

THE LOG



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Watlington Reflects on Diversity

by Izzy Kornblatt

On November 10, noted author and film-maker Dennis Watlington visited the Island to speak about diversity and racism in American society. Those who took the opportunity to hear him speak had an engaging and eye-opening experience that exceeded all expectations.

Speaking informally to a small but engaged crowd of Loomis Chaffee students and faculty who were assembled in the new Hubbard music performance hall, Watlington touched on a wide range of issues, from humorous life experiences to the condition of racism in America today compared to that of the 1950s. The talk was a part of a series of lectures Watlington is giving to

he had grown up in a poor family in South Carolina and New York City, and through a youth program had become acquainted with the president of Hotchkiss's board of trustees—a sure way to guarantee oneself admission with a full scholarship. During his time at Hotchkiss, there were only seven African American students in a school of nearly

Watlington said that he was proud of America's changes in the past 50 years, and points to the differences between being an African-American man in the 1950s and being one now. He also said that he believes that the phenomenon known as "white guilt" is no longer valid, particularly since last year's monumental election of America's first African American president, Barack Obama. Watlington did, however, admit that even more changes could benefit American society—most importantly by eliminating prejudices that the American public still accepts, such as homophobia. "Victimization is fading. Opportunities are rising," he said, pointing out that a collective effort is needed to continue



PHOTO BY JEULEY ORTENGREN
Film-maker and author Dennis Watlington articulates his opinions on diversity in modern America.

a group of independent schools known as the Sphere schools—at the time of his talk he had already spoken at Westminster, Avon Old Farms, Renbrook School, and Suffield Academy. Watlington, however, is no newcomer to the world of prep schools, as he himself attended Hotchkiss, and his son is currently enrolled at the Millbrook School in Millbrook, NY. Watlington praised the New England boarding school tradition, citing the strength of the education offered as well as the schools' ability to bring a high level of education to students who would not be able to experience it otherwise. He explained to his audience how

five hundred. However, coming from an earlier, troubled background of dealing and becoming addicted to heroin, Watlington said that he believes that he has Hotchkiss to thank in large part for his current success: writing for *Vanity Fair* magazine, winning an Emmy Award, and publishing the new and highly successful book, "Chasing America: Notes of a Rock 'n Soul Integrationist."

Two topics Watlington particularly focused on in his talk were his opinions on racism in today's world, and his ideas about the potential and responsibilities of modern youth. Calling himself a "rock 'n soul integrationist," Wat-

change. Watlington also focused on the necessity for today's youth to "take the gauntlet," and guide America through the complex 21st century.

The talk was concluded with a touching story of Watlington's hat—a gift to him created by a collective network of people, including Caucasians, women, workers in Central America, a gay man, African Americans—and that's not even the whole list. Symbolizing true diversity, this hat presents a challenge for our society and even for our community on the Island to live up to: the American dream of true equality and freedom.

The Sound of Music in Hubbard

by Chris Gallerani

"The hills are alive, with the sound of the Loomis Chaffee Concert Band and Concert Choir," read the bulletins announcing the Concert Band's Fall Program on Thursday, November 12 in Hubbard Auditorium. Although consisting of many band pieces similar to those from past concerts, this concert was particularly unique because it marked the first-ever collaboration between the Loomis Chaffee Concert Band and Concert Choir.

After much trepidation throughout the autumn months, the Loomis Chaffee Band prepared four pieces to perform alone without any accompaniment. However, after the band's performance of a medley of tunes from the musical classic "The Sound of Music" last spring, band director Dr. William Sand decided to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the original Broadway show's opening with another rendition of the piece. This time, he and choir director Susan Chrzanowski arranged a vocal part that followed production's treasured songs so that the Concert Choir could accompany the band.

Students from both music groups seemed receptive to the idea of a joint performance. "The Sound of Music" is one of the best and most beloved musicals of all time," Katie Zanca '10, alto, reveres, "so obviously it's great to sing those beloved songs, and I think it's great that the band and the choir were able to collaborate to celebrate its 50th anniversary."

Finally, after much rehearsing separately, the band and choir came together for the first time on the night of the concert with surprisingly little trouble. "We were all fairly uniform and although there were comments about [the

band] being too loud, I think it is all part of getting used to the acoustics of the new auditorium," Tom Crandall '11, clarinet, remarks on the performance.

Regardless, the performance ended with success for both groups. "I think this is the best concert we have played so far in my time here as a member of the Concert Band," asserts Jackie Mishol '11, a member of both the band and choir. "This term we worked harder than ever before as an ensemble in class, and it really paid off."

As for the reward? "Collaborating with the choir to perform [The] Sound of Music' medley was a good challenge of our musicianship and a great utilization of our remarkable new facilities," Mishol says. "[After I saw] the different dynamics of both the Concert Choir and the Concert Band separately during classes, it was really interesting to see how the groups combined to create such a memorable performance." And, according to Crandall, the prize did not stop there. "The moments where you sat back and realized how good we really sounded [were the best]. These inspiring moments comprised the beauty and excitement of our true performance on stage."

Looking toward the future, the hope that the two groups will collaborate again remains alive. "It is unique that we have the ability to have two large ensembles like these work and perform together in the same space, and I hope that we all get the chance to make music together again in the future," Mishol contemplates.

Until then, the Loomis Chaffee community will have to wait with bated breath to see what these talented ensembles drum up next!

The Return of Jonathan Safran Foer

by Sarah Patrick and Jackie Mishol

Acclaimed writer, Jonathan Safran Foer, returned to the Island on November 12 to discuss his recently published non-fiction book, *Eating Animals*.

Foer attended both Georgetown Day School and Princeton University. While at Princeton, Foer had the opportunity to study with Joyce Carol Oates, who inspired him to focus more on his writing and to develop his talents. Oates eventually became Foer's advisor for his senior thesis, which received Princeton's Senior Creative Writing Thesis Prize. After graduating from Princeton, Foer traveled to Ukraine in order to develop his thesis. This sojourn led to Foer's first book, *Everything is Illuminated*. Awarded the National Jewish Book Award and adapted into a movie, *Everything is Illuminated* tells the story of a Jewish American man named Jonathan, who travels to Ukraine in search of the woman who rescued his grandfather



PHOTO BY PATRICIA COUSINS
Jonathan Safran Foer addresses the school about his new book, *Eating Animals*, and his vegetarianism.

from the Nazis. Weaving the stories of the two protagonists simultaneously, Foer leaves the reader with a fuller understanding of both character's motives and personalities.

Published in 2005, Foer's second novel, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, explores the consequences of the September 11 terrorist attacks from the perspective of the Schell family. Oskar Schell, a nine-year-old boy who lost his father in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, sets out to find clues about his father's life after discovering a mysterious key. Oskar's idiosyncratic personality and witticism, combined with his "heavy boots" because of the tragedy that entombs his life, create a heartrending yet lovable protagonist. Like in *Everything is Illuminated*, Foer creates an even more vivid plot by integrating two stories into his book.

Eating Animals, Foer's most recent book and his first

Inside This Issue:

Just Judy..... 3

Fred McNulty expresses the memorable effect that Judy McCormick has had on The Island.

Feeding Our Neighbors..... 5

Annie Hearn describes the exciting, successful canned-food drive.

Post-Season Wrap-Up..... 6

Laura McConney gives an overview of the final results of the fall Pelican sports teams.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Extremists in America

by Steven Wang

The Second Amendment grants citizens the right to bear arms and organize militias. To our founding fathers, this seemed like an obvious and required step to completing our constitution. Was it not the militias formed by the common people who fought off the tyranny of British rule? The militias acted as a way for the people to fight back against an oppressing government and the founding fathers realized that if one day the very government they were building were to threaten the freedom and livelihood of its citizens, then these militias would have the capacity to restore order. Militias in our society provide defense of people and rights along with emergency law enforcement. However, recently, certain militias across the country have violated these roles and have been labeled as extremists, a moniker which I see they rightfully earned.

Of the roles of a militia, protection of citizens ranks as the most important, yet just this May, a militia from Washington state that patrols the country's borders and call themselves the Minutemen American Defense, entered the home of Ms. Gonzales in Arizona and killed her husband and 10 year old daughter. The motives behind these murders reveal just how corrupt these militias have become. Authorities say that they aimed to steal money from people in order to further fund their vig-

ilante missions of patrolling the US-Mexican border. Why such a strong urge to protect our borders however "patriotic" it may be? Authorities suspect discrimination as motive. A former member, Merrill Metzger, says how he left the group after the oath forced upon him discriminated against certain races "I couldn't eat Mexican food..... that seemed like prejudice." Another former member, Chuck Stonex, recounts a time he took an excursion with the group carrying an assortment of guns into the desert to hunt illegal Mexican immigrants, "It's just like hunting, if you're going out hunting deer, you want to scout around and get an idea what their pattern is, what trails they use." This strong conviction towards stopping and even killing immigrants can only be seen as a form of extremism yet it is found in our own militias who claim to be protecting us.

Other militias, such as the Rogue Nation Eternal Militia, blatantly encourage violence within their group. Their webpage issues instructions on how to start a "chapter" in the militia and the jobs that entail: "Composed of 1-12 tightly organized people. C.U. (closed/underground) chapters will be to gain all useful knowledge and become proficient in the tactics of guerrilla warfare, sabotage, assassination, intelligence gathering, infiltration, clandestine communications and psy-

chological operations." Further down the page, a proud member of the militia displays a photo of his 3 1/2-year-old-daughter shooting an uzi. What these actions aim to achieve is unclear. They claim that the citizens of America are falling obliviously into the hands of a socialist government and that Obama is actually a fascist leader. Whether these allegations are true or false, this wild display of rashness can only be seen as extremism.

Why do these people do this? Well, ask the Minutemen American Defense. They truly believed that by robbing their own people, they were actually helping out their country. To many people, this no doubt sounds a lot like extremism.

The actions of such groups have tarnished the image of many legitimate militias. One can still find militias whose sole mission is to protect the people while staying true to the ideals of the constitution. The goals of these organizations involve being prepared to protect their families and friends, being prepared to fight off any force that attempts to restrict the rights of the people, and acting quickly if a natural disaster strikes, and NOT to stage an armed revolution or conduct murder.

The right to hold militias is a special right given to the people of this country that we must not take for granted.

THE LOG

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White House Administration Under Obama: 2009

by Dylan Jennings

As the first year of President Obama's term comes to a close, it seems appropriate to reflect upon the accomplishments and acts put forth by the Obama Administration to further their major goals. Their actions in the fields of health care reform, the economy, and foreign policy will reflect how well the Democratic Party controlled Congress and the President are at managing and running the government.

On the matter of health care reform, many, if not all Americans are aware of the health care bills that are put forward by Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid in order to reform our health care system. Health care represents close to one fifth of our countries total GDP and while the nation spends more than any other on healthcare costs, we do not have the best health care, and according to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks below many industrialized nations like France, England, Canada and Denmark. With the house bill barely able to pass, responsibility now falls to the Senate to pass their health care bill. Unfortunately the senate has a poor track record of passing bills. As the saying goes, "the senate is where bills go to die".

The President has decided to allow Congress to come up with the specific language of the bill, simply setting the guidelines

that it must stay below \$900 billion, cut costs, keep premiums from rising, cover as many uninsured as possible and prevent insurance companies from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. Unfortunately, even



Spectators eagerly watch as President Obama signs one of many important pieces of legislation

with the Democrats having a 60-seat majority, if you count Bernie Sanders (I Vermont) and Joe Lieberman (I Conn.), the shaky coalition faces many problems with passing the bill.

One problem Democrats face is the public option, the prospect of which ignites opposition by many Republicans and centrist Democrats fearful of potentially ineffective, bureaucratic, government-run, institutions. Other problems facing the bill is

whether to allow federal funds to pay for abortions, fear that Medicare cuts will cut Medicare benefits, and whether to allow the health care industry to have exemption from anti-trust litigation. While these problems have

not been resolved, I have a confident feeling that at the end of the day, the democrats will come out with a strong reform bill. The current fractured health care system cannot continue on. Whether or not the current health care proposal will effect efficient and lasting health care reform is a separate issue.

The state of economy has been dubbed by many Americans to be the number one issue on the minds of many citizens. With

banks being bailed out and main street suffering, unemployment rising, and corporate CEO's receiving huge bonuses after driving their companies almost into the ground, it is no surprise that people believe that the economic policies of the Obama Administration are not working, I respectfully disagree.

Consider where the economy was before the Obama took his oath, we were losing about six hundred thousand jobs a month and firms and companies were dropping left and right. Houses were foreclosing by the thousands, and many pundits were declaring that we were entering another Great Depression. Through the quick action of Congress and the president, we were able to bring the economy from the brink of destruction by pouring government money into the private sector. The economic stimulus package has created or saved over six hundred thousands jobs and more job creation and saving is to come with Obama and Congress considering job creation legislation. Finally, we have started to see GDP growth, which foretells more economic growth and eventually, the unemployment

number dropping. While it may seem bleak at the moment, economic recovery is working, and considering where we were only about 8 months ago, it is a drastic turnaround.

While there are many other acts that the Obama Administration have accomplished, foreign policy seems to be a drastic improvement over the last 8 years. Obama has gotten both India and China to agree to reduce their carbon footprint only a day after declaring that we would do the same. Coincidence? I doubt it. We have gotten NATO allies to commit seven thousand additional combat forces to Afghanistan, helping us implement our surge strategy in Operation Enduring Freedom. Most importantly, we have set a tone of working with our international partners in bringing forth true change to the many international problems that we as an international community, face. A refreshing change, no?



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Slice of Hate: Story of Love

by Bao Phan

A very close friend of mine nearly committed suicide due to social pressures exerted in a conservative country.

That friend of mine had a boyfriend. They had been going out for nine months. Seeing them together, one could see right away that they were a couple. Their affections were something they could not hide. And it became a problem.

Let me give a basic idea of the context. In Vietnam, the culture is very homophobic. To use some of my mother's words: "A guy does not ride on a same bike with another guy; guys do not hold hands; guys do not get too close to one another. Actually, two guys should not be seen together alone at all." A man should fit into the stereotypical mold of masculinity, and he should not touch another man, unless of course they are fighting.

Anyway, the boy and his boyfriend managed to keep their relationship under the radar of their parents. The boyfriend even gained the respect of the boy's family and became quite a fixture in many outings and birthdays. Then one day, when the boy's father went to the school's office to give an absentee note for morning classes, he heard this dreadful warning: "You'd better attend to your son more closely. If he should be seen with that boy again, he

should not be surprised if he gets kicked out."

The father was furious. He yelled at the Office of the Youth Union. He lambasted them and said they had wrecked his son. To make matters worse, the father happened to be an ex-convict with deeply-rooted disgust in homosexuality, having witnessed it in the past. He took his son back home immediately, and confined him within his room. That day. And another day. And another day...

Due to the social pressures, the boy nearly overdosed on medications. At one point he ran away from his abusive father, but he was compelled by his mother to return. Yet, when he returned, his father thrashed him again for his sexual orientation.

But his boyfriend had always been by his side. Every one of his friends had tried to consult, console, and comfort him, trying to pull him through this distress. But the boy upset his "friends" by refusing to leave his boyfriend. It was at this point that he resorted to drugs.

Do not blame this boy. At the core of the problem lies bigger issues, including inconsideration, indifference, and intolerance, which altogether nearly took away a person's life.

Think about this in an academic context: What does it mean for us to go to school?

We go to school to study, make friends, socialize, and develop ourselves as individuals. We do not only learn about ourselves, either. We learn about one another. We learn to tolerate, to accept and to challenge differences, in a way that brings us together, in safe and peaceful harmony. But what happened here, when indifference, intolerance, and inconsideration took precedence over a person's care, empathy, contemplation and respect? He was someone's student, someone's son, someone's friend. He was my friend. He had suffered. And I could feel his pain, for I, too, had once suffered.

At my previous school, I went from grade six through grade nine without making any friends. It all started when I punched this other boy in the face for constantly demeaning and disgracing my family without knowing anything about us. He happened to be the most popular guy in my class, and this greatly upset him to say the least. There goes the worst four years of my entire life--so far.

The cause of all my trouble, however, has no root in the fact that I took quite some grief from those guys. Why did that boy have to criticize my family like that? He mocked me because I had gone to an elementary school that none of my classmates had attended. In their eyes, that school was obscure at least, they

said "it [stinks], you all [stink]; you, your father and mother." These meddling boys could not fathom the far-reaching consequences of their torment. They also mocked my violent outbursts and my friend's constant absence from school. How could they not know how much their thoughtless remarks triggered these tensions and conflicts, escalating the boy's troubles to a devastating extent?

I still remember how vividly I would go to school everyday and come home bruised all over by slingshots and rubber bands and chalk sticks--all aimed at me. Once, one of my shoes was thrown onto the roof. Immediately, I chased down the instigator and hit him hard on the back. As a result, I was the target of slingshots, snide remarks, tackling, and more.

What did the teachers do about this? Not much. I was in a class of fifty students. Distress and silence constituted most of my day. Sometimes, I thought it would be better if I just ran away or disappeared. Nobody wanted me. During those times, I thought of my family, and they provided a safe haven for me. I was alienated by my classmates, and the boy was shut out of his own family.

I believe one is no stranger to this story, for it is the story of my friend and mine. Indeed, the subject of hate and intoler-

ance towards homosexuals has been exhaustively researched and published--a topic of much debate in our culture. So why should I raise such a question again? The answer is simple: homosexuals are here to stay. At this point, I will reveal that the boyfriend in this story is, indeed, none other than I. One would question this ambiguity, but I wanted to conceal my identity because I wanted the reader to focus on the story instead of judging its author, for I think one would be so inclined to do so, even unconsciously. If one believes this revelation has not changed one's own opinions at all, or has not had a significant impact, then one is among the few and far between, an unprejudiced person.

If one believes otherwise, then my point about dissembling this bias will give the reader something to reflect upon. So think about it, about indifference, intolerance, inconsideration, and hate. It is not far away; it is close to you and me.

It is relevant in today's culture. What would happen if something like this story affected the life of a friend or family member? What if unconscious ridicule ultimately brought about or led to unspeakable thoughts? Blame would not be easy to place. I give you this story with the sincere hope that you will reflect. Think about it.

Piece of P.E.T.A.

by Lindsay Gabow

'Twas the first night of Christmas when I strolled around Times Square in New York City with my family. The pace of the city itself had noticeably slowed down, with most smiling individuals gazing into store windows at the lights and Santa decorations. Noticing the pure bliss surrounding me that evening, I felt compelled to smile myself. The smile faded, however, when I heard angry screaming resonating from a group of people on the next block.

"Look at this lady! Everyone, look at this lady! Look at how ugly she is, with her fur coat! Such an ugly human being..." I shall never forget the fire in the eyes of the woman grabbing the poor lady by the hood of her coat. Spittle flew from her fast-moving mouth, as she held the lady's hood with one pale hand and a brochure with the other. "P.E.T.A.! People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals!"

What is the definition of the word "animal"? The dictionary definition is: "any living organism that feeds on organic matter." Clearly, humans fit into this description. Humans are animals. This P.E.T.A. representative was not treating the woman "ethically" by grabbing her by her hood and half strangling her. When promoting animal rights in public settings, P.E.T.A. belittles and disrespects humans. As emphasized by P.E.T.A.'s objective, animals (P.E.T.A.'s defi-

nition) deserve respect. P.E.T.A. must understand that humans are entitled to respect as well. A thick line separates activism and physically forcing an individual to comply with the idea one promotes.

Undeniably, P.E.T.A. has crossed this line. *Animalrights.change.org* even accuses PETA of emotionally abusing children and targeting young teens in ads, causing emotional trauma.

Furthermore, most of P.E.T.A.'s ads objectify women, featuring unclothed women to "enhance" their campaign, using slogans like "ink not mink." P.E.T.A. certainly has the right of Freedom of the Press, but how exactly do nude women parallel the ethical treatment of animals?

P.E.T.A. must believe mankind is completely corrupt for our views of ethical issues to be swayed by graphic images. I, however, have more faith in society. Animal rights issues would be taken much more seriously if P.E.T.A. took a more compassionate approach. P.E.T.A.: show some statistics and some facts! Frankly, associating poorly treated animals with inappropriate images is disrespectful to the animals P.E.T.A. is supposedly saving.

P.E.T.A. has good intentions, but its way of going about promoting these intentions is simply not ethical. Irresponsible and disrespectful actions cloud the otherwise noble efforts.

Before the blaring rock music emanates from the alarm clock radio, before the dining hall opens its doors for the first time, and even before the dorms are unlocked, a lone woman works tirelessly. Judy McCormick, known to many as "the Mail Room Lady", arrives at 5:30 AM to begin her daily ritual.

Through sorting mail and packages, rectifying laundry mistakes, and completing whatever miscellaneous tasks await her, Judy arrives early every morning and leaves late every afternoon.

Despite the seemingly endless envelopes and the strenuous task of sorting every student and faculty's laundry bags, Judy remains undaunted. Despite the size of the task at hand, Judy never misses a chance to smile at a student or make a kind comment.

No matter how many sleepless hours a boarding student must endure, Judy McCormick's infectious amicability never fails to brighten up a seemingly gloomy day.

In 2007, Judy was diagnosed with cancer and forced to leave the Loomis Chaffee campus for

several months. During this difficult period, Judy underwent chemotherapy, which resulted in the temporary loss of her hair. Despite narrowly escaping the cold hands of death, Judy returned with nothing on her head but a hat and her memorable smile. Judy came back to Loomis Chaffee as soon as she

whom are as young as thirteen years of age, miss their guardians or parents, many of whom are in different states, countries, or even continents!

Judy McCormick, throughout the years, has remained the closest thing many of these children have to a mother. Whether it be a complement on a cute outfit, asking how that big biology test went, or even commenting on current events, Judy makes boarding students feel right at home.

For the insurmountable work Judy does on our campus, she asks for very little in return. Maybe a hello if one was to walk past her in a hallway or maybe just a quick smile to her in the SNUG; nothing more does Judy require.

From arriving on a snow day to receive a package to staying late on a Friday to finish sending many senior's applications to their awaiting colleges, Judy never stops to consider remaining dormant. So remember, from before the waking hours to late into the final double periods, Judy McCormick tirelessly strives to better the student community and the life at school.

Just Judy

by Fred McNulty



On her days off, Judy McCormick finds ways to relax

could, for she knew that she was needed. Of course, others could be found to sort letters and arrange deliveries, but the compassion for the students shown by Ms. McCormick remains immeasurable by a paycheck or a dollar amount.

Boarding school has, throughout the ages, remained one of the first extended periods of time in which many students spend away from their guardians or parents. These children, some of

Featured Artist: Olivia Hoffman

by Jackie Mishol

Senior Olivia Hoffman, an invaluable member of the arts community here at Loomis Chaffee, has lived her life on the stage for as long as she can remember. "I've been performing all my life," she says. "I started singing when I was five, and that made me get into performing in front of people. I [also] have two older sisters who are really into performing arts, so, it's kind of inevitable when you're surrounded by that."

Ms. Hoffman has acted in every Norris Ely Orchard Theater production since her freshman fall on the Island, a true NEO veteran. She is also a four-year member of Concert Choir, a three-year member of the Chamber Singers, and has performed in the biannual Cancer Benefit and Musical Revue. Olivia has challenged herself to grow as a performer and try new things just by balancing all of these performance opportunities, but she still finds time to pursue even more artistic endeavors off-campus as well.

"The first professional play that I did was at the Hartford Stage, and that made me know that's what I want to do, being surrounded by lots and lots of older cast members that had been doing it their whole life," Hoffman says about acting. She has also acted at The Goodspeed Opera House, danced at The Bushnell, sung with the Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship, and even done some voice recordings on CDs for Fisher Price.

William C. Card Instructor in Music Susan Chrzanowski, who

has worked with Olivia the past four years in Concert Choir and Chambers Singers as well as during the musicals, really enjoys working with this young woman. She says, "One of the best signs of a talented artist is being very well-rounded, not only good at one area of the arts, but many areas, and that's the definition of Olivia. She is very talented in many

ways, in many areas of the arts, and she's worked hard in all the areas. She's really pushed herself to learn more about dance. She's an amazing singer, an advanced musician, a leader in Chamber Singers and Choir, and an excellent actor."

At Loomis Chaffee, Olivia Hoffman has had numerous starring roles, including Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* and Berowne in *Love's Labour's Lost*. One of her all-time favorite characters to play was Mrs. Meers her sophomore year in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Olivia admits that she wasn't so passionately serious about acting until this role. She says, "Right when I got the part I knew that

I was happy about it. I threw myself in immediately...I worked so hard on everything, down to the finger movements. I think that solidified my 'I love acting thing.'" Plus, the role was a blast! She adds, "I really like playing evil people."

Acting has become clearly become a passion for Olivia, and we love to watch her perform. When

Prospera in the NEO Theatre's 400th anniversary production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Olivia rehearsed and reviewed and dug into her character for hours each night to prepare for the show. Throwing herself into her character, she even one day in Spanish class attempted to use Prospera's magic to mentally move the hands on

the clock. She humorously remarked, "It didn't really work out."

But her performance certainly did. Hours of hard work created a powerful and unforgettable interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most challenging and complex characters. Olivia said, "I loved playing Prospera. If I could play Prospera for the rest of my life I would. I wanted

to be her." She adds, "Playing her made me realize how much I love Shakespeare."

Hoffman has left her mark on the NEO stage, and she has inspired many young actors to follow in her footsteps. Her advice? "Watch as much theatre as possible. The way that I've really learned how to do things is watching others and learning from them." Olivia's favorite

composer and lyricist is Steven Sondheim, and some of her favorite actors include Meryl Streep, and Dustin Hoffman.

Olivia plans to continue her study of theatre in college, and she's currently going through rigorous auditions for college theatre programs, throwing herself into her work once again and keeping her eyes on the prize. She said with a laugh, "I can't sleep at night." But when asked about schools, she humbly replied that she'd be happy at "just any good school for theatre and musical theatre."

On working with her the last four years, Theater & Dance Department Head and NEO Theater Director Brian Kosanovich said, "Olivia is the hardest-working, most committed, most mature young lady with whom I've ever worked. Her work—both in process and in result—are nothing short of fabulous... Olivia ranks in the top three actors with whom I've worked and in the top three musical theater singers with whom I've ever worked. She's just simply phenomenal. And she will be a professional actor in the not too distant future."

We have faith that Olivia will go on to do big things and succeed on whichever stage she sets foot upon, but before she goes, we look forward to her remaining LC performances, including her portrayal of Dorothy in this winter's production of *The Wiz*. It will be a "can't-miss" farewell performance. Brava, Olivia, and continue to break a leg!



PHOTO CREDIT BY JUSTIN ZHANG

Olivia Hoffman '10, as Prospera in this fall's production of *The Tempest*, sets one of the most powerful and intense spells in the show

asked why she likes acting she said, "It's cool to be able to affect people. I always find that people are viewed differently when they're a certain character. I find myself liking people more when watching them. There's something so personal about it. You transform, and it's very cool."

Most recently on campus, Pelicans got the chance to see Olivia perform as the great magician

Such Sweet Sorrow

by Charlotte Greene

Shrieks fill the darkness of the toaster bus: Justin Bieber has come on the radio. The girl RAs are driving to Friendly's for ice cream sundaes, a welcome treat after a mercilessly exhausting senior fall. Top 40 songs blare on the radio for miles, but none excite such a reaction as "One Time" by the fifteen-year-old Bieber, who sounds roughly like the prepubescent son of T-Pain and Taylor Swift. The candy-coated falsetto hearkens back to the mid-90s reign of Aaron Carter and boy band charm.

Even so, the kid is a talented singer. A cheery beat thumps under lyrics about innocent true love – what could be threatening about so cute a façade? Yet, his harmlessness is perplexing. For one, the song proposes that young love is legitimate, tangible, and attainable— an intriguing message when the reality is often the opposite. Surely there is little harm in idealism, but perhaps the greater question is, why does society romanticize childhood? Why do we simplify the past, breaking truly complicated realities into saccharine dreamlands? By altering our perceptions of youth, are we proposing a utopian escape from adulthood instead of facing our problems? I considered these questions while enjoying my treat. Yet, I could not ignore the juxtaposition: sweet, simple lyrics with sweet, simple food.

The American food system is

based primarily off of one crop: corn. This golden veggie is produced in staggering amounts for animal feed, high fructose corn syrup, and obscure additives like xanthan gum, maltodextrin, and just about any ingredient with a long, ambiguously scientific name. Chances are even if a food doesn't contain sugar it still has corn syrup or some other corn product. Moreover, about fifty gallons of oil produce just one acre of corn while "one-fifth of America's oil consumption goes to producing and transporting our food" (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan.) Our food is bathed in petroleum.

It is no accident that corn is such a staple of our diet. After the Depression, New Deal farm subsidies encouraged farmers to produce greater amounts of corn for a hungry nation. With the development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and chemical fertilizers (petroleum-based, mind you), farmers could produce more bushels per acre, thus receiving more government funding and creating the surplus of corn we have today. Despite oversupply, these subsidies still exist.

What to do with the surplus? Type 2 corn, as it is referred to, is not edible. "Outpace cane sugar! Nationalize!" cried the scientists, redesigning our food as chemicals and compounds. Biologically, children crave the sugars found in

fruit, yet the American food system has supplanted that natural sweetness with artificial sweetness, filling bellies with sodas and syrupy breakfast cereals. It is too easy to fulfill the desire for sugar; high fructose corn syrup exists in everything from peanut butter to ketchup. Thus, we have extended childhood into adulthood, making sugars a regular, substantial part of our diet.

Justin Bieber is candy for ears. His voice represents a purity we seem to have forgotten yet are trying to fulfill with an idealized childhood. I expected recent film *Where the Wild Things Are* to be a joyous, carefree celebration, but at the end I wanted to crawl into my bed and cry. The movie wasn't so depressing as honest. The message is real: it doesn't always work out. In Bieber's world, everything works out. Everyone's hunger for sweetness is satisfied by McDonald's and Hershey's and Coca-Cola and we are all happy in childlike bliss. In an effort to encapsulate the glorified freedom of youth, we have robbed childhood of its dignity, domesticating its monsters. In our greed for the sweetness of life we have drenched ourselves in cloying goodness, petroleum fermenting in the back of our throats. We must have faith in our abilities as adults and, fundamentally, people. I only hope we choose to live cleanly, eat wholesomely, and take the bad and bitter as we would our sugar.

New Moon

by Eric Jepeal

New Moon, the *Twilight* sequel, crams a complexity of romance, drama, and action into a 130-minute film. Primarily serving as an exciting, suspenseful continuation of the romantic but perilous relationship between teenage human Bella Swan and "17-year-old" immortal Edward Cullen, *New Moon* also introduces the potency of Jacob Black and his pack of werewolves.

New Moon opens with a touchingly normal scene: Bella's birthday party. But little do the characters know the party will become a nightmare.

Bella, who solely desires to exist with Edward forever, demands immortality for her 18th birthday. Edward refuses, fearing the loss of her soul upon vampiric transformation. However, Bella continuously pleads her case. In lieu of his dangerous immortality, he brings her to his coven of immortals, the Cullen family, in order to throw the party. Bella's awkwardness prevails.

Upon opening a gift, Bella accidentally gives herself a paper cut. She thinks nothing of it, yet Edward's brother Jasper launches forward to kill Bella. Luckily, Edward senses his brother's intent and pushes Bella out of harm's way, but she collides against the wall, smashing a crystal bowl and slicing her arm open. This time blood gushes forth. Only Carlisle, a doctor, can resist Bella's blood, and mends her arm. During this

event Edward realizes the danger in involving Bella in his clandestine world.

Edward leads Bella into the forest one day and tells her that her meager human life can no longer distract him. He must commit the ultimate sacrifice of leaving Bella to protect her. She believes his fabricated story since she couldn't believe his alleged love to begin with: how was it possible for a vampire to love her?

Months of desperate solitude later, Bella travels to the Quileute reservation, where Jacob Black lives. His aura begins to heal her from the crippling blow that Edward dealt. Mystery soon enwraps Bella, however, as Jake suddenly refuses to contact her after suffering from mono. Bella must now discover the truth about Jacob and continue to cope with the pain of losing Edward.

Ultimately, I believe this movie compacted Stephanie Meyer's book into a more appealing, action-packed story. The writers skillfully left out boring passages emphasizing Bella's suffering and highlighted a lot of action-and-romance filled scenes. Overall this movie was a great success, and I even convinced a *Twilight*-fearing friend that you don't have to join a cult to appreciate it. The third installment, *Eclipse*, is scheduled for release on June 30, 2010. This series of love and sacrifice continues to enthrall audiences of all ages during the entirety of the films.

Feeding Our Neighbors

by Annie Hearn

Have you ever met anyone who would pass up a candy bar for a can of green beans? More specifically, have you ever met a two-year-old who would rather spend his Halloween collecting cans of food instead of filling a basket with candy? That is exactly what Porter Hutchinson did on October 31. While most other children ran around in crazy costumes amassing large amounts of candy, Porter and his parents decided to put a new spin on the old tradition of trick-or-treating. Dressed as a trio of farmers and toting around a large wagon, the Hutchinsons collected food for the Windsor Food Bank, providing much needed support for a worthy organization in urgent need.

Near the beginning of the school year, the Windsor Food Bank sent out a request for donations. Due to the financial crisis, there has been a drastic increase in the amount of clients recently and the food bank, which normally distributes two thousand to three thousand pounds of food to over of three hundred and fifty families per week, found that its shelves were alarmingly empty. After the Loomis Chaffee students heard the request for food, they began to brainstorm possible ways to support this local charity.

During the second week of November, the Pelican Service Organization (PSO) started a canned

food drive that was a little out of the ordinary. Instead of asking for donations to be dropped in an obscure box somewhere on campus, two giant vans decorated for the holidays with bright paint and streamers were placed in a prominent position on the underclassman quad. Through the friendly competition between the upper and lower classmen for the largest amount of food donated, students were encouraged to bring in as many canned goods as possible.

Even faculty became involved in the drive; Math Department Head Andrew Matlack bribed his Precalculus classes with extra points on the fall term exam for students who brought in a certain number of cans. Alex Judson '10, president of the Community Service Club, played a large role in the coordination of the drive. Speaking for everyone, he said "the Pelican Service Organization was very proud to have orchestrated such a successful food drive. The challenge between underclassmen and upperclassmen filled up each van to the brim and showed off Loomis's avid devotion to giving back to the community." The food bank certainly agreed when it thanked LC for the two cargo vans that were delivered before Thanksgiving. According to a newspaper article, the food donations from both LC and other local organizations will "keep the food pantry stocked for

months to come."

Porter's overwhelming success on Halloween inspired him to leave the wagon in the hallway of Taylor dorm for residents to continue depositing food items. Donations included a turkey from Porter himself, as well as numerous other canned goods that overflowed the wagon. The Hutchinsons brought the food to the shelter shortly before Thanksgiving. Porter, who celebrated his birthday on December 2, also generously requested that his family and friends were to bring donations of food instead of gifts to his party on the 6, in an ongoing effort to support the food drive. The toddler was again able to fill another whole wagon with food.

As Porter so unselfishly demonstrates, we neglect to realize that donations are needed year round, not just during the holiday season. Heck, people tend to forget about the food banks during the holidays. The Windsor Food Bank accepts a variety of donations from canned goods, soap, toothpaste, other toiletries and even cold hard cash so that the shelter can buy highly demanded food supplies. This year as you look around our beautiful campus, think about how lucky you are to be here at LC. Please consider sharing your blessings with the less fortunate, and donate something to the Windsor Food Shelf. Can you be as generous as a two-year-old?

Holiday Gift Guide

by Walker Lourie

Getting your son or daughter the perfect gift this holiday season can prove quite the challenge. I've seen my sister open countless presents, only to find that the Birkenstocks were in the wrong color, or the shirt came in the uncool style. Based on the expertise of my peers and me, this guide should help clueless parents find the perfect gift. And better yet, if your child doesn't like your gift, you can blame my guide!

The Joke Gift: Meander on over to www.customsnuggie.com and grab the lamest gift of all time! For those who have been living under a rock these past two years, the Snuggie is a backwards fuzzy robe, designed to replace the blanket. What makes this gift unique is the senseless concept and cheesy over-marketing. The public has been harsh on this sleeved blanket, and clearly so have I, but nobody can deny the Snuggie's ability to keep the user nice and toasty. This previous point can be used in your argument as to why a Snuggie was presented as an actual present. So, don't forget the Snuggie this holiday season. Cost: \$19.99 + S&H. Legitimacy: None. Laughs: Maybe

The Electronic Gift: Modern Warfare 2, the latest addition to the Call of Duty franchise, hit shelves this past November. Players fight fictional battles across the globe, from Russia to D.C. This blockbuster video game sports a mature rating because of its blood and

drug references, intense violence, and language. From personal experience, I must recommend this incredible installment in the venerable Call of Duty series.

For those movie lovers out there, many films have recently been released on DVD or will be hitting store shelves shortly. Terminator Salvation, Up and Funny People are just a few of the extensive sampling available. Cost: Around \$15.00 per DVD, Modern Warfare 2-\$59.99 on Xbox 360, Playstation 3, and PC.

The All-purpose Gift: If all else fails, meaning you are too scared to risk buying Snuggies, video games and DVDs, leave the choice up to your loved one. Gift cards for most major retailers such as Apple, Amazon, and Best Buy, are available in store or online. Getting these gifts online is as easy as emailing a virtual card to somebody or printing off a card with a redeemable code.

If the gift card is too risky, just slap some money into a tacky card. That never fails. Cost: A lot to a little

The Miscellaneous: Let's cut right to the chase. What we all want for Christmas is an Aston Martin DBS or a personal jet. Of course a super yacht wouldn't hurt. While we're dreaming, getting rid of Saturday classes would be nice. However, we'll all just have to settle for gift cards, Snuggies, and the latest in video-game technology.

The End is Nigh

by David Fischer

Over break, while most Americans were gorging themselves with turkey and spending time with their families, I was on a mission. I was attempting to research the causes for the end the world coming on December 21, 2012 as prophesized by the Mayans.

I decided to see the new hit disaster movie *2012* from the one-and-only Rolland Emmerich to learn about an alternative world-end theory and, wow! The movie, told through the eyes of the disheveled yet sharp Charlie Frost, explains how radiation from the sun has effectively melted the earth's core and caused the crust to crumble like an overbaked cookie. The crumbling inevitably causes giant tsunamis that threaten to drown all of the human population. The carefully selected chosen few will survive the floods by floating around on massive arks — just like Noah. However, I'm sure that if Noah ever saw *2012* he would not include it in the Ark's film library due to sheer absurdity.

Despite ridiculousness, however, the theory that *2012* presents makes boatloads more sense than my simply asinine theory of one single entity causing the world to end. That idea *must* be more ludicrous than the plot of *2012*! However, the governments of the world are refusing to admit the world will soon end. I believe that they are responsible for the film *2012*. They have buried the true story of

Earth's future in a film that seems to be less credible than the Disney classic *A Goofy Movie*. If the government wanted to educate us about the looming destruction of planet Earth, they would not have required Emmerich to make *2012* so implausible.

The White House Gatecrash Incident of November 24, 2009, is further proof that the governmental Big Brothers have set their sights higher than simple governance of the world. For those of you not in the know, Michael and Tareq Salahi recently crashed a private party for the visiting Indian Prime Minister that was held at the White House. The couple was allegedly only ID'd at one of the two security checkpoints and managed to gain entrance with no invitation. Of course, President Obama was in no real danger thanks to White House metal detectors, but the reality that this event shows is far more disturbing than a couple entering the White House uninvited. The government no longer cares about keeping the rabble out of the White House. This negligence must mean they know something we don't know. After all, why would they place such little stock in the preservation of the President? They are surely covering up the truth about the world ending. *Clearly*.

Indeed, current events factor into this conspiracy more than the average American would think.

You might think that the Swine Flu is just another innocent pathogen, living out its life, trying to infect people out of pure spite. But you are quite wrong. Governmental conspiracy. Or, like the Loomis Stu Acts portal contends, Dean Mac could just be breeding Swine Flu so he can have some time off of work. Either one works.

I am sure that many of you are still skeptical about the end of the world occurring in 2012. Many plebeians still contend that this theory is absolutely ridiculous and there is no way that giant tsunamis can wipe out all of civilization. Hogwash, I say! But let me convince you with an alternate theory revolving around the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. Since he was so successful in 2008, Michael Phelps decided to take some time off swimming to go on a book tour and search for the best parties in town. (He should have had a Brush Library-esque cell phone policy!) Because of his partying, Phelps missed valuable training time, and when the Olympics roll around, he might not achieve gold medals in all of the events that he swims. This event could surely cause an irreparable rift in the space-time continuum and cause the earth to both spontaneously combust and then sprout giant tsunamis.

I am convinced that any one of these theories could turn out to be the way the world ends. They are all very realistic. Beware of 2012!



CARTOON BY JACKIE MISHOL

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Featured Athlete: Claire Conway

by Mallory Petersen Chamberlain

Chasing down Claire Conway, the fastest female runner on campus, for this issue's "Featured Athlete" was no easy task. As humble as she is speedy, Claire's four-year cross-country career speaks for itself without her needing to boast about it. Consistently one of the top runners for the team since freshman year, repeatedly breaking twenty minutes on three point one mile courses all across New England, and warding off any and all injuries with IcyHot and oranges, Conway has remained the team's stronghold with her solid performances and her optimistic attitude.

As a co-senior Captain this season, alongside teammate Katy Ricci '10, Claire has been able to look back on her first years on the team with a renewed sense of perspective. "I remember freshman year looking up to my captains as role models. Having younger girls on the team looking up to me made me work harder and push myself further to help them push themselves too." Many think that cross-country is an individual sport: running by oneself at a pace that leaves little room for verbal communication with one's teammates and simply receiving an individual time at the finish line; however, Claire says it is as much a team sport as soccer, lacrosse, or any team sport for that matter. "Though you strive to better your own personal times and records,

when everyone tries their best, the whole team reaps the benefits."

One of the races that stands out most vividly in Claire's mind is her freshman year Founder's League race at the Taft School, where she and fellow top runner, Sarah Davenport '09, worked together the entire race to reach the front. "Communicating with each other by mere hand movements and familiar eye motions, we were able to pass runners on either side, and steadily pick off other runners throughout the course. After the race when we heard that our teammate dropped out of the race, we did not expect to see Mrs. Purdy smiling and excitedly telling us that we had still won! It was definitely a surprise." (Conway and Davenport earned second and third place respectively in their Founder's League race).

Another special thing common to all athletes is the practice of pre-game rituals, and boy does Claire have those in abundance! "I always make sure to go to bed early the night before the night before a race because that is the most important time to get a lot of rest." This coming from a girl who tries to go to bed at 10:30 PM each night -unheard of in upperclassmen dorms. "I also eat an orange and drink a purple Gatorade the night prior to my race." Claire also likes to "carboload" the night before a race, eat-

ing a meal mainly consisting of carbohydrates such as pasta and bread. Claire's signature ritual through all four years of cross country has definitely been her two braids. "By wearing braids with my two lucky green elastics, I always feel more relaxed and prepared to race."

Claire would not have changed her decision to come run for the LC Cross Country squad for anything. "The team has always been welcoming and it does not matter if you're a freshman or a senior, everyone is always happy and laughing. Our coaches, Mrs. Purdy, Mr. Robbins, and Mrs. Kaptuch are amazing coaches and helped us have a great season. We even had our own team mascot, Mrs. Kaptuch's dog, Buzzy." Head coach, Mrs. Purdy, described Claire best when she pointed out during a final farewell to the team that Claire's attitude envelopes everyone on the team and places her as a natural leader. "Cheery, positive, always smiling, Claire's love for running brings the team together and pulls them through even the toughest of workouts." Claire strongly ended her last cross country season as a Pelican by placing 4th in the Founders League and 18th in New England. Whether rain or shine, mud or frost, Conway keeps going, keeps exerting, and best of all, keeps improving.

Post-Season Wrap-Up

by Laura McConney

As the colors of fall fade to gray and the brisk winter air grips students, it is time for us to once again reflect upon the past season. Posting a combined 60-37-5 record, Loomis Chaffee Athletics continues the long-lasting tradition of excellence.

The Boys' Water Polo team, despite finishing with a disappointing 1-15 record, made some major strides this fall. Their pursuit of improvement and their determination to compete at the highest level reminded all sports fans of the true definition of sport: the love of competition. This perseverance reached its peak at the end of the season, when the team beat Hopkins: their first and only win of the season, coming on the last home game of the season.

Posting key wins against the powerful Hotchkiss and Avon, the Varsity Football team also made great strides this season. This year's squad has truly set the tone for the program in upcoming years. Although they only won two games, the team was competitive in every game. A touchdown or an extra point decided most of their games. The leadership brought by captain Will Mucci '10, the postgraduates, and the remainder of the seniors united the team and provided a key component in the team's success this year.

Continuing the success of their program, the Girls' Cross Country team finished the regular season with a 4-1 overall record and achieved a second place fin-

ish during the Founders League race. Demonstrating the will and grit of these ladies, the New England race brought with it muddy conditions; however, the ladies of Loomis powered through the terrain, earning them a fifth place finish.

A New England semi-finalist for the second year in a row, the volleyball team battled inexperience throughout the season. Last year, the girls graduated three seniors, two of whom were New England all-stars, and the team was forced to scramble in order to fill positions. Luckily, those less experienced took their new roles in stride. Their abilities allowed the team to finish with a 14-5 overall record. With improvements coming weekly, these Pelicans achieved their untapped potential and reached the semifinals for only the third time in Loomis history.

The Girls' Soccer program continued its excellence this season. Reaching the New England finals for the second year in a row, the girls looked to top the team from last year. Unfortunately, Andover, Loomis's opponent, scored late in the second half - denying the Pelicans the title. Despite a disappointing end, the team battled hard through the season, facing numerous key injuries. The team indubitably deserves praise and recognition.

Similarly, the Boys' Soccer team, prolonging Loomis's strength, earned a twelfth consecutive birth into the New England tournament.

This feat was truly achieved in the last sixteen minutes of the regular season. Down three to nothing in the second half against Kent, the boys made a miraculous comeback and tied the game at three with forty-five seconds left to play in the game. Demonstrating the will power of the boys, this game, although remarkable, only iced the cake for the team. Battling injuries throughout the year, the team, though unwavering, fell to BB&N in the quarterfinals of New England.

The Girls' Field Hockey team also had an impressive showing this season. Finishing the season 11-3-2, the team earned a spot in the New England tournament for only the second time since 2006. Although the girls faced Westminster, a fierce rival, in the quarterfinal, they were determined to play their best game and leave everything on the field. Unfortunately, the girls fell to Westy 2-0, but enjoyed a terrific run and hope for similar success next season.

Ending the year in style, the Boys' Cross-country team furthered the power of their program by bringing a New England title back to The Island. Post-graduate Tully Hannan won his second consecutive individual New England championship. Acknowledging the boys' hard work that lead them to achieving this feat, Coach Sally Knight, said at the fall athletic awards ceremony, "Each member of our team is worthy of an award." The team looks to continue this success next year.

Hot Shots on the Island



PHOTO BY JIYONG SEUNG

Sam Shustari '10 reaches for the ball



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Christopher Lembo '10 carries the puck down the ice



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

The Pelican beats a drum at the Kent School

Captain's Column

For this week's edition of Captain's Column, we sat down and talked with Teddy Black '11, a captain of the Boys' Varsity Squash team. Here's what Teddy had to say about this year's squad and his expectations for the team.:

1. Does your team have any pregame rituals or routines?

Before matches we have a team meeting and then we listen to music to get ourselves pumped up.

2. How do you think Coach Schutzer will improve or change your program?

Coach Schutzer will improve and change our program because he played here at Loomis so he can bring his experiences to coach. Also, he brings a lot of energy to every practice and that really helps to motivate everyone on the team.

3. In what way are your practices fun or entertaining?

We get to play games which is really fun and everyone on the team is comfortable joking with each other so we have a lot of team jokes AKA mini me (Josh Stein)

4. How do you expect the team to perform this season?

I think we will have a good season. We are a young team so we have a bunch of kids new to the team and I think that everyone's going to improve a lot by the end of the season.

5. What are your hopes for the rest of the season?

Our main goal for the season is to be very competitive in the Founder's League.

Happy Holidays!
from The LOG

A Past Revealed, A Future Shaky

by Charlie Dorison

Professional athletes are commonly accepted as men among boys, deities among mere mortals. Extolled with praise and spoiled with extravagant wealth and fortune, professional athletes are thrust into the limelight without any control over their sudden fame. Transformed from mere athletes to role models, from neighborhood hero to national icon, these supposed Gods inevitably struggle to adjust to the tireless paparazzi and unceasing media. Professional athletes are expected to act perfectly in any situation solely because they have the fame, wealth, and talent that so many desire: but is this expectation rational or even fair?

Tiger Woods concealed his past more efficiently than any athlete in recent memory. Tiger never shared anything about his putter, let alone his personal life. Woods, an expert at handling the media, deftly avoided any questions about his personal life without coming off as rude or pompous. Then he crashed his car into a pole in the middle of the night. Then rumors began circulating about his many mistresses. Then came the overly calculated and edited statement that sealed his fate. Then came the voicemail that confirmed the "false and malicious rumors". Bombarded by media attention and tabloids, Woods turned into a mute. He understandably sheltered himself from the media and asked for privacy, further tantalizing reporters. His image shattered, Tiger Woods seemed to flounder for the first time in his life.

Woods acts as one of the worst possible role models for young golfers: throwing his clubs, swearing after bad shots, and absolutely refusing to accept anything less than an outright victory. Tiger Woods also acts as the best possible role model for young golfers: hitting perfect drives, respecting the history of the game,

and absolutely refusing to accept anything less than an outright victory. Tiger is not perfect, nor is anyone else on Earth; but as one of the most loved and known people on the planet, he's expected to be. In every tournament and in every scenario, Woods is expected to be perfect because of his fame, fortune, and impeccable golfing abilities. This expectation has corrupted many athletes and ruined many careers. Andre Agassi, the former golden boy of American tennis, admitted to using crystal meth and lying to officials about how the illegal substance got into his system. Ken Griffey Jr., deemed "The Natural" before he even arrived in the major leagues, attempted to commit suicide because of the hype and expectations surrounding his arrival. Athletes continually fail, in many different ways, when confronted with such extreme and unfair expectations. The people of America ambush athletes when they haven't reached the stage of maturity needed to react to such overwhelming attention. Even when they have seemingly perfected the art of living the life of a star, such as Tiger Woods, they continually fail to meet our irrational expectations. Is this because they aren't mentally strong enough or because we, as citizens of the United States, set the bar too high? Anyone who has watched Tiger Woods perform on the Sunday of a major can attest to the fact that mental toughness is not the issue at hand.

There is no set profession for being a role model for America's youth. Any person that receives national attention is automatically, and instantly, selected as a role model. Ranging from athletes to politicians, children imitate any public figure that seems to be revered by their peers. No one signs up for this job, and that's why it seems so unfair to professional athletes that they are condemned

for their personal lives. However, professional athletes have begun to understand that they have no choice in their being role models for America's youth. Some have even embraced this role by supporting charities, donating to medical programs, and volunteering their valuable time to help children. We can only hope that Tiger Woods can learn from past athletes' struggles and move on from this embarrassment. Instead of acting out in hostilities, hopefully he can learn from his mistakes and set a good example for America's youth. As a public icon and figurehead of golf as a whole, some critics have claimed that it is his duty to do so. I believe, however, that although it is not his physical job to face the media and speculation, that it remains his moral obligation to atone for his sins and not attempt to evade further conflict by escaping or "cutting his losses". Instead of sheltering himself from further negative attention and remaining a figure of public scorn, Woods should reach out to the people he has disappointed and attempt to make up for his failures: a task that is much more easily spoken than physically completed. Everyone makes mistakes, we are all human, but please Tiger, show us your human side and make up for your losses so we can go back to loving your perfect golf swing instead of hating your lack of moral conscience.

Tiger Woods is not the first athlete to make a major mistake, nor will he be the last. The dilemma for Tiger now lays in how he will face the situation that follows: the extreme media attention, unflinching scrutiny, and explosive personal issues. Athletes are human just like everyone else in America, and the unfair stress, pressure, and expectations we put onto them inevitably leads them to disgrace, sadness, and pivotal mistakes.

New England Champs



PHOTO BY ANN EPIFANIO

Loomis Chaffee Cross Country won the New England Championship for the first time in over a decade

Student Council Gives Life to the Island and Beyond

by Alex Lafrance

Traditions undoubtedly play a significant role in the lifestyles of Loomis Chaffee faculty and students. A recent Loomis Chaffee tradition has allowed students and faculty alike to profoundly affect the lives of thousands of people across America: the annual Student Council Blood Drive, which took place on Monday, November 9th.

The blood drive has become an ingrained feature of life at Loomis Chaffee since it was begun several years ago. "The Student Council has organized the biannual school blood drives for more than 15 years," Student Council president Nick Judson '10 explains, and he also mentioned that the next blood drive will be held again during the spring of 2010. Unfortunately, this year has brought about many new challenges for the event as more stringent height and weight requirements, imposed by the Red Cross, have limited the pool of potential donors. "Some students at Loomis Chaffee were turned away from donating blood because of the new requirements, but we still had a strong turnout," Judson says. "[The Student Council] had a full list of students and faculty signed up to donate." In fact, 60 students and faculty members donated a total of 47 pints of blood to the Red Cross in this fall's blood drive alone.

Many factors can be attributed to the success of the Island's blood drives. For many, extending a

hand to others is the main attraction towards donating blood. In the words of veteran donor Erin Jepsen '10, "Hey, I'm helping SOMEBODY, right?" To further encourage donors, the Student Council also goes out of their way to provide a little extra hospitality, which did not go unnoticed. "They serve cookies and snacks. I mean, c'mon, who doesn't want cookies and snacks?" Jepsen joked when asked about a facet of the blood drive she found particularly appealing. In addition, the blood drive is on campus, which draws many students and faculty to giving blood when they would often not have time in their busy



Charlotte Buchanan '11 gives blood during the Fall Term Blood Drive on Monday, November 9

lives. This is the case for Sean Lapuk, '10, who has donated twice. "It allows me to give blood conveniently," he says. "If Loomis did not have the drive I doubt I would have found a place where I could regularly give blood."

Donors are definitely needed. As stated on the Red Cross's website, "According to the most recent data from the National

Blood Data Resource Center, U.S. hospitals transfused nearly 14 million units of whole blood and red blood cells to 4.9 million patients in 2001... Whole blood can be separated into its components red blood cells, plasma, platelets, and cryoprecipitate. The total number of units of all of these components transfused in 2001 was 29 million. And the volume of blood transfused is increasing at the rate of 6% per year." Thanks to the Student Council, Loomis Chaffee plays a large role in ensuring that the volume of blood donated per year continues to increase.

In addition to the upcoming spring blood drive, the Student Council plans to continue (and start) some other traditions throughout the winter term. In January, the Student Council intends to hold its annual game night, and on January 7 it is planning a Loomis Leadership conference intended to "connect the leaders on campus [and] discuss matters pertaining to the entire school and ways in which we can collaborate,"

says Judson. The Student Council also plans for more of the widely successful Senior Meditations in the coming months, as well as a "Meet the Council" event where students will be able to munch on snacks while speaking one-on-one with their representatives.

Source: <http://www.givelife2.org>

Senior Meditations Promote Unity

by Chinwe Oparaocha



Katie Zanca '10 sings during the first Senior Meditations

As a member of the Student Council, I noticed a lack of artistic pride in our school's student community. Upon returning to campus this school year, I began to formulate ideas about how the campus can better embrace artistic expression. I proposed a convocation that would recognize Loomis Chaffee students' many successes and talents. I believed that under our new Student Council officers Nick Judson '10, Charlotte Greene '10, Shiv Ghandi '10, and Annie Hearn '10, my vision would be turned into a reality.

When the Student Council Officers presented the Senior Meditations idea to Head of School Dr. Sheila Culbert, she expressed deep approval for the event. She commented, "I think that it gives us as a community an opportunity to hear from each other about what is important in our lives. [Senior Meditations] serve as a means of binding our community together." To maintain order and organization, the Student Council decided to limit—at least for a short period of time—the opportunity to share meditations to seniors who have spent multiple years on the island and who can attest to the impact Loomis Chaffee has had on their lives.

The date for the first Senior Meditation was promptly set and volunteers were recruited. Student Council members discussed preferable candidates for this significant, school-uniting convocation. Several students

and faculty members were mentioned and emails went out to all of them, but the key group, our brave volunteers, took advantage of the opportunity to share their talents and evoke the school's appreciation and awe. Keeping consistent contact with Senior Meditation participants, approaching them about the progress of their presentations, and encouraging them to be themselves, I was able to share updates with Student Council members and ensure that the show would indeed go on. As the big day approached in the Senior Meditation planners were nervous; however, thankfully, the convocation was a success.

Among the students and faculty who performed during the inaugural Senior Meditations were the following: English teacher Andrew Watson, whose spunky wit mastered the school spirit for Kent Day, along with Nick Pagani '10 and Jon Rosenthal '10, Watson's trusty helpers. Katie Zanca '10 used her powerful voice to enlighten her audience, while Sharene Hawthorne Rene was forthright in her poem. The school also recognized Kara Krakower for her gracious passion, Susannah Stark for her blunt unconformity, Tim Lawrence for his arduous melody, Katharine White '10 for her sheer uniqueness, and Andrew Hutchinson and Kevin Henderson for their fun, engaging performance. Thank you for sharing you talents and originality to increase the unity on campus.

Upcoming Events on the Island

Tuesday, January 5	Students resume classes after a relaxing winter break.
Thursday, January 7, 6:00 to 7:30	Student leaders gather to discuss school issues and to find ways to unify the student body at the Loomis Leadership Conference.
Tuesday, January 12, 7:30-9:00	Chamber Musicians exhibit their latest pieces of music in their annual mid-year concert.
Tuesday, January 12, 6:45	Sculptor Lynn Koble shows her dynamic work in the Richmond Art Center's Mercy Gallery.
Thursday, January 14, 10:00-10:45	Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem share their musical talents with other musicians on the Island.
Tuesday, January 19	Winter Midterm
Tuesday, January 19	Martin Luther King Day Convocation
Saturday, January 23 8:00-11:00	Students enjoy the annual Winterfest dance hosted by the Loomis Chaffee Parents' Association
Sunday, January 24	Choir and Chamber Singers perform their most recent winter term pieces.
Thursday, February 4	Head's Holiday begins.

Jonathan Safran Foer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

non-fiction endeavor, explores animal agriculture, vegetarianism, and the American diet. Beginning his presentation by stating that the ethics of animal agriculture are best covered in a discussion format instead of a lecture, he encouraged his audience to ask questions and engage in his presentation. A vegetarian himself, Foer shared his decision to raise his son with vegetarian values; however, he mentioned that he does not advocate vegetarianism, but instead believes in the importance of consumer awareness in the food industry.

Foer also briefly delved into the environmental effects of eating more vegetables. He says, "If everyone were to eat at least one vegetarian meal a week, it

would be like taking five million cars off the road." In his introduction to Foer's presentation, Jeff Scanlon, head of the English Department, noted that the majority of books on the *New York Times* Best Seller list have titles that contain food-related themes. Scanlon and Foer both stated that such a list confirms Foer's belief that this conversation, about the animals we eat and how they are made eatable, is one that every American needs to have. Informing and inspiring, Foer gave students fuel for thinking with not only the facts he presented, but also his insight on the art of conversation and presentation-making.

Source: <http://wikipedia.org>