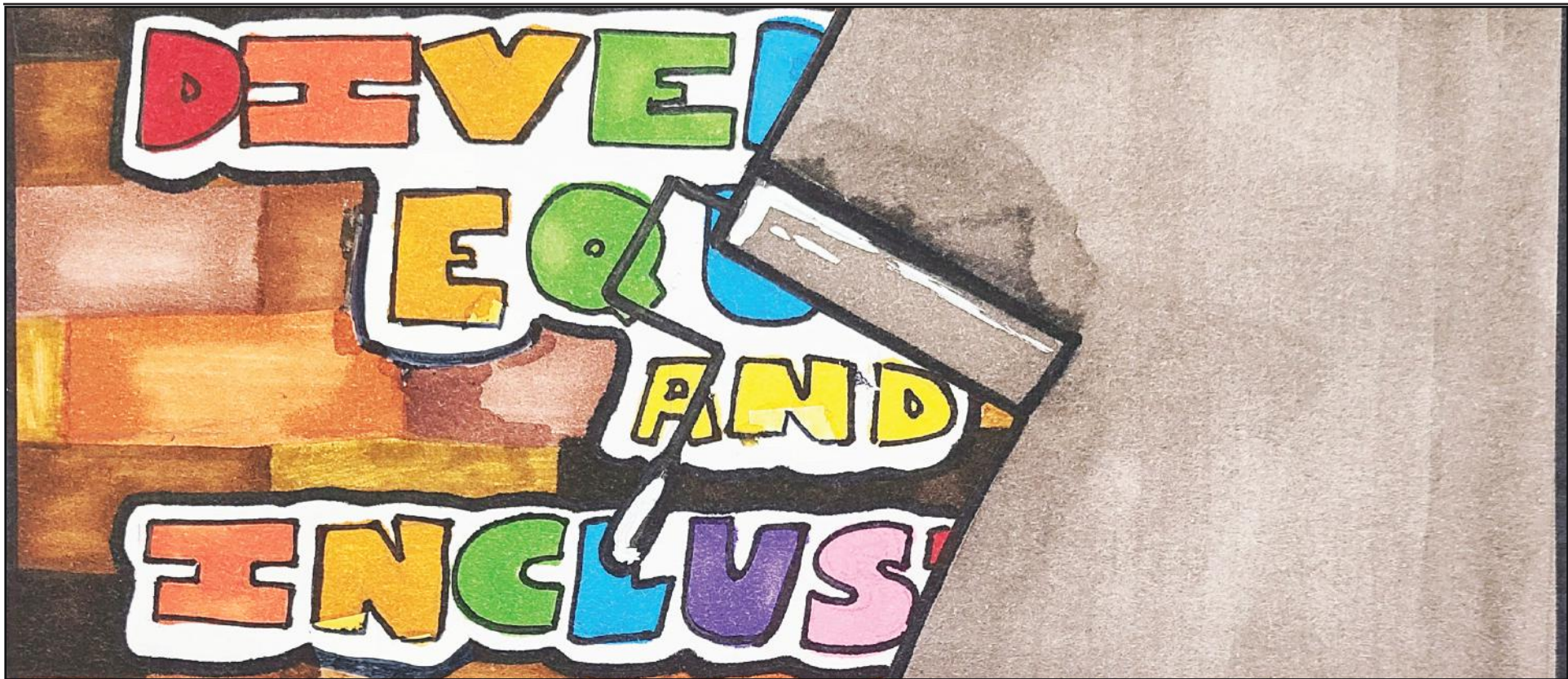




ADA GARBERINA/THE DOC

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT executive orders targeting DEI programs not only affect major companies, but also universities and schools. Beckwith and Ingalls argue that the removal of DEI curricula is creating a void in history education.

President pulls plug on DEI programs

WAVERLY BECKWITH &
EZRA INGALLS

During his first months in office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order removing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs and policies in companies and organizations. An executive order is a written directive issued and signed by the president, and this particular one has taken the country by surprise with its harmful effects on companies, finances, and, most severely, the educational system.

The executive order has had a resounding impact specifically on public school systems. This order threatens to cut federal funding for public schools if they refuse to follow the executive directive and remove DEI programs. Private universities like Harvard have also had their federal funding stalled, and more universities such as Yale University, Columbia University and University of Michigan are also facing blows to their funding because of voicing their opposition to the executive order.

These colleges are opposing the order that restricts the full accuracy of their history and DEI curriculum by rebranding their programs and preserving key staff in order to protect the funding they receive from the federal government. Universities and colleges across the country rely on federal funding to research, develop and advance cures

for diseases, vaccines and technology. So schools that are fighting back will be negatively impacted in terms of the inventions and technology that they will be able to produce.

Beyond its impact on a school's finances, dismantling DEI programs and policies can harm students of color and other marginalized groups. Students may feel unrepresented or unsafe in an environ-

ment that isn't able to fully understand them without their cultures being taught accurately—or taught at all—in their schools.

On the other hand, the executive order's impact on private secondary school edu-

cation has been less dramatic, but still harmful. The Dean of Inclusive Excellence at Masters, Esperanza Borrero summarized how the new policy relates to our school.

She said, "When there are things that are affecting the curriculum and education or things that might be affecting our ability to learn history... all of those really undermine our civil education and that's a really scary thing in a country."

The void of information in websites and collections impacts so much more than just notes and tests in the classroom; now, anyone who tries to search for this information on the internet won't be able to access all of it. In fact, some Air Force classes on the subject were even removed from the curriculum, but were luckily reinstated.

Some of the history that is

"The main thing that I've heard has been the erasure of history in websites and national collections such as the Smithsonian."

In addition to schools and universities, some major companies like Target, Amazon, Disney and Coca-Cola, have also been affected by Trump's executive order. These companies are used nationally and by people of all ages, genders and races. Trump's executive order requires businesses like Disney to change their "DEI" program to "Talent Strategy," which focuses more on business.

According to a Forbes newsletter (April 11, 2025), Disney is going to be removing references to culture and diversity in their movies and television shows. This is sending Disney back in terms of progress, since they have worked hard to incorporate diverse characters into their shows to shine light upon different cultures.

Anyone can help with this effort by writing to local politicians to try to change local laws and spreading awareness to people around them.

This new development is a chilling reminder of how much sway the government holds over what students learn in school, and how much it will influence the rest of their lives, including everything from their beliefs and morals to their careers and jobs. Only time will tell if this ban will recede... or if it will be followed with even more drastic consequences.

“WHEN THERE ARE THINGS AFFECTING THE CURRICULUM AND EDUCATION, THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTING OUR ABILITY TO LEARN HISTORY... ALL OF THOSE REALLY UNDERMINE OUR CIVIL EDUCATION AND THAT'S A REALLY SCARY THING IN A COUNTRY.”

— ESPERANZA BORRERO

taught at Masters, especially in the eighth grade humanities classroom, is about the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, a topic that has become more limited in public school education. Although Masters, a private

school, has the ability to teach all history accurately without having to pick and choose, not every school is so lucky. And even so, as students in the Upper School begin to look at colleges and life after graduation, some of them will be significantly impacted by their inability to learn the full truth from certain colleges.

Avi Kinon '29 stated that schools aren't the only place from which this history has been taken.

Issue Two Contributors

LEAD EDITOR

ELAINA BARRETO

THE DOC STAFF MEMBERS

WAVERLY BECKWITH

ARROW BLANKENSHIP

ELI GOLDFINE

EZRA INGALLS

DIVYA KOHLI

SAMSON KREUCH

ABIGAIL WU

VISUALS TEAM

VICENTE SAAVEDRA

ELLIE SYKES

PILAR BATES

ADA GARBERINA

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

BRIELLE BROOMES

ALLIE FABER

ELLA LIU

FACULTY ADVISORS

ELLEN COWHEY

STEPHEN HILDRETH

Farewell Mrs. Chappell and Mrs. Salehi!

Middle School Humanities Teacher



TASHA ELSBACH/THE DOC

“TO HEAR AT THE END OF THE YEAR THAT I HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON [STUDENTS], THAT'S REALLY REWARDING FOR ME.”

— MARY CHAPPELL

Associate Head of Middle School



TASHA ELSBACH/THE DOC

“WHAT I'LL MISS THE MOST ABOUT MASTERS IS THE FRIENDSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS I HAVE HERE.”

— LYNN SALEHI