

THE LOG



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Avoiding Drama: How to SEAL

by Alex Lafrance

Loomis Chaffee has always prided itself on its strong sense of community, but with increasingly frequent reports of bullying and abuse permeating the high school and college scene, the need to preserve the ideals that support this sense of community has grown even greater. Yet, with the complexity of the high school social scene, “doing the right thing” can often prove daunting. Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabes*, returned to The Island on October 28 to help clarify what exactly constitutes “the right thing to do,” as well as to provide insight into living as “men and women of honor.”

What does it mean to be a man or woman of honor? How can one become a man or woman of honor? With enthusiasm and a great deal of interactions with the audience, Wiseman focused her presentation on these questions. The convocation itself began on a rather unorthodox note, when, after a brief introduction, Wiseman delved into the subject of “hookups,” addressing the “do’s and don’ts” of such interactions, always employing her characteristic mixture of wit, humor, and sage advice.

Soon after her discussion of the rules of hooking up, Wiseman changed gears to expatiate on the backbone of her talk: SEAL, an acronym for “Stop. Explain. Affirm/Acknowledge. Lock,” which designates the steps necessary to

assert control over self in social situations with which a person might be faced. After an introduction to this concept, Wiseman proceeded to describe three scenarios in which teens with whom she has worked successfully implemented the SEAL strategy. These examples ranged from the trials a young woman suffering



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO
Guest speaker Rosalind Wiseman stresses on the SEAL strategy

verbal abuse from her peers, to a student attempting to stop the offensive antics of his friend, to a teen attempting to address her friend about an eating disorder. Wiseman thus illustrated how the SEAL strategy can be employed effectively in most difficult life situations, all the while revealing how simply taking a moment to organize one’s thoughts and emotions can save a friendship or spare a person from harmful drama.

One of the most prominent re-

curring themes in the convocation revolved around speaking out against injustices and prejudices, which Wiseman encouraged students to do by providing details from her own experiences of speaking out in the face of adversity. Yet, as Wiseman stated, in order to properly voice one’s views, one must respect the dignity of the recipients of the speaker’s message, as dignity stands as an inalienable right that all people possess. This led to a detailing of the differences between inherent dignity and earned respect, as well as a discussion of how to respect authority in the midst of so few prominent role models in the world.

At the beginning of the convocation, Wiseman addressed the Loomis Chaffee community with the comment, “I believe very seriously that you all should be taken very seriously.” Throughout her talk on The Island, she upheld this statement dutifully, answering questions with enthusiasm and with a characteristic flair for honesty and clarity. By the end, Wiseman had presented an impressive new outlook on how to handle many social situations and how to assert control over life situations, an outlook that, while embraced by some students and contested by others, certainly made for a thought-provoking, eloquent, and informative convocation.

You Are Not Alone

by Sarah Patrick

Transitioning into a new school year after a relaxing summer always poses difficulties. Now, as the fall term draws to a close, each grade reflected on its school experience thus far. From interesting and humorous interactions with the freshmen and sophomores, to late nights with the juniors and seniors, each class has definitely re-acclimated itself to the hard work required to succeed on The Island. While oftentimes people may feel as though they are struggling alone—the only one up late trying to complete homework, the only one always late to class because they can’t figure out the new schedule—remember that close to 700 other students are also attempting to succeed.

Eager to attend a new school, excited to make new friends, apprehensive about trying-out for sports team, and alarmed at the workload, Loomis Chaffee freshmen arrived on The Island prepared to prove that they belong. All students and alumni of Loomis Chaffee enjoy reminiscing about their first few days on campus. Were you afraid, nervous, excited, or a mixture of the three? Did you secretly wish you could feign sickness and jump back in the car or on the plane and go home with your parents? Did you still not understand the reference to “The Island,” or the crazy acronyms, or wonder, “What in the world is a time block or double?” While some may claim that they were perfectly composed on their first day of high school, most will admit to feeling at least some traces of dread, fear, or anxiety.

Entering a new environment, whether at age 14 or 99, will always be difficult, and the fact that almost 200 freshmen have embraced an admittedly challenging situation and have successfully integrated themselves into the Loomis Chaffee com-

munity with aplomb, clearly proves that they belong. Amanda Weinstein’14 summarizes her experience thus far in one word: “fun,” and this adjective definitely seems the go-to word to describe freshmen fall term. While the freshmen have certainly realized that they have to work hard and manage their time at their new school—according to Michaela Colangelo’14, “The work load isn’t easy but not completely overwhelming”—they have easily made new friends. Mia Scanlon’14 said, “Everyone is so welcoming and totally accepting of my personality...the upperclassmen have been fully supportive of our new ideas and polite and nice when they see us.” As a freshman you can completely start over, so try something new! As John Furlong’14 said, “Activities are fun!” So get involved! While the freshmen may be new, they have the ability to personalize their four years at Loomis Chaffee and to make their marks on campus.

Sophomore year incontrovertibly is the best year on The Island: there are less required classes to take, often an unheard of amount of frees, and plenty of time to hang out on the benches in front of the SNUG. While still focusing on their studies, sophomores should embrace this year before the storm. Realize that soon you will become one of those tired upperclassmen who, as they pass the SNUG on their way to the library, yearn to be sophomores again.

With history term papers, exorbitant pages of *A People and A Nation* reading, and unhealthy amounts of subject tests looming on the horizon, junior year is a nightmare. Nickolas Stasack’12 said, “The work load is pretty ridiculous...I get about five hours of homework a night. I find it a little ironic how we had all this talk about getting more sleep.”

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Back to Backcountry Tunes

by Taylor Page



PHOTO BY JEULEY ORTENGREN
Guest Musician Jeff Warner jams on his banjo

On Thursday, October 28, Loomis Chaffee students walked into the Hubbard performance hall and were greeted by the sounds of a concertina, a member of the accordion family. Playing the concertina was folk musician

Jeff Warner, our most recent guest musician. Warner attended several English, History, and Music classes throughout his brief stay on The Island, spending much of his time with the Literature of the Sea classes, and also played in a

short concert on the 28th.

Warner first spoke of what inspired him to play folk songs. He explained that his family had always loved folk music; he had grown up immersed in the world of Appalachian tunes and obscure backcountry American ditties. Describing folk songs as similar to modern-day action movies, Warner spoke of the history of folk songs and ballads, discussing how they were brought over from Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries and quickly became an accepted part of American backcountry culture.

Warner’s first song told the story of a deal made between a farmer and the devil. Perhaps the most interesting feature of this song was the unique instrument Warner played while singing. This instrument has been called many names, including, but not limited to, “jaw harp,” “Jew’s harp,” “mouth harp,” “O z a r k harp,” and

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A Mastery of Manipulation

by Elizabeth Titterton

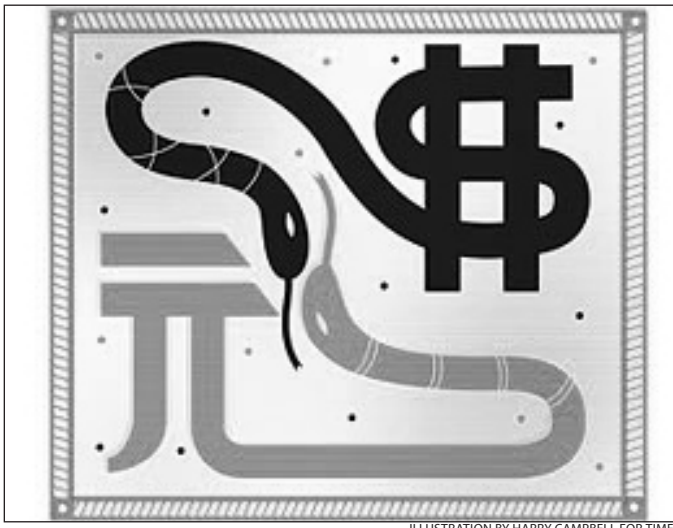
On November 11th a group of financial ministers and bank governors, representing 20 different nations, will gather for the G-20 summit in Seoul, South Korea. One of the most important issues that will be discussed is China's refusal to appreciate the value of its national currency, the yuan. China has abstained from appreciating their yuan by artificially keeping its value low, and therefore maintaining the nation's cheap exports. Other countries, such as Japan and Brazil, are beginning to follow suit by lowering their currency values in the hopes of stimulating economic growth by offering inexpensive exports. However, China already poses as a major world power with regard to exports. By having the ability to artificially and illegally lower their yuan's value, China is being allowed to manipulate global trade.

The United States has unsuccessfully tried to "force" China into appreciating the yuan, but the Chinese are able to maintain its exceedingly low value.

Recently though, the United States have united with other nations supporting equality in worldwide trade, to stop the negative impacts China's currency manipulation holds on international trade. China's domination of trade has far exceeded its limitations and has pushed out numerous smaller nations' opportunity to participate in

plan of maintaining an undervalued currency in order to have inexpensive goods is a clever manipulation, to guarantee a successful economy within the nation, the illegal operation is contributing to worsening global depression. If we ever hope to stimulate our international economy, many nations need to be equal participants in all aspects of trade, not just one country dominating all world exports. Having China disrupt the balance of international import and export trade is impeding the goal of maintaining a worldwide economic focus rather than a national one.

It is crucial for the G-20 summit to realize that irresolute requests to China to appreciate the value of its yuan are ineffectual, and the longer it wait to enforce a currency change, the more detrimental its effects will be on international trade and economy. If a global system of imports and exports is to be successful in reviving the depressed global economy, one nation cannot possess such a great amount of control over the rest of the world.



China's Yuan vs. American Dollars

the import/export industry. China is only one country. There are 193 other nations that deserve an equal stand in global trade, and they should not have to worry about being overpowered due to China's overbearing schemes to control all world exports.

While I do agree that China's

Sex and Teens

by Daniel Trompeter and Addison Wright

When dealing with such awkward topics as sex, schools try to assist students in making proper, safe decisions. We've all suffered through the attempts. The formerly forbidden diagrams, the previously prohibited language and the painfully embarrassing role-plays all contribute to the class's uncomfortable dynamic. These experiences render teaching methods ineffective as the students ignore the facts and proceed forward with little to no education.

The sexual activities a teenager chooses to engage in depend solely on their emotional and physical development. The decision to

perform sexual acts is a personal choice, and one that should not have a universal guideline.

However, Loomis's antiquated policy represses this time of sexual exploration by simply slapping a Level 2 on the act with no regard for the student's dilemma or feeling. While examining this topic, we inquired into Loomis's Student Handbook, where we found no mention of a required sexual

school must differentiate between potentially life-threatening and harmless proceeding. This blatant double standard creates confusion as to the severity of this act. Regardless of whether you feel an educational class is necessary after the transgression, Loomis's archaic philosophy overlooks our society's changing landscape: kids engaging in sexual behavior at younger and younger ages. The protocol enacted on The Island stifles a student's sexual identity and creates an unequal scale of severity.

Loomis, with the help of our Student Council, should revise this rule so that the student has a better understanding of the magnitude and consequences of his or her actions. The school should understand the improper balance of the level system and adjust it in such a way as to show a distinction between an illegal substance and a potentially harmless human act. The theme of this school year is identity; should a rule that hinders a student's exploration really be enforced? No.

"The decision to perform sexual acts is a personal choice, and one that should not have a universal guideline."

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A Message for All

by VP Dao

"It will get better," Mr. Andrew Watson told the Loomis Chaffee student body on October 21st, 2010, as communities across the nation reeled from the shock of the suicides of half a dozen gay teenagers, some as young as thirteen years old. By sharing his own story, by showing how his life has become "so much better," Mr. Watson reassured LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) students of a brighter future for them. By explaining how casual remarks can truly and deeply wound people, by describing the toxicity that phrases like "no homo" and "that's so gay" produce, he challenged members of our community to make a conscious effort to improve the social environment on campus, to make it "get better today." On that Thursday, Mr. Watson gave a wonderful gift to the Loomis Chaffee community.

Even beyond the issue of homophobia and the struggle of LGBTQ students, Mr. Watson's address contains profound meanings. Embedded in the talk that day bore a message about identity in general, about finding a place in this world for oneself. Everyone feels like a misfit at some point in life. Everyone feels the pressure to conceal some aspect of him or herself to fit into the mold created by parents, teachers and friends. And certainly everyone is guilty of setting up unfair and unrealistic expectations, of trying to carve out

the perfect son, daughter, student or friend with a cookie cutter. Like Mr. Watson said, it will get better for those struggling to find peace between their true selves and the demands of society. And, like Mr. Watson said, each and every one of us needs to contemplate how we act, listen to how we talk, and make sure that we allow one another to have space to grow, space to breathe, space to be our individual selves.

Conformity kills, figuratively and sometimes literally. The notion that a male athlete has to act in a certain way, or that a behavior can be un-American, un-Vietnamese, or un-Chinese is not just ludicrous but harmful. The idea that because you went to Harvard your son and daughter have to go to Harvard instead of art school is not just ridiculous but detrimental. A community, a society, or a family that stresses conformity, that puts immense pressure on its members to squeeze into a standard box, handicaps itself, suppressing the diversity in talent and thought that makes life rich. It also suffocates the individual, stymieing personal growth. A group should not dictate the identity of an individual. One person should not define the identity of another.

At Loomis Chaffee, we strive to be our "best selves" while promoting the "common good." In order to do so, The Island must be a safe place where students are comfortable enough to blossom into the

The Catholic Church: What is Right?

by Victoria Garbo

The Catholic Church has made an extreme impact in society in the past couple of years since Pope Benedict XVI was voted into the papacy, especially regarding gay marriage and abortion. Throughout the years, I've held my tongue at the hypocrisy of the Church's actions, but now I've found I need to speak out.

Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church have continued to stand by traditionalist beliefs in regard to gay marriage and homosexuality to the point where I am beginning to broach the question of his place in the Nazi Youth. In the Bible, marriage is defined as a union between a male and female to produce offspring and care for each other. Because of this definition, and because of the United States' embracing this definition, we now fervently debate about gay marriage, especially with members of Congress who allow the Bible to steer their views. There are a few points in the Bible when homosexuality is clearly condemned, but the Church is pulling out quotes and interpreting them with a 21st century perspective. In order to truly discover what the Bible is actually saying, the Church needs to scrutinize the text in the correct context. The quote most used to condemn homosexuality is Leviticus 18:22. This quote clearly states that, "Thou shall not lie with mankind as with wom-

ankind: it is abomination." The word "abomination" was commonly used within texts condemning idolatry, not condemning a moral evil. According to a Christian LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) web site, "The verse seems to refer

In Jeremiah 1:5, the Bible states, "When I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Because of this quote, having an abortion, in the eyes of the Church, constitutes murder. One of the Ten Commandments that Moses presented on Mt. Sinai orders

to, "Spread the good news of the Lord." Some denominations have embraced this demand more than others, but one place where the Catholic Church has incorporated this command is, unfortunately, outside of abortion clinics.

you could have been such a nice wife." By no means am I implying that this is the opinion of all religious people, but regrettably, a number share this view of abortion, and of people who are pro-choice.

I'll never forget one morning at Religious Education, when my teacher asked me to go to the abortion clinic in our town and pray for the unborn souls. I tried to avoid this conversation but she asked me if I would commit to praying for an hour in front of the clinic. She questioned me in front of my 40 peers, trying to make an example out of

Within the past month especially, the Catholic Church has been rocked with sex scandals within the Church. The Church views these clergymen as exceptions to the multitude of other good, holy priests. This concept has paralleled this allusion since sex scandals were first reported. This may be true, but the Church's reaction to the priests who commit these crimes is abhorred. Often, especially in cases in Germany, the diocese simply shuffles the priest around, paying no heed to the fact that these people have not only taken advantage of their power as priests, but have also committed a heinous crime, one that should put them in prison for months or years.

Religion is a wonderful concept, in theory and in practice. However, in circumstances like that of the Catholic Church's moral decline, the very purpose of religion is spurned. Religion is supposed to provide sanctuary and happiness—exactly what the Catholic Church fails to provide in light of its caustic actions and bitter remarks, exemplified in its blatant lack of acceptance of thousands of individuals.



A Catholic group holds up their sign to end abortion through religious means

to temple prostitution, which was a common practice in the rest of the Middle East at that time." When I presented this fact to a Catholic priest, he said, "This may be true, but it doesn't matter since homosexuality is a choice, anyway."

Abortion is a controversial subject in the Catholic Church.

is, "Thou shalt not kill." There really isn't any room for interpretation in this statement. You cannot commit murder, and according to the Church, an abortion is murder. It is very easy to say to the Church, "If you don't like abortions, don't have one." Although this is correct, the Bible teaches that members need

me. I stood my ground and told her that I was pro-choice, and that I believed that the Church should keep out of other peoples' private lives. The words that she selected will remain with me for the rest of my life. She coldly replied, "I'll pray for your soul, Victoria. It's a shame that Satan has infiltrated you;

French Riots, Retirement, and Responsibility

by Erin Currey

Many French civilians are crying out against their government, claiming that Parliament is about to crush French civil liberties underneath the heel of "American-style [capitalism]" ("French Workers Defiant in Retirement Act," *The Times*, October 18, 2010) Students have blockaded 261 schools, often forcing riot police to fire rubber bullets into tumultuous crowds. Oil Refineries have shut down for a lack of workers, many of whom prowl outside the gates of their workplace, building blockades of tires and setting them on fire, watching as dense, black smoke float up above their heads.

Why all the protests, the riots? The French Parliament is on the verge of passing a bill which will raise the retirement age from 60 to 62.

For our American readers, the brouhaha must seem ridiculous. Why all the fuss over two short years of work? Many Frenchmen believe that raising the retirement age now will lead to gross changes in their culture. The French believe that work should not be the center of one's life, and by raising the retirement age, the government has cracked open the lid of Pandora's box. Soon all the demons will come rushing out, and suddenly France will find its people working 60 hours a week, and the culture will lose its trademark ideas of leisure and peace.

However, France's social security must change. Drowning, like many countries, in piles of national debt, France is forced to borrow money to pay the retirement bill of senior citizens. The

will simply continue increasing in drastic amounts, and France's situation will soon be even more desperate.

However, the citizens seem either unable or unwilling to ac-

against pension bill" *CNN*, October 29, 2010), unable to will the jet's gas tanks. The government is losing 200 to 400 million euros (280 to 560 million dollars) a day.

the country to a standstill, and question the stability of France's markets. In these lean times, investors are unwilling to invest in unstable economies, and the French's utopian ideals will ultimately throw the country into further economic depression, forcing lawmakers to further raise the retirement age and look into other means to minimize the effects of the recession on the government.

By taking a stand against the retirement bill, the French people are only throwing their country into further disarray and debt. The government, trying to act in the best interests of its people, finds the working classes unwilling to swallow the bitter pill of responsibility. The people desperately wish to protect the comfortable lives they currently live, but refuse to see the bitter truth: without raising the retirement age, the government will be unable to support the retirees of the next generation.

The French people need to take responsibility of the future, and shoulder the trials of these meager years in an attempt to provide for a better future. Verily, should the populace remain blinded to the difficult truths presented to it, today's society will doom its children to hectic lives under the control of a government crippled by debt and poverty.



French Union Strikers walk behind a banner as they attend a procession protesting against the retirement bill

situation is desperate from a legislator's view; many lawmakers say that their hand is being forced by the recession and, no matter how violent the protests get, the government cannot afford to let this bill be tabled and ignored. Without raising the retirement age, the national deficit

cept the hard truths they face. Because the oil refineries are closed, an extreme shortage of oil is plaguing the country. Drivers must wait in line for hours before filling their tank, and airports are grounding 30 to 50 percent of their flights ("French unions stage last-ditch strikes

And that is only the economic costs of the strikes. As the citizens whine against a bill which, in all respects, has to be passed in order for the French economy to rebound, France is losing the respect of worldwide investors. Many businessmen look at how the people have brought

Choate's Facebook Ban

by Christian Bermel

On October 5, after severe violations of school policy, Choate Rosemary Hall banned the use of Facebook on campus. A group of senior girls had used the site to insult and humiliate other students, violating the school's honor and acceptable use policies. Once word of the Facebook messages reached the administration, disciplinary action was immediately taken against the girls, and Facebook was blocked on the school's network indefinitely. Many students were still able to access the site, however, mostly through mobile devices. An anonymous Choate student has confirmed that the ban is still in effect throughout campus despite this access.

A spokeswoman for the school said that the group of senior girls had "created an online diary" on Facebook for the purpose insulting other students at the school. In fact this diary, referred to by some students as a "burn book" (a term from the 2004 comedy *Mean Girls*), contained brutal attacks on other students' looks and personalities. These insults, glaring violations of school rules, earned two of the girls expulsions, and the others suspensions for the remainder of the fall term.

While Loomis has in past years instituted temporary blocks on Facebook use, the social networking site has remained continually accessible on the network throughout this year. But Choate's recent actions have reignited the debate here on The Island, sparking questions over whether Loomis Chaffee might block Facebook as well. This idea has been met with some strong resistance from students: "Blocking Facebook would be an infringement on one of the basic rights of Loomis Chaffee students - the right to communicate with friends and family. Facebook is undeniably a very simple system to communicate with others, a system that is an integral aspect of a student at boarding school," said LOG editor and Student Council representative Lindsay Gabow '12.

Indeed, Facebook's growing ubiquity has led to its becoming a crucial communication tool for many people. Most students

at Loomis Chaffee use Facebook to keep in touch with friends, discuss homework with peers, and even catch up with family. A block on Facebook would complicate life for almost all LC students, and especially affect boarding students away from home for the first time. For these students, a block would add stress and anxiety to already hectic lives.

Facebook, which has recently grown to more than 500 million users, has been embroiled in several controversies since its founding. It has been the subject of much scrutiny recently, as critics have questioned its privacy policies (many have accused Facebook of gathering information about its users), its originality (the legality of its founding was discussed in the recent film *The Social Network*), and even its practicality (many have described it as useless). Now Facebook finds itself wrapped in a larger controversy: that of teens and use of the Internet. As Facebook has expanded and reached millions of new users, incidents of cyber bullying on the site have grown increasingly, and alarmingly, common. The Choate incident stands as just another occurrence in a long line of events in which Facebook has been used to bully students. In fact, the anonymity provided by Facebook, as well as the ability to create private groups, seems to foster cyber-bullying.

At a convocation here at LC in October, Rosalind Wiseman, a best-selling author and educator, acknowledged the role that Facebook can play in bullying. Certainly, the issue of Facebook and cyber bullying will endure for a long time to come not just at Loomis Chaffee or at Choate, but all around the world.

Despite the criticisms levied against it, Facebook remains one of the most influential communication tools of our time. Children, adults, and even grandparents use and misuse it. As it continues to spread, so too will the bullying with which it is associated. Right or wrong, Choate's controversial decision to ban Facebook made waves through the media- a powerful testament to Facebook's influence on all of our lives.

Doing that Grinding Thing

by Jeesue Lee

While channel surfing on a lazy Saturday afternoon, I happened to come across a screening of the movie *Grease*. I was soon happy to discover that the movie had arrived at one of my favorite scenes, "The Hand Jive." It had been a while since I had last seen the movie, so I was rather amused when one of the chaperones in the scene announced, "Anyone doing tasteless or vulgar movements will be immediately disqualified." Now, doesn't that sound familiar?

I admit it: I had never heard of 'grinding' until I came to Loomis Chaffee. The amount of intimacy permitted at my old school was solely limited to slow Kelly Clarkson ballads with couples awkwardly swaying to and fro at arms length- even that was considered a tad bit risqué. So soon after I arrived, I overheard a conversation between several prefects about the traditions of SCAM (the affectionate Island nickname for the annual opening dance), and I couldn't help but feel a bit... weirded out. Not, grossed out, but weirded out at the thought that people GO there to... grind. But I went with

it, scampering my wee little freshman self into the throes of a brim-full Erickson Gym.

Now I look forward to SCAM every year and have come to be rather fond of that little "mosh pit" in the center of the dance. So, yes, like most of the student population, I would be upset if grinding was prohibited. Personally I actually cannot picture a dance at Loomis without it: what would people do the entire time? Fist pump? That is so early 2000s. I really don't see grinding as some sort of twisted way overly sexed-up teenagers release their dangerous energy. It's a dance move, just like "the bump" that was so popular in the 1970s. We do it, laugh about it, and walk away.

However, there is of course another side to the issue. My sister, 10 years my senior, happened to stroll into SCAM this year hoping to find me. Several minutes later she walked out, looking as if she had just participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. Grinding can be disturbing to people, particularly to older generations who have never done or seen it before. The "Hand Jive" scene in

Grease, which now seems to us so 'old-school,' was actually once considered to be highly inappropriate and probably caused just as much of a debacle for parents then as grinding is doing for our deans now.

Also, do consider that many dance moves once considered risqué did eventually flesh out in society and were, grudgingly, accepted. James Otis's *Rights of the British Colonies*, states that despite the American colonies having personal rights against the tax-filled Stamp Act, they might as well reluctantly follow along with the British motherland and wait their turn to make a change. In the same line of thought, I vouch that we do have the right to grind, but I believe only time will mend the feud that is raging now on The Island. As actor Kevin Bacon, playing teen Ren McCormack in the 1984 film *Footloose*, wisely stated, "See, this is our time to dance. It is our way of celebrating life."

So, be patient. Both Ren McCormack and the American colonists managed to win their rights eventually. Let's just take it one step at a time.

Featured Artist: Halle Murdock

by Grace Denny

Walking to the stage during Senior Meditations, Halle Murdock '11 is quiet and unimposing, saying only a few words before starting a slideshow of her work, a series of photographs that are striking and thoughtful. They are interconnected, flowing from one photograph to another, yet often there is an unexpected touch that keeps the audience wondering. It is clear that each photograph has a story behind it, a series of events that led to that photo, and it is in telling these stories that Halle said she finds her inspiration. "Photographs tell a story without

needing translation. The subjective impact that a photograph has is equal to one of my classmates in the United States as it could be to someone in any of the many countries around the world," she explained. For her, photography is a more effective way to communicate through a language

barrier than verbal translation. Halle said her ideas for her photos come from the emotions and appearances of different people.

This is easy to see in her photographs, where even in the most theatrical shots, there is a striking authenticity to the people she captures. Many of the people Halle photographs are her friends, which may be one explanation for why in the photographs they seem comfortable and relaxed, rather than forced and stiff. Her efforts to make sure individual personality is captured in each shot is something that is not lost on the viewer; there is a sense that her model has been captured being themselves. Even when models are deliberately posed, the camera remains a lens to capture something rather than a brush with which to create it.

While the pictures are not all overly symbolic or political, there are certainly some that seem to have a deeper message

and meaning. In one of her photographs, there are two boys standing motionless, submerged up to their necks in water, with a tube television perched between them. There are many possible interpretations to this, and while Halle named a couple of the obvious ones, like our generation's obsessive need to watch TV, or the detrimental effects global warming, she seemed hesitant to give her real reasoning behind the photograph. This becomes even clearer when one reads the caption accompanying this photograph on the photo web site Flickr: "I'll leave this for your own

personal interpretation." Beneath that sits the word "EXPLORED." Such a photograph can have different meanings for each person.

Halle's interest in photography was sparked last April with a Loomis Chaffee photo class taught by John Mullin. She uses both digital and traditional techniques, and says that while she enjoys both, she is most drawn to the process and options one has with digital photography. The use of many of these effects is apparent in

her work on Flickr. When asked if she takes interest other art mediums, such as drawing or sculpture, she said that while she is taking drawing this year, she just doesn't seem to have the same natural inclination for it.

Halle plans to go to college for photography, and then would like even to make a career out of it, specifically as a fashion photographer. It is clear that even now she has a propensity towards the sort of very dramatic photos that fashion magazines like to use. One of her most memorable shots shows a young girl in a beautiful white dress posed in front of a stark, broken down old house.

Halle's photos are on display in the RAC, and accessible on *The LOG's* web site at www.loomis.org/LOG.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HALLE MURDOCK
A self portrait of Halle Murdock '11



PHOTO WORK BY HALLE MURDOCK
This photograph was exhibited in the Richmond Art Center during the Emerging Artists Exhibit



PHOTO COURTESY OF HALLE MURDOCK
One of Halle's most memorable shots

A Look at Campus Architecture

by Izzy Kornblatt

It has often been said, first by Frank Lloyd Wright, and later by countless architects and enthusiasts throughout the world, that architecture comes entirely from nature. It is inspired and drawn from the site of the building. Following this organic philosophy, Loomis Chaffee, sitting above a stunning floodplain at the confluence of two rivers, should certainly have the potential for particularly interesting and dynamic architecture, a potential that it certainly fulfills. From the original Loomis Homestead to the iconic Grubbs Quadrangle to the starkly modern Brush Library, the Loomis Chaffee campus is chalk-full of interesting ideas, buildings, and plans. Sequences of space, progressions, building relationships—to one interested in architecture, the Loomis Chaffee campus is a fascinating place of endless speculation, wonder, and enjoyment.

But the story is not all good. Architecture reveals itself through time, and it is not particularly transient: the architectural failures on the LC campus stand out like inflamed sores, like telltale warnings for future campus architects. With some examination of these failures, one finds it easy to figure out what it is exactly that sets the good apart from the bad, the beautiful from the ugly. The frightening thing is that much of Loomis Chaffee's worst architecture has come about in the last decade. Architects and administrators overly concerned with budgets and all too afraid to try something new have come up with projects trying so hard to be inoffensive that against the campus fabric of strong ideas and remarkable buildings, they are downright odious. Kravis, Harman, Carter, and Sellers Halls are particularly bad; the classrooms on the third floor of the Brush library are simply distasteful; the Hubbard and Olcott centers are less overt but equally

repugnant. The school, frightened of building something striking or bold, has in the past years defaulted to dressing up new buildings with slate roofs, paned glass, and yellow wood trim. But things do not have to be this way forever. Loomis Chaffee can yet return to the bold innovation that has made many of its buildings gems.

First things first, it has to be made clear that designing buildings that pretend to be older than they are is a truly strange practice indicative of the society's fear of



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO
The Katharine Brush Library is timeless architectural masterpiece that succeeds by merging modern ideas with a Georgian past

change, and one that is entirely unacceptable. Richard Dana, the masterful architect of the Grubbs quad, knew that the way to design was not to imitate the colonial Loomis homestead. Kenneth DeMay, the architect of the Brush library, Wilbur Dining Hall, and original Chaffee Hall understood that while Dana's plans had served the school well, it would be unwise to try and imitate them for the rest of the campus. But in the 1980s and 1990s, when this god-awful thing called postmodern architecture began to pervade, pollute, and corrupt the world of architecture, such important wisdom was forgotten. The school turned to inexpensive, local architects who sought to create functional buildings of little interest other than their asinine attempts to blend in. And while not all of their buildings are really as awful as

I have made them out to be, they are forgettable at best.

To be bold, striking, and progressive is risky—particularly when there are millions of hard-raised dollars at stake. But looking in the long run, spending the extra money on an interesting architect with an interesting design pays off. The Brush library is a lasting testament to organic architecture—its heavy, geometric, cantilevers play off of the flat ground, and its balcony has provided an extraordinary view and a lovely place to work for hundreds, perhaps thousands of students. Founders Hall's magnificent façade and remarkable walkways has made it the icon of The Island for almost a century. These risks have moved the school forward: with the greater chance of frightening failure, there is also a far greater chance of sweet success.

I propose that Loomis Chaffee hire strong-minded architects with thoughtful opinions and boundless ideas. Not long ago, in fact, the school hired the noted Boston architect William Rawn to design two new buildings for the south end of campus. Needles to say, the plan fell through due to "the rising cost of steel from China," and two brilliantly planned and executed buildings were never built. But with the upcoming Centennial capital campaign, an excellent campus planning firm, and intelligent, engaged administrators, I have faith that Loomis Chaffee will yet build another brilliant building. Perhaps it won't be in the very near future, and perhaps it won't come from an architect I've heard of. But with a strong precedent of interesting and engaging architecture, and a site as beautiful as any, Loomis Chaffee is sure to be the place of more great architecture. We just need to understand that in order to make The Island a more stunning and affecting place for students of the future, we need to embolden ourselves and take risks now.

The VOICE: My Broken Cell Phone

by Dru Sanders

Earlier this week, the magic in the connection that somehow transfers electricity from my wall charger to my cell phone began to sputter. I noticed my phone's battery icon only sported three out of four green squares one morning, then only two the next, then only one the next after. I foolishly thought that she would always have another square to lose, but alas, I was wrong. Yesterday morning at approximately 8:25, when I reached to grab my cell phone from my bedside table, I found her dead, with her screen blank and with no way to convince the charger to commit power to her. Here, in my room, five minutes before Existentialism began, I wept for her.

I lived on through the day, occasionally hearing her sweet, far off chirp or ring. I would feel her vibrate on my leg but look to find her still missing. My hand would race to my pocket to pull her out and beg her for the time of day, but when my gaze followed my hand I saw only the distressed outline that she had left on my pants and on my life. I begged the lord for one more moment with her, one more meaningless text message we can share, an emoticon or a "lol"—it didn't matter to me, I just wanted her back.

The world condemned me to watch others, all texting and calling gleefully on the quad. I yearned for their laughs when they saw the responses to some apparently hilarious messages. I craved the rage that boiled within them from some rumor spread or lie revealed. I heard the fragmented "bye!.. I'll see you in a bit!.. I love you too!" and wished my phone was still here so that I might tell her the same.

I felt lost and depressed in conversations with my friends. Nothing seemed truly funny now that I couldn't see them on my cell phone's two-inch screen. I could no longer substitute the symbols "colon, close parenthesis" or the words "ha ha" for laughter.

My friends don't understand. They all tell me that I will get a new phone, but I don't care about that phone. I care about now, about my old phone, the beautiful gray of her skin, the way she giggled when someone was calling and she wanted to tell me, the way she felt on my face as I spoke to her.

I cannot imagine life without her.

Peace and love,
Dru

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

He can be contacted at: Andrew_Sanders@Loomis.org

Stu-Acts Spotlight

by Rekha Kennedy

In the midst of our busy schedules, we often look forward to a myriad of campus events, from Winterfest to World Culture themed nights in the SNUG, but we often forget the people and the organization behind these events. We forget about Student Activities (Stu-Acts) and our responsibility to be involved in it. Stu-Acts works behind the scenes to provide entertainment for students on weekends by organizing events and by helping the approximately 45 clubs on campus execute their own events.

A select group of students, along with Stu-Acts director Mike Donegan, plan and run the events on campus. When asked about his advice for students, Mr. Donegan replied that, "It's everyone's responsibility to make Loomis their school and the easiest way to do so is to get involved." It's great for students to get involved by giving input on new events and also by coming and participating in the events planned on campus. Stu-Acts constantly searches for ways to make our weekend experiences more enjoyable and plans to implement a series of surveys this year to find out in which events the Loomis Chaf-

fee population would like to take part on the weekends.

Last year, favorite events included a Battle of the Bands, a Cultural Outburst, a Holiday Party, and an extremely popular hypnotist. The hypnotist has even become a Loomis Chaffee tradition, wowing generations of LC students with his interesting, dynamic, and engaging act. His event was one of the most well-attended events run by Stu-Acts both this and last year.

When asked about big plans for the upcoming year, Mr. Donegan stated that bringing P-funk, a school dance styled in eighties fashion, back to the basics with disco moves and retro styled outfits is extremely important. Other big themed dances include the Prism dance and Winterfest. Along with these big events, Stu-Acts is bringing back the Human iPod, Loom Open Mic, and the Battle of the Bands. They plan to introduce the "ESP guy" and a new coffee house to encourage people to gather and enjoy an exciting show and a popular get-together. The whole Stu-Acts organization is hugely beneficial to The Island and can, with just a little help from the student population, become truly great.

The Laramie Project

This fall a talented ensemble cast of eleven actors presented *The Laramie Project* (Moisés Kaufman/Tectonic Theatre Co.). This play tells the story of Laramie, WY, in the wake of the brutal 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. The production was hailed by the community as one of the best fall shows in this decade of NEO theatre, and the discussion it prompted helped to fuel LC's discussion of "identity" this term. Director Connie Grappo said, "The kids really embraced the challenge of telling a true story in the words of living people, [a story] about such a complex and difficult event....The company has really come together and I am so proud of them and the show." —Jackie Mishol



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG
Sara Kase '12, Dru Sanders '11, and ensemble members



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG
Amy Ward '13 and ensemble members

Featured Athlete: Rob Carroll

by Tyler Rehor

Whipping a shot into the top corner of the goal, defending with ease, and taking up his role as captain of Varsity Water Polo with poise, responsibility, and authority, Rob Carroll's '11 contribution and dedication to his team is unmistakable. Carroll, from helping establish the polo team as a competitive threat, to maintaining outstanding grades, and to tying a bow tie, can do it all.

Last season, after losing nine strong seniors, the team struggled to stay competitive. Due to a lack of experience and a multitude of strong teams in the league, the polo team managed only one victory last fall. Carroll knew a change was needed, and, with a competitive and determined attitude, took control of a more experienced team with the goal of reestablishing the team as a competitive menace after the rebuilding year. Carroll remarked, "We needed to step up our game and bring our team camaraderie and gained experience into our games." With much hard work, Rob and his teammates have done just that. Putting up exciting fights with teams like

Deerfield, Hotchkiss, Suffield and Hopkins, the program has taken a big leap forward.

Commenting on his personal goals, Carroll said, "I want to become an offensive as well as a defensive threat. I want to be able to handle any guy in the hole and raise my number of shots and shooting percentage. I guess I want to be a more all-around player and I know in order to do this I need to work hard and become better conditioned." Setting these high goals for himself, and knowing he has big shoes to fill, Carroll really turned things around for himself and the team this fall on The Island. Demonstrating his incredible work ethic at practice, never giving up and always giving his best effort, Carroll puts in remarkable effort during the swim sets, always sprints to his position in the field during drills and scrimmages, and always looks for the extra pass to score. He sets the prime example for his teammates, which proudly follow him.

His effort is noticeable in games and he is continuously rewarded for his hard work, raising his number of goals from 8

last year to an astounding 25 goals this year. Carroll, the second highest scorer on the team, has also assisted 11 goals and made 18 steals. Carroll has also fulfilled his goal of raising his shooting percentage to an amazing 45%, the highest accuracy on the team. Rob's bullet of shot has given opponent's goalies headaches in every game this season.

Carroll's effort and intellect is noticeable not only in the pool, but also in the classroom. Taking five classes, three of which are AP courses and one of which is an advanced course, Rob lives an extremely well balanced life. Very good at prioritizing and balancing academics with athletics, Carroll has maintained high honors since his sophomore year.

Leaving the team after this year, along with fifteen other seniors, the program will be greatly reduced in size and experience next fall; however, Carroll is also leaving behind his dexterity and leadership skills which have brought the team out of a season-long losing streak. With a very deep relationship, the polo family has come together in ways that would leave

A New Beginning

by Walker Lourie

The change in the Loomis Chaffee Football program is quite palpable. With the aid of some tactful decisions from Athletic Director, Bob Howe, LC football has become a force to be reckoned with in New England football. Most notably, the size of the team has changed from roughly thirty only five years ago to seventy players in 2010. The program can now proudly field its varsity team in tandem with stellar JV and thirds programs. The change in personnel also came with the change from the Erickson league, which limited the amount of PGs a team could field. While Loomis played against teams for years with unlimited numbers of players above 18 years old, they were put at an unnecessary disadvantage. In terms of results, the effect has most certainly shown.

Two years ago, the Loomis Football team sought not just a new coach, but a teacher, a recruiter, and a leader. Coach Chuck Reid has stepped into each role more than capably, and the team has flourished since. What would have seemed like insurmountable opponents in years past, now appear as underdogs. On September 25, 2010, the Loomis Chaffee Boys Varsity Football Team made the formerly impossible become reality. Andover scored first, but Loomis quickly answered, with Chris Pauzer '13 finding his way to the end zone off a pass from Daniel Farley '11. Going into half losing 12-8, the determined Pelicans quickly answered with of pair of Ladarius Drew's '11 touchdowns and AJ Poplin's '13 solo touchdown. When the clock ran down to completion, for the first time in our school's long history, Loomis came out on the win-

ning side of the yearly Andover-Loomis Homecoming game. As soon as the 29-18 win was official, Loomis students flooded the field to congratulate the players on one of the program's biggest wins. Aside from becoming victors of a matchup in which Loomis were deemed underdogs, the team has also positively impacted the entire Loomis community. Pelicans, known for exuberant cheerleading at the games, electrified the campus in the days following the big win, as well. High hopes and strong support follow the team as they look to complete an incredibly successful season.

This year, the team is captained by Aaron Barrett '11, Anthony Knowlton '11, and Caleb Harris '11. Barrett plays wide receiver and cornerback, and has been on the varsity squad since his arrival in 2008. Knowlton, who joined the team last season, plays fullback and defensive end. Harris is contributing his third year to the team, playing defensive end and center. In an interview with Barrett, he explained the team's turn-around, saying, "Coach Reid helped bring in a great recruiting class this year. We have loads of talent on the team." These three individuals have performed outstandingly in previous years, and have helped build team chemistry. When asked what differentiates this year's squad from previous teams, Barrett replied "We have better overall depth and determination. We have something to prove this year."

Much of the team's success so far can be attributed to this year's recruiting class, including its notable PGs. Chai Reece '11 hails from Los Angeles, CA, and plays wide receiver and cor-

nerback. Sam Arstenstein '11 of Pawtucket, RI plays left tackle and defensive tackle. Drew Ghio '11, coming from Bristol, CT, plays left guard and defensive tackle. Sherman Peoples '11 plays wide receiver and outside linebacker, and joins the team from Rowlett, TX. Jared Roberts '11 hails from Pennsauken, NJ, playing wide receiver and free safety. Daniel Farley '11 comes from Boonton Township, NJ and is the team's starting quarterback. Finally, La-Darius Drew '11 of Mesquite, TX, plays only running back. Seven in all, these talented athletes give Loomis the competitive edge needed to compete at such a high level of play. Drew rushed for 202 yards in the Andover game alone. While these new recruits add much to the team, returning seniors of the Class of 2011, Brandon Brito '11, James Kavanagh '11, Varun Konanki '11, Michael Moore '11, Nicholas Szczerbickij '11, James Yun '11 all contribute plenty as well.

Following the excitement of the season's first game, the new-and-improved Pelicans took on Hotchkiss in Lakeville, CT. The Bearcat's didn't know what hit them, losing 44-21 to the Pelicans. The most notable performance came from Chai Reece '11, who had four touchdowns and two interceptions. The Pelicans have followed these two wins up with another pair against Avon Old Farms and Trinity-Pawling. With a 4-3 record going to the final stretch, the Loomis Chaffee Football team looks poised to finish with a winning record for the first time in years. With a foot firmly planted in the present, the program looks set to continue its

Hot Shots on the Island



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Liana Hinds '12 dribbles the ball past a defender



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Sam Broda '11 winds up for a cannon shot



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Caleb Harris '11 tackles the opposing runningback

SPORTS TRIVIA

1. Which team won the 2009 MLS Cup?

A: LA Galaxy B: NY Red Bull
C: Seattle Sounders D: Real Salt Lake

2. Which player won the 2010 World Series MVP?

A: Cliff Lee B: Edgar Renteria
C: Josh Hamilton D: Juan Uribe

3. In 1975, for which American team did Brazilian soccer player Pelé played?

A: Chiefs B: Lancers
C: Cosmos D: Spurs

4. Which team was an Original Six NHL team?

A: Philadelphia B: Quebec
C: Detroit D: Buffalo

5. How fast did Petar Stoychev swim across the English Channel?

A: 5:28 B: 6:57
C: 12:23 D: 14:13

6. Which metro area doesn't have a team in the NHL, MLB, NFL, and NBA?

A. Minneapolis-St.Paul B:Phoenix
C: Dallas D: Los Angeles

7. Which bicyclist won the 2010 Tour de France?

A: Contador B: Menchov
C. Schleck D: Petacchi

8. Where will the 2011 NHL Winter Classic be held?

A: Pittsburgh B: Boston
C: New York D: Chicago

Answers to this issue's questions:

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

Lighting Up The Turf

by Laura McConney

An athlete does not understand true passion until he or she has played a game at night. After dark, the field of play is electrified with the presence of fans, rivalries, and emotions. Stepping out onto an illuminated field against a backdrop of the night sky, an athlete comes alive and feels the rush of competition swell up inside. At Loomis Chaffee, a school often noted for its excellence in athletics, most athletes never experience the thrill of playing under the night sky.

As the football team gears up for their highly anticipated night game, I reflect on Loomis's need for permanent lights. Luckily, as a three-sport athlete here on The Island, I have been fortunate enough to play at night. The only night games that I have played at home, however, have been inside the rink, where the full ferocity of these games often falls short. Nevertheless, even my diluted experience in night games has, in part, made my Loomis athletic career.

Night games also have the potential to enhance the community here on campus.

Though this year's activities schedule has been much better than in years past, weekend events are usually limited by daylight and/or available indoor space. With lights on the turf field, we would be able to hold kickball tournaments, outdoor festivals, and, of course, night games until late check-in rather than ending them at nine o'clock. Tournaments have always been popular on The Island; over 50 students usually participate in the annual dodgeball tournament. With the opportunity to experience the awe of playing underneath the lights, more students will take part in these tournaments, and more day students will stay on campus to either watch or compete. These benefits combined will bring the community together and accentuate the school spirit that each Loomis student has buried inside of him or her.

Imagine walking out onto the

field with drums beating in the background, fans screaming, and your heart beating inside your chest. Every athlete at Loomis should be able to experience this awe-inspiring feeling. As a school with strong athletics, it is surprising that we don't already have these lights. At this point, lights are not a suggestion; they're a necessity. Playing under the lights with the community watching should become a once-a-month activity rather than a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Permanently lighting the turf would not only increase school spirit for interscholastic competitions in the fall and the spring, but would also allow for a new thread of entertainment for in terms of scheduling extracurricular programs. With such possibilities as flag-football tournaments on Saturday nights, pick-up soccer games, and a variety of other original ideas, permanently lighting the turf would simultaneously inspire greater school spirit on The Island and give

Former LC Student-Athlete: Chris Choquette '07

by Mike Choquette

Chris Choquette '07 played on the Loomis Chaffee Varsity Soccer Team for four seasons in his time on The Island. As a member of the soccer team at Union College, he has been able to reflect on what he learned at Loomis Chaffee and how these lessons prepared him for the newer encounters he faced, both intellectual and athletic, that have confronted him at the next level.

How has Loomis prepared you for college both academically and athletically?

Academically, Loomis has provided two major tools that have helped me in college above all else: the abilities to write well and to handle the stress that comes with higher education. The ability to write effectively and efficiently has been invaluable in my college career, especially with the large amount of research papers assigned. In addition, coping with the stress that results from massive work loads, late nights, and tight deadlines has proven essential in keeping focused and level-headed throughout the term. On the athletic side, by being a part of an excellent soccer program, I was prepared for the physical and technical rigors of

the game. More importantly, I learned what it meant to be part of a close-knit team which became more of a family than, say, on a premier club team.

How does the level of both academics and athletics compare?

The difficulty in college seems to be based on one's ability to apply the tools learned in high school to newer, more difficult situations. Though, I no longer have class from 8 until 3 every day, the work load has increased and the demands of professors are higher. In college, the student becomes more self sufficient in their careers, and the skills Loomis gave me allow me to overcome the more challenging obstacles of collegiate life.

Favorite aspect about Loomis as a school and as a team?

My favorite aspect about Loomis was that all the instruments needed for success were at our disposal. The library was fully equipped for student needs, teachers were concerned with our well being and thus were readily prepared to meet outside of class, and still Loomis was trying every day to improve classroom

buildings and course materials. This effort applied to the team as well. The athletic department did all in its power to ensure we could be the best team possible. The dedication shown by the staff and administration at Loomis made it much easier to be a successful student.

What asting memories do you have about Loomis athletics? Do you have any anecdotes?

The first image that comes to mind when I think of Loomis soccer is the bonfire we had during our final team dinner at the end of the 2004 season. That year the seniors had done a remarkable job of including and incorporating the younger players into the team, resulting in a very successful, very close team. That final bonfire, with the whole team standing around it, not divided by grade but rather dispersed among each other, signified what Loomis soccer and possibly Loomis athletics as a whole represents: building a sense of togetherness that transcends boundaries and lasts beyond the final game of the season, and even graduation.

How have your relationships here carried

on to Union?

The relationships I made at Loomis have all carried on in varying degrees. Some students I very rarely have a chance to talk to because of our busy schedules, but there is a core group who I see often, either because I still go to school with them, or because we visit each other in college. In some way or another, we are all still connected.

What do you think was the most important thing you learned from Loomis?

I think the most important thing I learned was the ability to interact and communicate effectively. This skill is important in all three fronts of my daily life. Within the world of academics and career, it is essential to participate in class, converse with professors, and hold conversations with possible employers. On the athletics field, it is important to communicate with teammates both on the field during the game, and off the field ensuring team chemistry. And in social life, it is the ability to be comfortable and confident stepping outside of personal boundaries in order to associate and connect with a wider range of people.



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Senior Meditations Unify The Island

by Nkechi Oparaocha



Andrew Watson shares his story of coming out

PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

With only a one-year history, Senior Meditations, founded by Chinwe (alias Chi-Chi) Oparaocha '10, has already begun to unify the Loomis Chaffee community by allowing seniors to reflect on their time on The Island. Senior Meditations help students to share the talents that they have developed while at Loomis Chaffee. The most recent Senior Meditations, on Thursday, October 24, commenced with performances from seniors Shondaray Ducheine, Ryan Palm, Halloran

Murdock, Dru Sanders, and our very own English teacher, Andrew Watson.

With a reflective skit about her talent for "breaking the ice," Ducheine, assisted by sophomore Brian Nance, gave a demonstration on how to "properly" initiate a comfortable conversation. Next, Palm played a song on his bass guitar, and was followed by Murdock who presented a slide show presentation of her photographs. Sanders then played a folk song on his guitar. Lastly, Watson awed us with his personal reflection on his experience of coming out as a gay man at Loomis Chaffee. The audience was both touched and encouraged by his sincerity, candor, and remarkable display of courage. And Watson's poignant message, that no one deserves to

be discriminated against because of his or her beliefs, appearances, or gender preferences, will surely make students and faculty more aware of the consequences of their words and actions.

Senior Meditations not only allow seniors to reflect on their personal growth and to practice their public speaking skills, but also allow other classes to learn about their peers and recognize them for their achievements. During the Meditations, freshmen are introduced to the best talent on campus and encouraged to explore diverse interests as they acclimate themselves to the new Loomis Chaffee community. In witnessing the leadership and talents of the seniors, sophomores and juniors are motivated to follow in the seniors' footsteps and develop their own talents.

We hope that more and more seniors and faculty will assist in unifying our community by participating in these Senior Meditations in the future. If you would like to participate in one of the next two Senior Meditations, please contact any Student Council Representative.

Traveling to the Past: The Junior Class Visits Sturbridge Village

By Frankie Salvatore and Brianna Malanga

The Junior Class, outfitted in rain coats and rubber boots, sleepily boarded the buses to Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on Thursday, November 4. Peering out the foggy windows, watching the freezing rain pelt the windows, the juniors departed from The Island, prepared to explore Old Sturbridge Village.

One-by-one, the juniors stepped off the buses and into the 1800s. The first activity of the day for half of the junior class commenced in the hands-on studio of Old Sturbridge Village. From textile-making to tinplate stenciling, the juniors experienced routine leisure activities and chores of daily life in the 1800s. In groups of 10

to 12, students used materials such as ink and quill feather pens to simulate supplies that were used a couple hundred years ago. The upbeat instructors took on roles of early Americans in order to portray how employers may have treated their workers and to demonstrate the skills it took to be hired in, for example, a textile factory.

After leaving the studio, students were free to explore the village and to collect information for their pending research papers. The village, composed of lower-to upper-class homes, a bank, a meetinghouse, farms, and factories, left much to be investigated. With a couple of brilliant



The local tinman gladly greets the Loomis Chaffee students

At a mock town meeting, students, playing the roles of colonists in the 1800s, voiced their opinions on the issue of temperance. Debating back and forth whether hard liquor could be sold and, more importantly, whether government had the jurisdiction to outlaw alcohol, students enthusiastically stepped into their characters' shoes.

With the long day coming to a close, students recorded their last minute notes, purchased small trinkets and tasty treats at the general store, and headed toward the buses, all the while chatting with friends about their day at Sturbridge Village. Despite chattering teeth, soaked hair and muddy rain boots, the juniors learned first-hand the realities of living in a rural community during the 1800s. Sturbridge Village painted a vivid picture of the struggles and daily routines of the American colonists in a way that no lengthy textbook reading or in-class role plays could, ultimately impressing upon all history students just how far America has come.

historical interpreters in each of the buildings, students could inquire about life in the 1800s, such as the roles of women and children in and out of the household, the meals most commonly eaten, and the activities played on a day-to-day basis. Many juniors brought not only cameras to document the architecture of homes and construction of furniture but also notebooks to write down all the newfound information about Sturbridge Village.

A Friendly Thanksgiving Reminder

by Rachel Rosenblatt

This Thanksgiving, remind yourself what the holiday is truly about. As good as the food is, the company is even better. Enjoy your family first; be thankful for what you have been given. Invite those who may not be as fortunate as you to join your table. Remember

the beauty of the kindness that brings us together. Embrace that kindness and spread the celebratory warmth. But don't forget to treat yourself to something sweet like cranberry sauce or pumpkin pie!

Love,
The Kindness Club.

Guest Musician

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"juice harp." The Jew's harp, which, despite its name, is apparently unrelated to Judaism, is thought to be one of the oldest instruments in the world, originating in Asia in the 4th century BC and reaching America with European settlers in the 18th century. The song that Warner played on the Jew's harp had travelled along with the instrument to America in the 19th century, but had its origins in medieval times; it humorously sang of a farmer who had had a bad harvest for multiple years and finally decided to make a deal with the devil to try to reap a better harvest in the following year. The devil took the farmer's wife as payment but soon brought her back because even hell, as the song humorously stated, could not handle the farmer's wife.

Warner also shared a song called a "sea shanty," a ditty that inspired sailors to keep a quick pace while fixing problems on a ship, raising sails, or rowing. Warner's next song involved playing the bones, a musical instrument made of pieces of cow femur that are played with a clever flicking and twisting of the wrist. Mastering this seemingly simple instrument took Warner more than two years.

Warner also showed the audience a handcrafted banjo, made of wood and gopher hide, that had been made to mimic early American banjos. The banjo, as Warner said, represented American diversity at its best: brought over to America by African slaves and

originally made of hollow gourds and intestine strings, this instrument was quickly assimilated into backcountry American culture, and came to accompany the country music that we associate it with today. As Warner explained, the banjo has much changed since its debut in America: it has lost its cat gut strings, gourd base, and animal hide cover, and has gained frets, which make it much easier to play. Yet the song that Warner played with his original-style banjo had a unique flavor that no modern banjo could have imitated.

Warner's following song was "Buffalo Gals." To accompany this song, Warner had brought along a wooden puppet. This toy has many names, such as "limberjack" (with a clever pun on "lumberjack") and "jigjaws," but Mr. Warner likes to call him "The Dancing Man." As Mr. Warner sang "Buffalo Gals," the dancing man jumped and tapped in rhythm to the song. Warner, as he explained, had begun taking this toy with him to amuse the elementary school classes that he visited, but, realizing its popularity, he soon brought it to most of his adult concerts as well. It has since become one of his most popular instruments.

As a closing, Warner reminded the audience that music can be made with anything, pots, pans, jars, or hairbrushes; these simple household items, Warner stated, are what make folk music so charming. "Just make your own music," Warner concluded.

You Are Not Alone

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and no one addresses the fact that large amounts of homework is the main cause for lack of sleep." Stasack's classmates echoed his statement, claiming "this is easily the hardest year for me so far" (Stephen Picard '12) and "the fall term workload is grueling" (Alex Lafrance '12). Melanie Silverman '12 pinpoints the main source of the problem when she says, "There's just so much work, but I don't have time to do it all because I do too many extracurricular activities." Everyone wants to pursue their passions and interests, yet the harrowing workload and increased expectations of junior year make the phrase "free time" an oxymoron. Thankfully there is always that elusive light at the end of the tunnel: the school has yet to report any junior casualties.

Synonymous with college search, senior year is filled with

those bittersweet "last time" moments. Dan Kang '11 said, "The workload is very very heavy," with college supplements to write, applications to submit, and standardized tests to take (and re-take and re-take). With one of the most popular web sites being commonapp.org and with many desperate to "just get in somewhere," senior fall has definitely been a blur of activity and hard work. While it is tempting to concentrate always on the future, remember that you are only a high school senior once, so take advantage of your familiarity with the Loomis Chaffee community and attempt to accomplish all the long-forgotten goals you made as a freshman during Peer Counseling meetings.

So as the fall term comes to a close, remember that you are never alone: always turn to your peers for advice and comfort.