

THE LOG



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Student Leaders Tackle Topic of Unity at Conference

by Jackie Mishol

On January 7, a group of dedicated and distinguished student leaders worked to provide tangible solutions to the intangible issue of unity at the first official Loomis Leadership Conference. This "Summit on the Island," sponsored by the LC Student Council, brought together over twenty young people who all had one common goal - to use their power as student leaders to unite Loomis Chaffee through tradition, community, and involvement.

cliques. But these students realized that they really could do something about the gaps between groups of students.

Judson says, "We're addressing an intangible issue with some tangible objectives. It's hard to surmise about what the problem is and exactly what's happening because it's something that's felt; it's not necessarily something that you can put into numbers." But figuring out why day students aren't attending primarily boarder-attended events is one way to

mandating events sometimes forces students to bond over the mutual experience.

After reviewing ideas brought up at the meeting, Judson said, "A lot of it is that fine line between mandatory and optional. Involvement is so key because that's how you reach out to other members of the school. We're very good at everything we offer here [being] so diverse, it's just that sometimes students need a little bit of a push to get there. It's so easy to gravitate towards the

Koble's Unique Fusion of Artwork

by Brianna Malanga and Mae Stover

Lynn Koble, this term's visiting artist, displayed her impressive artwork in the Richmond Art Center on January 12. Her works consisted of crafty combinations of sculpture, sound and nature. Along with Koble's work, Loomis Chaffee faculty exhibited their art at the opening.

When asked about what influenced her artwork, Koble commented, "I create interactive sound installations and sculpture to explore environments, presenting experiences that engage each of the senses." She has been an artist for 20 years.

Two of Koble's most interactive pieces required the pushing of a button, which triggered a sound recording of her voice. Ms. Koble's mechanized voice—her voice heard from a speaker—enhanced the relationship between the technology and artwork. The orange and green boxes, the abstract shapes, bright hues, and oversized buttons encouraged those who attend the art opening to experiment with this interactive piece of art. Koble described her piece, which spoke softly to the audience with her recorded voice, as a comparison of mankind with technology. These two pieces in particular demonstrated Koble's ability to create sculptures that tie both modern technology and the visual arts into one ingenious piece.

The most prominent piece in the gallery was titled "Pundit," a felt-leaved, bush-shaped structure that included two megaphone speakers. Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony," a classical composition that Koble referred to as "a piece composed in response to nature," peacefully played from the speakers. Koble spent roughly three years constructing the 8,000-leaved structure. The work was extremely meticulous, since the leaves were hand-cut and hand-attached to

the bush. Another aspect of art that Koble explores is the integration of technology and nature, and when she seamlessly combines both hand and machine-cut leaves into her piece "Pundit," she shows the merging of both intricately-made and simply-constructed figures. The second aspect that Koble hoped to relay to her audience was the irony of an amorphous bush and the organized, classical, and historical work of Beethoven.

Strolling through the bustling Richmond Art Center, those who attended the art opening admired the beautiful artwork that the faculty contributed as well. Ranging from jewelry and crafts to oil paintings and digital photographs, the display offered a wide variety of different media. Faculty artist Chet Kempczynski good-naturedly explained both his artwork on display and the general idea of art. His love for art began in elementary school when he would, as he says, "just draw." Kempczynski's two pieces that were featured in the art exhibit were both oil paintings. One was a self-portrait of a himself from 1996 and the second of marching ants over a textured ground, painted in 1973. Chet described his ant painting as a connection between the ant society and the human society—the idea that our existence as well as the ants' must keep marching on through all angles of life. When questioned about his personal experience with art, Kempczynski replied, "You can paint anything; it's the way you paint it."

The opening, accompanied by sweet treats and refreshments, showed off the many artists we have on campus, as well as the creatively abstract work of Lynn Koble. The Loomis Chaffee community thanks Koble and Island faculty for sharing their artwork.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Student leaders discuss school issues on January 7 at the Loomis Leadership Conference

Student Council President Nick Judson '10 said, "Loomis has always been a school that values student leadership. We're students that can actually solve these problems. We know what will work and what won't work, and we have a lot of the drive to make this better because this is our school. We feel an intense pride that we're involved so much in Loomis Chaffee."

After a welcome and introduction by Judson, each invited group or organization gave a report on the unity issues it deemed most important and its goals to tackle those issues. Some of the represented groups included the Class Officers, the Peer Counselors, and the Pelican Service Organization. The presentation period then seamlessly transitioned into a group discussion period in which the leaders explored ways to foster school unity, specifically between day students and boarders. The most important part of the meeting was the heart and soul of LLC - the collaboration. The students, voicing their concerns and then tackling them together with their own ideas, in essence, began to solve a problem that many Pelicans had recently written this off as a typical high school dilemma. Kids will be kids; cliques will be

make the issue and solution more concrete. "That's something that's very tangible. We can figure out why students aren't coming."

This senior day student was inspired to organize this conference by an event held two years ago by then Student Council President Todd Mendlinger '08. This previous meeting successfully got campus leaders together to brainstorm, but focused on school issues in a more general manner as opposed to zeroing in on one topic. This year Judson decided it was time to have another meeting, but with one sole-driving force: the topic of school unity. Thus the Loomis Leadership Conference was born.

Through reports and discussion, the student leaders talked about ways to encourage students to come together. Some ideas included a reform of the Family Style program and the initiation of cluster systems that would assign day students to dorms. The group was also careful to acknowledge the difference between strongly encouraging bonding and mandating it. Crossing the line and making events mandatory too quickly or too frequently can oftentimes turn students off and mute excitement, but on the other hand,

people that are very much like you, that are also day students, that live in the same area, that are in the same sport, and it's just nice to be able to try an organization that maybe you share a unique talent for and go there and meet some new people."

At the closing of the meeting, Nick Judson challenged conference attendees with a call to action. Encouraging everyone to talk to his or her friends and fellow committee members, he left leaders with one final thought: "What's going to define what happened here is what you do outside the meeting."

The student leaders concluded that the conference was a success. "I think it's very important because...it offered a chance for the student leaders to collaborate," he said of the Summit. "It really gives us a great push to say that many people are desiring this [change in mentality]...It was something where we wanted to come out of this meeting with ideas about what we can actually do." As the student body continues to grapple with the challenge of becoming a more united flock, the Pelicans look forward to seeing the plans formulated at the LLC become realities.

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Steven Wang explores different ways to help keep New Year's Resolutions better.

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To read more, visit:
www.loomischaffee.org/LOG

Viva la Resolution

by Steven Wang

"I'm going to get rid of my belly fat this year." "I'm not going to drink so much whole milk this year." "I'm going to finally stop using training wheels this year." "This year's the year I'm going to run the NYC marathon." "This year, I am going to follow through with my new year's resolutions."

Sound familiar? Though your New Year's resolutions may not sound exactly like these, all resolutions share a common goal of self improvement. These are great things to promise to yourself, especially in the new year, but do these resolution actually work?

To find out, I asked people over break if they made New Year's resolutions and if so, were they able to keep them. Out of 20 people asked, 17 answered they were not able to keep their resolutions. That's a pretty high percentage of failed resolutions and it caught me off guard.

After asking people why their resolutions failed, it seemed to me a major reason resolutions fail is lack of time and energy. People tend to overestimate these things especially during the holidays where everyone is relatively well rested and happy. So when the new year does come around and normal responsibilities return, many people get caught off guard and find that they just don't have the time or the energy to follow through on their resolutions. Resolutions such as doing crunches everyday to build stronger abs

can seem daunting after coming home from school at night knowing you have 4-5 hours of homework ahead of you.

Aside from overestimating time and energy, I found that some people just made too many resolutions for them to keep up with. When you decide to run five miles a week, build a backyard shed, write a novel, learn how to play the mandolin, and cook more organic meals, it's a lot harder to complete each resolution because you've given yourself so many goals that it's hard to focus on each individual one. As a result, you may find yourself lagging behind on some of them. Too many resolutions = less focus on each individual goal + smaller chance of completing resolutions.

Another important factor I found in why New Year's resolutions fail is lack of a plan. Anyone can say, "I'm going to lose 30 pounds this year." But it's much harder to act on it. Many people think they will accomplish a resolution by simply putting a little work in here and there, then voila, it's done. However, goals are not completed that way. We need a plan. People tend to get derailed from their goals – and it's understandable. We have school, work, kids, friends and things like that that make staying on track harder. To combat those distractions we need a steady guideline or plan on how we plan on achieving our

resolutions. A plan helps us stay focused and also helps remind us of our goals.

New Year's resolutions fail most of the time, mostly because of the reasons mentioned above. With only 3 out of 20 people keeping their promises, it's hard to say that New Year's resolutions work. But it's not something that can't be fixed. You will find that you can keep your New Year's resolutions if you approach them a certain way and then proceed with them correctly.

Here are some tips for those of you intent on keeping your New Year's resolutions this year. Good Luck!

1. Don't shoot for the moon. Aim a little lower. For example, instead of choosing to lose 30 pounds, choose to lose 10.

2. Remember not to underestimate your time, energy, or money constraints when it comes to making goals.

3. Don't pick too many resolutions. Just pick a few that you know you can stay focused and follow through on.

4. Make a plan. Figure out how you will keep your resolutions whether it be through a workout routine, a business model, or finding someone who will push you to continue, you need a plan.

5. Keep track of your progress. This way, you can see yourself improving and have the motivation to keep trying. It's like a snowball effect.

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"Climate Gate"

by Luke Stone

An underground scandal secretly brews. The world is distracted by the loud, brash media show all the while engulfed in a giant frenzy focusing on so called "climate change", as government officials are trying to Save the Climate, and as various laws such as the infamous "Cap and Trade" tax regulating the amount of carbon dioxide emissions a business can release is debated, criticized and praised. However, something much more dire is brewing under the surface of the liberal leftist media coverage, something so shocking that they did not dare to bring it to the attention of the public.

In the University of East Anglia, located in Norwich, United Kingdom, an anonymous whistleblower released a compressed file possessing various e-mails and important data regarding "climate change" to a message board on the internet. This file displayed the actual workings of the international group of scientists that attempt to perpetuate the ever long guilt-trip that the reason why "climate change" has occurred is the fault of the human race and our dangerous lifestyle of driving and emitting excessive amounts of carbon. What the world soon discovered was the fact that this international group, known as The Team, not only withheld information conflicting with their theory but also addi-

tionally intentionally distorted historical information that conflicted with the theory in order to cover up the lies fueling this outrageous climate change scam.

Suprised? This may come to shock to the many people who don't watch too much television save for than the big three cable news channels NBC, ABC, and CBS. It wasn't covered until December 2. The story broke on the November 20. The liberal leftist media only mentioned the story 12 days after the news broke on talk radio. This further proves the obvious left bias, as none of these stations was willing to 'touch the situation' until some of the hype of the situation died down so they could thus play the situation as a small issue and not have to worry about more of an uprising with the non-believers and dissenters of the theory alike. Additionally, our president Barack Obama and other Democratic government officials, have issued no statement and seem to be taking the "out-of-sight-out-of-mind" approach to this extreme breach of scientific protocol, on which many of the changes of the Obama Administration re: global warming are based. They are afraid it will create an even larger hatred towards the "Cap and Trade" bill, rooted in the idea of "climate change", as it only needs approval from the senate in order to go into effect.

I opened up a New York Times bestseller this weekend. At the top of the list, a long awaited hit: the memoir of the decade. I only read the intro and the beginning chapter, but my interest in the famous author was revived in those first few pages, and I decided to research the person. I could read online biographies until my eyes bled, but they didn't give me a good concept; they didn't reinforce the idea of the book. So then I did what any American teenager would do: I logged into YouTube.

The author is a politician, so she wasn't that hard to find. Media clips, interviews, and press conferences dotted my search page, with the occasional web pundit's blog. Clicking the first link that looked interesting, I watched a coherent address to a cheering crowd of thousands. Then my hand scrolled down to the comments, and I saw a surprising entry: "Sarah Palin is a creationist bimbo who spouts bull and kills animals for the heck of it!!!"

Say what? And this is the censored version. Many other comments were similar, ranging in levels of offensive slander. There was rarely an intelligent entry, and the more videos I explored, the less intelligent it became. So, why all the hate, and ignorant hate at that? It was fascinating and worrying at the same time. Why did people hate one person based on moot information?

Stop Wailin' 'bout Palin

by Alex Shirley

The next day, I asked around: "Do you like or dislike Sarah Palin?" Overwhelmingly, it was the later. Next question: "Why do you dislike her?" Then something strange happened. They seemed caught off guard, unsure what to say. The responses varied, but there were several common reasons.

The first one? She's an idiot. Why? Something to do with dinosaurs and Russia. Some time in 2008, people believed that Palin had said that dinosaurs existed 4,000 years ago with humans, calling them "lizards of Satan," useful only as petroleum byproducts when they died. But even as CNN reports, a blogger posted the fake quote on his website as a joke. The sad part – Saturday Night Live and Matt Damon believed it, and since more Americans watch SNL than CNN, it became truth through gossip. Shortly afterwards, a "real" quote prompted even more rumors: that Palin thought she could see Russia from her house, and that that was good enough to know everything about foreign policy. What she really said? "They're our next door neighbors and you can actually see Russia from land here in Alaska." Which is true, in case you've never been to Port Clarence.

And the reasons went on and on. She hates the environment because she signed deals with the oil companies that brought

employment and the economy up in Alaska, she's a moose and polar bear killer because of her experience with hunting as a teenager, she's a horrible mom because her 17-year old daughter became pregnant, and that she has no idea what's going on simply because she doesn't get her information from a mainstream newspaper.

Were there positive comments in response to the negative ones? Few, but not many. But more often than not, the angry voice was the loudest. One such positive comment was almost immediately met with an endless slew of name-calling and offensive, unimportant words. They used dirty tactics, bullying the supporters with this about your mother, and that about where you were raised. It gets so bad that you really just have to give up on it or risk inexhaustible frustration with trying to get someone to stop calling you something. The truth is, all of those trolls and furious bickerers are following something that they've heard so many times that it's ingrained in their brains: "Palin = bad." Celebrities have said it, news agencies have said it, and politicians who feel threatened by a new face say it all the time. It was taught to America, and to many people, it has become shameless, and even trendy, to hate someone one doesn't know anything about.

“An Eye for an Eye” (Exodus 21:22-27, Al-Ma'idah 5:45)

by Sojin Kim

With the Justice Department's decision to bring the 9/11 terrorists, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (self-proclaimed mastermind) to the civilian courts, the fear and anger caused by the 9/11 attacks were rekindled. Many in the U.S. spewed their dissatisfaction against such “fair” treatments for foreign criminals, responsible for the deaths of more than 2000 Americans. Soon after, two more terror attacks followed; “Crouch Bomber” and the “Jordanian Suicide Bomber,” jolting the Obama administration, and casting doubts on whether “war on terrorism” was on the right track.

Back in 2002, the Bush Administration set up Guantánamo Bay with its own set of “justified” rules and tactics of interrogation; deviating from the Geneva Convention as well as the Constitution. But in January 2009, President Obama signed an executive order to close down the Guantánamo detention center amidst attacks that this was both dangerous and an irresponsible move. Despite Obama's decision to send more troops to Afghanistan, American forces have so far eliminated 12 of the top 20 al-Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan. But with the recent string of terrorist attacks, critics are again accusing that “war on terrorism” has backtracked.

However, try analyzing these

events in a slightly different perspective. Although equally deadly, recent terrorist assaults were much smaller in scale. Winning American military maneuvers have largely disintegrated al-Qaeda, making them flee into these sub-groups outside Afghanistan. Instead, affiliated al-Qaeda groups and individual militant fundamentalists have replaced al-Qaeda. The closing down decision of the Guantánamo detention center saved the U.S. from being hated as one of the biggest offenders of human rights violations. In addition, some fundamentalist Muslim leaders, such as Nasir bin Hamad al-Fahd, Ali al-Khudair, and Ahmed al-Khalidi, “three

of Saudi Arabia's most influential radical clerics,” have now expressed their disagreements toward Al Qaeda's warped views. So the big question is not whether America is making any

of hatred to their disgruntled Muslim followers. In this sense, the logic of actually challenging the death penalty, in addition to holding a civilian trial for the 9/11 terrorists holds some

For Muslims, the U.S. invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan (back in 2003) were morally traumatic and equally devastating experiences. In addition to the hatred towards the “killers” of their loved ones, they are left to suffer silently. They are left in a hopeless situation, without any possibilities of justice being served. Made to suffer in this kind of situation, rarely would anyone pass up the opportunity to become the next martyrs. In fact, this sense of helplessness has spread to the educated and influential Muslims, those far removed from demoralizing war-zones. With more freedom than oppressed citizens, these elite jihadists create havoc.

Will the death penalty teach the hijackers of their wrong, serve as a warning to the rest of the “soon-to-be-hijackers,” and appease the Muslim community just as much as it will for the American victims? Continuation of the “eye-for-an-eye” policy will only beget devastation. Now that America has decided to use the civilian court proceedings to give the jihadists an opportunity to experience the true liberal democratic side of America, let us hope that through this sacrifice we can stop this spread of hatred among our fellow Muslims. To lose this opportunity by regarding it as just a vindication process would be such a tragic loss.

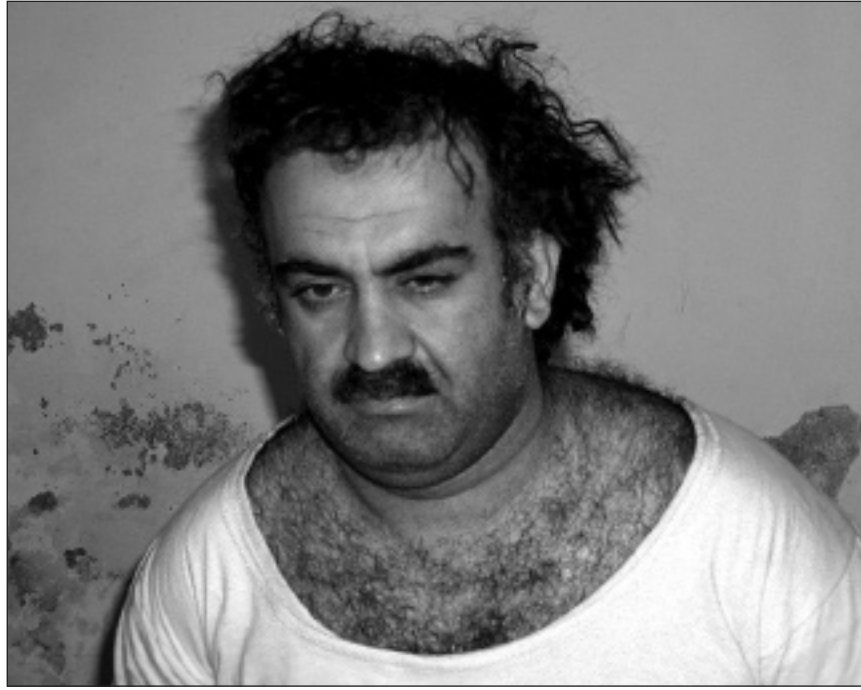


PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIACOMMONS

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, one of the masterminds behind the September 11th attacks, is currently going through a civilian court in New York City.

progress in this “war against terrorism,” and to what extent?

The recent outbreaks of small-scale terrorism prove that military progress in Afghanistan does not amount to much, as long as these affiliated al-Qaeda groups can feed their doctrine

with full rights as a defendant, will prove more effective in demonstrating America's liberal democracy in action - as long as the crime was committed on U.S. territory, the offenders will receive the same rights as any other criminal in the States.

Gender Conformity

by Victoria Garbo

If you open up a typical teen girl magazine, you'll be bombarded with images of hot guys, bright pink, high heels, crash diets and makeup. Not only teenage girls read such magazines: young girls are taught at an early age that you have to be feminine, be interested in boys, and like pink to be normal.

According to the dictionary, the definition of normal is, “conforming or belonging to the majority.” For the Christmas gift drive in my town, they were asking for trucks for boys and cooking/home kits for girls. What if a child doesn't conform to any of the typical girl or boy stereotypes? Young children can be extremely unforgiving: a child of a different nature will be isolated, humiliated and bullied, physically and emotionally. Society has imposed gender roles on every person, and the vast majority of society has accepted them as “normal.” For instance, when I was young, I owned more trucks than dolls, played “cops and robbers” more than I played “house,” and I wore t-shirts and shorts more than dresses and skirts. When I was in pre-school, I was the odd ball out: no boy wanted to play with me because I didn't have short hair, and no girl wanted to play with me because I didn't like pink or have any dolls. I was victimized because I didn't fall into any of the gender norms. I was neither feminine nor masculine. Children

are very malleable at a young age, and if society is teaching that all nurses are female and all race car drivers are male, there is no hope for a society that develops its gender roles.

Within the past decade, gender roles have become more relaxed but not entirely. Every generation hands down its thoughts, ideas and stereotypes to the next. There will never be a change in the future if the current generation cannot change. Especially over the past five years, gender roles have been loosened: take gay marriage for instance. Five years ago, gay marriage was absolutely out of the question but now, we find four states where it's legal, and many more where domestic partnerships are available for gay and lesbian couples. In Congress there are some forward thinking people - when the choice has come down to the states, unfortunately the population as a whole hasn't eschewed their traditional stances enough to allow for gay marriage: when states put the decision in the hands of the population, it is consistently voted down.

We can hope to evolve the thoughts and ideas of strict conformists to gender roles. The process will be slow, one that may not be finished in our lifetime. Slowly but surely, we see gender roles falling away: are you going to go at it with a pickaxe, or are you one of the ones who is holding it up?

The Benefits of Early Reading

by Lindsay Gabow

In most parts of the United States, elementary school commences a long educational journey sprinkled with tests. Children in public schools begin to take state tests in third grade, while class assessments may begin earlier depending on the given school. Along with mathematics state testing, students residing in New York also take the ELA (English Language Arts) tests, while students in Connecticut take the CMTs. Presumably, these exams are designed to test the curriculum of schools in a given state by comparing a school-wide average on both a state and national scale. But perhaps there is a deeper, and arguably more significant reason for the existence of these tests. For many parents, their child's scores serve as either reassurance or a wake up call, because the scores convey, relatively bluntly, whether a child has been reading recreationally, or has been slacking off and eschewing The Books.

The ELA tests are composed of several parts, including reading comprehension, writing mechanics, vocabulary, and a couple of essays. Usually, the content of ELAs does not parallel that of a student's English curriculum. From personal experience, while the student will most likely recognize some vocabulary words from class work, as well as some grammar, parts like reading comprehension are a direct indicator of whether the student has been

reading outside of the classroom. A close friend very recently received her ELA scores. Her statewide scores included vocabulary in the tenth percentile and reading comprehension in the forty-fifth percentile. Clearly, she is hanging by a thread competing against other eighth graders in New York State. Incidentally, this friend has literally never read a book outside of school. As a young child, when other kids her age immersed themselves in the Nancy Drew books, or the Hardy Boy series, she did not conform, preferring other activities like playing with Barbies and watching movies. According to the Dyslexia Action organization, children who read have wider vocabularies, confirming that my friend's failure to read leisurely has greatly contributed to her poor vocabulary score. As for the unsatisfactory reading comprehension score, success in this category comes with

reading experience.

Now, let's look at this issue on a grander scale. The aforementioned website states “the most avid reader reads in two days what the most reluctant reader reads in a year.” Evidently, failure to read at a young age puts one at a disadvantage that could potentially ail them all the way to through college and beyond. Throughout life, one will hold conversations with erudite individuals, and take interviews for college, graduate school, and careers. Furthermore, most professions comprise at least some reading, but it certainly won't be Nancy Drew or the Hardy Boys. Learning to read at a young age undoubtedly places children on the right path to success for years to come, forming habits that benefit them both academically and in their every day life.



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Correction:

In the December issue of the LOG, the Opinions article, “White House Administration Under Obama: 2009” was written by Dylan Jennings, not Luke Stone. The LOG staff sincerely apologizes for the error.

Featured Artist: Daisy Song

by Susannah Williamson

You might have never guessed that Daisy Song '10 was a former tennis player. But from seeing the way she moves now, it may not surprise you. With the same amount of intensity she once had for sports, she now brings to her dancing. Whether she's tearing up the stage during convocation or the floorboards of her own bedroom, Daisy is constantly driven by her endless passion for music. Gaping at her energetic yet poignant movements from across the dance floor, countless Loomis Chaffee students can't help but wonder how this amazing artist got her start.

For her, it all started her freshman year when she wondered if she could body roll like Britney or dance like Beyonce. However, after watching Daisy dance today, it's hard not to question whether even the most famous pop stars could learn something from her.

How did she get to her level of expertise you might ask? She learned by watching music videos, teaching herself in the mirror, and practicing for over three years.

Initially, her mother signed her up for a pop class, but Daisy later found her calling in hip-hop right here at Loomis. However, surprisingly, when she first tried out for the hip-hop team her freshman year, she was cut; however, that initial setback did not last for long as she was asked

back to the team that winter.

Although she was deemed by her peers as the girl most likely to be found dancing in her room, Daisy proved her hobby to be more than a pleasurable pastime. Over the summers, when some people were tanning at the beach, Daisy was improving her dance skills in hip-hop classes.

To show her love for dancing, Daisy has even made her own hip-hop club in efforts to teach those who are as committed to the sport as she is. Delightfully, the club has allowed Daisy to branch out into choreography, something that she is eager to pursue to greater depths in the near future.

When asked "what's your favorite song right now," Daisy instantly grinned.

"'Now I'm That Chick,' by Livvi Franc," she replied with a smile. Although it may be a surprise to some, Daisy mentioned that she used to play the flute, proving that her incredible talent extends to music as well as dance.

Is Daisy an amazing dancer because she can draw? Or is she an amazing drawer because she can dance? It may be safe to say that there is a correlation between the two. Daisy commented on the, "Surfaces, angles, lines, curves, wrinkles, and shadows," that have continuously allured her to the human form through both art and dance.

She even recalls drawing at a young age when she was determined to replicate those cartoon characters. Looking at her art today, you could say they are far from the simplistic shapes of simple cartoons. Countless members of the faculty as well as many students would agree that Daisy has an fantastic ability for portraits as she has an innate knack for matching up each individual detail. A peer once reflected on Daisy's ability to capture the details within her subject by remarking that she effortlessly portrays "the subtle nuances of a person's personality." Perhaps that's why she has been commissioned to draw faculty pets and children. Her art teacher, Mr. Zunino, is also very confident in Daisy's artistic abilities and does all that he can to encourage her to spend even more time in the studio. Everyone on campus seems poised in excited anticipation for Daisy's contributions to the A.P. Art Show in May.

As a well known, multifaceted member of the Loomis Chaffee community, Daisy Song inspires those around her with her incredible artistic contributions on campus. Next year, she plans on pursuing a major in biomedical engineering and a minor in visual art, ensuring that she contributes her amazing artistic talent to Duke University.



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO



ARTWORK BY DAISY SONG

In Defense of the Giant Smurfs

by David Fischer

The new film *Avatar*, which chronicles protagonist Jake Sully's adventures amongst the Na'vi, cost approximately \$400 million dollars to produce and market. The film proved to be an excellent investment for Lightstorm Entertainment due to the fact that 17 days after the film was released, *Avatar* crossed the \$1 billion gross revenue mark, becoming the fastest film in history to do so. The film has been heavily hyped because of revolutionary three-dimensional camera techniques that director James Cameron co-developed with Vince Pace specifically for the film. Although the three-dimensional aspects of *Avatar* have been the major attraction of the film, the story is no slouch either, boasting colorful characters, verdant environments and creepy critters, a necessary component of science fiction.

The 3D aspects of *Avatar* and the story itself should not be looked at in two separate sectors, but rather as two entities which, when woven together, enrich the story and overall movie experience. There was so much emphasis on the amazing 3D experience of *Avatar* that I did not know much about the story going into the theater. I thought that *Avatar* would simply be a demonstration of 3D technology that, although awesome and inspiring in itself, would not have the cohesive and compelling

plot that it may deserve.

Avatar has received some criticism for possessing a plot that has too much similarity with classic films like *Dances with Wolves* and *Pocahontas*, but why is that a bad thing? The fact that we know these stories, although making some endings predictable and hackneyed, allows us to see varied human (and alien) experiences within a similar plot. Although the general story may be similar, the characters' motivations and interactions make or break a story for any movie. For example, in *Avatar*, protagonist Jake Sully's paraplegia forces us to empathize with him differently than we do with *Pocahontas's* Captain John Smith.

The slightly overblown caricatures of the mining company on Pandora also increase *Avatar's* intrigue. Pandora was discovered to have large amounts of unobtainium under the surface of the planet, causing an intergalactic unobtainium rush, seeing as the very unobtainable mineral is worth \$20 million per kilogram.

Since Pandora is crawling with alien creatures as well as the indigenous Na'vi the miners need some sort of security, and that is where marines turned mercenaries come into the picture. Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang), the stereotypical gung-ho jarhead who puts the mission be-

fore all else, commands this elite security force. Running the business end of the operation is the wonderfully finance obsessed Parker Selfridge (Giovanni Ribisi) who, armed with his potential thematic nomenclature, cares only about the bottom line. Both are simply delightful characters that are superbly acted; they are just two fine examples of the excellent, multilayered characters in the film.

The praise that *Avatar* has received is incontrovertible. Many Loomis students rave that after the first 30 minutes of *Avatar*, they were so immersed that they forgot that the world of Pandora is not real. This 3D movie, whether viewed in IMAX or on a regular movie screen, has a unique quality that makes the world that Jake Sully and company inhabit feel irrefutably concrete; this feeling of connection to Pandora and the story itself is another reason that 3D is necessary for this movie.

The two hours and 40 minutes of *Avatar* passes quickly, filled with perfectly executed fight scenes, great acting and futuristic technology. Even the Head of the Math Department (and huge movie buff) Andrew Matlack called *Avatar* "sweet." There is really no reason not to see *Avatar* and, at risk of sounding clichéd, if you see only one movie at the theater this year, make it *Avatar*.

Resolutions

by Andrew Sanders

My first grade teacher made me come in to school the first day back from Christmas break with a few new year's resolutions. No one in my class really put any thought into the assignment and wrote down "I'm going to be nicer to my brother" and "I'm going to do more chores around the house" and called it a day. I guess, like many other people, I lied, because if you asked me then I would have responded that I exuded nothing but beneficent altruism and could not be nicer to my brother or do more chores for my mother: I had no need for additional kindness in my heart or chores on my to-do list. I changed for the sake of change, because of the assigned "need" of change, not because I truly felt I needed it. I haven't made a new year's resolution since those hastily scribbled on lined paper for my first grade teacher Ms. Varian. While I cannot disagree with the words of my teacher who always preached about the omnipresent "room for improvement," I can contest that if one doesn't truly believe in this idolized "room for improvement" he will hardly make steps towards a better self. One can try, but if he doesn't truly believe he needs to change, he'll find himself either the unchanged or slipping back into old habits.

Something draws people to the magic of change, whether it be the desire for the grass on

the other side or a "brand new you". Change is important, but it's important to change for you, not for others. It comes from within, not from outside. Take steps to change that thing that makes you sad on the days when you wake up unhappy. Change the way your hair looks when you get bored with your old style. Change the way you study when your grades get you down. Change your drink at Starbucks so you can stumble over a few new words with Taylor the Latte Boy. Change to make yourself happy. Change when you need to and when you want to. That's when change happens, not when you half-heartedly scratch up a resolution because your friends are doing it.

So if you like the concept of a clean slate in 2010, feel the need to change something, and want to jump in before January ends and make a new year's resolution, look in the mirror. What about your life makes you mad? What do you want to change? Do you want to change it for yourself or for others? The most important thing is to be true to yourself and not to change who you are to make other people happy. That's my new year's resolution: to not try to act like anyone I'm not. In the words of Josef Albers: "If we are honest then we will reveal ourselves. But we do not have to make an effort to be individualistic, different from others."

Designing a Building: The Story of Hubbard

by Isaac Kornblatt-Stier

When asked to begin designing a new music building for Loomis Chaffee, the first thing architect Craig Saunders of DuBose Associates did was hire acoustician Chris Storch to see if it was even possible to transform the old Chaffee Hall gymnasium into a new music practice and performance space. He thought it possible and from that initial plan, the new \$10 million Hubbard music center, featuring a world class concert hall, a large rehearsal space, a dynamic 2-1/2 story atrium, eight individual practice rooms, four new classrooms, new faculty offices, a music library, a seminar room, and instrumental storage space, was created.

What is now a gem among Loomis Chaffee's many excellent facilities did not always have its current beauty and functionality and its transformation would not have been possible without a dedicated group of skilled professionals. "Building a space like this is a collaboration, just like a musical ensemble on a stage, between the architect, theater planner, acoustical designer, and engineers," said Martin Vinik, the project's theater designer. "Often, people of different fields working together will have sizable disagreements, particularly on a project like this," commented acoustician Chris Storch, "but with this group, we really didn't have many problems."

Loomis Chaffee wanted an attractive new facility that could help anchor the different buildings at the south end of campus while fulfilling programmatic needs for the music department. To accomplish this, project members met with the school's administration and music department to ensure that they built the new building "right." So far, everyone from students to faculty has praised the design of the new building. "[Visiting] performing artists," wrote music department chair Faith Miller, "commented very positively on the acoustical properties of the space, and also on the attractive design of the stage and seating area."

In addition to simply adding a new building to Loomis Chaffee's campus, it was very important to create a building that "fits" not only as a section of Chaffee Hall or counterbalance to the Richmond Art Center, but also as a place that is respectful of the campus' traditional look and feel. The triangular roofs that preserve the interesting '70s look of Chaffee Hall highlight the ingenious design of the building and the designers' respect for the "look" of the rest of the Loomis Chaffee campus. In addition to flowing seamlessly with the rest of campus, Hubbard encourages interest in the programs it houses, incorporates environmentally friendly fea-

tures, and serves as an entrance to the Ratté quadrangle, which is made up of the RAC, NEO theater, south end of the Clark center, Chaffee Hall, and Hubbard.

Martin Vinik commented on the success of the multi-level atrium in bringing the building's operations together and exhibiting Loomis Chaffee's music programs. Explaining the advantages of having windows high up on the atrium's walls, Craig Saunders remarked that such a design would result in decreasing energy used for daytime lighting and increasing the amount of natural light in the building's basement. Additionally, he chose a VOC-free material made entirely from recycled tires in the building's floors.

One problem intelligently solved by Chris Storch was his use of incredibly wide air conditioning ducts in the performance hall and sound isolation materials in nearby mechanical rooms so that the hall is kept perfectly quiet at all times. Storch also worked with designing "clouds," or large, hanging acoustical panels, in the rehearsal space and performance hall. Another way the designers sought to create the best building they could was through anticipating other uses of the concert hall such as film screenings, lectures, and gatherings, which was one reason putting windows to the outdoors was avoided.

Another important aspect of the hall worked on by Saunders and Vinik was its intimacy because despite having 300 seats, the sloping seating design helps the hall both fit as many people as possible and remain a comfortable place for both students and adults to perform. "Both the larger ensembles and the smaller ensembles have performed in the space with very positive results," explained department head Faith Miller.

All of the planning and attention has paid off and the design seems to have yielded a good reaction. "Early responses have been very positive," said Christopher Wejchert, Loomis Chaffee's CFO. "It should last us for decades into the future." With excellent acoustics and abundance of useful spaces, the building has truly been a success on all fronts. One part of the facility, however, has not yet been finished. Chaffee Hall, designed in the early 1970s by Sasaki, Dawson, and DeMay Associates, has been closed since last spring for a \$4 million renovation. The overall layout will remain the same, but the building is receiving many upgrades.

New motion-sensing lights help save energy and triple-layered insulation curbs heating bills. To help reduce the need for air conditioning in the warmer months, the building's flat roofs are now non-light absorbent.

In addition, the former slanted slate roofs were replaced with an advanced plastic covering material. The building's white paint has also been completely removed, revealing high quality brick that matches the new Hubbard center. New windows with brushed metal trim will also match Hubbard and accentuate the modern look of the building. On the inside, aging classrooms, offices, restrooms, and locker areas are being completely redone in keeping with today's standards. The new classrooms will have modern technology similar to what is found in Hubbard's classrooms. A new learning center is also being added with the renovation. Behind the building, most of the decrepit concrete plaza will be torn up to make room for attractive new greenery.

With these various mechanical, aesthetic, and functional improvements, Chaffee Hall is poised to last decades into the future, anchoring the south end of campus both with its functionality and its strikingly unconventional architecture. "I see this building as a kind of a building block for future construction," said Saunders. It seems that the only question to ask now is what's next. Perhaps a larger NEO? Interior work on Founders? A new dorm? Only time—or maybe an architect—can tell.

FPA Update

by Thomas Barry

The Loomis Chaffee Foreign Policy Association (FPA) is composed of 17 upperclassmen who share a passion in foreign policy. FPA aims "to promote a deep understanding of foreign policy issues in the United States" as well as foster "awareness in the Loomis Chaffee community of global issues and U.S. foreign policy." And, all too often one can become isolated from the world beyond The Island. Yet, one must remember that this world holds both opportunity and difficulties from which the Loomis Chaffee student body must not recoil, but instead face head on.

Therefore, in order to better reach the Loomis Chaffee student body and further fulfill our mission, this February FPA will launch a new school-wide publication entitled "The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin". This journal will serve to update the student body on current world issues, including American foreign policy. Pressing issues, such as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the economic recession, and the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup, will be addressed. So each month the "World Bulletin" will bring the most pressing international affairs to the hallowed halls of Loomis.

Most importantly, FPA invites the entire Loomis Chaffee student body to participate. Any Loomis scholar may submit articles for consideration. FPA seeks

to not only enlighten students on issues of foreign policy, but to also involve them. Moreover, "The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin" aims to represent every nationality of student here at Loomis. Yet, such representation cannot occur without the help of the student body. Thus, not only are students of American backgrounds invited to participate, but also students of international backgrounds as well.

There will be separate sections dedicated to both analysis and opinion. The Amnesty International Club will contribute articles pertaining to global human rights. And lastly, the opinion page will include a column entitled "Voices of the Students," where the columnists and editors answer questions their peers have submitted.

Finally, while the first several publications will be printed and distributed throughout the school, FPA pledges to work in conjunction with the IT Department to make "The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin" a green journal. FPA aims to have the newsletter totally digital within a month of hitting the presses. "The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin" will print every two to three weeks.

Please contact "The Loomis Chaffee World Bulletin" editors, Heather Reisner, Alexandra Crerend, Tyler Isaman, or Thomas Barry, with any questions.

After the tragic and shocking earthquake ravaged Haiti, students and faculty alike began to ask what they and the greater Loomis Chaffee community could do to help aid missions and reconstruction efforts. In an open meeting only three days after the earthquake, Dr. Shelia Culbert, officers from the Pelican Service Organization, students, and faculty members all gathered to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

One of the first ideas pitched entailed creating an artistic mural on campus to both raise funds for and remind the campus of the conditions in Haiti. Entitled the "Hands for Haiti Mural," the project would feature the Haitian flag formed from red and blue handprints of those who donated to the cause. The artistic symbol of Haiti's struggles could directly contribute to relief efforts while enriching Loomis Chaffee's campus and sparking conversation. This innovative idea was just the first of many inventive projects.

While the Mural might be a visual reminder of the tragedy, others thought that a short story book would engage students and faculty members alike in the reconstruction efforts. Submitted by parents, clubs, dorms, sports teams, students and faculty, the stories would require the skills of dedicated French students in order for each story to be translated from English to French. Ms. Delacourt offered to translate

some of the stories into Creole and bring a compiled version to a school in La Gonave, Haiti.

Since the storybook project would target active service, not donations, some group members also stressed the importance of raising funds. Organized for Wednesday, January 20, a "Jeans Day," or day in which students can "buy" the right to wear blue jeans to class with a \$5 donation, would directly add funds to relief efforts. Another idea entailed selling scarves made by citizens of Matènwa, Haiti to members of the Loomis Chaffee community.

Some even suggested a "3x3" basketball tournament, organized by Flagg dormitory, to increase student involvement and contribute funds. Besides the basketball tournament, dormitories could organize individual events tailored to each dorm's specific interests and ideas. In the past, student leaders organized mock bake sales for each dorm.

Arriving at the end of study hall when many hungry boarders emerged from their rooms, food carts sold baked goods to raise money for various causes. In addition to all the special-

ized fundraising efforts, throughout the course of the school year, campus organizations like LCPC and the PSO will pool their respective donations and then divide the funds among many charities and other worthwhile causes in addition to the Haiti reconstruction.

While the group addressed some of the most immediate possibilities for contributing to Haiti, their mission extends to the entire Loomis Chaffee community. Parents or alumni willing to help can write checks payable to Roseanne Lombardo to help the Loomis Chaffee Haiti relief efforts. More than anything else, though, the group members urged for students to donate their money, time, or talents to the cause and come up with innovative ideas of their own. By joining the Pelican Service Organization or offering to cook a dish for the Mardi Gras Dinner, students can contribute to a worthwhile cause without leaving the loop.

LC Response to Crisis in Haiti

by Natalie Meyer



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Breakfast Lunch Dinner Catering

Featured Athlete: Abby Ostrom

by Laura McConney

Abby Ostrom '10 streaked down the right side boards, cut to the middle, received a cross ice pass from Emily Fluke '11, and gently slid the puck into the back of the net. As a four-year senior, Abby consistently sets an example on the ice; a fact evident in the two goals she scored this past Wednesday against Kent. Commenting on Abby's athletic prowess, Sarah Byrne '11 said, "Abby Ostrom is the pinnacle of athletic excellence. Her sheer determination and passion are clear to her teammates every time she steps onto the ice, whether for a practice or a game."

After arriving at Loomis Chaffee from the small town of Carlisle, Massachusetts, in September 2006, Ostrom has achieved great success on the ice, the softball diamond, and the field hockey grass; she was elected a Western New England All-Star in softball her junior year, an incredible feat for any athlete. However, Abby's accomplishments have not altered her ego. She remains modest, collected, and mature and Ostrom's impeccable sportsmanship inspires her fellow peers to follow her sterling example. When asked about her outstanding qualities, Abby humbly responded, "I think my work ethic is my greatest attribute. I love getting out on the ice, working hard, and seeing people follow my lead. Hard work normally translates into team chemistry,

and that's the key to winning games." Abby's work ethic has paid off thus far in the season; she stands out as one of the top scorers for the girls.

Clearly, Abby's leadership separates her from her teammates. Abby clearly leads by example to go along with her unbelievably strong personal leadership skills. Sylvia Xistris '10, Abby's ice hockey co-captain, illustrated this point, saying, "Abby knows how to talk to her teammates. She's consistently honest and she understands how to deliver a message with the proper tone." An ability uncommon in young adults, the integrity Abby holds rubs off onto her teammates, who continuously improve each time any one of them steps on the ice. Olivia Fraioli '11 demonstrated this respect in claiming, "Abby's the quintessential captain."

As a center, Abby has had to play on both sides of the puck; she does so with an uncanny, innate sense. Her strength and game sense allow her to communicate effectively with her teammates and to take care of business in the defensive end. Commenting on Abby's talents, Sylvia said, "When I watch Abby in practice play on the defensive side of the puck, she just does things right. I know I can learn from watching her." Also, when Abby gets into the face-off circle, she proves to be a dominant force. Countless times against

Kent, Abby drew the puck back into her possession, nearly unopposed. These talents, when placed in perspective with her goal scoring capabilities, enable Abby to net points when the team needs them most.

Abby's leadership, coupled with her athletic ability, has helped the girls earn a 3-3 record thus far into the season. With this as her last season in a Loomis Chaffee Girls' Varsity Hockey jersey, Abby poetically stated, "At the end of this season, all I'm going to hope for is to have no regrets. I don't want to feel like I could have done something more for the team, and I don't want the team to regret not doing as well because of something we could have changed."

Abby Ostrom embodies everything that Loomis Chaffee community looks for in a senior varsity athlete: from unyielding discipline to natural talent, optimistic attitude to sportsmanship. She excels in every area and her dedication shines through in every game. Ostrom does not simply work hard, she wins. Abbie succeeds at every turn and refuses to give in to adversity. From dominating opponents to helping out her teammates, Abbie Ostrom stands at the pinnacle of Loomis Chaffee athletics: a fantastic role model and demon to opponents.

Pelican Puck

by Cal Paduda and Charlie Dorison

The hockey programs here on the Island, always superb, have continued their tradition of excellence into the new decade. Year after year, winter after winter, the boy's and girls' varsity teams carry on a tradition of excellence. This continued dominance, a unique trait in the world of New England private school hockey, had separated the Pelicans from the rest of the pack. Unlike most schools that have their better and worse years, Loomis has constantly competed with the elite in the rink winter after winter. Success, however, is not given but is rather earned through hard work and determination.

The competitive nature of the varsity teams creates an aura of inspiration to all who witness a practice or game. As a blanket of snow covers the Loomis Chaffee campus, the hockey program enralls the rink in an atmosphere of hard work and dedication. This success would not be possible without outstanding players like Laura McConney '11, Chris Izmirlan '11, and Phil Vermiglio '10. All three superstars walked in before our schedule time, and strolled in with confidence and swagger that would convince anybody that these athletes mean business. When asked, "How has the season been going so far?" the captain of the Boys' Varsity team, Vermiglio, responded with a second of hesitation: "It's been

hard, we have been playing a lot of great teams with depth and experience, and being a team with two lines of forwards, at best, we regularly find ourselves fulfilling the role of the game underdog." After being asked the same question, McConney responded "We're doing alright, we've had a bit of a rough start, our main problem has been playing to our potential, once we do that, there's no reason we can't make the New England tournament." McConney remains hopeful that with hard work and more practice time the team will soon find the ability to play to their maximum potential. When I asked Izmirlan the next question, "What is the Boys' Varsity Hockey team's greatest attribute, he quickly responded, "Our starting goalie, Steve Michalek. He has been our team's one constant throughout this season. With Steve, we can always count on solid goaltending; he has really stepped up as a junior with little varsity experience last year. He improves everyday. The sky is the limit for Steve." When I turned to McConney for her answer, she responded with one quick word: "defense." Upon further investigation, McConney said, "the defense has been the backbone of our team. We have been able to count on them game after game."

A common theme had emerged through the superstars'

answers. The programs main strongpoint had showed itself to be a commitment to defense and persistent optimism. This worthy theme has pervaded all the sports teams on The Island and remains a trademark of all Loomis Chaffee teams from the varsity level down to the thirds teams. When asked their last question, "Who is the biggest superfan for the team?" Vermiglio and Izmirlan simultaneously, and emphatically, responded Pat Moriarty '10' and Billy Nayden '10: LC puck's heckling duo. This classic pair brings their all to every game, cheering the boys on with enthusiasm and spirit. The thundering voices of these two comedians intimidate every team that dares challenge the Pelicans on The Island. They are nearly impossible to miss and take pride in coming to every home game. This sort of enthusiasm is a common theme on campus. Students and teachers alike frequent every sporting event on The Island and create a great positive environment for all of the Pelican Student-Athletes. Between exciting games and the comic relief thrown out by the student section, every game is sure to be quite an event. The LC community wishes the Boys' and Girls' Varsity Hockey teams good luck as they embark on another season in the rink.

Hot Shots on the Island



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Abby Ostrom '10 charges at the puck



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Kate McCarthy '10 sprints upcourt

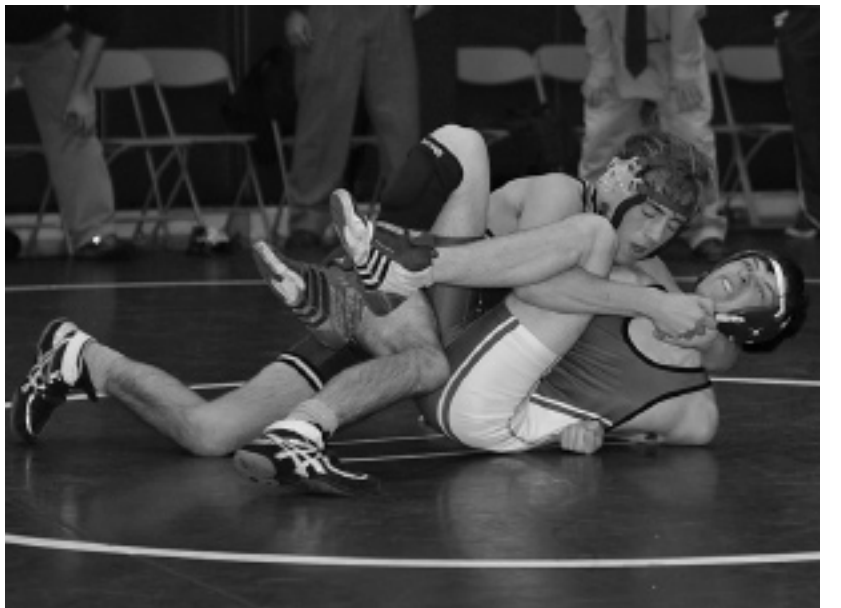


PHOTO BY JIYONG SEUNG

Jack Russo '11 attempts to pin an opponent



PHOTO BY JIYONG SEUNG

Caroline Nightengale '10 reaches for a backhand off the wall

SPORTS TRIVIA


- In what year did the SCNEC soccer team form?
A: 1900 B: 1963
C: 1950 D: 1991
- What year was the first NBA all-star game?
A: 1920 B: 1965
C: 1980 D: 1951
- In what year did baseball agree to have a free-agent draft in NYC?
A: 1960 B: 1925
C: 1964 D: 1980
- In what year did the Saint Louis Cardinals announce their move to Phoenix?
A: 1970 B: 1972
C: 1987 D: 1988
- Who was the youngest heavyweight boxing champion?
A: Mike Tyson B: Michael Moorer
C: Stanley Ketchel D: Leon Spinks
- What are the only two current American League teams that have never trained in Florida?
A. Angels & Mariners B: Orioles & White Sox
C: Red Sox & Indians D: Marlins & Rangers
- When was the World Series MVP award first given?
A: 1955 B: 1950
C: 1945 D: 1962
- When did the first World Series sweep occur?
A: 1953 B: 1914
C: 1945 D: 1910

Correction:

In the December issue of the LOG, the Sports article, "Post Season Wrap-Up" Girls Volleyball was regrettably not included. The LOG staff sincerely apologizes for the error.

Answers to this issues questions:

1. A, 2. D, 3. C, 4. D, 5. A, 6. A, 7. A, 8. B, 9. A



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A Quick Glance Back, An Optimistic Look Forward

by Charlie Dorison and Mike DeLalio

Squash remains a rare entity in the sporting world: one loved by every follower, but relatively unknown compared to other sports such as football, soccer, and basketball. On the Loomis Chaffee campus, however, squash is not a favorite Thanksgiving dish, but rather one of the most popular winter sports and a source of great skill and entertainment. The talented student-athletes boast, drive, and drop their way to victories in front of massive crowds. Teachers, parents, administrators, and students alike flock to the squash courts in order to watch the Pelicans compete at the highest level.

A slew of excited fans watched the final rallies of an epic match against Avon Old Farms at the Loomis squash courts. The crowd soon erupted into applause as another fantastic point came to an end. Coming off a tough loss to the Brunswick, last year's New England Champions, the Loomis squash team returned to the Island seeking redemption. A talented Avon Old Farms team stood in their way, but the Pelicans were ready to rise to the challenge and compete for every point. The even seeded players were first onto and were determined to set the tone for the day. Co-captain Sam Shushtari, the sixth-seeded player, and Rodman Maier, the fourth-seeded player, won handily without surrendering a game. Both players had to overcome smaller challenges within their matches but came up big for the team and gave the Loomis Chaffee team an integral head start. Co-captain Teddy Black's '11 match, on the other hand, rose blood pressures and evinced tensions. Squash, nicknamed "The Gentleman's Game," managed to harness the tensions into quality sport. After falling behind two games to a tal-

ented and experienced opponent, Black clawed his way back into the match. With some helpful advice from Head Coach Mike Schutzer, Black focused on shot selection and took advantage of his opponent's weaknesses. In the fifth and deciding game, Black outlasted his opponent in extra points to win 13-11 in dramatic fashion. Black quite simply "refused to lose." One squash player commented after the match, saying, "It wouldn't have mattered who Teddy had played today. How much skill the other player had was simply unimportant. Teddy could have mentally beaten any opponent today." With Teddy Black's clutch win, the odd seeded players went into their matches with overpowering momentum. Josh Stein '11 (ranked number seven) and Aashay Vyas '10 (ranked number five) easily overcame their opponents in three games. Stein and Vyas played their best squash of the season and dominated their opponents in a flurry of perfect drop shots and impeccably placed drives. Both Michael DeLalio's '11 (ranked number three) and Baxter Wathen's '12 (ranked number one) matches were closely contested. DeLalio played an experienced opponent, but was able to survive a four game thriller against his very evenly matched opposition. Wathen represented Loomis at the top of the ladder and played a very talented veteran opponent. Wathen battled the entire match but eventually fell to his rival despite playing amazing squash and utilizing unfathomable perseverance.

Co-captain Shushtari commented on the match: saying, "Obviously we're happy to play well as a team and take a match with one of our perennial rivals, Avon Old Farms. Everyone up

and down the ladder came to the courts ready to compete. As far as the rest of the season, I think we're going to continue to improve and develop much faster than other teams. Most people on this team didn't even start playing until their freshmen year at Loomis, so we're pretty inexperienced, but I think we have just as much if not more potential than any other team we play."

Co-captain, Teddy Black, shared what he thinks makes this team unique stating, "The team as a whole has really improved since day one. Everyone on the team cares about getting better. Everyday a few of us stay after practice to compete some more; and the fact that nobody wants to lose ensures that every individual gives 100% all the time. Another part of the squash team that I think is important is our team chemistry. I truly believe that everyone gets along. We have a few jokesters on the team, and I think they allow us to relax and better prepare for matches."

With the toughest part of the schedule out of the way for the squash team, the team looks to carry the momentum of the Avon Old Farms win into the next few matches and to continue the tradition of success for the squash program. Although the team has faced adversity early in the season, everyone on The Island looks forward to watching the team improve not only on its record, but also on the individual players' personal skills. After seeing the impeccable display of sportsmanship, determination, and potential at the team's last match, no one believes that the squash team isn't capable of fulfilling their vast potential.

Featured Photo



Griffin Cardew '10 skates against Trinity Pawling

PHOTO BY DAVID FISCHER

Mixing Up the Music with Mayhem

by Lydia Heinrichs

Clad informally in jeans and short-sleeved collared shirts, the gospel group Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem immediately set the mood for an informal but engaging and interactive performance when their gospel group visited the Island on Thursday, January 14. Bringing old songs to life with electric guitar, and even writing their own songs, this group provided a unique experience for music students and teachers with their exciting music.

The four-person group focused on remakes of many familiar Southern tunes, or gave southern twists to songs they had written themselves. Beginning with upbeat songs such as "On the Sunnyside of Life," their mood became in turn more soulful, with the well-known tune of "I'll Fly Away," more humorous, with a song about traffic on New York City's George Washington Bridge, and finally darker as they ended with a song that pondered the meaning of death. Like much gospel music, vocal harmonies played a key part in their perfor-

mance, as did swing beats on the percussion and bass notes from the double bassist.

Most intriguing about this group were their courageous informality at a prep school well-known for its dress code, and their creativity with their music and especially their instruments. The group, as well as wearing informal clothing, carried around battered instruments that appeared to have seen, over several long years, many places and many concerts. The percussionist had even created his own instruments out of old cardboard boxes, Velcro, tin cans, old tambourines, and lots of duct tape. The leader of the group, described the first time she had seen the drummer five years ago: he had been sitting on the floor at her friend's house with tin cooking pots in front of him,

beating out a rhythm with some old drum sticks. A short while later, the drummer became an essential part of the group. His innovation, as he used even Velcro

instruments, the group used their bodies and hands to create rhythm, as they snapped, clapped, and foot-stomped along with the drummer. They described their group as a

new-age gospel group, performing "old songs with new sounds, and new songs with old sounds," as Mayhem deftly put it. They also emphasized the importance that African American music and Appalachian music had had not only on gospel itself, but directly on their group as well. African slaves, they said, brought to America not only a unique culture, but also many rhythms, dance motions, and tunes that contrasted

entirely with traditional Western music and dancing. These elements of African culture eventually became a part of American musical movements as diverse as

jazz, R&B, rock and roll, hip-hop, and funk, and influenced modern composers such as songwriters of the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou."

Most of all, the group emphasized audience participation. They invited listeners to sing along with "I'll Fly Away," and told the Loomis Chaffee students of the best audience they had ever had: a group of eighty-year-olds in a retirement home. Every person, they said, had joined in the singing and dancing, even alongside the much younger musicians. During the discussion afterwards, they furthered their mission of audience engagement by having each instrumental group play a different beat, while a few brave soloists experimented with the tune of "O When the Saints Come Marching In."

Mayhem and her group provided an invigorating performance for the more classical-music-oriented students, and the audience left the concert with a fresh perspective about music, improvisation, and our American culture.



PHOTO BY JAEHWAN KIM
Guitarist Anand Nayak solos during an instrumental break

to create the sounds he needed, provided an essential element of modernity to many old-fashioned tunes.

As well as using these unique

Dodging Defeat

by Shannon Fiedler

Dodge. Dip. Duck. Dive, and Dodge.

On Friday, December 11, Loomis Chaffee students practiced these fundamental principles in an intense dodgeball tournament put on by the Class of 2010. Honor and victory on the line, the championship title was duked out on the court by eight teams, all vastly different.

Going in, the favorite for the win was Team Public School (Plus Griffin). A team comprised entirely of post-graduates, donned in sleeveless (and some stomachless) tees, they intimidated the competition. Right from warm-up, the other teams cowered at their seemingly flawless ability to nail a target right in the head with tremendous force.

A group of courageous freshmen, ready to take on the powerful PGs, comprised Team Periwinkle. The K-Town Krazies were ready to fight and to take home the title, as were the Rug Byrnes, comprised of female hockey players, who were ready to take their ferocious skills off the ice and onto the court. The underdogs were Polly's Pussycats. Despite their all-black attire, they were not the most intimidating grouping of senior girls. Among the other teams were Rack A Sack and Team Rosie.

And so, the bracket began. The PGs made it through the first round, but not as easily as they had anticipated. The Rug-Byrnes dominated the court, with much credit due to junior Emily Fluke's dodging abilities. Team Rosie,

demonstrating incredible skill, surprised the audience with their seemingly effortless win. With a surprise addition to the team, the pussycats were able to advance to the semis.

"The girls asked me to join the pussycats at the last minute," said senior John Belanger. "I think they could have done it without

And their efforts were successful; they moved on to the finals: the hockey girls versus the baseball boys. Both teams played with vigor, the tension ever rising as the clock slowly counted down to zero. Despite valiant effort, the Rug Byrnes lost. Team Rosie was victorious.

What was the secret weapon behind Team Rosie's incredible victory? Sure, it helped that the baseball boys throw balls continually all spring, but according to team captain senior Nick Civale, that wasn't the magic. "Performance was entirely fueled by Rosie's being there," he said of senior Jon Rosenthal.

But the real fun of the night didn't come from watching the court, but rather came from listening to the event's two emcees:

seniors Katie Zanca and Pat Moriarty. These two comedians, offering play-by-play, kept the audience entertained with quippy one-liners and even a couple musical samplings.

"Pat and Katie are hilarious," said senior Erica Cunningham. "They really made the night!"

Overall, dodgeball was a huge success, and it could not have been accomplished without the behind-the-scenes help of senior class officers, Sarah Hopkins, Alex Judson, Katie Ricci, and Jon Rosenthal. If you're worried that next year, with the class of 2010 no longer at LC, dodgeball will cease to continue - have no fear! The tradition will be passed on to the junior class. Start practicing your dips, ducks, and dives now!



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG
Dodgeball player chucks the ball at the opponent

me, but I'm glad I got a chance to play!"

The semi-finals were even more exciting than the initial rounds. The first game: Polly's Pussycats vs. The Rug-Byrnes. The game looked evenly matched at first, but the Rug-Byrnes had a strategy: they quickly eliminated John, taking out the pussycat's main force. Junior Shannon Ryan did her best to keep the cats in the game, demonstrating great skill, but in the end, the Rug-Byrnes dominated.

"My girls did the best they could," said pussycat coach senior Polly Sawabini. "I'm proud of them."

In the second semi-final game, Team Rosie played hard, hurling balls full force across the gym.

Winter Concerts

by Alex Lafrance

Music of all sorts emanated from Hubbard Auditorium in December, when in the course of a single week, the Music Department held two major concerts featuring Loomis Chaffee's Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles.

On Sunday, December 6, the Jazz Band and two Jazz Improvisation Ensembles, directed by Ken Fischer, performed an impressive array of songs supplemented by some equally impressive improvisation. The first ensemble kicked off the night with Miles Davis's "So What," Oliver Nelson's "Stolen Moments," and Nat Adderley's "Work Song," in which Max Fan '10, Caleb Yoon '12, Max Silvester '11, Alexander Amari '13, David Slitzky '10, and John Kramer '11 each entwined imposing solos into the impressive ensemble pieces. The second jazz ensemble, featuring Spencer Congero '12, Alexander Lafrance '12, Reginald Page '13, Daniel Sauve-Rogan '10, and David Slitzky '10, also played well, with the unlikely combination of Oscar Pettiford's "Blues in the Closet," Oliver Nelson's bossanova arrangement of "Summertime," and John William's "Cantina Song." Finally, the jazz band played Nelson Riddle's "Theme from Route 66," John LaBarbera's "Bluff Point," Benny Golson's "Killer Joe," and Lee Sabino's "Brazil Nuts." Unfortunately, in the case of the jazz band, not everybody had the opportunity to perform a solo; however, Tucker Stone '10 and Alex Buis '13 each soloed splendidly in "Bluff Point," and Buis performed an excellent solo in "Theme from Route 66," as well. In addition, Cece Coffey '11 improvised superbly in "Killer Joe," and David Slitzky and Ryan Palm '11 both illustrated their artifice as jazz musicians when they soloed in "Brazil Nuts."

On December 13, the Orchestra, directed by Ms. Faith Miller, performed their annual Orchestra winter concert. Jean Sibelius's "Andante Festivo" was played first, followed by an introduction from Ms. Miller and a brief word from Head of School Sheila Culbert. Next, some selections from Georg Friedrich Handel's "Watermusic: Suite II in D Major, HWV 349" were performed, eliciting enthusiastic applause from the audience. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Adagio and Fugue for String Orchestra, K. 546" was the next piece in the Orchestra's repertoire for the night, which captivated the audience as much as the previous one had done. A selection of pieces from Edvard Grieg's "Two Norwegian Airs, Op. 63" provided a vastly different genre of classical music when the Orchestra played Grieg's "Popular Song" and "Cow-Keeper's Tune; Country Tune." Finally came Franz Joseph Haydn's "Symphony #6 in D Major ('Le Matin'), Hob 1:6," in which each of the selections featured a soloist. In the Adagio and Allegro movements, flutist Melanie Larkins performed her part wonderfully, as did violinist Christine Huang '11 and cellists Jun Hwan Ryu '12 and Hyun Seung Lee '11 in the Adagio, Andante, and Allegro movements. The Menuetto movement featured cellist Darren Ting '11, bassoon player Erin Cohn '11, and violist Julia Russell '11 as soloists, all of whom played superbly. In the final movement, Allegro, Ga Young Kim '10 and Jay Kim '12 performed solos on the violin, while Paul Lee '13 played his solo with equally impressive talent on the cello.

The Loomis Chaffee Music Department applauds these talented musicians and eagerly awaits the many Winter and Spring Term concerts ahead.