

# THE LOG



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The Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor CT

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## Staff Members Set Outstanding Example

by Rachel Rosenblatt

On an Island overflowing with potential, hard work, and individuality, the presence of kindness can often be overlooked. Fortunately, our campus is graced with many invaluable ambassadors of altruism.

Roberta Fletcher can always be found perched behind the desk of the Academic Office, with a smile on

her face, a pen in hand, and a phone ringing at her side. Fletcher, now in hereighth year of working on the Island, truly loves her job; when asked about her favorite

part of the day, she said, without hesitation, "All of it! I just love it here, especially when students come in." Fletcher went on to describe Loomis Chaffee as a family school: "In a family you don't need to like everyone, but regardless you work as a team toward common goals." With a smile stretching from ear to ear, she said that it is the small things that make her day, such as the exchange of a wave across the quad

or a smile in Founders. Fletcher sees kindness in the Loomis Chaffee community's philanthropic deeds, such as donating coats to Hartford-area children or raising money for a worthy cause. In addition, she marvels at the amount of kindness and goodwill present among all of the students and faculty members on campus. Mrs.

competition. Throughout Billera's six and a half years on the Island, his favorite part of the day has always been his interactions with students and athletes. Billera truly lives by his motto, "If you are kind to everyone you meet daily, you will [have] kindness returned to you one-hundred fold." Outside of Loomis Chaffee,

"Seeing the tour guides is really the highlight of my day," Knight said. Knight went on to explain that she sees kindness at its purest in her experience with the Loomis Chaffee tour guides. "When there is an unexpected tour, or if someone doesn't show up, there is always someone willing to help fill in when I need them.

That's when I see kindness most. Sometimes it's the person I least expect, and that makes it even better." As much as she loves her job here on the Island, Knight claims that if



Joe Billera

PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG



Roberta Fletcher

PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO



Debi Knight

PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Fletcher, thank you for gracing Loomis Chaffee with your kind heart and hard work!

A daily stop at the Cage is a necessity at Loomis Chaffee to see the smiling face of Joe Billera, to pick up a uniform, or just simply to say hello. Even on the most hectic game days, Billera prepares all of the necessary equipment and apparel with astonishing ease. Billera works to ensure that we Pelicans are prepared for

Billera enjoys spending time with his son and restoring his 1967 Ford Mustang.

Debi Knight has been working at Loomis Chaffee since October 2002. Beginning her Island career in the Academic Office, she moved to Sellers Hall three years later to work in the Admissions Office. Knight manages the endless flow of applications, interviews, and tours, while always maintaining her genial smile and composure.

there were one thing she would like to see change, it would be for the students to be less overscheduled. She says, "[The students] just always seem so busy." Ms. Knight, you make your job look easy and we are lucky to have you!

As you attend classes on the Island, make sure to thank Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Billera, and Ms. Knight for their hard work and benevolence.

## Chamber Concert Entertains

by Lydia Heinrichs

Students, faculty, and parents filed into Hubbard Concert Hall for the annual Winter Chamber Music Concert on Tuesday, January 11. Student groups performed chamber music pieces varying from Baroque to classical to Romantic, to present one of the strongest chamber music concerts in Loomis Chaffee history.

Longtime music faculty member Aaron P. Pratt, Jr. '38 began the chamber music program in the 1970s. Described by Head of Music Department Faith Miller as "unparalleled in structure and strength by other private schools in the region," the program, in Miller's words, "provides a unique opportunity [for students] to study and perform music collaboratively in the secondary school setting." Students are separated into eight to ten groups and are assigned one of four coaches from the Loomis Chaffee music faculty. These groups work together on one piece for eight weeks before holding a final performance for the school. There are a total of four eight-week sessions throughout the year. When not practicing for a recital, the class meets to discuss program-reading and basic music theory.

The program on January 11 began with Johann Christian Bach's "Sonata in G Major for Two Pianos," performed by Leon An '13 and Lydia Heinrichs '11. This performance was the first time that a piece for two pianos was performed at Loomis Chaffee. Previously, "we could not have included a two piano piece without either renting a second piano or moving an inferior piano into the Chapel," said Jim Rugen '70. However, because of the generous donations of the Steinway family, Loomis Chaffee now has two Steinway concert grand pianos that will be used almost exclusively for performing. "A vast piano chamber repertoire is now open to our students," said Rugen.

Another notable performance was Johann Joachim Quantz's "Trio in G Minor," performed by Rebecca Scanlon '11, Nina Sayles '13, Tate Knight '14, and Sophia Dong '14. This piece included a contrabass guitar and a marimba, both instruments rarely featured in classical chamber music. This mixing and matching of instruments, Miller said, is one of the most unique characteristics of the Loomis Chaffee Chamber Music program; not only can the traditional chamber music instruments such as vio-

## Students Serve the Community

by Sarah Patrick

As the holiday season draws to a close and the excitement of gift-giving and receiving fades, the monotonous back-to-school routine begins anew, replacing the joy and anticipation that permeated The Island before break. With two more months to slog through snow and confront the cold, many Loomis Chaffee students withdraw, focusing solely on school work and athletic commitments. However, there is a simple solution to avoid becoming stuck in this winter-induced funk: random acts of kindness.

Often viewed as a daunting, time-consuming task, community service sadly has become a go-to activity for students in need of resume-fillers or ways to decorate their college applications. Although widely denied, these motives sully the true goal of service work: to inspire others and to induce smiles. While community service dynamos such as Ty Pennington (an architect who builds

houses for families in need on his show *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*) and Oprah Winfrey garner public attention and praise with their extravagant and generous projects, admittedly most people don't have the money, skills, or resources to pull off such grandiose feats. Thankfully, Loomis Chaffee provides its students with a variety of service opportunities. Just this year, the Pelican Service Organization (PSO) launched a Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge, held a candy drive for the Boy's and Girl's Club, and volunteered at Peter's Retreat and Alex's Lemonade Stand. Additionally dozens of students flock to after-school community service projects Caring Connections and Pelican Huskies, just to name a couple.

While Loomis Chaffee prides itself on attracting diverse, talented, and good students and people, Henry David Thoreau reminds us, "Be not simply good;

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## Hidden Island Talents Exposed

by Francesca Salvatore



Martha Hess's artwork in the Richmond Art Center.

Every year, Loomis Chaffee looks forward to the much-anticipated Community Art Exhibit, which showcases a wide range of impressive artwork created by many faculty members here on The Island. This year, outstanding photographs, paintings, drawings, and ceramic pieces lined the walls of

the RAC, displaying the talents of the Loomis Chaffee faculty and staff.

Students can catch glimpses into several different cultures with the photographs of Kathryn Delacourt, Elizabeth Parada, Mara Lytle, and Lucy Thiboutot. The culture of Afica, or "the city of eternal spring," in northern Chile shines through Parada's photographs, while Thiboutot captures the lifestyles of those living in Syria and Lebanon in her work. Oil paintings by the RAC's own Mark Zunino and Chet Kempczynski are also on exhibit, as well as ceramic pieces by Jennifer McCandless. Amaz-

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## More Arts On The Island

by Izzy Kornblatt

Almost every single Loomis Chaffee student participates in the school's arts program in some capacity through the roughly 60 offered arts courses, through individualized lessons or through after school programs. The school boasts a spanking new, \$10 million music building, an extensive visual arts center with a renowned professional gallery, an artist-in-residence program, and even a guest musician series. But I say that LC needs to do more. The arts are still, for a significant number of students, no more than a peripheral bit of campus life; that needs to change. I propose that a few enhancements be made to the Loomis Chaffee arts program.

To start with, some sort of an arts foundation course or sampler should be added to the curriculum for freshmen and new sophomores. Such a course would introduce new students to the many offerings of the arts program, and would help bring arts newcomers to mediums they might never have otherwise discovered.

After school visual arts and music programs should also be introduced as an alternative to sports. This winter, both debate and robotics have been made sports alternatives, so why not visual arts or music? Extending

these arts outside of school hours makes them a more serious and engaging avenue for creative expression. Such programs would bring greater interest to the arts programs and more activity to the Ratté Quadrangle after school hours.

More student artwork should be placed around campus. As one with an interest in architecture, I acutely notice that there are some painfully blank walls on campus - in the Hubbard Center, parts of Founders Hall, and in several dorm common rooms, to name a few. Why not hang up some of the beautiful artwork that is currently relegated to the RAC? Adding artwork in more places on campus would go a long way in introducing the visual arts as an essential and valuable aspect of the LC experience.

Additionally, more visual arts events should be held throughout the year. Gallery openings are some of the few times the Richmond Art Center really seems to be bustling. And arts facilities should be open longer. Currently, the RAC and Hubbard Center close at around 5 p.m. and re-open during study hall. These hours are unfair not just to day students who play sports, but also to boarders who have other homework they need

to do during study hall. Without access to these facilities, motivated artists are cut off from the working time they need. It's time for arts buildings hours to match athletic center hours. We can work out in the Olin Fitness Center all day, but are unable to practice our instruments in the Hubbard Center except for a few awkward hours. This is a troubling policy, but I do not believe that it really lines up with the attention and resources the school generally appropriates to the arts. While LC greatly supports the arts and covets its strong programs and talented students and faculty, it's time for some reinforcement - and policy to match.

If we can make this relatively short list of enhancements to the arts program a reality on campus, the arts would be a radically more integral piece of campus life. Just imagine: all new students are introduced to the arts through a foundation course that opens eyes to new mediums, interests, and passions. Those whose interest has been sparked could focus on their chosen mediums as an alternative to sports. For those without strong arts inclinations, the arts would be slightly more removed, but would remain present. And, fortunately, the journey to get there is neither too tough nor overly expensive.

## Read Carefully and Consciously

by Jackie Mishol

Just how consciously do people read the paper and watch the news? With the current eruption of activity in the Arab world including the uprising in Tunisia that led to the departure of Ben Ali and the major riots in Egypt that news sources predict will cause a major shift in American foreign policy, the importance of being consciously engaged is as crucial as it's ever been.

At the fast pace the Loomis Chaffee world tends to spin, reading the daily paper oftentimes can be relegated to the back burner. While a good number of Pelicans, like Mr. Williams's APUSH students and the FPA kids, make valiant efforts to stay current with the news, others don't take the time to actively engage themselves in today's world. Busy students may remember a headline about some trapped miners and some chatter about spilled oil, but not much more.

I'll admit that it is not likely for everyone to read the entire paper each morning, but it is important for one to actively engage himself when he does get the chance to read. As fledgling news followers try to jump in and follow the events that are taking place in Egypt, it is important for them to realize that they must read carefully and consciously. If even a textbook can sway information and have its own agendas, then what sort of *modi operandi* can a newspaper have?

The issue of subjectivity in the news world is not a new one. From early America's Federalists and Anti-Federalists in the late 1700s to the New Journalism movement's parajournalists in the 1960s

and 1970s, the struggle to separate the truth from embellished facts and embellished facts from fiction has always existed. But as print journalism makes way for Internet reporting and blogs, Facebook posts and tweets, "nothing but the facts" has become a more duplicitous and questionable "nothing but the facts with some exceptions, a few asterisks, and a dose of subjectivity."

Sources and authors have become less important than the speed at which information is flung. With the pace at which this new Internet journalism and broadcasting are moving, people are tuning out as they tune in. Subconscious viewing is now not only fairly common, but also practically encouraged.

Readers, however, cannot take the words of a journalist for granted. Each person's own personal perspective and baggage can affect his objectivity. And more alarmingly, some writers craft consciously biased pieces through techniques as blatant as quotation manipulation and as subtle as verb choice and omission.

Take, for example, the Tunisian government collapse and formation of a new "unity government." Covered by BBC News, Aljazeera, and *The New York Times*, the alleged same set of facts was presented in three completely different lights. Aljazeera gave a more hopeful view of the political situation through its diction and quotations, subtly cracking the government's façade while giving power to the people. The BBC News coverage, in comparison, was much more actively negative as its quotations, filled with passive verbs

and uncertainty, gave people little agency. And finally, *The New York Times* focused on the violence in Tunisia and left readers with the hopeless scene of a middle-aged, volunteer watchman, armed with a golf club as he fought for democracy. Drastically different pictures were painted with the same facts.

Recent events in Egypt have made the media's warping and stretching even more obvious. As Alarabiya emphasized the weakness and reluctance of the Obama Administration's actions with passive language and critical sound bites, Fox News attacked Obama's rash public criticism and haughty condemnation, and *The New York Times* praised his bold action through repetition and quotations.

Whether stories have been twisted to reflect countries' political agendas or writers' personal biases, one must remember in the end that the media are businesses. It is the job of the reader to shift gears out of the subconscious and sift through today's news to find some truth. The facts around us are being swayed and slanted, and it is up to us to straighten them out. And whether reporters are writing through their rose colored shades purposely or not, the first step toward catching up with the news and finding the facts is conscious engagement.

A detailed list of the articles referenced in this piece can be found with the web version of this story at [www.loomischaffee.org/log](http://www.loomischaffee.org/log). *The LOG* would like to hear from you about this and other articles and encourages that responses be sent to the Chiefs via mail c/o *The Loomis Chaffee School*, 4 Batchelder Rd., Windsor, CT, 06095.

## THE LOG

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## The Petit Case

by Jo Shihui Wang

After being convicted of 16 capital crimes on October 5th, 2010, six of which made him eligible for capital punishment, the defendant Steven J. Hayes aroused further controversy and debate on whether or not Connecticut should repeal its death penalty law as his case moved on to the penalty phase. Hayes had, along with co-defendant Joshua Komisarjevsky, broken into Dr. William Petit's family's house in Cheshire, Connecticut, beating and restraining the father (Dr. Petit), sexually assaulting his wife Jennifer Hawke Petit, killing her and her two daughters, aged 17 and 11, and setting fire to the house.

Two contradictory versions of a convicted Hayes have been given by the prosecutor and the defendants. The former depicted an unremorseful, inhumane, atrocious demon who texted Komisarjevsky "LOL," expressing excitement before the crime, tormented the family members for seven hours, and poured gasoline on the two teenage girls before setting them on fire. The latter, playing the cliché "miserable childhood" card, hired psychiatrist Dr. Erick Goldsmith, who portrayed Hayes as having been beaten by his father, sexually abused by his babysitter at 11 years of age, and suffering from ADD. Another "experienced" anti-death penalty psychiatrist, Dr. Mark D. Cunningham, interviewed Hayes in the prison and claimed he was "consumed by

feelings of remorse and concern for the surviving members of the Petit family all the time." In arguing that Hayes would not pose a threat to the security of guards in prison if sentenced lifelong imprisonment, Dr. Cunningham even testified, "There is a very low probability of him committing serious violence."

If Steven Hayes were given lifelong imprisonment, he would spend his life with a bed to sleep in, three regular meals, and free health care for the rest of his life. Even though one should not base his judgment in any case on the pointless revenge-driven comparison of the miserable situations of the criminal and the murderer, it shall be acknowledged that those who suffered more are indeed the victims.

Perhaps by sentencing Hayes to lifelong imprisonment, there is a price to pay for his atrocity - the taxpayers' money, which could have gone into more productive and justifiable uses. Taxpayers give a portion of their income to the country for the security it is supposed to provide.

The appearance of such a brutal crime is already a loss to the citizens, let alone if the murderer were to be given the right to live, dying naturally while being supported by taxpayers' money, plaguing society for the rest of his life. When contemplating the murderer's fate, the victims must be considered.

# Privacy: Where Do We Draw the Line?

by Brendan Travers

In the early 1960s, the need to communicate and transfer information more easily and more quickly was met by a government system that interconnected computers at the Pentagon, Cheyenne Mountain, and Strategic Air Command headquarters. This system, known at the time as the SAGE project, would go on to rapidly develop into the information superhighway we now call the Internet. The rate at which the Internet continues to grow is faster than the growth of any other type of media in the history of the world. According to Internet World Stats, worldwide personal Internet use has increased more than four times its previous rate just in the last 10 years. With nearly two billion users online today, the protection of users' privacy has become an important and much debated issue.

Facebook is a social networking web site developed in February 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg. Originally intended to be exclusively for Harvard students, the site expanded to accommodate students from other colleges, and eventually grew into the 500 million-member international Internet monster it is today. Since the birth of the web site seven years ago, the official 5,830 word privacy policy has been amended and added to countless times, usually due to errors and loopholes that compromised users' security. However, in December 2009, an extremely controversial alteration was made,

making information such as your name, profile picture, city, gender, and friends publicly available and limiting control over what information Facebook applications can access. In an interview in January 2010, Zuckerberg stated, "Blogging has taken off in a huge way and all these different services have people sharing all this information. People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information... but doing so more openly and with more people. That social norm is just something that has evolved over time. We view it as our role in the system to constantly... be updating what our system is to reflect what the current social norms are." Zuckerberg views the exchange of personal information between Internet users as a form of entertainment, and who can blame him? Entertainment weekly asked, "How on earth did we stalk our exes, remember our co-workers' birthdays, bug our friends, and play a rousing game of Scrabulous before Facebook?"

In contrast to Zuckerberg's light view on sharing personal information as a form of entertainment, Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, believes that the degree of confidentiality between the American government and the people of the United States is

ligation to the public to get out the information that the public needs to know." While many agree with Assange and commend him for his achievements with the website, even voting him Time's person of the year (Readers Poll), others argue that the display of such confidential information will only exacerbate international tensions.

Whether the trillions of gigabytes of data exchanged every day via the Internet are used for entertainment, or to expose top-secret government documents, differing opinions on the degrees of privacy permitted will continue to be fueled by web titans

behavior.

Personally, I believe that Zuckerberg is significantly more deserving of public approbation for his achievements with Facebook, than Assange's exposing of important government documents to the public through WikiLeaks. Although some controversy ensued behind Zuckerberg's creation of the social network, he has earned my respect through his perseverance and ultimate success with Facebook. Winning Time's Person of the Year Award at just 26 years old, Zuckerberg has been nationally praised for his achievements through internationalizing the web site and reaching out to 500 million members in just seven years. Contrarily, I believe that the necessity of the release of millions of confidential documents to the public by Assange's WikiLeaks is entirely unjustified. By agitating the United States' foreign affairs with recent disclosures, Assange has been widely criticized and questioned on what his intentions truly are. In May of last year, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich stated, "Information terrorism, which leads to people getting killed, is terrorism, and Julian Assange is engaged in terrorism. He should be treated as an enemy combatant." Although describing him as a terrorist is, in my mind, a slight overstatement, I maintain that Assange's actions through the whistleblower web site pose as a global threat and a danger to society.



Death and Taxes chooses Julian Assange as their man of the year while Time Magazine features Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

utterly immoral and that the release of information to the public is absolutely crucial and our right as citizens. Since the founding in 2006 of WikiLeaks, a non-profit whistleblower web site where journalists anonymously expose classified government media, millions of previously unreleased documents have been broadcasted and disputes over the ethics of its subject matter has exploded. In a 2010 interview, Assange stated, "The media has a right and an ob-

like WikiLeaks and Facebook. As different issues arose and debate began, Zuckerberg and Assange found themselves in the position to entirely represent the web sites they affiliate with, despite the fact that not every decision made by the network is directly that of the founders. For this reason exactly, the public has treated the entrepreneurs based on the Internet systems they developed and alternatively passed judgments on the web sites due to their public

## Voting Crisis

by Jamie Neikrie

I cannot wait to vote. I have always been fascinated by politics. In eighth grade, during the 2008 elections, I would run off the school bus every day to check the polls, hoping and praying that Obama was in the lead. To this day, I try to stay as up to date on current affairs as I can. It was astonishing when I found out that people older -- and theoretically more mature than I -- choose not to vote.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), only 20.4 percent of eligible voters under 30, voted in the November midterm elections. And CIRCLE's estimates are higher than other reports: the Washington Post estimated that only 12 percent of under-30 voters voted. To give you a sense of comparison, 41.5 percent of all eligible voters voted (which is also quite a pathetic number), and under-30 voting rates were less than half of the 48 percent from the presidential election year in 2008 (an optimistic ratio depending on who's statistics you use). What these numbers mean is that an alarming number of young people didn't vote in 2010's midterm election, at a rate disproportionate to the national averages.

We can speculate about reasons why young adults don't vote. Pennsylvania State University's political scientist Eric Plutzer offers an optimistic ex-

planation. He believes that "For many, voting is an unfamiliar task: They don't know where the polling place is, they may have no idea who represents them in the state legislature, and they're unlikely to have strong feelings about local issues such as school taxes or zoning. Voting, for the first time, may loom as an intimidating experience. They imagine they'll walk out of the voting booth bewildered as to whether they've cast intelligent votes for county sheriff, state representative - even U.S. senator." Perhaps the problem is apathy. According to CIRCLE, 40 percent of younger people not registered to vote claim they are "uninterested in politics."

When young people do not vote, their ideas deteriorate. In the 2010 elections, only 10 percent of the voters were under 30, and 25 percent were over 65. It's not surprising, then, that young people do not see their ideas reflected in the decisions made by politicians. When young people do not vote in large enough numbers, then the outcome is that, collectively, their ideas lose.

It is our duty as United States citizens to vote. I am not eligible to vote yet, but when I am, you can be assured that I will not only be at the voting booth, but I will be taking everyone I know with me. We need to be active, stay informed, and choose our leaders proudly

It comes as little surprise that the debate over immigration and its reform rages on even after the 2010 version of the DREAM Act failed to pass in a Senate vote in December. In a rather pointed address later that day, President Obama paved the way for further discourse by expressing his intent to pursue the act and similar bills, and while his goals are certainly admirable, one must still question the rationale of these aspirations.

The DREAM Act itself does not pose any significant threat to the American people (and not only because the Senate voted it down), nor does it significantly violate common sense. The bill simply dictates that illegal immigrants between the ages of 12 and 35 who have lived in the country for a minimum of five years prior to the date of the bill's passing, who have attended an institution of higher education, and who meet certain ethical qualifications may apply for conditional permanent residency, and by enlisting in the armed forces or by pursuing bachelor's degree, may ultimately gain citizenship. Granted, the bill would have repealed parts of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, thus offering states more leeway in mandating the rights and entitlements of illegal aliens (for better or for worse), and the bill did not exclude illegal immigrants with a limited criminal record, but all in all, the DREAM

Act was a rather innocuous proposition.

Of course, innocuous does not necessarily mean the same thing as productive. Turning illegal aliens who probably had little say in coming to the United States with their parents into educated, tax-paying citizens hardly seems erroneous, but the DREAM Act's context undermines many of the benefits that would have otherwise been gained from the bill.

Some have touted the bill as a solution to the immigration problem; however, the DREAM Act would only partially and temporarily patch the issue, since it applies to only a select group of illegal immigrants, while those ineligible for the act, including those immigrants with a significant criminal record, would be unaffected. Additionally, the DREAM Act would legitimize illegal immigrants in the public school system, as it stipulated that applicants must already have enrolled in a secondary school. In this situation, either US citizens foot the bill with their taxes (even if an illegal immigrant pays state taxes through the workplace, federal taxes would go uncollected), or the tuition goes unpaid, stretching the already underfunded public school system's resources even thinner.

Moreover, the DREAM Act would do nothing to deter more immigrants from entering the country illegally, and since no law

prevents bills like the DREAM Act from being passed repeatedly in the future (the fact that multiple versions of the act have cropped up in the past few years should serve as an indicator that this repeated passing will most likely occur), it could even stimulate more illegal immigration. Not to mention that while this bill did not provide amnesty to illegal aliens because they had to apply for conditional permanent residency with no guarantee of success, it would have ignored the fact that these people are criminals for entering the country illegally, and it would have awarded them citizenship without repercussion for having violated the law.

In reality, the DREAM Act alone would not have contributed to any great disaster for America. It was not the most productive bill, nor was it the most ideal. It certainly would not have accomplished much in the line of rectifying the immigration debate. That said, we could have done far worse than the DREAM Act.

But we could also do much better.

## DREAMing of a Solution

by Alexander Lafrance

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# On the Island: Titter

by David Fischer

He sneaks around the Grubbs Quadrangle, searching urgently for love and affection. He frequently finds said love and affection in the persona of random passerby on the way to classes, meetings and dorms. Titter, the black-and-white cat owned by the Hutchinson family, typically rests on the Taylor Hall door-mat, waiting for people to stop by and pet him or scratch his ears. Sometimes, however, Titter disappears from campus for days on end, leaving us to speculate about where he has gone. Although it has been rumored that he goes to kitty conferences such as the world famous Group of Eight Cats (G8C) conference, an annual meeting between feline political leaders, it was recently discovered that Titter frequently rendezvous with his good friend Tatter.

For a long time, Titter and Tatter were a bromantic couple to rival that of Fred Fang '11 and Daniel Kang '11 (the FangKang duo). They did everything together (also similar to Fang and Kang). From their kitten days to their young adulthood they were inseparable. They ate cat-food meals together, lived in two adorable kitten bunk beds (Titter took top bunk) and finished each other's mewling sentences. It seemed that the two would live out the rest of their days as close as brothers, but tragedy soon struck. Dorm Head of Taylor Hall Andrew Hutchinson's old roommate moved away, leaving Titter but taking Tatter. The bromance was over. Titter howled like a squashed puppy for days, wishing that his best friend would return to him. Although a new friend was brought into Titter's life in the form of the ginger tabby Sputnik, nothing could fill the void of Tatter for Titter.

Titter and Tatter still Skype video-chat with each other on a regular basis for hours on end, but there is no substitute for face-to-face contact. So whenever Titter can get away from his hobby of basking on the sun-soaked (or snow-soaked, depending on the season) Quad, he treks to Cancun, Mexico to visit Tatter and down a few margaritas. (Side note: The LOG encourages you to drink re-

sponsibly, or not at all if you are a student.) Titter typically hitchhikes down to the Arizona border, pays off a border-control official, as he has no passport, and then boards a hovercraft to his final destination. Yeah, he's hardcore. After partying with his bro for a few days, he makes the long, arduous trip back to The Island and resumes his life of basking.

Another key aspect of Titter's on-campus life happens during the winter. Since he is unable to roam as far as he normally can, due to the freezing cold and frequent blanketings of snow, Titter regularly spends time scaring the absolute living daylight out of first floor Taylor Hall students, just to amuse himself. His typical plan of attack consists of sneaking over the windowsill of an unsuspecting teenager and, while said teenager has his energy completely focused on the Xbox task at hand, loudly mewling. Actually, mewling is the wrong word. He will loudly screech, like one of the mythical Sirens in *The Odyssey*. The surprise screech typically causes Titter's victim to swear loudly and, in extreme cases, to start throwing things at the mischievous cat.

When Titter wants to be more stealthy, and the conditions are just right, he will even hide in a fresh snow bank for hours on end, just to screech at the passerby who give him so much love and affection in the fall and spring. The mischievous cat will also occasionally jump from the snow bank and attack like a rabid squirrel that wants dining hall pizza.

Titter loves this mode of entertainment almost as much as his tri-yearly trips to Cancun, for it is his way of getting back at a student or teacher who did not sufficiently pet him during the warmer months.

Remember that Titter never forgets. If you treat him with the love and affection he deserves he will be a delightful cat. If not, he will jump you, mainly out of frustration for not having Tatter around. Also, Sputnik annoys him. Alot. So pet him, or meet your black-and-white-fur-ball-maker.



Titter, looking for affection, sits in his customary place on the doorstep of Taylor Hall.

# Oscar Prospects 2010

by Christian Bermel

On February 27, Anne Hathaway and James Franco will co-host the 63rd Academy Awards. An event honoring the best movies of the past year, the Academy Awards draws heavy speculation in January and February, as film aficionados try to predict which picture will garner the most awards. This year, a great year for film, the awards ceremony will feature many potential winners. Here's a brief introduction to some of the frontrunners:

In 1995, Pixar produced *Toy Story*, the first completely computer-generated film. Revered by critics and adored by parents and kids alike, the movie won a Special Achievement Award for its groundbreaking animation. Fifteen years later, *Toy Story 3* will, of course, gain a nomination for Best Animated Feature, a category Pixar has dominated in years past. Look for it to win, though it may run into stiff competition from *How to Train Your Dragon*. A Best Picture nomination is also possible, but a win is doubtful.

Darren Aronofsky's latest opus, *Black Swan*, follows a ballerina (Natalie Portman) cracking under the pressures of dancing the lead role in *Swan Lake*. As the opening show grows ever closer, she begins to hallucinate, and soon this drama about the trials of dancing transforms into a psychological thriller. With a gripping script and a dazzling performance by Portman, expect *Black Swan* to earn a Best Picture nomination. Portman, too, will certainly be nominated for and possibly win Best Actress. Finally, Aronofsky should gain a nomination for Best Director.

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale star in *The Fighter*, a movie based on the life of boxer Micky Ward. Both a comeback sports movie and a film on the dangers of drugs, *The Fighter* dazzles with an inspirational, albeit clichéd story. Christian Bale's role as former boxer turned drug addict Dicky Eklund certainly warrants a nomination for Best Supporting Actor, and perhaps Bale will even bring home a win. His performance de-

serves it. The film should also bring home a nomination for Best Picture, but don't expect a win.

Tom Hooper's *The King's Speech*, the story of King George VI's speech difficulties, should certainly net a couple of awards. Colin Firth, with his near-perfect performance as George VI, is the frontrunner for Best Actor, and Geoffrey Rush's performance as a speech therapist should also get him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Expect a Best Picture nomination, and perhaps a win.

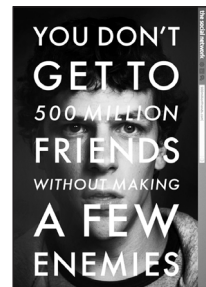
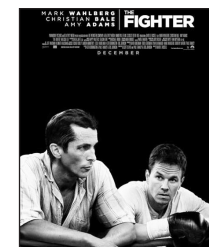
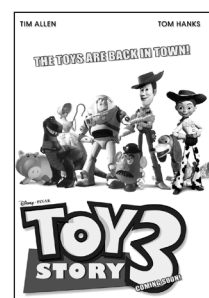
*Inception*, the summer's most talked about movie, tackles an oft-used trope in movies: dreams. Directed by Christopher Nolan, the movie focuses on a group that enters dreams and steals information from the dreamer. Essentially a heist movie, what *Inception* lacks in coherency and emotion it makes up for in thrills and originality. Sequence after epic sequence may propel this movie into the Best Picture category, rare for a mere action movie.

Christopher Nolan's daring direction could earn him a nomination for Best Director, but don't expect any nominations for *Inception*'s acting.

*The Social Network*, directed by David Fincher, retells the surprisingly eventful story of Facebook's genesis. The rapid-fire script, stellar acting, and excellent score elevate this movie beyond nearly every other film this year. Aaron Sorkin's screenplay will certainly receive a nomination, and Jesse Eisenberg, who portrayed Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, may earn a nomination in the Best Actor category.

Without question though, *The Social Network* remains the frontrunner in the Best Picture race. Consider it a lead candidate for a win.

Some other films to watch for include Derek Cianfrance's *Blue Valentine*, Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*, the Coen brothers' *True Grit*, and Debra Granik's *Winter's Bone*.



## Mainland Dining: Phở 501

Your Essential Guide to Eating off The Island

by Steven Wang

Imagine a restaurant with only three offerings on the menu: chicken, beef, and shrimp. Doesn't seem like much to pick from, eh? Yet every day, during lunch and dinner hours, hungry customers pack the place, filling all tables and creating a line that stretches out the door. Why then do so many people choose to eat at Pho 501? Certainly not because of the variety. At Pho 501, the focus is on quality over quantity. The pickings are slim but delicious.

First, you might ask, "Why is it called Pho 501? What is pho?" Pho is traditional hand-kneaded Vietnamese rice noodle in broth. Because the noodles are made from rice and hand-kneaded, they are exceptionally smooth and silky. Mixed in hot soup with chicken, beef, or shrimp, pho brings a unique salty taste that is both filling and warming. Eat a mouthful of pho and you will find that the noodles fully absorb the flavor of the broth while the meat adds to both texture and taste of the overall dish. Throw in some optional hot sauce and you have a very satisfying meal. Often times, drinking down the remaining broth is just as satisfying as eating the noodles and meat.

Pho has spread beyond being a strictly Asian meal. Many major cities in the US, such as Boston, New York, and L.A. now boast pho restaurants. But out of all the pho places I have eaten at, Pho 501 ranks very near the top. Its broth is not too oily, only the best meat is used, and the handmade noodles

family-owned restaurant operated by three generations of the same family. The oldest generation can often be seen kneading noodles or chopping meat. The middle generation runs the cashiers and cooks the pho while their children, all boys in high school, bus tables. All in all, Pho 501 gives off a very traditional family vibe.

Pho 501 offers three sizes of bowls to pick from: small, medium, large. Most people enjoy the beef pho, though the other choices are fairly popular, too. Upon receiving a bowl of pho, some are surprised to find that the meat is still red. That is perfectly normal. Since the broth is so hot, the meat continues to get cooked while it sits. Just wait a few minutes and you'll be all set.

The best time to go to Pho 501 is before lunch or later in the afternoon when there is less of a crowd (the restaurant is small, with only around 10 tables). Parking is provided right next to or in front of the restaurant. I find that pho is the perfect body warmer on cold winter days so grab a bowl of pho and warm yourself up!

*Mainland Dining is a new LOG Features column of tips and tricks for finding the best food around.*

**Pho 501**  
 501 Main St  
 East Hartford, CT  
 (860) 569-3700

Type: Vietnamese  
 Take Out: Yes  
 Delivery: No

LOG Rating: ★★★★★  
 Urbanspoon Rating: 97%

are second to none. Even better, Pho 501 is a very family-friendly restaurant. With its cozy and warm atmosphere, speedy service (waits are generally no more than 10 to 12 minutes, even during busy hours), and kind waiters, it's no wonder so many people choose to bring their families. Speaking of family, Pho 501 is an independent,

# The Role of Alumni Embracing Nerdus

by Grace Denny

When I set out to write this article it was supposed to be a piece on one of Loomis Chaffee's more famous alumni: Jason Wu '01. I was supposed to talk about his experience at LC, and how it affected and shaped him. When I tried to reach out to him by e-mailing his press secretary, however, I was ignored. So I tried again and again, until it dawned on me that he was never planning to get back to me. On one hand this is understandable; Mr. Wu has in the past few



PHOTO COURTESY OF NYMAG.

Jason Wu '01 is one of LC's most prominent young alumni.

years become one of Hollywood's most famous designers, most notably dressing Michelle Obama. Furthermore, his work has been featured in high-profile fashion magazines such as *Vogue*, so it is understandable that *The LOG* was not his first priority when it came to dealing with magazines and newspapers. So although Mr. Wu is unquestionably a busy man; he raised the question of just how much responsibility he has as an alumnus, to Loomis Chaffee.

At some point we will all leave LC. We will go on to college, and then out into the world. We create lives for ourselves. But how much do we owe Loomis Chaffee for shaping us during the time we spent here? Beyond coming back for our reunions years from now, what should we do for LC after we have left?

One way alumni contribute

to Loomis is financially. Many alumni make donations to Loomis through the annual fund; during the 2009-2010 fiscal year 4,049 donors contributed to the fund. But

beyond money, how do alumni contribute to Loomis? Director of Alumni Relations Tom Southworth explained that "the vast majority of people who participate do so by giving money."

Many alumni, however, do contribute in other ways. Alumni also hold receptions for LC and speak about their experiences on The Island. They even interview applicants living near them who are unable to come to the campus for a tour and interview.

Some alumni come back to LC to speak about their accomplishments. Tom Gilbert '96 came back to LC in December to speak to science classes about the work he's done with composting. William Bissell '84, who started a school in India where girls can get a legitimate education, is hosting a community service trip to India for LC students during the spring break.

"In one way or another, we probably have 35% of our alumni participating, and we would like that to be much more," explained Mr. Southworth. Alumni Relations is working on ways to involve more alumni, so hopefully in the next few years we will see that number rise, with more alumni giving back to LC in a multitude of ways to thank the school for all the enrichment that it offered them.

# Jockus

by Jeesue Lee

Call me a nerd. I know its true. I have proudly borne the title since the sixth grade and will gladly carry it until the day I die. Heck, put it on my gravestone. I don't care; I am faithful to my kind. So whenever I find some sort of small injustice made toward my people, I immediately go a tad bit crazy. Affirmative action is immediately needed and I find myself grabbing my nearest ghost busting uniform before sprinting into the bat cave, humming "Eye of the Tiger."

Of course, as Loomis Chaffee has taught me over the years, there is more to the eye than what first appears and what 'seems' to be true is never 'actually' the whole story. So when I first sat down to write this article, I immediately felt like I was performing a heroic act, writing on behalf of my fellow nerds and nerdesses and telling the entire Loomis Chaffee community that nerds are special individuals who refuse to actually conform to the regime of reality show loving fascists. I would pave a way where all the little nerds would be able to roam the halls, free of slushie facials and scary jocks.

But then I asked myself, where exactly were those slushie wielding jocks and where were the scared, suspender wearing, pen protecting nerds? Where was the cliché tension between the wimpy academics and dim witted jocks? Indeed, at Loomis Chaffee, I realized, there was little of the Hollywood-esque bullying that I had been so used to as a middle school student. I had been one of the few at my school who was fond of American pop culture and unhealthily devoted to the works of Lucas and Tolkien and as a result, I was occasionally picked on. Every year I would have some sort of nemesis, ready to prey upon my idiosyncrasies. But those years are long over. The nightmares have ended and I have safely found my own place amongst the Loomis Chaffee community.

So what did I discover? Loomis wasn't the land of the brave and free. Indeed, I am sure that not everyone here is an Einstein and a Beckham and not all life on The Island is "kumba yah" And yes, not every student here is buddy-buddy to one another. I am not asking Loomis to be. Instead, I am making a little plea. Here in this school we are interconnected in a giant web (ala Charlotte's) and we all thrive as individuals in both the academic and athletic realms. We celebrate the victories in the hockey rink along with those in the classroom. Each year at the awards convocation, Loomis Chaffee gestures to the student body for its diversity, awarding outstanding individuals for their accomplishments over the years.

So let's take a second to embrace everything we are and what we stand for in this school. As cheesy as it is, we are lucky to be individuals here and there are many times in which we simply forget our good fortunes. Let's embrace the Jockus Nerdus part of us all, the jockus coming from our abilities to hone and use our bodies as torches of athleticism and the nerdus from our scholarly attempts to learn and discover the wonders of the world.

# The VOICE: Senior Slide

by Dru Sanders

For the seniors who have already jumped for joy over their college acceptance letters, the infamous senior slide has begun. Senior slide is the phenomenon where seniors stop doing work, paying attention, and caring about school once accepted to the college of their choice. The reception of these quickly slipping grades varies. Some teachers and students despise the slide, which stands for all that is evil in academia. They assume that all who ease up a little bit at the end of their LC career show their true colors as enemies of learning who only bothered to get into a good college. Other more tolerant teachers recommend that students do work at their own pace. Whether it sounds like a perpetual party or a never-ending nightmare to you, I would like to give some middle ground advice.

I understand that my schedule may be different than those of most other seniors. Because of my early completion of graduation requirements, I am able to take mostly classes that I care about and enjoy participating in. With this in mind, one can see a potential bias, but I think my advice applies to more than just that lucky few.

In college, the classes that we will be taking are generally going to be related to our majors. Based on what programs we enter, some of us will have tons of electives, and others will have none. In college, you may not have the chance to study the various topics that you have a chance to study while you're here. This could be that last time you study existentialism or contemporary Arab culture. I think the general consensus of the LC community is that knowledge is a good thing; so if you have literally one last chance to learn a specific topic, why avoid it? However, I (like the rest of the seniors accepted to college) want to relax. I just want to sit back and enjoy the remaining time that I have here. The balancing act between learning and relaxing is a hard one, so I've come up with a solution. Pick two or three classes that interest you the most out of your schedule and rock them. Sure, slack off a bit in your other classes, but use the time that you gain not just to relax, but possibly to do that extra bit of work for your top few classes. Keep your mind engaged in education (remember what your parents are paying for) but reorganize your time.

I know it's not appealing to tell a senior slider to do more work, but if you have the time and only one last chance to study something that you care about, why not?

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

# Featured Artist: Bao Phan '11

by Samson Chow

Hailing from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Bao Phan '11 has expanded his passion for the performing arts into almost every facet of the community here at Loomis Chaffee. His artistic endeavors, from his ensemble role in the 2009 winter musical *The Wiz* to his eager participation in ballet class, have marked him as rising talent here on The Island. His dedication to his work has impressed faculty and students alike. Fulfilling the roles of actor, singer and dancer with equal excellence, Phan has become a "positive force to be reckoned with," in the words of fellow thespian Liana Fernez '12. From his jolly personality to his heartwarming laughter to his "fabulous enthusiasm," as interim NEO Theater director Neil Chaudhary '05 puts it, Phan lights up the stage. He has certainly earned his place as Featured Artist.

Phan developed his interest in the performing arts at a young age. "Music has had a profound effect on my emotions," he explained. "It was my way of expressing my feelings." His mother, a gifted contralto vocalist, was a major influence on his growing interest in singing. Vietnam's conservative culture, however, shuns artistic endeavors with what Phan calls its "overbearing stigma against artists." Opportunities for exploring the arts in Vietnamese schools have become very limited: even studying in the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music, Phan found his passions suppressed by the traditional prejudices of his country. He realized that for him, music had become an "integral part of being," so he sought to invest the remaining years of his student career in

the United States. He acquired a scholarship from the ASSIST exchange program, an arrangement that allows international students to study in America. As if by fate, Phan found himself studying at Loomis Chaffee, a school where artists and their individuality are greatly supported and lovingly treasured.

Snatching away the only open tenor position in Chamber Singers auditions last spring from numerous competitors, Phan immediately be-



PHOTO BY VP DAO

Bao Phan '11 smiles for the camera.

came acknowledged as an extremely "dedicated and hard-working" member of the group. Susan Chrzanowski, the William Cogswell Card Instructor in Music and Chamber Singers director, lauded Phan as a "terrific singer and leader [for his] strong voice, impressive vocal range and rich voice."

Apart from his work in the NEO Theater's production of *The Wiz* last winter, Phan demonstrated what former Featured Artist Niles Krieger '11 calls his "big stage presence and

enthusiasm," during last spring's Stage I and Stage II shows. Mark Crawford '13, a fellow cast member of *The Wiz*, remembers Phan "singing his heart out" every rehearsal, conjuring tunes and riffs from the bottom of his gut. A talented dancer as well, Phan has not only become renowned for his beautiful body coordination but also his incredible flexibility, according to his classmates from Ballet Technique. When asked about Phan's presence in the LC arts community, fellow choir and musical cast member Darius Moore '13 praised most his creation of an "aura that is undeniably fun and enjoyable."

Phan has also struck an impressive balance between his academics and arts. Taking an impressive course load of six-and-a-half classes, three of them AP or advanced, Phan continues his singing in Chamber Singers and will soon perform as Alphonse in the upcoming winter musical *The Boy Friend*. He has also further delved into his interest in music by taking LC's music theory classes. Although he has had to sacrifice one of his other passions, swimming, in order to pursue his love for the performing arts, he understands that what he calls his "self-insight" can only be achieved through music, theater, and dance. From belting majestic melodies in the choir to performing monologues on the NEO stage, Phan has indeed achieved significant prowess in his chosen artistic fields. Phan's talent and spirit make him the epitome of an artist molded by chutzpah and "pao-wow-wow," as former NEO star Kai Wilson '10 puts it.

# Feature Athlete: Mallory Collins

by Sarah Byrne

Mallory Collins '11 has been a sensation since joining the Loomis Chaffee community. Throughout Collins's time on the island she has already exceeded the high expectations set for her from a very successful stint at Thayer Academy. Her All-Scholastic awards for the Patriot Ledger and the Boston Globe as well as All-American both her junior and senior year are only the tip of the iceberg. Collins wrapped up her career at Thayer with 86 goals and 54 assists, leading her team in scoring both junior and senior seasons. Amidst a very competitive league, the Independent School League, Mallory earned the All-League and MVP titles. Additionally, she was also the Tigers' all-time leading scorer in ice hockey. It is clearly safe to say that Loomis got pretty lucky when Collins decided she would spend a year with The Pelicans before continuing her tradition of excellence at Boston University.

Asked about her favorite Loomis experience thus far on The Island, Collins responded with the simple memory of sledding down Flagg hill on the first snow day of the year. This is not a surprising response from such a fun and carefree girl. However, this cheery attitude transforms into one of intensity and determination once Mallory steps onto the field or the ice. This fall,

Collins was part of the prolific midfield line that propelled the Girl's Varsity Field Hockey team all the way to the New England Semi-finals. It comes as no surprise that she was instrumental in the team's success. In the dramatic win over Westminster, whom Loomis had lost to 5-0 earlier in the season, in the New England Quarter-Finals Collins scored one of the three goals that allowed Loomis to advance against all odds.

When asked to describe what a blessing it is to have Collins on her team, Mrs. Moran noted, "Mal Collins on our team was such a bonus this season. Not only is she a very clever field hockey player, she is a terrific teammate and role model for the younger student athletes. Mal was a mainstay in our midfield, a source of light and laughter in our huddle and an absolute joy to coach. The downside of Mal is that she is only here for one year, but what an impression and legacy she has created for herself and our program in her time here."

So far this winter, Collins continues to amaze and surpass any and all expectations set for her. Easily one of the strongest and smartest players on the ice, Collins gets the job done every shift of every game. In the Pelican's 3-2 overtime win against Deerfield, it was Collins' nifty backhand that ended the game.

Not only has Collins come up with key goals this season that have allowed Loomis to stay in tight games, but her work ethic during practice and ability to put a smile on the faces of her teammates makes her one of the team's most vital assets.

This spring Collins will, no doubt, fall right into place on the successful LC Girl's Lacrosse team. For four years at Thayer, Collins proved that she is a force to be reckoned with, a juggernaut on attack that the other teams will need to shut down in order to be victorious. It's encouraging news that Collins best form is yet to come.

A leader on and off the field, Collins' light-hearted, yet serious, attitude is contagious and always inspires her teammates to perform at her best. Collins will always be a successful person; she is committed to hard work. It is truly a privilege to have Collins on our teams, instead of trying to shut her down on out opponents'. Once she sets a goal for herself, nothing can distract her. The Island is blessed to have such a character even for but one year. Collins will be missed dearly next year, but her legacy will not be forgotten because of her impact on her teammates, her coaches, the school, and the community as a collective whole. Always a vibrant presence on campus, she will truly be missed next year.

## World Cup Controversy

by Nick Sailor

Soccer's governing body, FIFA, recently announced major news: the hosts of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup. With the U.S. having high hopes for the 2022 bid, December 2 was a tense day for U.S. soccer fans. The bids up for selection for the 2018 World cup were England, Spain and Portugal, Holland and Belgium, and Russia. In the early stages of the preparation for the votes, England appeared as runaway favorites. Within recent weeks, however, England lost their role as favorites and garnered but two votes in the process. The host of the 2018 World Cup is Russia. The bids submitted for the 2022 World Cup included Japan, the United States, South Korea, Australia and Qatar. With much hype surrounding the American bid, many around the world were shocked to learn that another, much smaller nation, upset. The host of the 2022 World Cup is Qatar. Although this decision brought disappointment to millions of Americans, it now provides more motivation to succeed as a soccer nation.

With this decision to bring the World Cup in 2022 to Qatar, many have raised concerns. A typical summer day in Qatar can reach up to approximately 122 degrees. Qatar had this issue well-addressed when they put forth their presentation in front of FIFA. Qatar will be one of the first countries to implement an air-conditioned

stadium without a closed roof. Qatar, one of the richest nations in the world, has proposed astonishing designs for stadiums and convenient ways of travel including water taxi. They have ingeniously designed many clever ways to bring the world's game to this corner of the world, in a climate not naturally ready for the big stage.

Qatar will be the first country in the Middle East to host a World Cup. This selection has sparked much controversy, particularly surrounding the summer heat. The World Cup is held once every four year, usually spanning the days from June to July. Previous hosts of this prestigious event have been able to deal with their particular climate, most of whom had relatively milder summer weather. Because of the reversal of seasons in the Southern hemisphere, the most recent and wildly exciting World Cup held in South Africa occurred during their winter months. Although Qatar has proposed ideas that will cool the players on the pitch and the fans in the stands the health risk is a pressing issue.

FIFA has held all nineteen World Cups during the summer months. Health officials are proposing moving the World Cup to the winter possibly having it in January 2023. This proposal has seen two kinds of responses. One school of thought is relatively positive. Many embrace the idea, giving play-

ers the opportunity to play for their respective national teams during the middle of the club season as compared to the end. Many leagues around the world, excluding the United States, follow this FIFA calendar starting in August and ending around May with a short holiday break during January.

The second response strongly dislikes the proposition. The Qatari Football Association says that they will not move the World Cup to the winter months. "We submitted a bid suggesting we are going to be ready in June and July. And we said we are going to face all the challenges and we are going to meet all the requirements," Bin Hammam the president of the Qatari Football Association told Sky News. Many members among the Qatari Football Association see the proposal as unfair and irrational. "Our focus is June, July. It is never our interest to change one week beyond June and July." With these divided interest comes angst for the hardcore soccer fans, but can also bring a positive effect to the 2022 World Cup. With sparked intrigue comes new fans, and the casual observer will have even greater reason to tune into the World Cup in Qatar because of the seemingly unending controversy.

Does FIFA have the right, or the power, to change a 100-year-old tradition? Only time will tell in the case of this World Cup.

## Hot Shots on the Island

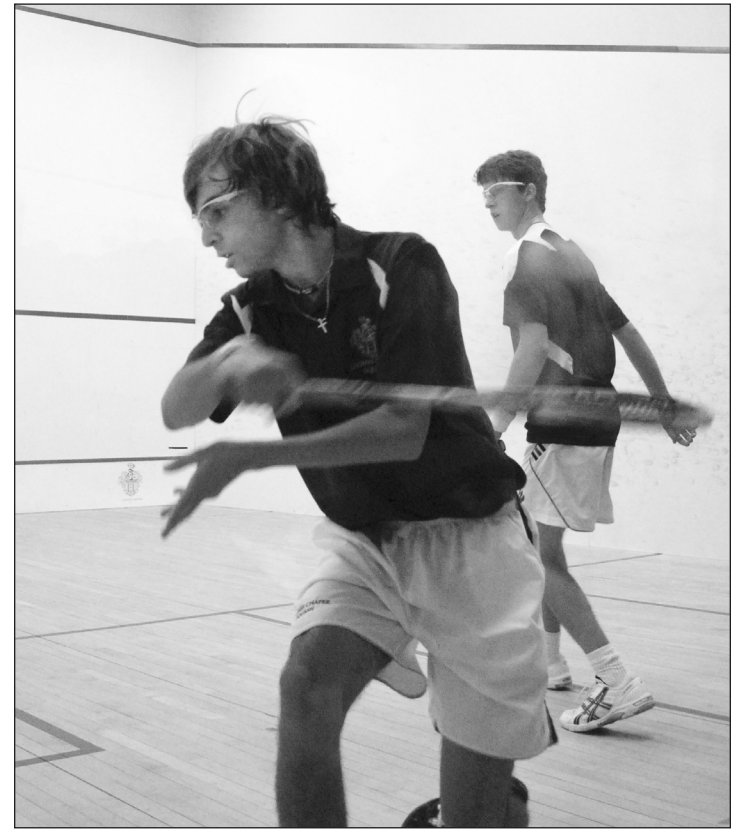


PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

John Megas '11 winds up for a back hand.



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Will Strabley '11 handles the puck past the opposing defender.

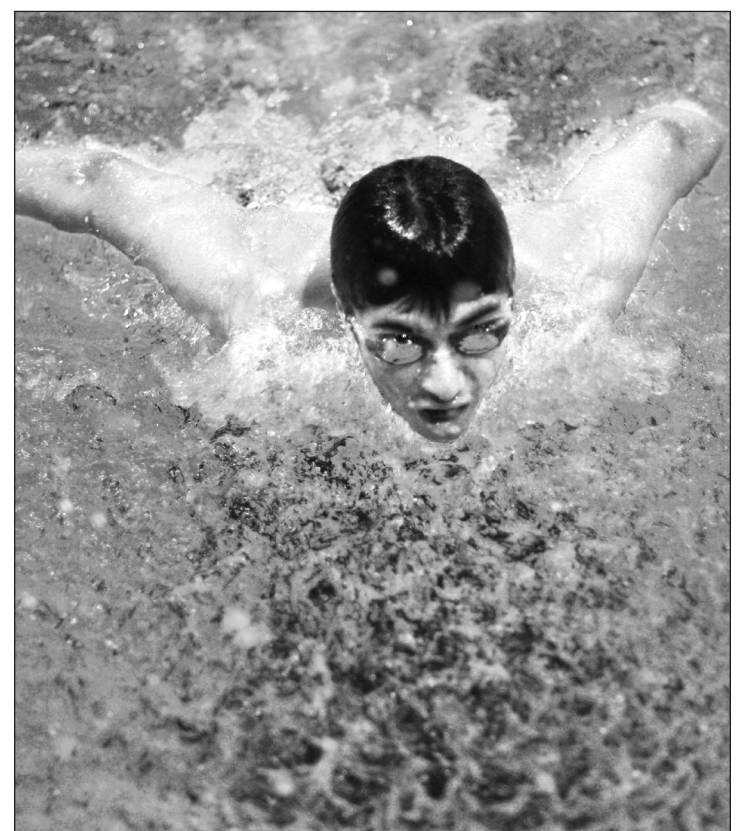


PHOTO BY DAVID FISCHER

Jamil Hashmi '12 flies his team to success.

# SPORTS TRIVIA

## 1. For how many teams did Wayne Gretzky play?

- A: 2                      B: 3  
C: 4                      D: 5

## 2. Where is the 2014 World Cup?

- A: Brazil                      B: China  
C: Russia                      D: Qatar

## 3. Who is the highest paid professional athlete?

- A: Cristiano Ronaldo    B: Tom Brady  
C: Cliff Lee                      D: Tiger Woods

## 4. Which player won the 2010 Men's US Open?

- A: Federer                      B: Nadal  
C: Djokovic                      D: Isner

## 5. How many NBA Championships did Michael Jordan win?

- A: 6                              B: 10  
C: 8                              D: 5

## 6. What was the score of USA's miracle on ice in 1980?

- A. 2-0                              B: 4-3  
C: 2-2                              D: 3-2

## 7. Which jockey won the 2010 Kentucky Derby?

- A: Desmoreaux                      B: Prado  
C: Smith                              D: Borel

## 8. When was the first international soccer game?

- A: 1872                              B: 1898  
C: 1904                              D: 1918

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## Answers to this issues questions:

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

# An Ode to Athletics: Why we Play, Watch, and Care

by Mike Choquette

Sport Center is a staple of many teenagers' diets. Sports are universally acknowledged and cherished in America, and they litter daily conversation. Athletes are idols as much as they are villains. Michael Vick, for example, dove off his pedestal, rested in Hell for a few years, and is now at the forefront of football conversation once again. Sports make us weep in sorrow; they make us leap in joy; they make us put a fist through the dry wall (I may be guilty of all these charges). Yet, stateside, we have sports conversations very different from the rest of the world.

The world's most popular sport, soccer, is merely the fifth sport in America. While it has a cult following, soccer has not achieved the status it has in Europe and Latin America. NASCAR is the second most watched sport in this country, and yet I've never watched a single event, and as far as I know, neither have the majority of students at Loomis Chaffee. Further, I don't even find the NFL, MLB, or NBA exceedingly interesting. Yet, I watch the Celtics with my dad, the Bruins with my brothers, and the Patriots with my friends. Why? Because Beantown is the greatest sports town in the nation.

That assertion may anger more than a few sports fans, as it very well should. Why do people even care about sports? Everyone has a different reason:

to cheer on my city; I worship Ocho Cinco; my dad watches it so I do; David Beckham is beautiful; the sport is entertaining; the cheerleaders are attractive, so why not?; my country's playing; I got money on this game; my fantasy team!; I want to see New York fail; and so on. Sports entertain us, enchant us. And, for the most part, we pay attention. There is some degree of curiosity that piques interest, and we follow that passion and tell everyone about it. In what other environment could someone put a little-man-urinating-on-a-Yankees-logo bumper sticker on the back of a pickup truck? If that ugly logo was, let's say, the President's face, public outrage would ensue. But this is the world of sports. It's our fantasy and we love it. Sports transcend normal emotion, as we unnecessarily follow and worship men throwing a pigskin, hitting a ball over a net, or skating to music.

While the majority of fans know little about the game, we watch every play, every moment in sheer ignorance. Sports have a unifying quality to them. For years, Americans watched as the city of New Orleans was ravaged by poverty, a lack of foresight (and levees), and by the waters of Katrina. But the minute they make a run at the Super Bowl, we care. The entire nation rallied behind the Saints, save, perhaps, Indianapolis. Last December, the nation of Yemen,

stricken by militant groups and poverty, hosted a soccer tournament with teams from countries spanning the Arab world. Security worries headlined the tournament, but weeks after its conclusion, people have changed their views on tensions in Yemen. Soccer unified torn groups of people, and brought a hope for peace and prosperity to a nation that desperately needed it.

Americans live for the water-cooler moment. ("Hey John, the Jets are awful." "Hey Mike, @\$#% you." "See ya later." "Bye") It is a moment of unjustified, unqualified, bragging about something you had nothing to do with. It's as if when we watch a game, our team has a better chance to win, as if the team with more viewership would win the championship. (If that were true New York would win a lot more; fortunately for me, this relationship is a fallacy.) So why continue to watch sports when it doesn't affect us, when we have no chance to change the outcomes? Why are Americans obsessed with sports? Why continue to watch when it's inevitably a waste of time? Because it's an extension of ourselves, perhaps something we never were, or something we love. It gives us something to talk about, something to cheer on, something to cling on to. Sports are a fantasy, and well, Americans adore a good fantasy.

## NFL Playoffs

by Laura McConney

When the days get short and temperatures suddenly drop to single digits, the National Football League kicks into high gear. The NFL playoffs, a time of exciting plays and unbelievable upsets, started this past weekend with four wildcard games. In the AFC, the New York Jets battled the Indianapolis Colts while the Baltimore Ravens faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs. Over in the NFC, the Philadelphia Eagles played the Green Bay Packers and the defending Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints challenged the Seattle Seahawks.

Perhaps the most talked about game of "Wild Card Weekend," the Jets and the Colts ended in a 17-16 Jets win. Going into the game heavily favored, the Colts, led by the four-time NFL MVP Peyton Manning, looked to continue their four-game win streak. But, the Jets stepped up to the challenge of the Colts' playoff experience and used their limitless tenacity to outlast the Colts. The teams exchanged leads several times throughout the game, but ultimately, Mark Sanchez and the Jets prevailed, winning the game in the last seconds off a field goal by kicker Nick Folk.

The other Saturday game

featured New Orleans and Seattle. Though the Saints came into the game as favorites, the Seahawks put up an impressive 41 points to take the win under the leadership of veteran quarterback Matt Hasselback. On Sunday, the Baltimore Ravens triumphed over Kansas City, pounding them 30-7, and Green Bay dominated Michael Vick and the Eagles with a 21-16 victory.

Likely to produce similar upsets and exhilaration, this weekend's games feature several teams who will likely benefit from the bye week. The Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots, Chicago Bears, and Atlanta Falcons all received "Wild Card Weekend" off, having performed well enough throughout the regular season to be presented with this perk. The Patriots will face off against the red hot Jets; the Steelers will battle the Ravens; the Bears will meet the Seahawks; and the Falcons will play the Packers.

Quarterbacks Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger, both former Super Bowl champions, will no doubt use their experience to their advantage and dominate their respective matches. With the return of All Pro cornerback Troy Polamalu, the Steelers look

stronger than ever and could easily waltz through the playoffs. Nevertheless, the Patriots are always a force in the AFC and the NFL and have gone through the season fairly quietly this year. Their experience and discipline will surely aid them in the rest of the playoffs.

Though less experienced, Falcons' quarterback Matt Ryan has impressed many in the league this year, passing for 3,705 yards of offense thus far in the season. Hopefully, his success will continue in the post season -- he could become a National Football League great within a few years. Just as in recent years, the Chicago Bears have relied heavily on their defense to stave off the opponent's offense and win games. Linebacker Brian Urlacher has led the Bears defense in almost every category thus far, even recording four sacks. These two teams present an unusual combination of strength and speed and are forces to be reckoned with. Mixing experience, explosive skill, and discipline, this weekend's matchups exemplify the NFL playoffs and what the league is all about. Each game will likely prove to be packed with nail-biting action and big hits; they should not be missed.

# Corporation Buys Springfield Private School

by Izzy Kornblatt

The MacDuffie School, an independent boarding and day middle and high school in Springfield, Mass., announced on December 9 that it has been purchased by International EC LLC and will move to Granby, Mass., at the end of this year. Because the deal involves the purchase of a non-profit organization by a for-profit, it had to be approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General.

MacDuffie has faced a precipitous decline in enrollment over the past few years, in part due to the rapidly deteriorating reputation of Springfield. The school, once located in one of Springfield's most opulent neighborhoods, is now surrounded by houses with boarded up windows and collapsing roofs. This year MacDuffie has only 175 students enrolled, down from over 200 just a few years ago. "It is no secret that MacDuffie's enrollment has been decreasing steadily for many years," wrote Christen Sparago, a MacDuffie senior, in an email to The LOG. "Our location in Springfield wasn't attracting new families to our campus, and our board and administration were looking for ways to remedy this problem."

International EC, LLC, purchased a 26-acre campus of 9 buildings in Granby, MA, last June and announced its intentions to open a new boarding school called Granby Preparatory Academy in 2011. MacDuffie officials say that the Granby Preparatory name was selected just as a placeholder while the long-discussed sale of MacDuffie was still pending. MacDuffie will retain its

name, but not its board of trustees and headmaster after the move. International EC LLC also plans to expand the school to 250 students and transform it into a traditional boarding school in the same vein as Loomis Chaffee. "There comes a point when a school becomes too small to really execute our mission...we weren't there yet, but we were getting there," explained Michael Serafino, chairman of MacDuffie's board of trustees.

This is not the first time the school has struggled financially; in 1990, in its centenary year, MacDuffie had to spend its entire endowment and radically alter its curriculum and mission to stay afloat. The school, formerly all-girls, became coeducational and abandoned its traditional boarding program in favor of a smaller, unconventional program entitled "Ames Hill." MacDuffie continued to struggle into the mid 1990s, and in 1997, the school was put on warning status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Under new head Kathryn Gibson, MacDuffie was able, in 2001, to leave its warning status behind but not its financial woes. Gibson and new interim head of school Tom Addicks have had to face in their decision-making not only a tough recovery from the global economic crisis but also large pre-

crisis debt, a deteriorating campus, and declining enrollment.

MacDuffie's struggle for full enrollment has in some ways mirrored struggles Loomis Chaffee has faced in recent years. Last year, Head of School Sheila Culbert announced Loomis Chaffee's decision to significantly reduce the school's day student popula-



PHOTO FROM MASSLIVE.COM  
The MacDuffie School campus in Springfield, Massachusetts

tion in light of a decreasing day student applicant pool and a growing focus on the boarding experience at many peer schools. Overall application numbers, however, reached an all-time high last year, with 1,417 applications for just over 200 spaces. MacDuffie's trends have been so different in part because of location. Situated only blocks away from some of Springfield's most dangerous neighborhoods, MacDuffie has struggled to be perceived in a positive light by applicants and their parents. The new campus,

located in a beautifully rural area, will solve those problems and give the school significantly more space. It will also save the school the costs of years worth of deferred maintenance on the Springfield campus.

But while MacDuffie will be undergoing radical changes of ownership and location, many students and faculty strongly hope that its trademark, homey feeling will stay the same. Each morning there is an all-school meeting, and each afternoon students socialize in the foyer of Rutenber Hall, the main academic building, buying food from student-run bake sales. Some perceive International EC LLC, however, as more interested in making MacDuffie into a traditional, albeit for-profit, boarding school. "When I decided to attend MacDuffie six years ago, it was in spite of the condition of the buildings and the crime rate of the surrounding area," explained Sparago. "I chose MacDuffie because I wanted the best education available to me; because at MacDuffie, what a student thinks and does is more important than what they wear to school, where they live, or how much money their parents make. If we continue to be guided by those same values after the move, MacDuffie's character should remain the same."

The new campus consists of large, gothic buildings and is a huge departure from the historic Tudor houses that make up the current campus. MacDuffie officials have assured the City of Springfield that they will continue to maintain the current campus until it is bought. The school is also working on the possibility of a bus service for Springfield students to the new campus. It has promised that tuition will not rise significantly next year and has maintained that no layoffs are planned.

The school's move also comes as a blow to the City of Springfield. Despite growing poverty throughout the city, the school has long been a beacon of strength and a symbol of Springfield's Maple Hill District's former opulence. "I am disappointed to hear that MacDuffie School intends to close at the end of the school year," Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said in a prepared statement. He also promised to do everything he could to keep the school in Springfield. The deal was finalized by the Attorney General on December 30 and closed on January 14.

International EC LLC may have saved the MacDuffie name, but for many it is unclear whether a for-profit institution can continue to provide MacDuffie students the same experience for which the school is known. "In a perfect world MacDuffie wouldn't be moving," wrote one MacDuffie student on Facebook after the announcement. Almost immediately, the post received 16 "likes."

## Chamber Musicians

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lin, viola, and cello practice and perform together, but also non-traditional instruments such as marimba, guitar, piano, double bass, and mandolin. This allows participants in the program to have a basic understanding of a more diverse range of instruments than they would in typical high-school level chamber music classes.

Other noteworthy performances of the evening included

Paganini's "Terzetto for Violin, Cello, and Guitar," performed by Kenny Kim '13, Peter Falsey '12, and James Yun '11; Bruch's "Eight Pieces," performed by Sijie Wei '14, Julia Russell '11, and Sela Wang '12; Mozart's "Trio in G Major, K. 496," performed by Jon Chen '11, Hyun Seung Lee '11, and Sion Chun '14; Dotzauer's "Six Pieces," performed by Darren Ting '11, Kevin Cha '14, and Josh Ryu '12; Borodin's "Trio on

a Russian Theme," performed by Christine Huang '11, Jay Kim '12, and Josh Ryu '12, and Hindemith's "Quartett," performed by Dan Kang '11, Felicia Woron '13, Paul Lee '13, and Claire Kim '14.

The recital was "hugely successful," Miller said. "This year's class is not the largest in recent years, [but] its 25-student roster is the strongest...in a very long time."

## LC Community Service Update

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simply good; be good for something." A seemingly simple challenge, yet how does one be good for something? Are you interested in pursuing a community service venture but keep falling short of time because of varsity athletics or theatrical commitments? Well, clubs such as Habitat for Humanity, Breast Cancer Awareness, Operation Soldier Relief, Autism Awareness, the Kindness Club, and numerous others always welcome new members, ideas, and contributions. Recently the Kindness Club gathered New Years Resolutions for an exhibit that will remind all Loomis Chaffee students and faculty of their goals for the New Year. The Habitat for Humanity Club is preparing for its annual Spring Break trip to Florida to build houses, while Op-

eration Soldier Relief just sent out its first care package to Zabayulla Quahir and attended its first VFW field trip.

While the community commends the members of these clubs for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, it does not neglect the small actions (those random acts of kindness) that students and faculty perform everyday that make their peers smile. Whether saying hi in passing on the quad or opening a door for an overburdened classmate, members of The Island truly rise to the occasion on a daily basis.

Some Loomis Chaffee students shared their thoughts on what service work means to them. "Community service is a great, fun way to help make a difference, easy to do, and a wonderful way to help

out our community by doing small things that potentially lead to bigger and better things" (Mia Scanlon '15). "Community service is helping those who need it, helping to put a smile back on someone's face, or doing something for someone less fortunate than yourself" (Brianna Malanga '12). "Community service is a way to give back to the community that has given so much to you" (Lindsay Gabow '12).

I by no means am nagging you to get involved, but I hope you remember that even if you cannot volunteer weekly, you at least "gotta' do something," so say hi to someone new, smile at people in the quad, hold doors, and invite people to sit with you at lunch. Making people happy really isn't that difficult.



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Island Chamber Musician Darren Ting '11, performs for the school on Tuesday, January 11

## Hidden Talents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing work by Jeff Holcombe, Martha Hess, Christine MacClintic, Patricia Cousins, Bo Zhao, Mary Forrester, and Stan Forrester are also showcased in the RAC for students and visitors to appreciate.

The Community Art Show continues to prove how fortunate the Loomis Chaffee community is to be surrounded

by such a talented and diverse group of faculty who are not only dedicated to the students but also are passionate about their lives off The Island. As snow envelopes the campus and the temperatures drop, all Pelicans should treat themselves to a trip to the RAC in order to appreciate the beautiful and unique collection of art work.