

THE LOG



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The Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor CT

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Earth and Sky Exhibit

by Brianna Malanga

The Earth and Sky exhibit, on display in the Richmond Art Center from September 21 to October 27, features artists Susan Scott, John Mullin, Keith Johnson, and Leila Daw. A multimedia exhibit, the first opening of the year incorporates painting, sculpture, and photography into a presentation on the different perspectives of the natural world.

For the past five years Susan Scott has worked solely on perfecting clouds: working first with photographs, using only black and white and now from memory, using vibrant colors. However, her career in art began long before her study of clouds: as she said, "I've always drawn since I could hold a pencil."

To enhance a few of her paintings Scott added glass beads for texture, as well as to illustrate the sparkle and glisten of sunlight shining through the clouds. With her close observation of clouds came a whole new perspective on art, and when speaking with Scott she cheerfully said, "I feel like I've opened a treasure box."

Loomis Chaffee's own John Mullin, who teaches both Photography and Filmmaking, has several photographs on display in the gallery as well. Mullin said, "My photographic work is inspired by the night. I approach the land-

scape at nighttime with awe and an awareness that such places where people are seldom present nonetheless reflects the psychodrama of human existence." Sam Broda '12 who took Mullin's photography class as a sophomore speaks highly of Mullin saying, "He would go through slides with

three years photographing the globe alone. Though his passion for photography began in 1968, Johnson has spent the majority of his career questioning, "What's a photograph supposed to look like?"

Four of Leila Daw's three-dimensional sculptures of Earth's layers stand in the Mercy Gallery. Leila flawlessly incorporates science and art in her four large sculptures: "City Cycles," "What Lies Beneath," "Plan for a Golden City," and "Earth Power." Utilizing foam, wood, foam installation and spray, foil, ink, and glitter, Daw took roughly five months to create each piece. Her work stems from



Nicole Cho '12 enjoys the Earth and Sky exhibit

geology and mapping, but she integrates the effects humans have on the Earth as well. Her pieces relay season and times of day, layers of the Earth, maps of cities, and much more. The focus of her pieces is, as Daw said, "about the futility of being human on the Earth" and "the tenuous connections between humans and the landscape." Daw is truly fascinated with the Earth and her work is incredible.

The opening brings brightness to the Mercy Gallery and the four artists' perspectives and talents have been beautifully displayed.

us, showing us the beauty of professional photography."

Artist Keith Johnson also specializes in the medium of photography. Johnson's whole collection of photographs is taken from a 45-foot globe belonging to the Delorme Company. To create his aerial photographs Johnson simply stood about five feet away from a massive globe that stimulated an elevation of about 50,000 to 75,000 feet above earth. His display contains 12, framed images organized in a two-by-six formation. Specializing only in photography, Johnson spent

Sons of Perdition

by Alex Lafrance

Who am I? How would a life-changing event affect who I am? How would I define myself? Jenilyn Merten addressed these questions when she spoke about her movie *Sons of Perdition*. Working with the organization Holding Out Help, a group devoted to helping exiles from polygamist communities, Merten captured moments from the lives of multiple ex-polygamist group members as they struggled to survive in a world very different from the one in which they had grown up.

After a brief introduction from Head of School Sheila Culbert, Merten commenced her presentation by describing her own origins as a mainstream Mormon in Oregon. Choosing to leave the Mormon Church in her twenties, she was forced to question her identity and re-examine her lifestyle. This self-questioning inspired Merten to examine the similar questions of "lost boys," leaving splinter groups of the polygamist fundamentalist Mormon Church. Merten then showed the school four clips from *Sons of Perdition*, each of which featured exiled teenagers in various stages of assimilation into mainstream American society.

The first clip from *Sons of Perdition* began with a quote from the self-proclaimed prophet Warren Jeffs, the leader of a particularly prominent Mormon group, the Fundamental Latter Day Saints (FLDS). In the clip, Jeffs discussed how having many wives and shunning the practice of romantic relationships before marriage would gain one admission to heaven. Next, a dramatic cutscene of two boys fleeing their home in a polygamist settlement appeared, followed by an interview with a blond-haired 17-year-old named Sam Barlow, one of the "lost boys" in the escape video clip. Sam described his life with his ten siblings in his former polygamist community on the Arizona-Utah bor-

der and said that he had left the settlement because of a dream of transcending his sheltered and uneducated childhood. This was followed by footage from the house where Sam, his 15-year-old brother Bruce, and many other escapees lived, revealing the familial ties shared between America's lost boys.

In the outside world Sam's troubles began; between clips Merten described Sam's inability to attend his local high school because he lacked money and a place to live. Another young man named Joe could not attend school either. However, using construction skills learned in the polygamist community, he could support himself, and marveled at the money he earned. Bruce, unlike Sam and Joe, made it into high school and learned how to fit into and live in a new world. Some girls featured in the third clip were shown in a similar situation of trying to learn their way around in an America they had never known.

The final clip described the changes Prophet Warren Jeffs made in the Mormon Church and how they began to isolate the community. At the end of the movie scenes, Merten focused on the question, "What would you give up to achieve [a greater life]?" She discussed how many of these young adults must relinquish their whole world to enter a new one about which they know very little.

Since the presentation coincided with Banned Books Week, students were encouraged to recommend or donate titles through Mary Forrester so these young men and women could continue exercising their right to read. Advice and encouragement can also be sent via email to paige@runningshirts.com. Other donations can be made at www.hold-outhelp.org, and for the next few weeks boxes to collect books for the "lost boys" will be placed around campus.

Sophomores Bond at Becket

by Hannah Shushtari



Sophomores lift their classmates through the spiderweb

This past weekend the sophomore class, along with 22 wonderful senior leaders, escaped the everyday life of The Island to go on the Sophomore Retreat.

We arrived at Camp Becket on Sunday afternoon; the sun was shining, and it was a beautiful, crisp fall day. We split into

groups for the rest of the trip with the goals of learning how to be leaders, taking risks, and bonding with classmates. Allison Byrne '13 said, "This trip was so much fun! Not only did it allow me to meet the new sophomores, but I learned to break out of my shy ways and share my

ideas." Throughout the course of the trip, the groups tackled the low ropes course, climbed the high ropes course, did team building activities, and canoed on the lake—with just a few cap-sized canoes.

Sunday night the class connected at an unforgettable Hoe-Down. We spent the evening dressed from head to toe in flannel and denim, doing the *Cotton-Eyed Joe*, the *Virginia Reel*, and swinging our partners round and round. Though one may assume that it was purely country music, we were surprised to learn a Jamaican dance, do the Limbo, and even the *Cupid Shuffle*. It was great to see every part of our class, including our dean, busting out some moves on the dance floor. Doug Gorman '13 said, "The Hoe-Down was by far one of my greatest experiences at Loomis Chaffee. The feeling that hit me as I watched the couple teach us how

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Perceived Perspectives

by Shira Koch and Yarden Shreiber

Israel: is it such a different world? Not really.

We are Shira Koch and Yarden Shreiber, from Haifa, Israel. We are attending Loomis for the entirety of Fall Term, through a program called Young Ambassadors. There are six more young ambassadors from our high school, the Leo Baeck Education Center, who are presently in America for three months. They attend school in New York, Boston, and Texas. We are the first Israeli students who have come to The Island, and hopefully not the last ones. We are extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity.

Coming to America was a hard decision- to leave our families and friends in Israel, or not? To miss three months of school in Israel, to come to a new place where you don't know anyone were very daunting factors. We decided to come to America because we love challenges and as we expected, it is difficult. However, we can handle it, and so far it has been worth it.

Israel and the United States are similar and different in various ways. Like most teenagers, we love to hang out with our friends, try different things, and have fun; but we also worry about homework, exams and classes. One of the major differences between Israeli and American teens is the issue of college studies. In the U.S., teen-

agers think about college much earlier than Israeli teenagers, due to the fact that all Israeli 18-year-olds, male and female, have a compulsory draft for two to three years.

In your senior year, when all of you are making plans and dreaming about the college you will attend, Israeli teenagers are contemplating which unit in which we want to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces.

When all of you will have graduated college, most of the Israelis who are your age will just begin attending their respective universities.

Though the media represents Israel as a country that is constantly at war, we still live our lives normally, and we are not afraid to walk down the street and go to parties. Nonetheless, security is a significant aspect of our daily lives. Bags are checked when you enter a mall or a theater, and car trunks are inspected as you drive into a parking lot.

Although we are Jewish, we are well aware of Muslims in Israel. We have Muslim friends and they don't want to harm us, as we don't want to harm them. In fact, one of Yarden's best friends is Muslim. Even so, every mother still has her fears from our "enemies" that live alongside us, and in every Israeli home, and old cliché is present: "When you grow up you won't

have to go to the Army, because there will be peace."

Lastly, we would like to inform you about an Israeli man, Gilad Shalit, a soldier who was kidnapped in Israel four years ago, by the Palestinian political party in power, Hamas. He is now trapped in the Gaza Strip; this is one of the primary reasons why this region is under a blockade. His captors refuse to allow the Red Cross to visit him, or for him to have any contact with his family. We in Israel pray for the day when he will come back to his family alive and healthy.

He is already a symbol for our country, a symbol of something to fight for, and we hope that he will become a symbol of peace and safety for our country if and when he returns.

Israel truly longs for peace, and we greatly appreciate American support. We are surrounded by countries and groups of people that have threatened us, bombed us, and taken some of us hostage. Anti-semitism is plaguing the Middle East, and we dream of the day that such intolerance ceases.

Once again, we thank the administration at Loomis Chaffee for giving us the opportunity to study here this semester. We hope to meet as many of you as possible, and hopefully we can learn more about each other's cultures!

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Callous Cordoba

by Siobhan Reid

The debate has been furiously circulating through the media since August. The proposed monument is a Muslim community center in New York City that includes restaurants, childcare centers, a bookstore, and a mosque. Built by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the building will be christened Park51, and the mosque will be named the Cordoba House. The cleric maintains that the mosque will promote tolerance between Muslims, Jews, and Christians, and it will ease some of the tension caused by the 9/11 attacks. A peaceful and compassionate man, the moderate Muslim Imam preaches acceptance of other cultures. For example, when Rauf stated 19 days after September 11, 2001 that "the United States' policies were an accessory to the crime that happened," he didn't blame Americans for the terrorist attacks on that unforgettable morning; he simply tried to educate *We the People* about our prejudices and

shortcomings as a nation. Obviously the Imam forgot that his right to free speech, granted to him by the big, bad United States' government, allowed him to make such an incendiary statement.

Legally, no laws prohibit the establishment of such an edifice, as Mayor Bloomberg refused to grant landmark status to the current structure, an Italian Renaissance-style building from the 1850s. However, the moral issues surrounding the mosque and cultural center have dominated the national debate. First, the name of the mosque, Cordoba House, directly references the city in Spain where Muslim invaders conquered the Spanish Catholics in the 10th century. After wreaking havoc upon the city, the Muslims destroyed a Catholic church and replaced it with the "Great Mosque of Cordoba." To title the mosque after the site of conquest in Spain parallels declaring victory over the American infidels murdered

would be akin to spitting on the graves of their lost loved ones. Nancy Nee, a resident of Long Island, has spoken out against the prayer center. The sister of fallen firefighter George Cain, Nee observed, "We're upset. Not at the fact that Muslims have a right to practice their religion here...we're not like that. But I feel that it's a slap in the face to put it close to Ground Zero."

Daisy Khan, wife of Imam Rauf, complained on August 22 that opposition to the project is "beyond Islamophobia; it's hate of Muslims." Not so, Ms. Khan. In reality, criticism directed at the mosque stems from the desire to protect and to honor the memories of the men and women slaughtered by the radical Muslim extremists on the tragic morning of September 11.

Opposition to a mosque being built 600 feet away from Ground Zero is not Islamophobia. It is opposition to a mosque being built 600 feet away from Ground Zero.

I must concede that legally, the proponents of Park51 have the right to build the mosque. As Deval Patrick might say, "It's a free country. I wish it weren't."

Wait. I am mistaken. Actually, Patrick was speaking of Glenn Beck's 'Restoring Honor' rally at the National Mall on August 28th, not of the planned Cordoba House. Perhaps someday, we'll understand.

Tyler's Tragedy

by Lindsay Gabow

"Kids are cruel, Lindsay."

I cannot count the number of times that my mother has consoled me with these words. By labeling any harassment I encountered as inevitable cruelty, my mother comforted me with this declaration, a statement that carried me through my bitter middle school days.

Sometimes, unfortunately, words can only do so much. Eventually, actions prevail.

On September 22nd, Tyler Clementi, former student of Rutgers University, committed suicide, three days after his roommate and a friend surreptitiously filmed him kissing another man.

After finding the following Twitter update: "Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into Molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with another dude. Yay" posted by his roommate, Clementi posted the following Facebook message: "Going to jump off the [George Washington] Bridge. Sorry." An hour later, he was dead.

Maliciousness and cruelty have always polluted mankind, perpetually weaving through every generation, every country, every school. Today's bullies, however, are masked by their computer screens, secretly skulking through the internet, tormenting cyber beings in their paths. Because of this sense of security, teenagers possess more audacity than they do

without the Internet's protection. The Clementi tragedy illustrates that while technology is ceaselessly improving, human interactions are deteriorating. Not only have internet-related suicides increased drastically over the past few years, but people are facing increasing challenges to communicate face to face.

How do we, the human race, fight this decline in communication skills? Social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook, and the recently popular Formspring truly accents the spiteful side of people. In order to combat this problem, communication skills must be instilled in children at an early age, both in the classroom and in the home. Life skills should be an aspect of the elementary school curriculum, as well as an aspect of the middle-school curriculum. Children are extremely absorbant of information, and teachers must take advantage of this skill. It is imperative for the children's growth and for society's growth. We must realize that everyone is capable of the actions that Dahr-run Ravi (Tyler's roommate), and his friend, Molly Wei engaged in. In the dark depths of our minds resides hostility and viciousness. We are each other's worst enemies.

Unless the aforementioned measures are taken, this war will never end, and Tyler Clementi's death will be in vain. Rest in peace, Tyler.

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Identity Crisis in Afghanistan

by Victoria Yang

Many young girls in Afghanistan are made to dress and act as boys due to financial, cultural, and political reasons. The identity crisis, which has been going on for several years now, was recently revealed to the American public through an article written in the *New York Times*.

The youngest daughters in families are being stripped of their identities and given new ones. Girls are presented with new names and new clothes, and are referred to as "bacha posh," which means "dressed up as a boy." One of the reasons behind the unusual identity change is that families want to provide their daughters with more opportunities.

Boys in Afghanistan have much more freedom than girls. Boys are allowed to participate in a variety of different activities that girls are excluded from, such as playing sports, wandering in the streets, and venturing into new places.

Sometimes, families have little choice in deciding to dress their daughters. Families in need of serious financial aid will turn to their daughters for help. The daughters could only dress up as boys in order to obtain jobs.

The other reason why girls are disguised are due to traditional values. Sons are highly valued in families, whereas daughters are degraded as dishonorable, unfortunate, and restricted. A

female parliamentarian named Azita Razaat, could not re-run for Parliament because she bore no sons. The embarrassment Razaat experienced from this scandal, abuse, and pressure from her family to conceive a son, influenced Razaat's decision to mask her youngest daughter, Manoush, as a boy. Although family members, friends and other people close to the child know of Manoush's real identity, strangers and the Afghan government do not. This allows the family to save their faces and continue functioning as before.

Some bacha posh don boys' clothes during the day, and then return to their own clothes at night. But most bacha posh live as boys throughout their childhood until a few years after reaching puberty, and then forced to become women again. Once these bacha posh revert back to being women, families will sometimes turn their next youngest daughter into a son.

Many of the bacha posh

struggle with the transition of becoming a woman. They have a difficulty getting used to the burqa, socializing with other women, and completing other feminine duties such as cooking. Added to that, they must view boys differently. The former bacha posh's relationship with guys must change from that of a fellow companion, to that of a husband or superior. According

would feel confused and lost in between two different worlds.

It is ironic how nicely this issue ties into this year's Convocation theme of "Identity." This practice of turning girls into boys makes us think of the consequences of losing one's identity and its affect on a person. The practice provides us with a different viewpoint of identity. We normally discuss "Identity" as a topic that goes along the lines of pinpointing who you are, and the influences that shape you. In the case of bacha posh, identity is hidden under several layers of clothing, and revealed only after puberty.

I believe that this act of dressing up girls as boys completely demoralizes, oppresses, and debases women in Afghanistan. The bacha posh's lives are filled with confusion and fear of discovery. Former bacha poshs struggle between the double identities they used to juggle in the past. Their identities are continuously lost, crudely repaired, exchanged, and then lost again. They are forced to ride a roller

coaster of feelings, emotions, events, and interactions. These rides are enough to make anyone go crazy. How are you supposed to live a happy and successful life when you do not even know who you are, who you want to be, and what you want to do?

Although women in Afghanistan are looked down upon and treated unfairly, families should not make up for that by disguising their daughters as sons. Families may have good intentions, but the end result is the same. Parents are unconsciously smothering their daughters, and preventing them from flourishing into the charming, young women they could be. Many girls dislike having to dress and act as a boy, and miss wearing feminine clothing. They also feel uncomfortable being around boys all the time.

I would personally suffer from a lack of freedom than hide behind another identity. This whole act not only decreases confidence in many women, but also lowers their social standing compared to men.

Including the U.S., the gender divide issue is clearly apparent in many countries other than Afghanistan. Obviously, our problems are not as extreme and controversial as the situation in Afghanistan; but still, like racism, sexism exists in our country today. We must work hard to alleviate these issues.



Manoush (girl on the far left) is dressed as an Afghan boy. Her older sisters (far right) are seen in regular feminine attire.

to Shukria Siddiqui, a former bacha posh, "When you change back, it's like you are born again, and you have to learn everything from the beginning," she explained. "You get a whole new life. Again." Imagine living your whole life a certain way, and then suddenly told to live in a completely new way. You

Park51

by Abigail Adams

Park51, or the "mosque on Ground Zero" is the most hotly contested current issue at present. With many feeling that it is disrespectful to those who died in the crash, several political figures, including Sarah Palin, have urged the leaders of the project to move elsewhere. A project bogged down with propaganda- equivalent in nature to the YMCA- Park51 reveals much about our currently society and its insecurities.

Most troublingly about this debate is that we are unable to make the distinction between Muslims and terrorists. Should one accuse an average Christian of the polygamy and sexual abuse, like we saw in *Sons of Perdition*, the Christian would rightfully be offended. Perhaps this Christian would defend him or herself with the idea that polygamy is not Christian, but rather a twisted form of the Christian religion.

Yet, we are unable to assign this same logic to Islam. Seeing all Muslims as terrorists, and Islam as an inherently violent religion are simple misconceptions; these are prejudices that we as a society must fight. Yet, rather than acknowledge the prejudices, we become defensive.

9/11 undoubtedly hit our society hard, subsequent to relative peace on American soil. Till this day, 9/11 remains a terrible and

significant event in everyone's mind. However, scapegoating the Muslim community is not the answer.

I wonder most about those government officials who acknowledge the legality, yet still strongly urge the movement of Park51. A government that strongly discourages a legal action creates questions about the power of the government in our lives. The same discomfort can be found in a government when it strongly urges a group to stay silent on an issue out of politeness and respect.

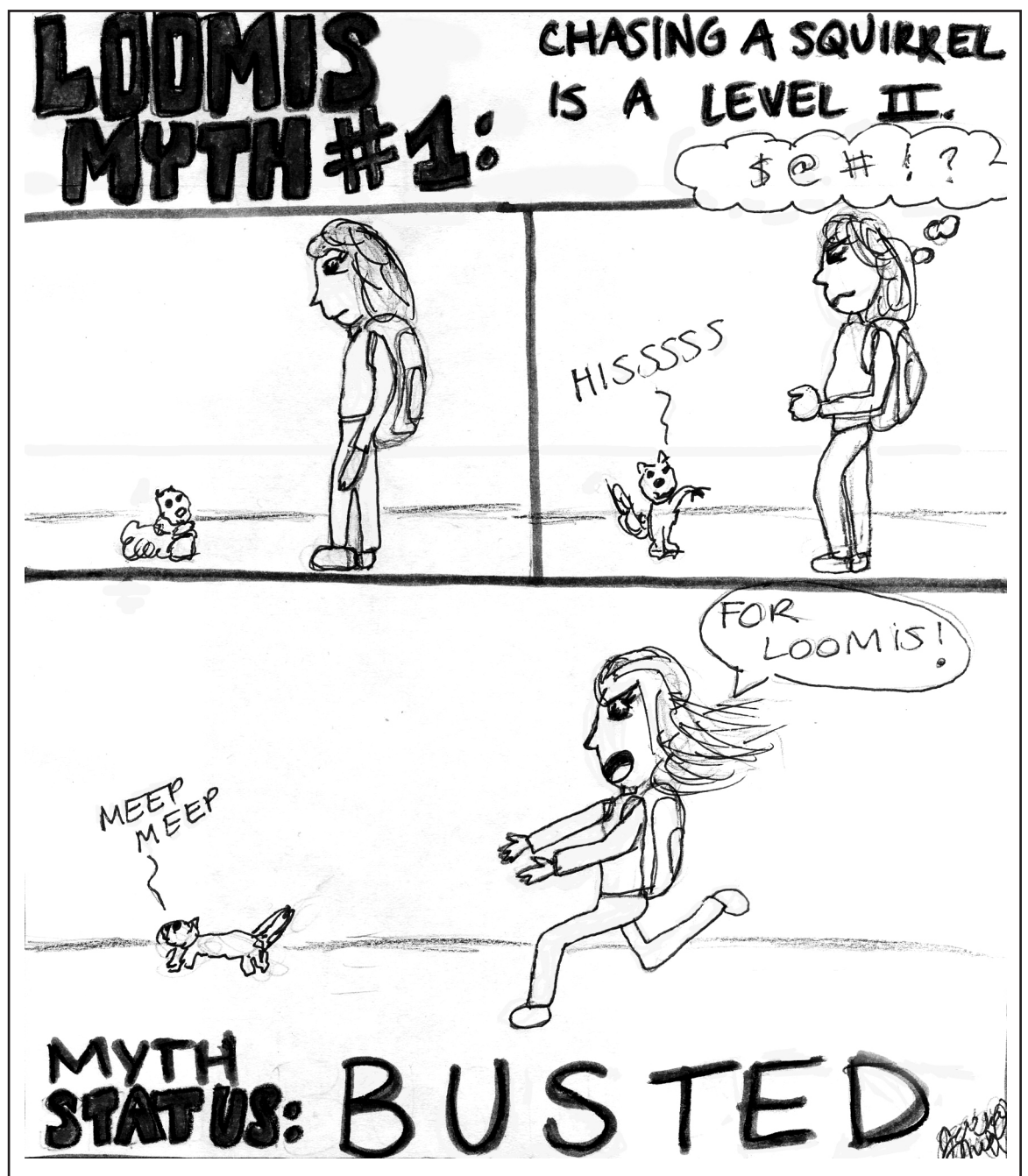
A fundamental part of being American is freedom: freedom of speech, even if it makes some uncomfortable; freedom of religion, even if the majority does not agree; freedom of the press, to present the truth, good or bad; and freedom of assembly, to convene on a topic that makes the government uncomfortable.

My hope is that we do not simply live and let live, but embrace the diversity that makes America great, rather than fear the unknown. So, I urge everyone to reconsider their rash opinions on Islam, and support an attempt at rebuilding a community.

We as a nation claim to be tolerant of all cultures and religions. We are diverse. We are open-minded. Let's live up to our legacy.

Let's be tolerant.

Comic Corner



COMIC BY JACKIE MISHOL

2010 SUMMER MOVIES ROUNDUP

Inception

by Kevin Lee

Christopher Nolan's summer blockbuster *Inception*, occasionally referred to as a child product of *Ocean's Eleven* and *The Matrix*, easily makes its case for the title of 2010 best summer film. With a plot that applies the concepts of lucid dreaming and false awakening, *Inception* tells the story of Dom Cobb (a slightly sappy Leonardo DiCaprio), a thief of secrets from the dreams of others. Cobb is charged with murder but is given the opportunity to clear his name by performing a subversive favor for a major corporation. Throw in an indie actor (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a guy whose incoherent English nearly ruins the dialogue (Ken Watanabe), that girl from Juno (Ellen Page), some British chaps (Tom Hardy, Michael Caine), and you have yourself a rather dynamic supporting cast capable of convincingly carrying out the plot, if not speaking entirely understandably.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

The film revolves around Cobb and his crew's attempt to prevent the clueless heir (Cillian Murphy) of a very wealthy businessman from expanding his father's corporate empire, an endeavor they aspire to accomplish by planting an influential idea in the heir's mind while he is dreaming. Due to the overly complicated nature of the mission, as well as its surreal nature, Nolan is able to apply his own visual creativity to many of the film's sequences. The dream world that Nolan creates is based on the dreamer's subconscious, but is affected by the occasional outside factor. In essence, Nolan has the freedom to do

whatever he wants visually in much of the film—the laws of physics and realities of the world are defied repeatedly.

While the notion of Nolan's dream world may seem somewhat ridiculous due to its lack of rationale, this is quickly negated by Nolan's clever delineation of lucid dreaming, which he exploits to its fullest extent. The process of inception uses the idea of multiple layers (a dream within a dream within a dream) to further the plot and provide us with a myriad of attractive scenery and diverse settings. The result is a string of mouth-gaping sequences that are boosted by world-class cinematography from Wally Pfister (*The Dark Knight*), and stunning visual effects. Nolan's insistence on constructing costly sets rather than simply exploiting cheap CGI enhances the film's authenticity. One example of this is

Joseph Gordon-Levitt's zero-gravity fight scene (debatably the best combat scene in the past decade) which Nolan created by constructing actual rotating hallways. With such brilliant visual craftsmanship and execution, most of us will easily be able to excuse the film's utter lack of character development.

Clever and intellectually engaging, *Inception* not only provides its viewers with an afternoon's worth of suspense and excitement, but leaves the audience with more than enough room for open contemplation.

Scott Pilgrim v. the World

by Samson Chow

For those who enjoy watching a well-crafted film, this summer proved to be an extraordinary blast. From the mysterious labyrinths of dreams in *Inception* to the fulfilling odyssey of spirituality in *Eat Pray Love*, movie aficionados have found themselves relishing good films in cinemas. This summer has been a rollercoaster ride of cinematic exhilaration.

But what about that action-packed, romance-filled, gag-teemed masterwork that triggered waves and laughter and literally caused bawling individuals to fall out of their seats? How can one ignore the magnificence of *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*?

Directed by Edward Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*) and starring talented thespians Michael Cera (*Superbad*), Anna Kendrick (*Twilight*) and Mary Elizabeth Winstead (*Final Destination 3*), *Scott Pilgrim vs. World* represents a fusion between cartoonish reality and arcade game fantasy, morphing into a motley pot of comical genius. Adorned with striking graphics, hilarious puns and breathtaking fighting scenes, this film not only stuns visually but also evokes the theme of moralistic triumph, in which love, friendship and self-respect prevail over assorted foes. One of the most exceptional moments in the movie occur when Scott Pilgrim, our nervous main protagonist, attempts to confess his love towards Ramona Flowers, yet he mixes the "L" word in this situation (which is, of course, love) with "lesbians," awkwardly stuttering "I'm in lesbians with

you." According to various movie reviews, this line literally had bawling people falling of their seats.

Apart from its cinematic splendor, the movie also brings out a broader theme, in which both the young and old often find themselves trapped in: dramas of romance. Battling against his girlfriend's seven ex-boyfriends (the League of Evil Exes) Scott has to face countless obstacles (including supernatural vegan powers and hipster-style flame balls) in order to reestablish his romantic relationship with Ramona. Interestingly, this poses the question to society: Shall we pursue our love interests even if it brings us ordeals that we were not initially expecting? The answer for Scott is yes, but for those who cringe in the face of seven maniacs who previously dated your girlfriend...it depends. Of course, if you're in "lesbians" enough with her, the answer will always be yes.

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World has received generally mixed reviews; yet the majority applauded the film's spellbinding and sprightly content. Some considered it a major financial disappointment due to its opening box office results—movie theaters had generated revenue less than a fifth of its original budget—meaning that the movie was unprofitable. However, as time has gone by, ticket sales increased and sales of merchandise soared, disproving these claims. My advice to you? Go see this excellent film and make sure that it is rewarded.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Reflecting on the Beginning of a Loomis Chaffee Experience

by Vijay Mansukhani

Last year, the biggest change in my life to date took place: I arrived at Loomis Chaffee. This was undoubtedly the most frightening experience I've ever had, but also by far the most rewarding. I had known all of my friends from home for many years, and while I was nervous about starting in a new country at a new school, I was excited for the possibilities it brought me.

I arrived as a new international student assigned to Taylor Hall in a triple room! Before that, I had always had a room to myself, so adjusting to the lifestyles of others wasn't something that was easy for me. The Hutchinsons, however, made it all better. I will never forget the first day I met Mrs. Hutch-- she made everything seem well and all of a sudden I didn't mind the reality of being so far away from home. She immediately took on the role of a mother, but not just for me—she is like a mother to all of the boys in Taylor Hall.

My first big Loomis Chaffee event was two days later: new student orientation. That morning I was all fired up and ready to go, but when I found myself lost in a sea of new faces, I suddenly lost my nerve. I must admit

that the now-confident Vijay Mansukhani was dumbstruck by shyness during orientation. During each of the exercises I was timid and silent—I even decided not to socialize after all, but rather live out my Island days in the secure confinements of my own dorm room. I was socially inactive and fearful. This

"I had always been taught that the only way to learn was by listening to an all-knowing teacher give lengthy, boring lectures."

wasn't the Vijay I remembered. Soon after, however, my cocoon slowly began to open up thanks to the forces of my teachers, orientation leaders and classmates. It was then that I became, if you'll pardon the expression, the social butterfly that I am now.

The biggest challenge for me, however, lay in Loomis Chaffee's academic program. This whole discussion thing just didn't make any sense—I had always been taught that the only way to learn was by listening to an all-knowing teacher give lengthy, boring lectures.

My whole ideology from back home had been trashed, and yet somehow I seemed to learn so much more. I was also fortunate to find that Loomis Chaffee, although far more academically challenging than most schools, is a place where every student can find an appropriate challenge. Everyone chooses his or her classes according to his or her own unique skills, and if one needs help, it's not just given free, but actively encouraged--just ask any teacher! Back home I would spend hundreds a week on grudging tutors, but here my teachers reached out to help me. I felt as if I was important and cared for in school for the first time in my life.

It can be hard to start at Loomis, and for many people getting used to the school may take some time. This time, however, is utterly and completely worth it—in fact one of the best parts of going to Loomis for me was being able to start anew and become the person I wanted to be. The offerings, resources, and facilities at LC are amazing, and the possibilities here are endless, but it's the people here who really set this place apart. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

Around the Island

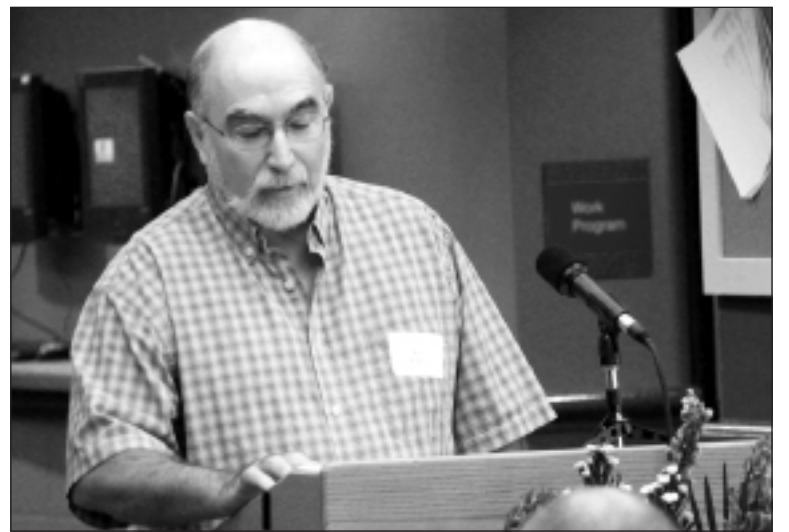


PHOTO BY RUN BANLENGCHIT

Harold Milliken speaks at the dedication ceremony of the Judy McCormick mailroom.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Michael Curtin '11 and Ryan Palm '11 demonstrate their patriotic spirit at Clubs Fair.

Featured Artist: Spencer Congero

by Christian Bermel

As the Loomis Chaffee community began the 2009-2010 school year, the revamped music center took center stage. In addition to the stunning auditorium, sound-proof practice rooms, and general building improvements, LC also invested in two Steinway grand pianos. These top-of-the-line, handmade pianos take a year to produce and usually carry a hefty price. As our music program took giant leaps forward, Spencer Congero '12 a talented pianist took it in stride, jumping right along with it.

Seen playing at Musical Revue, Class Night, pep rallies, and the Jazz Band, Congero seems to perform at every Loomis event involving pianos on campus. A piano player since the third grade, Spencer said, "I fell in love with piano immediately." His love for piano soon became a passion and, fueled by old Billy Joel records, he began playing voraciously, practicing for "over two hours a day" some weeks. Through constant lessons, dedicated practice, and some natural talent, his skills grew steadily. Certainly, this outlier is well on his way to his ten thousand hours.

As a freshman, Spencer joined the jazz band, but his real contribution to Loomis music came through *Two Men Falling*, the Island's Musical Revue. The Revue, a performance of popular songs from Broadway musicals, needed

a pianist. Spencer, then a lowly freshman, volunteered and has not looked back. He will be reprising his role as the accompanist again this year for the third time. On top of his piano playing,



Spencer Congero '12 jams on one of the Loomis Chaffee Steinways

he had an excellent singing part in last year's show, in the song "Glee Club Rehearsal".

"He's an extremely talented musician," said Melanie Silverman '12, co-director of the Musical Revue this year, "and I wish I could play piano like he does." Spencer tirelessly leads each and every singer through their songs until they have nailed it. The unsung hero, Spencer attends every practice, working hard to perfect

the show.

In his sophomore year Spencer truly began to shine, devoting vast amounts of time to piano around LC. He continued to play for Musical Revue, while joining the Jazz

Band Improvisation group (affectionately known as Jazz Improv.) He said of the Improv group, "It really taught me how to play jazz. Before Jazz Improv, my playing sounded like Billy Joel's style just imposed onto the jazz song. Now I'm learning more about how to play actual classic jazz."

In addition to his formidable work in Improv, Spencer makes his true impact by participating in countless performances on

campus, day in and day out.

At Senior Meditations, Spencer accompanied Katie Zanca '10, and he later accompanied her on the song "Smile" at the memorial for Judy McCormick. In last year's pep rally, Spencer accompanied the Musical Revue singers in a stirring rendition of "Don't Stop Believin'." Spencer's musical pursuits even took him to Slitzkrieg, the rock group formed by David Slitzky '10 and Niles Krieger '10 and Dan Sauve-Rogan '10. In fact, he accompanied them on one song, "Summertime," off of their album, *Recommended International Tailoring*. Even the A Cappellicans, our a cappella group on campus, enlisted Spencer for help. When the singers had difficulty learning their parts, Spencer came in and helped on piano. He even arranged some parts for the group.

At Class Night last year, whether he was accompanying Zanca or banging out sixteenth notes on the incredibly difficult "Baba O'Riley" with Slitzkrieg and others, Spencer impressively held his own, a sophomore among seniors.

A true giant in the LC music community, Spencer said that as his career progresses, he hopes to "learn new styles of playing, and develop [his] songwriting ability." Until then, Spencer has two more years of endowing our community with his music. Even he admitted, "I still have a long way to go."

Culture and Arts

New Students: Be Warned

by Ashlee Burriss

We have eight more months to go in this torturous place, some may think. But I, like many other Loomis Chaffee students, actually enjoy this environment. I actually appreciate waking up during the week to spend another day at Loomis, even though I do think Saturday classes should be abolished, but that's another story. It's important to realize just how privileged we are to be here, and equally important to take advantage in every way we can of this fantastic experience. So for you new students (and you returning students as well), I've put together some tips for making the most of your LC education.

As a returning junior, I advise all of the new students to take advantage of what Loomis has to offer. Whether it be participating in clubs and activities or trying out for the Varsity basketball team, get involved! We only go through high school once and I would hate to have graduated from Loomis with no fulfilled goals. I also advise students to make friends with both day students and boarders. I have noticed more and more friendships between the two types of students over these past two years; however, the bond still needs to be greater. In my opinion, we are all a part of the same

school, so why not reach out to each other?

My next word of advice is of the utmost importance: Do not deep your work job! Deeping your work job only results in makeup work job assignments during your free periods, and free periods are necessary for any Loomis student-- use them efficiently and wisely. I also advise students to go to sleep at a decent hour, by Loomis standards, at least. Last winter as a sophomore, there was a day when I stayed up until three o'clock in the morning trying to complete the homework assignments due the next day. Between studying for a chemistry test and typing an English paper, I finally became enveloped by exhaustion and decided to call it quits. Even though I woke up the next day and completed my assignments, I was literally a walking zombie, trudging from class to class with barely a clue what was going on around me.

Overall, I advise new students, and returning ones, to take a moment and relish in the fact that we attend such a well respected and challenging high school. Not too many other students get to enjoy the privileges that Loomis Chaffee has to offer us. Let's take advantage of that liberty.

The VOICE: A Promise

by Dru Sanders

I started to stop reading the LOG by winter term freshman year and I felt guilty, but it just bored me. The articles were informative, and that didn't bother me because that's a good thing. What bothered me was the pervasive blandness that drowned every piece of information. I think we've become confused as to what the purpose of a high school newspaper is. The purpose of these publications is not to give reports of current events and regurgitate generic political views. Nor is it to give play-by-play reports of school events and sports games. A school's newspaper is its voice; the printed voices of the students.

For the upperclassmen and overachieving underclassmen: when you go to a college what are you (or your parents) always quick to grab as soon as you (they) see one? That's right! A copy of the school newspaper. Now work with me here, I assume that you all have more reliable news sources than college kids with spare time and Microsoft Word, so why would you snatch it so voraciously? Do you take it to check for breaking news? Not likely. Do you take it to see what kinds of events are held at the school? Maybe, but you can see all that stuff on the web site. We take that newspaper to see the school's voice, to see how the students talk. To me, the LOG always seemed so refined like all voice had been stripped.

Having said that, I would like to formally apologize for the bowl of the sifted confectioners' sugar that has been the LOG.

"Has been the LOG? Has been? What could this mean, Dru?" I'm glad you asked, reader. I have decided to fling a pittance of pure voice into the LOG with the hope of provoking a revolution of opinion, strong stances, and dialogue. Essentially in this column (which I have titled "THE VOICE" in blatant homage to A Prayer For Owen Meany), I will express all of my thoughts. That's it. Reflections on Loomis itself, on classes, on homework, on literature, on music, on fashion, and, of course, on the corruption of the corn industry in America. Please, tell me what you think, tell me what you want me to address. Send me an e-mail. I will immediately receive it, thanks to my iPod touch. You will hear from me soon.

Peace and Love,

Dru

The Voice is a regular LOG features column by Dru Sanders '11.

Dru can be contacted at: Andrew_Sanders@Loomis.org



Hypnotist Jim Spinnato makes his annual visit to the Island.



South Korean high school students perform traditional music at a guest musician concert.

Featured Athlete: Shannon Ryan

by Laura McConney

Cutting into the scoring arc and continuing to play hard despite the score, Shannon Ryan '11 received the ball near the top of the circle, sent it back in toward the goal cage, and capped off the Pelicans 10-0 win over Kingwood-Oxford for the team's first win of the season. A four-year member of the Girl's Varsity Field Hockey team, Ryan understands that the team comes first, a quality that often allows her exceptional play to be overlooked. Despite her ceaseless unselfishness, her presence on the field also deserves praise and truly cannot be ignored. In a strongly contested game against Taft, Ryan, though her constant communication, her unparalleled play, and her steady demeanor, led the team to a 3-2 victory. When asked about Ryan's play, Lindsey McDonald '11 commented, "She motivates me to play better whenever I'm on the field."

As a co-captain of the squad, Ryan provides the team with a positive role model, using her immense knowledge of field hockey to make those around her better players. Teammate Mallory Collins '11 commented on Ryan's abilities as a captain, saying, "She is a great leader. I know I can count on her for anything. I love the way she hustles in practices and games." Mallory, a post-graduate, also noted Ryan as one of the people who

helped her adjust to Loomis this fall.

Off the field hockey pitch, Ryan contributes to the community at large, serving as a Resident Assistant in Mason Hall and giving back to her friends in any way possible. Yet, her genuine spirit does not take away from her ferocious competitive nature. Ryan simply will do whatever it takes to win. Equipped with a work ethic exceeding all others, Ryan, at times, willingly runs extra sprints and maintains focus when the team steps into the gym. When addressing her intense work ethic, Ryan comments, "I love the fact that I know how to work hard when the time comes. It allows me to believe that when game time comes, I will be able to give the extra 20% I need to win the 50-50 balls."

As soon as she steps onto the field, Ryan dazzles opponents with her remarkable ball control. Time after time, Shannon draws penalties as her opposition desperately tries to defend her. McDonald, when asked about Ryan's strengths as a player, highlighted, "I trust her so much when she has the ball. I am able to focus on what I need to do because I know no matter what, as long as she has the ball, it's not going to be in the other team's possession." Such control over the ball has helped Ryan become one of the team's

leaders in points.

From the time the whistle blows to signal the end of the game, Ryan is a class act. She cares deeply about each of her teammates, and she said, "I want to have a very close team this year. Last year, I thought we bonded so well, and I believe that helped us as much on the field as it did off it." As co-captain, Ryan has helped build the Loomis Chaffee Field Hockey program throughout her tenure on The Island. Her respect toward the opposition and her teammates alike demonstrates what it means to be a member of not only the organization, but also a member of the Loomis Chaffee community. Ryan noted, "I simply want to look back on our season and be able to say that we gave it our all, even if it may not end with a New England Championship. I think that it is most important to be happy with how we played, with how we communicated, and with how much fun we had."

Ryan's ceaseless work ethic and invaluable leadership has put Loomis Chaffee Field Hockey in a great position heading into the heart of the season here on The Island. An emotional force on and off the field for the team, Ryan truly exemplifies the perfect team player. Her teammates look up to her, her coaches respect her, and her opponents

A Quick Start

by Nick Sailor

After witnessing the biggest sporting event of the summer, many countries throughout the world, and in particular, those in Europe, continue to watch the wonderful sport of soccer thrive in various domestic leagues. The English Premier League (EPL), widely recognized as the greatest sports league in the world is played right across the Atlantic in England. The Premier League is very similar to the NBA or any other professional sports league in America, save for a few quirks. There are only twenty teams in the league and they compete against each other week in and week out. The simple concept that separates European soccer leagues from American soccer and sports leagues is relegation and promotion. The entire English soccer system is a pyramid scheme where the lowest performing teams in any given league replace the highest performing teams of the switch. This creates a competitive environment that American leagues cannot match.

Many stars from the 2010 World Cup play in the EPL, such as Didier Drogba, Wayne Rooney, Tim Howard, and Fernando Torres. Didier Drogba, a TIME 100 Most Influential Person and Ivory Coast international, plays for Chelsea Football Club, located in West London. Wayne Rooney, the golden boy of England, plays for Manchester United Football Club, in Greater Manchester, England. Tim Howard, the US's goalkeeper, plays for Everton FC, located in Liverpool, England.

Fernando Torres, the "number 9" for the World Cup winners, Spain, plays for Liverpool Football Club in Liverpool, England. These four stars are only a microcosm of the talent and skill in the EPL.

The Premier League season commenced on August 14 and has produced many thrilling matches since the first whistle. Chelsea, the reigning EPL champions, opened up the 2010-2011 campaign with a 6-0 win versus newly promoted West Bromwich Albion. Title contenders Manchester United opened up at their season with a 3-0 win over Newcastle United. Since the opening week there have been six games played by each team. Chelsea sits atop the league with their star-studded cast and at the very bottom Everton struggles to produce victories.

Teams in the EPL are similar to those in the NBA and the NFL; there are some expected to perform very highly and those who are destined to fail. The newly promoted teams are projected to finish very low in the table, while on the other side of the spectrum the so-called "Big Four," (Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal), are projected to win the title. Only a month into the season, teams' futures already have started to solidify. Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United are on pace to battle it out for the title, while the newly promoted teams are holding their own, so far, placing around mid-table. Liverpool, who struggled to perform in the previous season, is

again having a rough start, barely moving about the bottom three.

Each contest has produced thrilling entertainment. This year so far has turned out to be a season full of surprises and will make for an interesting finish. If you are a soccer fan this league is the epitome of the "beautiful game."

Chelsea Football Club, with a solid midfield and dynamic duo up top creates a hassle for the league's defenses and will be a perennial favorite for the title. The Blues, as they are affectionately known, will have to defend their crown against Manchester United. With new signings and a revitalized Dimitar Berbatov, the Red Devils are proving to be a tough team to break down. Although the bookies favor those rivals to win the title, Arsenal and Tottenham look to upset the pattern of Chelsea and Manchester United's shared six-year title monopoly. With a very possession oriented attack producing flashy displays, these two teams always create a memorable game.

Watching these games stateside, however, can prove quite a challenge. Although the games are played overseas, American networks broadcast them. Because of the time zone difference, ESPN and Fox televise these games in the morning on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, many web sites stream video live, and the BBC streams live audio over its website. In any case, there is a multitude of options to watch the beautiful game.

Hot Shots on the Island



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Lauren Yue '13 passes the ball down the field



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

John Kramer '11 sprints past Andover's mid-fielders



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Ladarius Drew '11 easily shakes of a defender

SPORTS TRIVIA

1. Which country won the World Cup in 2002?

- A: South Korea B: Brazil
C: Turkey D: Germany

2. Which was the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup?

- A: Boston B: Montreal
C: Seattle D: Chicago

3. When was the first Wimbledon championship played?

- A: 1877 B: 1917
C: 1945 D: 1976

4. What famous rugby team is located in New Zealand?

- A: Kiwis B: Phoenix
C: All Blacks D: Islanders

5. Which country won the 2009 World Baseball Classic?

- A: South Korea B: Venezuela
C: United States D: Japan

6. What was the name of the original NBA team in Washington, D.C.?

- A: Capitols B: Trains
C: Bullets D: Hotshots

7. Which was the first MLB team to win the World Series?

- A: New York B: Boston
C: Chicago D: Detroit

8. Which NFL team won Super Bowl I?

- A: Green Bay B: Minnesota
C: New York D: Chicago

Answers to this issue's questions:

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

New Faces, Same Work Ethic

by Casey Macdonald

The team most often questioned about their sanity because of their addiction to running, Loomis Chaffee Cross Country, more lovingly referred to as LCXC, has proved to be one of the most fulfilling extracurricular activities on The Island.

Preseason commenced with grueling practices held three times a day in order to increase the runners' stamina. Distance runs at Northwest Park served to build-up leg capillaries, while daunting hill workouts held on Wickham Park's legendary hill, coined "Big Mama" prepared the team for the upcoming season, one filled with challenging races held on hilly courses.

Although a young team, with only three returning seniors and an additional three new seniors out of a total of 36 girls, the cross country team hopes to catch the Founders League by surprise and place in the top three at the Founders Championship and top five at New Englands. As the team anticipated its first race at the formidable, hilly Choate Rosemary Hall course, the runners perfected their form by completing hill repeats. The team also trained by completing "hard circuits," which consist of sets of sprints, exercise, and two 800-meter time trials. To make this grueling practice more bearable, the team dubbed circuit practices, "Ninja Days" and proceeded to wear black spandex and colorful bandanas, and to don face paint. These "Ninja

Days," are the perfect example of the team's camaraderie and spirit. Despite its long roster, the girl's cross country team has embraced each new and determined member to make everyone excited about running and to improve both individually and as a team.

Although the first meet was not scored, an aura of anxiety, anticipation, and excitement permeated the girl's cross country pre-meet team bubble. With the rookie members of the team embracing the new experience and the veterans striving to improve times from previous years, the Choate Invitational was a successful and enjoyable meet. The first eight runners who kicked across the finish line at the Choate Invitational traveled to New Milford, Connecticut the following weekend to compete in the Canterbury Invitational. Remembered because of its heart-breaking hills and endless, tortuous fields, the Canterbury course has always been both a privilege and punishment to run. With temperatures approaching the 90s and the large hill forever looming in the runners' minds, the hoard of cross country runners toed the line and competed in debatably the toughest meet of the season. The two team captains, Lydia Heinrichs '11 and Sarah Patrick '11, placed first and second for the Pelicans, putting the team in a good place with sixteenth and twenty-seventh place standings overall, out of a tough pack of

101 racers in this event.

Recently the girl's cross country team traveled to Andover to compete in the traditional Andover invitational. For the first time in two years, the weather blessed the runners: with the temperature in the mid 60s and the sun shining, it was a perfect day for the girls to enjoy their sport. In the white race, which consisted of runners most likely to run under 22:30, the team's top four runners—Brianna Malanga '12, Sarah Patrick, Lydia Heinrichs, and Caitlin Farrell '14—finished within 29 seconds of each other. In the girl's blue race, the rest of the team competed, with all 31 runners completing the 5k in 30 minutes or less.

To prepare for the championship meets and to improve the team's agility, Coach Purdy follows a four-phase training schedule. Phase I consists of summer training and preseason mileage. Phase II includes threshold and hill workouts, as well as core and strength training. Phase III, often referred to as "phase death," includes intervals, middle mile workouts, speed training, progression runs, and more circuits. Finally, in Phase IV the team tapers by decreasing its mileage in order to prepare and to be rested for the championship meets. The Loomis Chaffee Girls Cross Country team hopes to surprise its competitors throughout the season and achieve swift victories at the end of the season.

Major League Baseball Heats Up

by Mike Fishman

As the 2010 MLB regular season comes to a close, the excitement is just beginning.

The playoff races went down to the wire with the Rays edging out the Yankees in the AL and the Giants beating the Padres in the NL. This year has been the year of the pitcher with two perfect games and one near-perfect game, complemented by many no-hitters. This year, this success is an indicator that the many duels between aces in the playoffs will be crucial to each team's achievements.

Experts have been sorting through their stats to make their World Series Championship picks, and the odds-on favorite to win is currently the Philadelphia Phillies. With their odds recently rising with their spectacular finish, the Phillies look to be the team to beat after clinching the best record in the MLB. The Phillies have three outstanding pitchers in Roy Halliday, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels. The trio hopes to carry the team to the finish. However, despite the Phillies' regular season dominance, The Yankees come in as a close second favorite to

win the World Series. If the odds makers are correct, this year's World Series will be a rematch of the 2009 championship. The Yankees have made their run into the post season once again behind the pitching of CC Sabathia, who looks to be the top contender for the AL Cy Young award.

However, experts have predicted this to be one of the most exciting playoffs in recent years. Other teams of note in the playoffs are the Cincinnati Reds, who have reached the post season for the first time in 15 years. The Reds lay claim to Joey Votto, one of the most explosive hitters in the National League. One of just many top players to have graced Cincinnati fans this year, Votto has dominated National League pitchers this year with a combination of power and consistency. The late surge by the San Francisco Giants made headlines around the country, challenging the prior dominance of the San Diego Padres and turning the NL Wild Card race upside down. On the final day of the season, the Giants clinched the NL west

division title and the Braves the Wild Card, leaving the Padres out of the mix.

With the regular season coming to an end, the voting for MVP and other important awards begins. In the American League, the MVP race comes down to four spectacular players. Jose Bautista of the Toronto Blue Jays is the first player to hit over 50 home runs since Barry Bonds hit 73 in 2001. Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees is considered to be one of the best hitting and fielding 2nd basemen of the decade. Cano has a .318 batting average, 28 HR, 105 RBI, with 193 hits. Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers has a .328 avg. (3rd in the league), 38 HR (2nd in the league), 126 RBI (1st in the league), and 1.042 OPS (2nd in the league). The last legitimate contender for the MVP award is Josh Hamilton of the Texas Rangers. An all around player with a .361 avg. (1st), 31 HR (5th), 97 RBI, 1.049 OPS (1st), Hamilton looks to seize the award from the other contenders. The AL Cy Young is thought to be in the grasp of CC Sabathia, but others such as David Price of the

Rays and Clay Buchholz are also worthy.

The NL is a much different race for the MVP with Joey Votto, Albert Pujols, and Ryan Howard. Each have comparable stats, so the voting may come down to preference of style. The NL Cy Young race is more complicated with many great pitchers surging late to make bids for the award. Ubaldo Jimenez of the Colorado Rockies was the early favorite with dominance in his first 10 starts, making history with one of the lowest era's of all time. Roy Halliday of the Phillies has also come on strong as of late and is a top contender. Finally, Matt Latos of the Padres is also a serious contender with a nearly 20 win season.

The 2010 MLB year has been exciting and the expectations of the post season are nothing less than spectacular. Although the regular season has finished, the post season is just beginning. With many close pennant races coming to a close and many awards races neck in neck, the close to the season won't end until far after the last pitch has been thrown.

Peer Counselors Inspire The Island

by Casey Macdonald

Peer Counseling 2010 is in full swing. Peer counseling is designed to give freshmen a sense of community and belonging in a place where most faces are new faces, and helps freshmen to cope with the challenges of high school. Connecting the Loomis Chaffee community and allowing newcomers to feel included during this new transition are our goal. Throughout the year, in these small groups, peer counselors provide check-ups, play games, and do other activities that establish a strong base upon which this class can build throughout the next four years.

The freshman barbeque, on the first Saturday of the school year, is for many the first encounter between counselor and counselee. First, the groups use name games to help put names to faces, a task easier said than done. Whether playing a game of "name-wah" or placing an alliterating adjective to everyone's name (i.e., smart Sammy), the group tries to get everyone acquainted as efficiently as possible. After eating together, the teams are released on a gargantuan scavenger hunt on campus. The list, admittedly unique, includes such tasks as finding a drawing from a fac-brat, a Justin Timberlake CD, and 49 cents in pennies, to learning names

of school secretaries. This hunt certainly did not favor those with dressy footwear, for the scene heading from Longman

With our groups, the Peer Counselors' next adventure was on the ropes course. Welcomed to the course by Stu-Acts ad-

relevant and not-so-relevant Loomis Chaffee facts. Once they had passed this test the groups went to stations, where they had

the ultimate team-bonding game. These ropes course adventures pulled the team together and allows them to have an alternate setting, outside of sports, dorm and classes, to meet and form bonds with new people.

This week each group sent thank-you notes to someone who has helped them get through the first couple of weeks at school, whether a peer, teacher or advisor, and then wrote their time capsules, which will be returned to them on their graduation day. Asking questions from, "What are your priorities?" to "Who is your crush?" this important tradition will provide both laughs and self-reflection in our final days on The Island. With more freshman seminars to come, the possibility of growth and support in each of these groups is high.

As peer counselors, in our prep meetings, we start with a high and a low of the week. As Kesley Champagne '11 said, "Our group dynamic is strong, respectful, and actually fun. Today I even saw two of [my Peer Counselees] walking into convocation together!" These freshman bonding sessions will, most importantly, provide the school with a more coherent student body filled with thriving, confident individuals.



Freshmen discuss the new school year with Peer Counselors

PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

The Norman Johnson Group

by Taylor Page

Loomis Chaffee's own jazz pianist Ken Fischer brought his jazz ensemble to The Island for the first Guest Musician Performance Series concert of the year on Thursday, September 30.

Fischer, a noted Connecticut jazz pianist, has taught jazz improvisation and piano lab courses at Loomis Chaffee since 1986. Majoring in music education, he graduated cum laude from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford in 1975 before going on to earn an M.A., also in music education.

Fischer performs in various clubs across the state, primarily with his two groups, the Bristol Reunion Big Band and the Norman Johnson Group; the latter's rhythm section accompanied Fischer during his performance for Loomis Chaffee on Thursday, with Tyler Van Ostrand on the bass, Arti Dixon on the drums, and Norman Johnson on guitars. Johnson has released several CDs with this group. His most CD recent was called *As Time Stood Still*. Two of the songs played at the concert

Studio to the center of campus could have been confused with the starting of a road race. The scavenger hunt ended in a spectacular five-way tie.

viser Mike Donegan and a giant squirt gun threatening to fire upon misbehaving students, the freshmen pooled their knowledge to answer a series about

to save baby dolls from hungry spiders, climb walls, and transport the "blind" all while swinging on various rope contraptions. The groups also did trust falls,

on Thursday were taken from the new CD.

During the concert, Fischer discussed the necessity of unity in a jazz group. Because most performances are spontaneous improvisations on a familiar theme, each player must be

tration during the performance.

Throughout the performance, each musician in the group had multiple solos, ranging from fast and upbeat to more mellow and calm. Perhaps most attention grabbing were the drum solos, which included not only performances with drum sticks, but also with mallets, brushes, and cymbals; drum solos are almost unique to jazz music and therefore interested and surprised the very classically-oriented audience. Watching the interaction between the members of the group was perhaps most interesting; they traded solos with impressive ease, without any contact noticeable between

the group members, although an observant audience member could detect frequent eye contact between members of the group. The pieces they played included "Stella by Starlight," "How Insensitive," "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise," "It's Time to Fly," "Now's the Time," and "Starting Tomorrow."

completely attuned to the styles of each other performer. For example, during the performance of a piece the group must decide, without words, whether to continue the theme, add another solo, or end the piece. This kind of attunement to the actions of fellow performers requires an intense though subtle concen-



The Norman Johnson Group performs in Hubbard

PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Spreading Kindness

by Rachel Rosenblatt

The Kindness Club warmly welcomes new and returning students and faculty members to the Loomis Chaffee community. We hope that the transition from a relaxing summer to the rigors of the academic year has unfolded seamlessly as classes have begun to embark on their academic journeys and teams have already ventured into the uncharted territories of success (go Loomis Chaffee football!). Avalon French '10 founded the Kindness Club in an effort to spread kindness throughout The Island. This year, with tri-presidents Katie Shea '11, Elise Petracca '11, and Rachel Rosenblatt '10, we hope to perpetuate the club's wonderful aspirations and create new traditions.

Last year some of our kind deeds included establishing a Compliment Day, sending notes and sweets to faculty members, such as the grounds crew, and writing teacher appreciation letters, birthday notes, good-luck-SAT notes, and much more. Already this year we have spread kindness through the new Loomis Chaffee community by writing welcoming letters to all new faculty members and face painting at the recent Homecoming football game. The Kindness Club invites anyone interested to join in our quest for kindness. Our goal for you is to commit one act of random kindness every day. Kindness is infectious; spread it around!

Sophomore Retreat

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to do-si-do was as good as warm apple pie."

We made our way to the bonfire just as the night became chilly. All cuddled together as the class of 2013 made s'mores, sat by the fire, and just relaxed. After we had all calmed down from our crazy dancing, we closed our eyes and created a rainstorm by snapping our fingers, patting our knees, and stomping our feet. Little did we know that rain was surely on its way.

Monday morning the rain clouds positioned themselves directly above Camp Beckett, and everyone had to bundle-up in layers. "I'm so glad I brought

my rain pants!" said Effie Xistris '13. Although the ropes courses were slippery and the lake was freezing for canoeing, our spirits were high. A few daring souls even went swimming in the lake! Thankfully, the staff at Camp Becket built us a beautiful fire in the library.

Although our trip was a bit damp, the Class of 2013 was able to form and strengthen new and old bonds within our class that surely will not only last through our sophomore year and our entire Loomis Chaffee careers. "I made new friends on the Sophomore Retreat, and I already feel like I've known them forever," said Rob Nightingale '13.