

Clapham

CHRONICLE

SPECIAL APPERANCES BY



EMILY WILLETT

REBECCA Z.



BURKE DOUD

Editor's Note

During the first few weeks of October, one of the topics that we spent a lot of time thinking about was how regularly we wanted to publish *Clapham Chronicle* issues. Many student-run publications at other schools oftentimes produce five, ten, fifteen issues a year, even up to once a week. Originally, we wanted to create content that could be stuffed into monthly publications. But when we looked at our resources and timeline, we made the conscious choice to value quality over quantity.

With a blend of old columns—interviews, TechTimes, opinion-editorials—and new advice sections, poetry selections, photography, and art spreads, we hope that this issue clearly reflects that value. Instead of just filling pages with whatever we could find, our team has spent time exploring new topics and mediums, brainstorming, editing, re-brainstorming, re-editing, and doing it all over again.

Although the *Clapham Chronicle* featured issues on a semesterly basis during the 2018-2019 school year, we hope to expand this in the future. So, as always, we are looking for new contributors in writing, design, and art. If you are interested in joining, please feel free to reach out to claphamchronicle@gmail.com or talk to Felicity or Calvin.

This summer, the *Clapham* will obviously be on hiatus, but we look forward to meeting new leaders, writers, and artists in the upcoming school year.

As for now, please enjoy everything that is to follow in these pages.

Calvin van Leeuwen
Felicity Wong
Clapham Chronicle Co-Editors-In-Chief

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Contributors (In Order of Appearance)

Calvin van Leeuwen
 Felicity Wong
 Tess Willett ('21)
 Joel Seidle
 Aaron Savoy
 David Dorini
 Cale Casey
 Andrew Madigan
 JB Vandervort
 Karis Lai ('22)
 Judah Harrigan

Team

Cale Casey ('19)
 David Dorini ('21)
 Judah Harrigan ('21)
 Andrew Madigan ('22)
 Vanessa Quijano ('21)
 Aaron Savoy ('19)
 Joel Seidle ('21)
 JB Vandervort ('21)
 Calvin van Leeuwen ('20), Co-Editor-in-Chief
 Felicity Wong ('20), Co-Editor-in-Chief



Tess Willett
Above: Cinderella
Right: Foggy Bottom



INTERVIEW - Alumni

Felicity Wong interviews a member/s of the Wilberforce community every issue. Send in your interviewee nominations to the Clapham box or to claphamchronicle@gmail.com!

Rebecca Zaynidinova - University of Pennsylvania '21

- Major: Communication, Minor: Fine Arts, Korean Language Certificate

Emily Willett - University of Georgia '23

- Major: Computer Science

Burke Doud - University of Kentucky '23

- Major: Mechanical Engineering
-

General Questions

What do you miss most about Wilberforce?

RZ: Always being able to connect to other students because we all take the same classes or have taken the same classes at some point.

EW: Crying in the bathroom. Just kidding, I miss the teachers.

BD: I miss the camaraderie among classmates and all four grades in the upper school. We had a very special group of people who were friendly with each other and always collaborating on some scheme or project.

What was your biggest regret in high school?

RZ: I wish I made more meaningful connections in high school, as in more *of* them. It's easy to take for granted that you're surrounded by people your age who you have a lot in common with (at least in terms of classes and daily commitments).

EW: Stressing about everything

BD: I regret not taking AP exams and using the accelerated curriculum at Wilberforce to make college easier. I also regret stressing so much about college essays and obsessing over a particular school.

What is something about college that you didn't realize until you were in college yourself?

RZ: College is hard. It seems obvious that it would be, but I always thought that once I got to college I'd be set. I didn't think I'd have to worry about grades and tests and essays, but I am.

Also, you don't really make friends with people in your classes, which is kind of strange. People usually become friends with people from extracurricular activities and people they live together with.

Are there any fun traditions at your school that you like or are a part of?

RZ: They throw toast onto Franklin Field after the third quarter of every home football game. But obviously I do not partake in such barbaric practices. I don't even like football.

Where do you see yourself in five or ten years?

RZ: Can we not? I literally don't even know what I did today.

EW: In five years I see myself with a diploma and a job, living in NYC, dancing, and saving up money to go back to school. In ten years, I want a family.

BD: After graduate school, I see myself as an engineering officer in the US Air Force, possibly in space operations or in developmental engineering.

What is the strangest class you have / who is the strangest teacher that you have?

RZ: Definitely the math class I took last semester. The professor impersonated polyhedrons (e.g. the Platonic Solids) He would demonstrate a conversation he might have with an tetrahedron about how many edges, faces, and vertices it had. I still have many questions about what happened in that class. Needless to say, I didn't go half of the time, but don't tell my mom.

EW: The strangest class I have is called Gyrokinesis, where we practice different breathing techniques while sitting up on the edge of a chair and waving our arms. The strangest teacher I have is Gregory Gonzales who looks like a skeleton. He teaches pilates and always makes really weird grunting noises when he demonstrates. He also makes really bad jokes and treats us like five year olds.

Bonus Questions

Which band/artist would you like to play at your funeral?

EW: ABBA

BD: Isaac Gracie

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

RZ: I wanted to work at a salon as a hair stylist/esthetician/aesthetician. I still want to be one. I don't know even know why I'm here at Penn.

EW: I wanted to be a news reporter or an astronaut.

BD: I wanted to be an economist when I grew up.

What celebrity, historical figure, or fictional character would you want to have dinner with?

EW: Dinner with Chris Pratt

BD: I would want to have dinner with Leonhard Euler to discuss his thoughts about mathematics, philosophy, and theology.

If you came back to teach at Wilberforce, which class would you teach?

RZ: Art

EW: Art

BD: I would teach Humane Letters 3.

What is something on your bucket list that you have yet to complete?

RZ: Let's go with the cliché one - travel. To Korea. If all goes well, I'll be there for a year from August 2019-August 2020 for a study abroad and then an internship. Y'all are invited. Come through. Visit. So I don't forget English.

EW: Skydiving

BD: I have yet to see one of my favorite artists in concert.

If you had \$2000, how would you double it in 24 hours?

RZ: Is this mockery that I didn't get into Wharton? I think it is.

EW: If I knew how, I would've been doubling my money every day.

Do you think the American Revolution was biblically justified?

EW: Yes

BD: I do not see a particular case made for or against the American Revolution in the scriptures. I believe that anti Royalist sentiments were riled up by a few vocal men and some grievances against the crown were blown out of proportion, but I am thankful for God allowing our nation to come into existence and to play the role it has taken in world history.

Yearning to Be Besot

Contain, repeat, stall from the depths of our sleep;
A cold sullen heartbeat stayed from its heat.
Watching, waiting, always falling to sleep;
For all those that can, they are called to heed.
A breath toward, a breath from, though we die;
The sun still arcs, and still, the moon will rise.
Time will seem slow in all of our mind's eyes;
For all time seems to be stopped, with a blink.
Confounded be this dark, and this night, oh hark!
Here the light now, arcs across twilit sky;
And it is hard for dark to leave my eyes,
But when it leaves, all I see is the day.
'Tis time for you to arrive back at home,
The place, where I will wait is gone from here.
All that is light has been beckoned from you.

Joel Seidle

OP-ED - Should Vaccines Be Mandatory?

David Dorini and Aaron Savoy engage in civil discourse by discussing a relevant current event in domestic or international affairs.

Aaron:

Imagine for a moment an American mother of strong Catholic faith who is preparing to send their child into kindergarten. Before doing so, she must have her child treated with a number of vaccines, including those for Chickenpox and Hepatitis B. (cite 1) These vaccines are made with cell lines derived from aborted human fetuses. (cite 2) The Catholic church officially forbids abortion, and though it permits use of these vaccines until an alternative is made available, the mother may well believe the moral and religious atrocity of abortion renders these vaccinations unacceptable. (cite 3) In four US states, this mother's religious objections would be completely ignored, and she would be forbidden from sending her child to any state school, private or public, until she accepted the vaccinations. (cite 4) This is a heinous violation of the right to freedom of religion.

I would like to begin by mentioning my complete support of vaccinations. The benefits of vaccinating any child who is medically receptive are astounding, both for the individual child and his or her peers. I also recognize that anti-vax movements pose a serious threat to public health. Not only are the children of these misguided parents at risk of easily avoidable diseases, but they also reduce the herd immunity that protects those who cannot receive vaccines. (cite 5) Despite this, I firmly hold that parents should not be obligated to vaccinate their children before sending them to school if they have serious religious convictions against vaccination.

The first ten amendments to the United States' Constitution, collectively called The Bill of Rights, establishes a legal basis for a number of natural human rights. This section was established to ensure that our government was expressly forbidden

from violating certain rights, and any time its provisions are overlooked, a precedent is established that weakens our protection against tyranny. The First Amendment within the Bill of Rights begins with "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". (cite 6) As the first right allotted to American citizens, any legitimate interpretation of the Constitution would hold that religious freedom cannot be violated. Though the definition of "free exercise" is debatable, this principle remains firmly as a basis for both our ancestors who journeyed to the New World, and the United States' Constitution. However, the Constitution is a "living" document that can be edited and corrected, and thus I will provide some amount of argument for the importance of religious freedom.

The importance of religious freedom can be discussed and upheld by the believer and the atheist alike. From a theistic perspective, created beings have an inherent obligation to work to understand and pursue their creator. This view was upheld by many of the founding fathers, especially James Madison. (cite 7) Because this is natural to all people, whether they observe the Creator properly or follow a flawed path, no earthly government has the right to restrict or direct the pursuit of the Creator. From an atheistic viewpoint, the religious institutions are tremendously useful to society. Religion provides a solid basis for morality, thus avoiding the eroding effect of moral relativism. (cite 8) Within respectful, inclusive societies, the Church can also give unity and encourage community service contributions. Nothing can drive a man to love his neighbors and perform charitable acts than the divine mandate to "love thy neighbour as thyself". (cite 9) And even an atheist will recognize that as long as vast portions of society

remain religious, the restriction of this freedom threatens to throw society into chaos.

These two forms of validation for religious freedom connect to the present issue of mandatory vaccination. From the theistic argument, if a citizen believes that vaccination is directly against the will of the divine creator, they should not be obligated to follow it. This outweighs the health-based arguments for mandatory vaccinations, because the government's obligations to its citizens hold no authority over divine obligation. This argument provides a blanket response to all the potential dangers of leaving children unvaccinated, but is useless in the American context. As our government is non-theocratic, it prioritizes the safety of its citizens over respecting threatening religious beliefs. The theistic argument that men have a right to pursue their creator is a solid foundation for constitutional religious protections, but it can not, and should not, excuse every action.

The atheistic reasoning for religious freedom has a slightly harder time responding to mandatory vaccinations, but it is the most important viewpoint for American policy. The atheistic arguments all point to what is most helpful to society, and universal vaccination is certainly very useful. However, the benefits of ensuring society is free are greater than those of ensuring it is as disease-resistant as possible. Religious freedom offers a society with strong moral values, a sense of community, and continued peace between the secular government and its religious citizens. Religious participation by the youth has been shown to reduce drug use and delinquency, while boosting school attendance and graduation rates. Adults who attend religious services

commit less crimes, and spend more of their income on charity. To quantify this information, the sociology professor Rodney Stark estimated in 2013 that the American economy benefits by around 2.6 trillion dollars annually thanks to the popularity of religion. (cite 10) These things are all necessary for society to be beneficial and productive, and without a functional society, the lives that vaccines aim to save will be rendered significantly more onerous. Additionally, as the vast majority of Americans have no religious complaints about vaccination, the herd immunity of American schools, though weakened for every unvaccinated member, is not seriously threatened by religious exemptions. (cite 5 again) Preservation of religious freedom is pursuant of a better society that continues to respect human freedoms.

I stand with the Catholic church's declaration that children should be vaccinated, even if the methods of creating said vaccines are religiously questionable. Immunization is incredibly useful to all of society. However, I believe that parents have a right to abstain from vaccines for religious reasons as an expression of their religious freedom, and that this right must be carefully protected. I believe that US citizens should not be obligated to vaccinate their children in order to participate in society if they express legitimate religious objection to vaccinations. As the First World becomes increasingly atheist and agnostic, as humanity wields ever-growing power over genetics and artificial intelligence, it is more important than ever to ensure that the right to religious freedom is consistently respected by our government.

David:

Measles. A terrible, highly contagious disease that results in a rash spreading throughout the entire body, high fever, and even death, particularly among young children. In the early 20th century, millions were infected each year in the United States. (cite 1) When the measles vaccine was made available to the public, and measles cases started to

plummet. After a targeted government campaign in 1891, measles cases dropped 80% in one year, and by 2000, measles was declared eliminated in the US. (cite 2) But recently measles has made a comeback. 2019 is already the worst year for measles since 2000 with dozens of outbreaks and hundreds of confirmed cases. (cite 3)

Most people attribute these outbreaks mainly to a steadily rising rate of medical vaccinations. In some schools, particularly private, non-medical exemptions to vaccines can reach as much as 35% of the population. (cite 4) These recent outbreaks bring to the forefront a controversial question. Should non-medical exemptions to vaccines be allowed? More specifically, should exemptions to vaccines for religious and philosophical reasons be allowed in the United States? The clear answer to this is a resounding no. Non-medical, primarily religious, exemptions constitute a unnecessary and dangerous risk to the public health and society as a whole, and religious and personal liberties should not and can not outweigh this.

The effectiveness of vaccines cannot be disputed. Many of the most deadly diseases in the US have been effectively eradicated because of widespread vaccine use from measles to paralyzing polio. Vaccines are safe, inexpensive, easy to use, and have an enormous benefit to society. The CDC estimates that vaccines given to children over the past 20 years will save an incredible 732,000 lives and save just over 1.3 trillion dollars in societal costs. (cite 5) But much of vaccines' sustained effectiveness comes from herd immunity. When a critical mass--usually around 90-95% of the population--is immunized, any outbreak of a disease is very unlikely to spread. Therefore, those who cannot be immunized are also protected from the disease. But when this critical mass is not reached, outbreaks can and will happen and those who suffer most are not those who chose to exempt themselves from vaccines, but those who could not immunize themselves. These include infants and adults with poor health, such as those undergoing chemotherapy. In an outbreak of measles in San Diego in 2008, 48 children had to be quarantined because they were too young to be vaccinated. This demonstrated to be a clear example of the dire consequences when the critical mass not reached. (cite 6)

Some view this question as a question only of religious liberty, as a question of whether this country will stand up for religious liberty or suppress it. This false dichotomy is a dangerously misleading view. I absolutely believe in the exercise of free religion in this country as it is one of its founding and most cherished principles. I absolutely believe in the right of parents to determine what is best for their children in matters of upbringing and schooling. But the exercise of free religion and particularly, the right of parents to choose what is best for their child, does not extend to endangering the lives of others in society. When a parent makes a conscious choice to opt their child out of vaccinations, they also make a choice to endanger every other child around them, and by extension of that, every other member of society.

I believe that we should stand up for the protection and safeguarding of society and for the protection of our most vulnerable and susceptible to disease: infants, children with diseases such as childhood leukemia, those suffering from AIDS/HIV, those who are too old, young, or weak to be immunized. I stand with the recent examples of California, Mississippi, and West Virginia, who stood up for the rights of these people, rejected social Darwinism, and banned all religious and philosophical exemptions to vaccines in a system that clearly works (cite 7): those states that have banned non-medical exemptions have a lower rate of vaccine-preventable disease than those that do not. (cite 8) At a time when almost all major religions support vaccination, at a time when our country is in the greatest state of prosperity and success known to humankind, the fact that religious exemptions to vaccines still exist is an absurd contradiction to every real American principle. We must love our neighbor. We must protect our neighbors especially when they are too weak to protect themselves. And we must ban all religious and philosophical exemptions to vaccines in the United States immediately.

Sources for Aaron's Article

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Summer Playlist

Cale Casey blesses us with his seasonal playlist: this strings together a variety of musicians and styles to put you in a ~summery~ mood.

1. *Haven't Had Enough* - Marianas Trench
2. *I Want It All* - COIN
3. *Shadow* - Bleachers
4. *Cosmic Love* - Florence + the Machine
5. *Good Times* - All Time Low
6. *Disappear Here* - Bad Suns
7. *Say My Name* - Destiny's Child
8. *Hazy Shade of Winter (feat. Ray Toro)* - Gerard Way
9. *Nine in the Afternoon* - Panic! At the Disco
10. *Heaven* - Amber Run

Birding: Spring Migration

As a birder, every month is full of excitement. Whether it's expanding the year list in January, picking apart sandpiper flocks in August, or chasing late rarities in November, each month brings out new and different aspects of birding. But easily the most exhilarating month of the year is May, the month regarded with eager anticipation in the weeks preceding. The reasons for this can be summarized in one word: migration.

While many different animals migrate, bird migration is unsurpassed in sheer numbers and visibility. Each spring and fall, an incredible six to nine billion birds migrate to and through the United States. An estimated two billion migrate over just the Gulf Coast each spring. While the spring and fall migrations are each special in their own way, the spring migration is unsurpassed by the fall migration in two respects: concentration and visibility. Fall migration is post-breeding, after birds have laid eggs and raised and fledged chicks. With less direction and purpose, it is a drawn-out affair lasting from late June to December. Although the birds are present in greater numbers compared to spring due to juvenile and immature birds, they are much harder to find hardly ever singing or chasing each other. If fall migration is a prolonged road trip, spring migration is a caffeine boosted all-nighter. During spring migration, the vast majority of the flight passes through from March to May. Birds, particularly males in perhaps the most widespread example of sexual dimorphism, don their brighter and louder breeding plumages, burst into full song, and attract mates while they fend off rival males. During spring migration, the bird's frantic energy to reach the breeding grounds is almost palpable. While fall migration is often subtle and under the radar, spring migration slaps you in the face every morning at the advent of the dawn chorus.

In the Northeast, the first three weeks of May are the pinnacle of the birding year. In just these three weeks, close to 300 species of birds can be seen in New Jersey alone. Of all of these bird species, one

family of birds, the wood-warblers, stands out among all the rest. Wood-warblers, or just warblers, are a large group of small, active, brightly colored, and very vocal songbirds. Thirty-five species of warblers can be seen in New Jersey alone during May as they flood every park and garden, woodlot and forest; as such, they are the emblem of spring migration. Male warblers stand out among all the other bird families in a stunning rainbow of colors: deep chestnuts, bright yellows, brilliant oranges, and vivid blues--each species warbling out its own distinct song all morning.

While I have had many mornings in which I've had a great warbler day seeing ten or even fifteen species, I had my best ever last Saturday. I was co-leading a Washington Crossing Audubon Society field trip at Princeton Institute Woods on warm and sunny spring morning. The morning had been a slower day, though not without a few highlights: a singing Tennessee Warbler, a pair of American Redstarts, and two Northern Parulas counter singing in the crisp morning air. Suddenly, as we were walking through the forest, we started to hear the background birdsong begin to rise in volume. We saw another Northern Parula singing, and then, a Magnolia Warbler flashing its bold black markings in the sunlight. We got even closer, turned a corner, and the flock was upon us. Warblers. Warblers behind us, in front of us, and even above us. Warblers in the treetops, warblers in the midstory, and warblers only heard out of sight through the dense foliage. And they were on display for all to see: Cape May Warbler, its red face and black-striped yellow belly gleaming in the sunlight; chestnut-sided Warbler, sporting its characteristic chestnut flank and singing its emphatic sweet song, *pleased pleased pleased to meetcha*; blue-winged Warbler with its bold black eye-line and bright bluish white wing bars flitting through the understory. And then we saw it. Directly above us high in the treetops was a truly stunning bird, a bay-breasted Warbler. An uncommon bird at best, the

Bay-breasted warbler sports a vivid bay colored chest and side stripe, a jet black face and forehead, and a cream colored belly and nape. The bird elicited a visible change in our group. Everyone shot their gaze up to directly above us, craning their heads backwards struggling to find the small bird. Audible gasps of shock and awe swept through the group. The inevitable cry of “where?” came from someone desperate to see the bird before it flew out of sight.

The bird provided spectacular looks for a minute or two even, chasing another male, before inevitably flying out of sight. My day ended with 18 species of warblers, my personal highest. Although it did not match the fabled 30-warbler day or a 20-warbler day, it was still a magnificent day--enough to carry me through the year until next May, when I will see these avian gems in full breeding plumage again.



Karis Lai



Karis Lai

Advice Column

Two anonymous members of our team answer your questions that you put into the Clapham box.

Q: How does one not procrastinate?

A2: Crack open a family size bag of Cheetos and there, problem solved

Q: How do I get a girlfriend?

A2: In order to get a girlfriend you must follow these 5 simple steps:

1) She needs to know that you notice her so stare deep into her eyes randomly and abruptly. Stare for no less than 3 seconds and no more than 12 seconds. After 12 it may become awkward unless you start winking. Don't wink for more than 30 seconds though, you may grow to develop eye problems.

2) Whenever she walks by you pretend to be a different animal and try that animal's mating call. I find that the Koala's call is very effective.

3) Fit at least 3 fishing analogies into every conversation with her. Example:

Her: Are you going to the party at Kenneth's house tomorrow?

You: I want to but I'm trying to "catch" a ride with someone.

Her: Oh, Who all are you asking?

You: I sent a message to the whole class. I'm trying to "cast a wide net"

Her: Oh well I hope you can make it.

You: Yeah, me too, it should be a "whale" of a time.

Her: alright see you there.

You: "sea" you there.

Sometimes you may need to lie to make a good pun but from my experience, I find girls prefer a good fishing pun to honesty any day.

4) Women want to know that you care about what they are saying. It makes them feel appreciated. So for whatever she says, repeat it back to her in a louder and more aggressive way.

5) It is important to show strength and power. Whenever she sees, you punch something or someone. This will show your power and strength.

Q: Who is the most sus in school?

A: Tough question because they're plenty of sus Wilberpeople, but I think Tade Farrell wins the prize.

A2: Tade

Q: Which House is the best?

A2:Time.com/money states that the most popular house in America is a craftsman style one. So if you are looking to invest buy a craftsman style house.

Q: Why is polygamy wrong?

A2 What does it mean to have true wealth? Wealth is more than just money but if you have many wives you will go broke trying to pay for all their stuff.

TECH TIME -Machine Self-Awareness

Judah Harrigan writes an article on a new and upcoming topic in the tech world.

Engineers at Columbia Engineering have created a prototype robot which may pave new roads in the area of machine learning.¹

The engineers subjected their robot to various assessments of physical ability and awareness. Within a testing time of approximately 35 hours,¹ they allowed the machine to attempt to grasp writing utensils and other objects, displaying tactile sensitivity. The machine eventually developed an elementary sense of self-awareness during assessments: when one of its components was replaced with a synthetically damaged piece, the machine became aware of its own limitation and altered its actions accordingly.

The results of these assessments show us a promising example of the advancements of robotics technology. As similar hardware advances technologically, the advantages that it provides could prove “ground-breaking” in the scientific community. A machine that could even *possibly* independently

surpass its own software limitations, would be an invaluable asset in nearly any field. The ability to learn independently means that we do not need to continuously feed the machine instructions; it can begin to create its own instructions.

Nonetheless, let us not steep these possibilities in sensationalism. As promising as Columbia Engineering’s prototype may be, speculations are only speculations. The creators of the machine must still resolve software limitations within the machine itself. A considerable complication in robotics-engineering is that any robot, at least right now, cannot really *do anything* apart from what its internal software says it can. In other words, as a rule, the machines cannot do anything that we have not told them to do via software. Technology all around us is advancing quickly, but we very likely will not be seeing self-aware machines ruling the world.

¹<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/238266/20190202/scientists-create-self-repairing-robot-that-is-also-self-aware.htm>

Twilight and Evergreens

Casted snow and fogged breath,
My rosen glass appears tonight.
Here we tread the trodden path,
From here to there in darkest light.

Towering tops in greenish life,
From base to bottom their shaded branch,
Bring warmth of spirit to all who spite,
The cool and frost that those forever touch.

Burrowed and warm their pelted wool,
Slept the sullied beasts of spring.
Towering and low the warmest of all lay,
Swaddled in clouds of snow, in the cold.

And those that wander see,
And those colossal greens stand.
But the wanderer no longer wanders
But the oaken ones no longer fall.

Here in the snow,
On this place where the tree rests'
Meanderers who come to lay'
Enticed by the green in a world of white.

Anonymous