was drawn to the multi-dimensionality of the play which many have compared to a mosaic. Mr. Shoemaker says that *The Laramie Project*, like the play *Our Town*, offers a tableau of a prototypical town with characters that are symbolic of larger entities. He notes that several other colleges have put on the play. NYU and the University of Maryland even made it mandatory reading for their incoming freshman classes, hoping to spark discussion. Mr. Shoemaker, however, is not trying to follow a trend but selecting what he considers to be a play very

well suited for a high school to put on. There is a large cast and a nice balance between male and female roles. Also, the play has important themes, such as tolerance and community, which will provoke "good" discussion and leave the audience considering these issues after the play is over.

Tolerance of homosexuality seems more prevalent at Bryn Mawr than at Gilman. An active Gay-Straight Alliance operates as a club, and the school even sent a delegation of two students and two faculty members to a conference

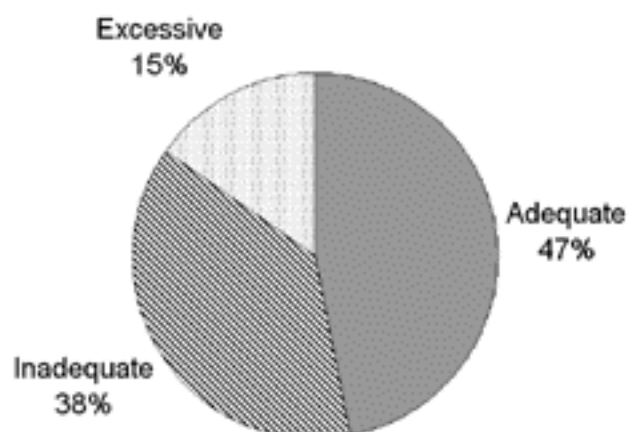
on sexual diversity in Los Angeles. Mr. Shoemaker, therefore, did not choose this play to effect change in the community but to offer a thought-provoking evening that is both funny and sad. He says, "Every good play is political, but I hope it will be more than that." Despite such controversial topics in the play, Mr. Shoemaker has not observed any opposition but rather found the community supportive. Auditions for the play began last week.

What do you think is the predominant factor in determining sexual orientation?



Peter Jarow, Tom Miller, Brian Sanders, Michael Siliciano and Josh Sweren collaborated on this Feature.

What do you think of the school's efforts to encourage acceptance of homosexuality?



Indoor Track Captains Ross Taylor and Tap Kolkin Have High Hopes

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ing that each runner puts into practice, the team is expecting to succeed in many of the six meets this year, three of which take place in Prince George's County and three at Loyola. Obviously, the team has quite a bit of talent and, from observing the amount of time and effort goes into practice, a great commitment to the team. Every day of the week, the team runs and exercises diligently, and Ross Taylor, Senior, exclaims that the team "has been practicing very well and shows great promise for the season."

In a recent telephone interview, Ross was very excited to get the season underway because he believed that the program would be successful. There was a great turnout this season, and the team is loaded with talent, especially in the basic mid-distance sprinting. With

sprinters such as Wooden, Taylor, Gayles, and many others, it seems that the 400 meter run will be the most successful of all. This is not to say that the long-distance program, led by Coach Jacobs, will not be successful.

The team is looking forward to a winning and triumphant season. There is a great abundance of interest and runners in the program, the long-distance program is in good hands, and the sprinting program is nothing short of excellent. Obviously, the team has the ability to turn this season into a revolutionary one. With all of these positives, Taylor, however, still would like to change one thing about the program. Many people do Indoor Track as preparation for the spring season - but this is a very credible program which is expecting good things in years to come.

Gilman Wrestling Heats Up

BY MAC WILLIAMS

Shoot....sprawl....reverse....pin. These are the sounds of the Gilman wrestling room. One might see this year's group of wrestlers jogging around the campus, lifting in the weight room, or working up a strong sweat on their mats. The amount of work the wrestlers are putting in this year has not gone unnoticed.

Gilman wrestling has started off on a good foot this year. Already winning .666 percent of their matches with a 4 – 2 record, Gilman has only suffered losses to Dulaney and Washingtonville. It must be noted also that both of these matches could have gone either way, and that Dulaney is ranked 15th in the area by The Baltimore Sun.

What then is the key to all this success? The wrestlers modestly point first to their new coach, Henry Franklin. Coach Franklin graduated from Gilman in the late 80s after wrestling four years on varsity, and then University of Pennsylvania recruited him. Nick Rogers '04 remarks that the coach, "knows a lot about the sport. He helps all of us to work harder, and he's an all-around great guy." To help the team, Coach

Franklin has brought in several of his old teammates from UPenn to help teach certain skills.

This year's team is an especially strong group who cannot be overlooked. Ben Dunning is the senior leader helped by fellow senior Lee Levitas. Juniors Anthony Simmons and Nick Rogers also play large roles on the team. The team also has strong underclassmen in sophomores Robert and Patrick Benitez, and Billy Knight. Both Patrick Benitez and Anthony Simmons hold high rankings in the state.

Wrestling can often be a thankless sport. The team members set up their own mats for home meets, have tournaments on weekends, far away matches, and they do not often draw in large crowds. This, however, does not faze this year's team. They approach their sport with a determined discipline. Those not playing a fall sport trained together during intramurals, and now they always practice until the late hours. It seems that all this hard work will pay off, and as Nick Rogers says, "an MIAA championship could be lingering in the future."



Will Bradley '04 of the Gilman Squash team goes for the ball. Last year's Gilman squash team was the best team in the Mid-Atlantic region. "We hope to achieve what last years team did with an even tougher schedule." Said Mr. Smith, the assistant coach of the team. Last year's team consisted of 15 players, but they could extend that number to 21 this year because they added more courts to Meadow Mill Athletic Club where the team practices. The team is a little younger this season taking 5 freshman with Peter Hawkins making the varsity team and the other four on junior varsity. The varsity team consists of 9 players with the senior leadership of Brett Luskin, Teddy Lewis, Brady McInnes and Jeremy Pollock. The junior varsity has 12 players and they are led by juniors Micah Fergenson and Charlie Brooks. Both the varsity and junior varsity teams are coached by Mr. Smith and Mr. Doherty. The squash team of 2002 hope to complete a very difficult task and that is have just as much success as last season's team. (Photo by Dan Latshaw, caption by Keith Blackman.)

Interview With Frank Deford, Sportswriter and Gilman Alumnus

BY SIMON LANDAU

Frank Deford is one of the most illustrious sports writers of this era. A Gilman graduate, Deford first broke into the media world as a part of *Sports Illustrated* in 1962. He was a vital contributor there until he left in 1989. He then became the head of a new sports magazine entitled *The National Sports Daily*. Unfortunately, the magazine did not meet much success, and shortly after its opening, the magazine went out of business. Throughout the years, Mr. Deford has been a commentator on National Public Radio and has been the author of a variety of books. Mr. Deford agreed to give the Gilman News some of his time to interview him via phone about his various experiences in the world of writing and the world of Gilman.

NEWS: What made you want to become a sports writer?

FRANK DEFORD: I didn't want to become a sports writer, I drifted into it. The best job I got out of college was Sports Illustrated so I took it. I always admired the writing in it.

NEWS: Did Gilman play a role in your development as an author?

FD: Absolutely, Gilman played a vital role in my development. I was encouraged by several teachers (example: Mr.

Downs, my advisor). I was the editor of the *Gilman News*, and *The Blue and Grey* (a former Gilman publication).

NEWS: What to you makes a great piece of writing?

FD: I think there are so many things that go into a piece of writing, but it can't be great unless it's original. The style and fashion of the writer have to be distinctive.

NEWS: *Sports Illustrated* is one of the leading sports magazines, what sets itself apart from the others?

FD: I think it has been the leading magazine in terms of significance, and how much money it brings in. I think the best thing of all is it has fabulous writing and photography. It covers sports in an excellent fashion.

NEWS: Over the years that you have been in the business, what has changed the most in the world of sports?

FD: Television, has changed sports more than anything else, it has brought so much money into sports, and it has also changed sports writing.

Special thanks to Mr. Deford for taking time out of his busy schedule to deal with The Gilman News.

Indoor Track's Season Holds Promise

BY REDMOND FARHA

As the new winter season takes shape, one team that Gilman students can expect great things out of is the Indoor Track team. Led by Mr. Jacobs, the head coach, and Mr. Broadus, the sprinting coach, this team of successful seniors and promising underclassmen looks forward to great achievements in both main categories, long distance running and sprinting. The latter of the two branches of this team is regarded as one of the best groups of runners to arise in recent years. Led by a certain Ambrose Wooden, who is widely known by many as the fastest high school student

in the MIAA, and Ross Taylor, a very gifted sprinter, the team is leaning on these Seniors to step up as their main threats. However, these two runners are just a smaller scale of the talent that the program has to offer. Besides Wooden and Taylor there are two Seniors who have high expectations- Tap Kolkin and Brannan Knott. Sophomore Justin Gayles is another standout in this group of talented runners.

With all of the talent that the program has to offer and the hard work and train-

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