

Letter from the Editors

Top prize surprises, brings gratitude

I always cry at weddings. Normally it is when the couple-to-be exchanges vows at the altar. But, at my cousin's wedding in Charleston, I was crying for a different reason.

Standing around a table with all of my relatives at the reception, I noticed a slight glow peeking out of my purse. I slyly peered into my bag because my mom gets mad whenever I am on my phone at a table.

One text popped up on my screen: "Sadly, no Pacemaker. Only Hockaday from Texas. BUT..." The message cut off.

"But, what!"

My thumb quickly swiped to

unlock my phone.

"BUT, you took first place BEST OF SHOW!!!!!"

Tears pooled in my eyes and a smile blossomed on my face. I couldn't believe it. I immediately excused myself from the table and called Layton.

-Meredith Hessel

My stomach dropped when I noticed four texts from Ms. Hall-Chiles and two missed calls from Meredith.

"What could have happened?"

I unlocked my phone and scrolled through the texts.

"The two of you have done

something no one who has ever gone to ESD has ever done. WOW. So honored to work with you."

My jaw dropped and my heart swelled. I called Meredith, and we couldn't stop talking about our incredible staff and paper.

And, it almost didn't happen.

On the final night of deadline of our Issue 2, we missed our 10 p.m. press submission. Multiple pages still hadn't been checked.

All I could think about was how we were going to be the first issue of Eagle Edition to fail to come out. Usually only editors-in-chiefs are the only ones working in the J-lab in the final hours of the last night, but there was no way Mer-



edith and I could finish all of the work that needed to be done early enough to get it to press.

I panicked.

We had told other staffers they could go home because they had completed their jobs. They were not obligated to stay, but as time ticked on, no one left.

-Layton Sussman

Words cannot describe how thankful we are for the v33 Eagle Edition staff. Without all of the hours in and out of the J-lab, we could've never achieved this feat together. Thanks for all the effort and care, staffers and readers.

Staff Stance

'Exclusive' partiers misunderstand admin's involvement in off-campus culture



Any time administration starts talking about "being more inclusive" or "treating everyone equally," students either tune out or freak out. Defensive questions run rampant—"Can the school control who we invite to a party?" "Can it tell us who we have to put in a group text?" "Is it watching every move we make when we're off campus?"

Ultimately, it boils down to a matter of privacy: should ESD be able to control our social lives?

If the question is that simple, then the answer is a clear "no," as most students would agree. What students do outside of school is their business unless it directly impacts the school or others in a negative way. It's a no brainer—so why are we asking the question?

It's time Upper School showed a little more trust

in administration to know where to draw the line between protecting reputations and reliving Orwell's 1984.

Even the most paranoid can take comfort that administration has no authority to determine who students invite to a party. Assistant Head of Upper School Jeff Laba says he only gets involved in private affairs if the issue jeopardizes the school's reputation or offends someone to the point that it affects performance in the classroom.

This policy makes the issue more about common sense than oppression. If someone posts a picture on Facebook dressed in an ESD sweatshirt with one hand holding a red solo cup and the other leading a freshman on a leash, a suspension is most likely on its way.

But if another turns uninvited guests away at his

door to keep a closed party from getting out of control, no problem.

School involvement is reserved for extreme cases only, and administration may not view cliques favorably, but won't impose consequences for hurting classmates' feelings.

Keep in mind, Laba isn't just prohibited from monitoring students' social lives—he doesn't really want to.

Imagine having to watch 400 cheesy '80s-style high school dramas on an endless loop for an entire school year to write demerits every time a student commits a social faux pas. If that doesn't sound like fun, then we have something in common with Laba and Upper School Head Donna Hull.

The question boils down to this: if the school won't punish students for petty or exclusionary acts, then why do students explode whenever school personnel comment on them?

Again, it comes down to trust. If a dean wants to discuss class unity or recent complaints of exclusion, the goal isn't to hand out suspensions or sanctions on social affairs; it's for the sake of talking through an issue—a teachable moment.

Administration shouldn't punish students for having friend groups that don't include the entire school—and it doesn't—but teachers are well within their rights to discuss an off-campus issue like exclusion.

The fact students are offended demonstrates distrust, a misunderstanding, ignorance of what school is all about. Administration is charged with keeping students safe and secure on campus—and sometimes that means emotionally.

So, a discussion on conduct and social skills warrants attention and feedback, not righteous indignation from paranoia.

Consider this: if we feel a very general critique might be directed at one of us, maybe we need to do some self examination.

On the edge | Should ESD be involved in students' social lives?

I think that the school should only get involved if the student allows for it or wants it. Otherwise, the school should stay out of personal business."

Rebecca Worsham
['16]

I think that the school should be involved only when the students are representing ESD, or when it involves the safety of a student."

Cade Gibson
['17]

I think the school should focus more on our lives at school and our education instead of being involved in our social lives."

Shelby Stansbury
['18]

I don't think the administration should be allowed to punish students for things off campus if they are not associated with the school."

Luke Logan
['19]