

THE LOG



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UN Conference an Invaluable Experience

by Sarah Patrick



Loomis Chaffee's 34 exemplary YMUN delegates take time out of their busy committee schedules to pose on the Yale campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

With notes on various hot-button international topics, prepared position papers, and suitcases full of Western business attire, 34 Loomis Chaffee students and three faculty members traveled to New Haven, Connecticut, for the Yale Model United Nations 2011 Conference (YMUN) on January 20 through 23.

The United Nations (UN), an international organization established after World War II to replace the League of Nations, focuses on facilitating cooperation between countries in order to achieve world peace. The UN does not hold the same amount of power as an individual member state; however, it can propose resolutions and send personnel to monitor the implementation. Despite the inclusion of 192 member states, many still question the UN's

effectiveness, for the UN Security Council can only observe, report on, and make recommendations regarding international conflicts without unanimous approval.

YMUN, a yearly event, simulates the various UN committees and provides students with an opportunity not only to hone their leadership and problem-solving skills through parliamentary procedural debate but also to meet a variety of high school students from schools across the country. Yale students served as chairs and moderators for the conference, monitoring speaking time and ensuring that the committee followed the formal debate style. YMUN neophyte Paul Lee '13, representing India on the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) and discussing transnational corpora-

tions and refugees, said of his experience, "The parliamentary procedure actually appealed to me since it made me sound professional and I felt like I had authority when using terms like 'point of order' or 'motion for a 10-minute unmoderated caucus.' I worked on a resolution... to create a subcommittee of the UNHRC that would watch over the state of transnational corporations around the world and check if they were [violating] human rights."

The four-day YMUN experience consists of six committee sessions and ample time to meet new people and explore the Yale campus and surrounding city. Joanna Warren '11, representing the World Health Organization (WHO) and discussing potable water and infectious diseases, recounted, "My favorite part of YMUN was the freedom to work with my friends and meet new people. I would recommend participating in YMUN next year because it's something I'm never going to forget." YMUN dynamos Doron Shapir '11 and Heidi Taggart '12 partnered up to debate the state of Palestine on the Historic

General Assembly Committee of 1947. Taggart said, "It was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about a topic that I am deeply interested in and to dig deeper into the mindset of the people in 1947 when this momentous topic was being discussed." Partner Shapir shared similar sentiments: "I had a great time discussing an issue that I live—the conflict in the Middle East. I enjoyed very much being a diplomat, trying to convey my ideas and convince others. I recommend that everybody try out this unique experience."

Do not let all the talk of position papers, working papers, resolutions, and formal debate dissuade you: YMUN delegates definitely know how to have fun during those long four-hour committee sessions. The infamous notes containing cheesy pick-up lines, laughable cartoons, and amateur jokes circulate throughout the room, and the chairs and moderators secretly relish receiving those creative love poems that delegates are wont to send. Whether playing jeopardy to see who can get ice cream first or watching a Yale student do the entire dance to "Single Ladies" and "Bad Romance," all YMUN participants maintain a balance between professionalism and fun. VP Dao '11, serving on the UK Government-Parliament and debating the balance between civil liberties and national security said, "My favorite moment was when the cabinet, as a joke at the end of the conference, informed Parliament that the U.S. had assassinated Queen Elizabeth II and requested that Parliament declare war on the U.S."

Guitarists in Hubbard

by Taylor Page

Judy Handler and Mark Levesque, a husband-and-wife guitar duo, visited the Island on Thursday, January 13, to continue the annual Guest Musician Series. Although they have visited Loomis Chaffee several times in the past, students and faculty welcomed their performance with excitement and interest.

Handler and Levesque each began to play guitar at the age of 11. Although Levesque began by studying rock music and Handler classical guitar, today, after 20 years and 1,300 concerts together, the duo has formed its own style: a unique blend of international music adapted for guitar and mandolin.

Their first piece, "Entre Dos Aguas," was drawn from the Spanish flamenco tradition. The development of the flamenco music, a folk Spanish dance music, accompanied the quick rise in popularity of guitar music in the 19th century.

In the second piece, Levesque brought forth his electric mandolin. Called an "ovation mandolin," his instrument was made in Connecticut and has a fiberglass backing. Made in Italy in the 17th and 18th centuries, the mandolin has paired strings rather than single strings. The first pieces Levesque played on the mandolin were from Cape Verde in Africa. These pieces drew from traditional African rhythms. The piece "Triangular Creations" was derived from a favorite African tune of Handler's, while Loomis Chaffee's own guitar teacher arranged the song, "Opiah."

The audience's next stop in their musical trip around the world was Ireland. As Levesque explained, Irish, or Celtic, music is distinguished by its use of triplets and the bagpipes. Levesque attempted to imitate the sound of the bagpipes by slightly altering the scales in order to create a more fluid sound. The first Celtic piece was originally written for harpist Turlough Carolan, a blind traveling harpist who attracted the attention of wealthy nobles during the 17th century.

The fourth piece was from the eastern European Jewish musical tradition, "klezmer music." The tune that Levesque adapted was originally used for circle dances at Jewish weddings and was designed to imitate the human voice. The next piece, however, had more of an Arabic influence; Handler even used her guitar as a drum.

The next two pieces were adapted from Chinese love

Debaters Earn Accolades at Home Tournament

by Izzy Kornblatt

In a series of hotly contested and well-fought debates on Sunday, January 23, at the 29th Annual LC Debate Tournament, Loomis Chaffee debaters earned top honors, placing second out of 14 schools. Taking the records of the top advanced and top novice four-person teams, a common way to analyze a school's success at a tournament, Loomis Chaffee had a record of 10-2, matched only by Phillips Andover Academy. The advanced team of Paul Han '12, Izzy Kornblatt '12, Ye Dam Lee '11, and Levi Shaw-Faber '11, and the novice team of Ashlee Burris '12, Kelvin Gonzalez '12, Liz Titterton '12, and Justin Zheng '11 each amassed a record of 5-1, with the advanced team going on to earn third place among 14 advanced teams at the tournament. Shaw-Faber and Han also won fourth place among all advanced duos

and competed in the tournament's exhibition round against debaters from Choate Rosemary Hall. Kornblatt and Lee's only loss came in an incredibly close round resulting in a tie, which automatically went to the opposing negative team.

At the prepared tournament, debaters squared off on the resolution "Resolved: that the federal government of the United States of America should develop and institute policies to reduce the domestic production and consumption of meat." Throughout the course of the day, debaters had to debate the topic three times, switching sides for the third round. "I get one opportunity each year to have approximately 200 students from a lot of different schools across New England think very carefully about a topic of im-

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Amaechi Emphasizes Power of Language

by Alex Lafrance

A great show of campus diversity has always accompanied the annual week long celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as students and guest speakers share their talents in honor of the struggle for equality. A presentation on January 17, orchestrated by Elizabeth Parada and Lillian Hutchinson and hosted by PRISM presidents Eboni Grant '11, Danielle Washington '11, and Susannah Williams '11, kicked off the week and introduced a wide variety of student performers. Each act per-

formed to African American history, with performances ranging from poetry by Nana Minder '14 and Kassidi Jones '14 to



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

John Amaechi shares his experience with stereotypes.

dance routines by the two Loomis Chaffee Dance Companies and by Francis Afriye '11 and Caleb Yoon '11, from hymns sung by the Gospel Choir to a jazz duet by Victoria Socolosky '12 and Alexander Lafrance '12, and from two piano solos by Samson Chow '12 to a rap by Jeff Mitchell '12 and Nick Sailor

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Why It's Better to Wait

by Nathan Harris

Perusing the recent articles in the LOG, listening to some of the speakers in convocations, and hearing and reading about the debates regarding important rules possibly being changed here at Loomis Chaffee, one would think that the official Loomis Chaffee theme of the year is sex. I, Nathan Harris, would like to share a very important, albeit different, viewpoint that many on this campus seem to ignore. Guess what? There is more to life than sex. You can be a happy person (a much happier person) if you find different interests and motivations in life than sex. I came to Loomis to receive a top-notch education, not to be bombarded with the belief that sex should be what defines me.

This may be a rude awakening, but sex does hurt people, whether they choose to admit it or not. It can hinder your reputation, which can lead to emotional problems, such as depression. For example, Phoebe Prince, a 15-year-old girl who immigrated from Ireland to South Hadley, Massachusetts, committed suicide after months of torture driven by a few of her peers, who called her offensive names because she was alleged to have had sexual relations with one of these peers. Sex obstructs your ability to form deep, long-lasting, committed relationships in the future. It can harm your relationship with your future spouse in many ways; you could contract a sexually transmitted infection

to him or her; you could have a child from a previous relationship that you have to help care for; you could have the guilt of a previous abortion (or an abortion that you encouraged your previous partner to have) that haunts you for the rest of your life.

Most teens who have sex wish they had waited to have sex. Whether you ask boys or girls, older teens or younger teens, a large majority say they wish they had waited. Based on a survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 66% of sexually experienced teens wish they had waited longer before having sexual intercourse. 63% of those teen boys and 69% of those teen girls wish they had waited. Of the teens between 12-years-old and 14-years-old, 71% wish they had waited. Of those teens between 15-years-old and 19-years-old, 63% said they wish they had waited. (www.4parents.gov)

Casual sex poses a significant potential to hurt you physically. According to the Center for Disease Control, one out of four teenage girls has a sexually transmitted infection. The CDC also estimates that there are over 19 million new STD infections every year, and many of the people who contract sexually transmitted diseases are not aware of it, due to the fact that these infections have no symptoms and often remain undetected. Because these STDs lack symptoms, the infected people

continue to spread the infections to others, perpetuating a deleterious trend.

If we apply this research to life at Loomis Chaffee, it shows that there could be quite a few people walking around Loomis who have at least one STI, and who have been pregnant and have undergone an abortion. These people may have suicidal thoughts, or feel used. Perhaps they have a difficult time (or will have a difficult time) committing to long-term relationships, or maybe they have low self-esteem because of their sexual encounters. Some might even give anything to have their virginity back.

There are also some students (probably more than you may think) walking around the Island who still possess a very precious gift that they can only give one person in their lives, and who do not have to agonize over "harmless" sexual encounters causing the aforementioned problems. Instead, they can focus on school, athletics, friends and their future rather than worrying if they have an STI or if their girlfriend (or latest sexual partner) is pregnant.

Abstinence for now is option provides a healthier and happier life. Please remember that, although the people around you may think otherwise, sex at this age will cause complications that will harm you down the line.

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International Cooperation is the Answer

by Sojin Kim

Nationalistic, and sometimes irredentist, overviews of Korea's reunification will only provoke further regional conflicts, along with false expectations that ignore the North Korean realities. Recent linkage between a small cultural movement in South Korea such as 'Damul,' which calls for the reclamation of all the lands Korea lost throughout its history, and the potential separatism among the millions of ethnic Koreans living near China's border with North Korea; irked China, already overriden with ethnic minority issues. Thus, apart from the dangers of a nationalistic view that undermines peaceful coexistence and regional stability, it lacks realism.

The North Korean regime has for a long time subjected its people to fear, suppression, and poverty. Need we regurgitate again, and bore ourselves with enumerations of all the past atrocities committed by the truculent and recalcitrant Kim family? Kim Jong-il is a consummate hustler, with a long record of breaking promises pledged in return for economic rewards. Its most recent nefariousness include the torpedoing of a South Korean naval vessel that claimed 46 lives last March, and the revelation of a sophisticated uranium-enrichment facility, three days prior to last November's shelling of civilians on South Korea's island, killing

two marines and two civilians.

The starting-point for any reunification movement in the Korean peninsula must begin with containing the bellicose and repressive North. Most punitive military reprisals against the North are unworkable, as it can escalate into a mutually destructive warfare. Effects of deterrents like isolation and sanctions are modest against dictators who sadistically impose famine and gulag to their people any way. Plus, the last ten years of the South's 'sunshine policy' also proved the dangers of false expectations and unrealistic views on North Korea, as despotic Kim now sits on his nukes with a smug misconception of invulnerability. Hence, where do we go from here?

The answer, like with many difficult global issues (climate change, alternative energy, over-population, and pandemics), lies in international cooperation. Beginning with endeavors to terminate the cold war era division among the countries currently involved in the

six-party talks (U.S., South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and North Korea), South Korea must work to forge a more constructive international partnership in restraining North Korea.

Accordingly, South Korea along with the U.S. and Japan, need to urge China and Russia to take on a more responsible role. In particular, as the host country of the

"The reunification of the North and the South will eventually happen as the Kim Jong-il regime collapses on itself."

six-party talks, and the country with influence over North Korea, China's participation in the international coalition against North Korea's nuclear weapons program is essential.

Through the demonstration of beneficial cooperation, we need to persuade China that reunification under peace-loving South Korea that values basic human freedom, and democracy would serve China better than nuke-taunting a des-

potic North Korea that persists in military adventurisms. Collectively we need to bring home to China that embracing the nuke-crazy regime would surely bring on further diplomatic burdens and only deepen military drawdown in the region, jeopardizing the stability that is so vital to China's continuous economic growth. North Korea's indigence will continue to encroach on China's stability, with massive migrations of North Korean refugees across Chinese borders. North Korea's export of missiles and other military weapons can end up in the hands of its more violence-prone ethnic dissenters. And finally, the unconditional backing of North's aggression will continually undermine China's global standing.

The reunification of the North and the South will eventually happen as the Kim Jong-il regime collapses on itself. However, the struggle of taking in all the Northerners as they stream into South Korea for higher-paying jobs, will lead to an economic struggle similar to what the Germans still face after the official raze of the Berlin Wall.

But, the South will experience bigger money drainages as they reunite with the North. Not only is North Korea bigger than East Germany, it is poorer than East Germany. East Germany is only one-fourth the size of West Germany, while North Korea is half the size of South Korea. South Korea can either bridge the economic gap by giving out "handouts, public investment and subsidies" ("Parallel economies What the North and South Koreans can learn from the reunification of Germany," Dec 29th 2010, *The Economist*), or by letting in an influx of Northern migrants into South Korea, which could potentially drain the South's capital. However, the meshing together of the two Koreas will not come for a long time as long as North Korea refuses to communicate with the world and bring down its nuclear-weapon facilities.

Therefore, through seasoned diplomacy, South Korea must engage in convincing other neighboring powers of the mutual benefits of reunification under South Korea. In particular, through purposeful and consistent diplomatic engagements, Seoul needs to actively support a close working relationship between U.S. and China, concerning North Korea. To this end, South Korea must gear up its country's readiness, and diplomatic capabilities, without fixat-

A Productive Nation and an Unproductive Policy

by Frederick McNulty

Following a 2007 home invasion and triple homicide, the generally docile suburb of Cheshire, Connecticut, has come out in overwhelming numbers to demonstrate townspeople's support for state-funded execution. Sometimes referred to as the "death penalty," state-funded execution demonstrates one of the most oppressive, bias-ridden, and expensive government programs in existence today. Cheshire's - or, more broadly, Connecticut's support for state-funded executions not only perpetuates this atrocity, but also threatens the safeguards against wrongful execution. I understand and sympathize with Dr. William Petit's strong position in favor of executing his family's murderers; I cannot fathom the pain that he must endure for the rest of his life. However, I cannot, in good faith, accept that such a destructive policy as state-funded execution not only be continued, but also be made more destructive.

I live in Cheshire. I knew the Petit family. The mother, Jennifer Hawke-Petit, was a nurse at my elementary school. Hayley Petit, the older sister, was a familiar face to me. I attended the same school as the younger sister, Michaela Petit, for several years, and I talked to her on the school bus almost everyday; she even added me as a friend on Facebook mere days prior to her death. The house used to stand two blocks away from my own home. I write this not to

argue that these associations provide me moral superiority within the ongoing debate about state-funded execution (an argument that Dr. William Petit, the father, would surely win). I write this to differentiate myself from the average, unassociated bystander with a strong opinion.

According to Amnesty International, two-thirds of the countries in the world have abolished state-funded execution. The United States is among the dwindling five industrialized nations who have not yet abolished it. In fact, the European Union requires all of its member countries to abolish the death penalty. Yet, in the United States, only 15 states - plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. - have done away with state-funded executions. In 2009, the United States executed the fifth largest number of people in the world - right between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. However, as staggering as these numbers may

be, the American Civil Liberties Union reports that the number inmates exonerated - proven innocent - on the death row has recently risen to a staggering 138.

How could this be? In part, discrimination and prejudice play roles. Study after study has

shown that both race and socioeconomic status play huge roles when it comes to who gets placed on death row. The race and socioeconomic status of the victim also play significant roles in sentencing. There are many reasons for this; a disproportionate number

of Caucasian defense lawyers, the number of people of color who are below the poverty line, and damaging stereotypes all play a role in these unfair sentences. As Dan Haar reported in *The Hartford Courant*, Connecticut alone has spent nearly a fifth of a billion dollars since the state legislature re-legalized the death penalty in 1973. He also notes that each case on death row can take anywhere from \$5 million to \$10 million per year to process. Despite its economic hardship, California spends more than \$217 million per year to operate its death row. The 35 states that have not yet abolished state-funded execution are spending obscene amounts of money on it—money that could be put towards crime prevention, providing services to victims' families, and other honorable efforts.

The facts aside, Connecticut residents overwhelmingly support state-funded execution. Cheshire High School newspaper editor-in-chief Julia Turret wrote, "[Steven]

Hayes [one of the Cheshire killers] has been sentenced to death by a jury of his peers. He deserves this punishment. It more than fits the crime." Unfortunately, her pro-execution editorial misses the point: high-profile cases, such as Hayes' case, set legal precedent. And, if we listen to the rallying cries of Republicans and their conservative Democratic allies, they intend to loosen the regulations on appeals that death row inmates receive - the same appeals that helped save those 138 exonerated inmates.

I do not oppose state-funded execution on "moral" grounds. It is not the government's job to regulate morality, and it is not the purpose of our criminal justice system to do so, either. Its job should be to deter future crime and to punish convicted criminals. Unlike what my pathetic excuse for a state representative, Al Adinolfi believes, namely that if one opposes the death penalty, one therefore "must love [Steven] Hayes and [Joshua] Komisarjevsky," I feel that the punishment of these two men should not detract from the greatness of the Nutmeg State. State-funded execution, in the vast majority of cases, has never been conclusively proven to deter crime. Not only does it fail to meet these goals, but it is also outdated, biased, wildly expensive, and unnecessary. Assuaging the emotions of some should not have such real-life consequences for us all.



PHOTO FROM WWW.NASHVILLESCENE.COM
The lethal injection is one of the most commonly used forms of execution, which the United States has failed to abolish.

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Tearing Us Apart Brings Us Together

by Brendan Travers

On January 7th, 2011, during a time of escalated political tension between Democrats and Republicans stemming from increasing acerbity on both sides, U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords wrote to Republican Secretary of State of Kentucky Trey Grayson, "We need to figure out how to tone our rhetoric and partisanship down," recognizing that there was, indeed, a problem at hand which must be actively managed before incident. Giffords had planned to hold a constituent meeting called "Congress on Your Corner" in the parking lot of a supermarket in Casas Adobes, an area located just north of Tucson. This was an attempt to assuage some of the intensifying dissension of the agitated political climate. The next morning, Jared Lee Loughner logged onto his MySpace page and bid his friends goodbye. In a short passage requesting, "please don't be mad at me," the disturbed 22-year-old Tucson man proceeded to inflict premeditated terror on the United States.

On January 8th, 2011, at 10:10 a.m. MST, a crowd of about 25 people was gathered around Gabrielle Giffords' table outside the Safeway supermarket when Loughner approached, bearing a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. After shooting Giffords in the head, Loughner spun around and fired the remainder of the 33-round magazine clip randomly and viciously into the unarmed crowd of men, women, and children. When the gunman

stopped to reload, the second, fully loaded magazine dropped from his pocket to the ground where a bystander was quick to seize it. Loughner was tackled to the ground and subdued until police arrived and took him into custody at 10:15 a.m. Response from paramedics, just moments later, was not enough to save six civilians including John Roll, Chief Justice of the U.S. District Court for Arizona and nine-year-old Christina-Taylor Green, of Tucson. In total, 13 people were treated for injuries prompted by the unstable gunman's futile outburst. Miraculously, Giffords, suffering a bullet wound to her head, was still alive and rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Her intern, Daniel Hernandez Jr., is accredited with saving her life, as he ensured Giffords did not choke on her own blood as it rushed from her head wounds. In a matter of minutes, Jared Lee Loughner, a volatile and politically radical American had forced pain into the lives of the families involved, and sent a shockwave through the nation.

As the Tucson shooting was quickly swept up by the media and broadcast all over the United States, President Barack Obama began immediately taking action. Less than 24 hours after the incident, he ordered that all US flags be displayed at half-staff until sunset on the fol-

lowing Sunday and held a national moment of silence on January 10, at 11:00 am EST. On January 12, Obama traveled to Tucson to attend and speak at the "Together We Thrive: Tucson and America" memorial and, with 30 million Americans watching, touched the heart of the nation.

Already disturbed by the events that had taken place, I was not entirely ready to stomach the passionate words of grief delivered by the president. Although I believe that a federal response to an occurrence

"drawing the nation together as one during a time of considerable political

such as this is absolutely essential, I did not think the speech would affect me in any significant way and I ended up with my face buried in my schoolbooks during the live broadcast. When the time finally came for me sit down, a few days later, and watch the service honoring the victims of the Arizona shooting, I was astonished and thoroughly inspired by the care, compassion, and support that President Obama offered, not only to the family and friends of the victims, but to the people of the United States. In my opinion, the president deserves immense commendation for his efforts in

drawing the nation together as one during a time of considerable political tension. In his opening statement, "I have come here tonight as an American who, like all Americans, kneels to pray with you today, and will stand by you tomorrow," Obama consoles those in mourning and reinforces the nation's unity. By commencing the memorial with this concept, and by later maintaining it with the reminder, "For those who were harmed, those who were killed - they are part of our family, an American family 300 million strong," the president proudly moderated the conflict and division between the citizens of the United States.

Apart from this amalgamation, Obama went on to personalize the memorial speech in order to properly address the issue at hand and to direct the subsequent public response. The short, poignant passages about each of the six victims claimed by the gunman on that day put a human face on the tragedy and elicited feelings of empathy from the American public for the families and friends of those who were lost. I believe that this approach to commemorating the departed was an appropriate and genuine method of capturing the nation's attention. The President's admirable responsibility in introducing the victims as human beings, providing a background on each, rather than the subjects

of an incident; prevented people from making seedy generalizations or having other adverse reactions. It was because of this that I was especially moved by the speech and, more importantly, by the incident itself. As I listened, I felt a passionate emotional attachment to the families involved, particularly that of nine-year-old Christina-Taylor Green who was noted for her high expectations of how the country, and the world should function. "I want our democracy to be as good as she imagined it," observed Obama.

President Obama had done the impossible. He had taken an event so devastating—so tragic—so preventable, and comforted the grieving public, while highlighting the destruction that acts like these can cause in hopes to prevent alike future occurrences. In my opinion, every piece of the federal response came together in the most unifying, eloquent oration of Obama's presidency. The international approbation the 33-minute speech received was rightly deserved as our president soled us, the American people, in our time of need.

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Featured Artist: McDonald Tjirare '11

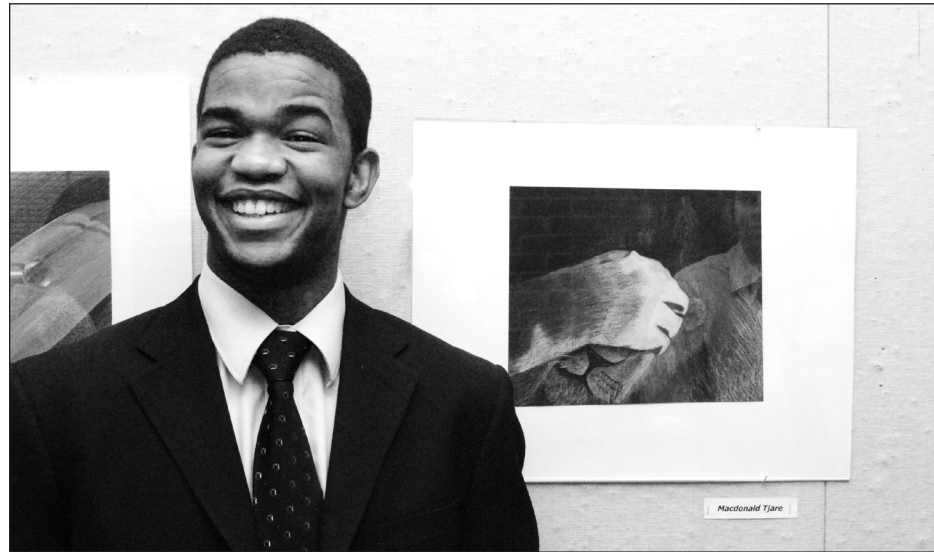
by Bertrand Okonkwo and Izzy Kornblatt

For most students, a pencil is a tool for dreary note-taking and homework, but for McDonald Tjirare '11, a boarder from Namibia, a country in Africa, it is an instrument presided over with nimble skill and intense passion to grasp the inner realm of the mind and craft it into intriguing aesthetic creations. This one-time young doodler now beams with pride over original works from his recent displays in the Barnes and Wilde Galleries in the Richmond Art Center: a sleek linoleum print Mercedes C63 AMG infused with the outstretched head of a zebra and an intriguing black and white charcoaled alligator / Toyota Tundra hybrid.

Tjirare was only five years old when his keen interest in the visual arts was first piqued. "When I was a kid," he remembered, "I used to tag along with my dad sometimes... he would give me some things to draw, and I would trace them." Within a few years, however, Tjirare found his own voice in the arts and began to sketch on his own, without guidelines. His themes varied from the clearly literal to the wildly abstract, but his work has almost always involved cars. "I've always had a fascination with cars," admitted Tjirare. "All my toys were cars."

The fusion of the abstract and the concrete is one of the most prominent recurring themes in Tjirare's work. Although Tjirare focused almost entirely on the abstract for a period of his artistic career,

his work has now found a more consistent tone. Recognizable images are fused together in a way that new meanings or images are created from each. The result, as with Tjirare's alligator/Tundra hybrid, is a striking work of complex contrast and fascination. The image toys with our



Macdonald Tjirare '11's artwork never fails to excite the imagination. Here he is pictured with one of his pieces that was on display in the Richmond Art Center.

perceptions of the Tundra as tough and rugged, cleverly pointing out the vehicle's easy likeness to an animal. Similarly, in Tjirare's zebra/Mercedes print, the stripes of the zebra take on a new visual meaning, and contrast delightfully with the sculpted beauty of the slick Mer-

cedes. These works explore the relationship between human-made objects and the natural world.

Tjirare credits Loomis Chaffee's Visual Arts Department as a key component in his development as an artist. "Before taking Drawing I [during] my sophomore

year, although I had a recreational passion for drawing, I didn't have a sense of some key artistic perspective," noted the current AP Art student who has also taken Advanced Drawing and Studio Production at LC. Tjirare found himself particularly inspired by art teacher Mark

Zunino and former English teacher Paige Kaptuch. "[Mrs. Kaptuch] once told me, 'Art is the lie that tells the truth,'" he explained. "That is what I try to relay in my work."

Throughout his three and a half years at LC, Tjirare's work has frequently hung from the RAC gallery walls, though his pieces have more permanently resided on the walls of his room at home. Tjirare's roots as an artist may stretch back to his early childhood, but it has been at Loomis Chaffee, among excellent teachers and inspired friends, that he has truly grown as an artist. And Tjirare is not hesitant to credit his experiences at LC: "My favorite artists would have to be my fellow art classmates. I learn a great [deal] from them, we keep each other in check, [and they] offer useful criticism and suggestions," he explained. That openness to suggestions and mentoring has certainly helped Tjirare to continually improve the quality of his works.

As for his future, Tjirare has yet to hear back from colleges. He is sure, however, that he does not plan on pursuing art as a career. "I don't envision myself as a full-time artist. Though I sincerely love drawing things in my spare time, it's not so much the compass of my life but an effective means to fully express myself," he explained. The LOG sincerely hopes that Tjirare will continue pursuing his artist passion wherever he ends up choosing to go.

Snow Day Predictions Unify Students

by Jeesue Lee

Known as a prominent and occasionally controversial voice of the Loomis Chaffee community, Fred McNulty '11 is a connoisseur of snow days. Often sending mass text messages to nearly 1/5 of the student body, McNulty revels in the chance to spread the mirth and joy a snow day can bring. Yet, despite his love, McNulty is admittedly skeptical of other media outlets. "The traditional media (and their web components) do not understand what a viable market snow day predictions are," remarked McNulty. Thus, using the popular social network Facebook and the insight of some friends, McNulty created a thread known as "Snow Day Predictions." Now, with an ever growing readership, the help of more than 20 volunteers, and the online snow day calculator (created by David Sukhin), McNulty has made a forecast-centric substitute for traditional media for his fellow students, all of whom have responded positively.

Yet despite the fun and excitement found in the "Snow Day Predictions" thread, McNulty has ulterior motives as to why he specifically chooses to focus on snow days. "I view snow days as unification devices," McNulty admitted. Snow days to him are what bring the community closer together. The isolation, and the resultant pause in our hectic lives, brings happiness to the students and in turn creates a positive atmosphere on campus. The simple pleasure of sledding when you would otherwise have math class is a liberating experience.

McNulty tries to evoke this sense of unification in his snow day predictions, bringing many different students from throughout the LC community to contribute their opinions to the thread. There is no 'Committee' or 'Board of Snow Day Predictions.' Instead, he said, "We're all basically equal."

McNulty even goes as far as to demand at least five snow days per winter term, even in the absence of bad weather. "If enacted as a policy, I highly doubt we'd ever have to worry about 'school unity' ever again," McNulty explained. Indeed, a hefty statement to make. Yet McNulty stands firm, believing that snow days are the happiest moments for students: rays of sunshine in our lives that combat the dismal gloom of winter. His work is merely an abstraction of the beauty of snow days and the vehicle for any student to use to determine the possibility of a bonding experience.

With every onset of winter, the Loomis Chaffee community is thrown into a frenzy over the possibility of snow. People are literally obsessed, continuously checking for weather updates, slipping (and stealing) spoons under pillows and holding the occasional snow dance, hoping that the 'Snow Gods' will oblige, bowing to the dulcet tones of LMFAO and Ke\$ha. Although all students and faculty strive to continue the legacy of the Founders, no one would mind a day off.

The future of the "Snow Day Predictions," however, does look grim, as McNulty prepares to enter as a freshman at Connecticut College next year. Unfortunately for his predicting talents, Connecticut College is notorious for not having snow days. In addition, the "Snow Day Predictions" thread is an extremely taxing endeavor, demanding more work than one might believe, and with our hectic lives on the Island, there is not a great chance of the "Predictions" living past the end of this school year. McNulty does hint at the possibility of a successor, based entirely on careful consideration, but the "Snow Day Predictions" thread will always be his baby, and a "great incentive to never get sick again!"

A Unique Class Forgotten

by Kevin Lee

If you asked everyone around campus if they have taken a class called Material Culture, most people would respond with their own question: "Material what?"

Material Culture of the Connecticut River Valley, a humanities half-course designed for sophomores, examines "historic art, artifacts and architecture of The Loomis Chaffee School and the Connecticut River Valley" (as stated in the course book), with an additional goal of helping students develop their primary source analysis skills. Using the Loomis Chaffee campus as well as the surrounding area of Windsor as its textbook, Material Culture allows students to gain a deeper understanding of Loomis Chaffee's 130-year long school history through the practice of undertaking various in-depth studies of students' surroundings.

"Many people are not aware of the rich history behind Loomis," explained Karen Parsons, Loomis Chaffee's archivist and the course's creator and instructor. "One time in my class, when we were studying a particular painting in Founders [Hall], a student told me they would walk by the painting several times a day without even stopping to even take a closer glance at it."

While the course is not solely directed towards studying the history of the Connecticut River Valley and the Loomis Chaffee School, having such a historically relevant resource at one's disposal certainly can hasten the development of primary source analytical skills, key for the three junior U.S. History offerings. The convenience of being able to simply walk into one of the older buildings on campus and effectively analyze the various sculptures, paintings, and documents hanging from the walls definitely provides

that essential first-hand engagement with history.

Syllabus topics include the history and design of some of the campus's oldest buildings (The Homestead, Grubbs Quad, Founders Hall), the creation of the presently co-ed institution we know as LC through the integration of the all-girls Chaffee School and the all-boys Loomis School, and the early roots of the school within the Loomis family. In order to condense more than a century of fascinating history into a one year half-



Material Culture students use the Loomis Chaffee campus, including Connecticut's oldest structure, the Loomis Family Homestead, as part of their curriculum.

course, Material Culture attempts to cover the most influential and visually prominent aspects of the story. "I credit Material Culture with giving me the skills necessary to survive in A.P.U.S. History," explained Izzy Kornblatt '12, a former Material Culture student and LOG Features Editor. "Not only was it useful, but it opened up a wealth of fascination with history that I never before knew I had."

Although certainly a relevant and inspiring course, Material Culture is not being taught in the current 2010-2011 academic year because not enough students signed up. The issue is not so much a lack of interest but a lack of awareness. Most LC students don't know that they are offered a fascinating, one-of-a-kind, hands-on history course during their sophomore years. Whether students are merely interested in the prospect of studying the narrative of our school's formation, or are looking to develop source analysis skills for future reference, Material Culture should definitely be a class that is strongly considered. Contact Karen Parsons for more information.

“Gay Like Me,” 20 Years Later

by Rekha Kennedy

“Scary” is the one word English teacher Andrew Watson would use to describe how it felt when his historic *LOG* article, entitled “Gay Like Me,” was published on December 10, 1993. “Stereotype or no stereotype, the ugly truth is, I’m gay,” wrote Mr. Watson. “I haven’t changed at all. I’m exactly who I was ten minutes ago. You just know a little more about me, that’s all.” The article formidably occupied the top of the *LOG*’s editorial page, and caught the eye with its great black header: “An Open Letter to the Community.”

Mr. Watson, the first openly gay faculty member in Loomis Chaffee history, was scared of the community’s reaction to his coming out, and thought that community members would respond by politely distancing themselves from him. To his surprise, however, the LC community opened their arms and welcomed him. There was no blissful indifference, but rather an outpouring of support and even congratulations. He was still the same Mr. Watson, the same well-regarded English teacher. “Mr. Watson is the best English teacher I’ve ever had,” wrote one *LOG* columnist below Mr. Watson’s article in a space dedicated to student responses. “Everyone wanted to shake my hand! And [they] didn’t really care I was gay,” Mr. Watson explained. He does not, however, take all of the credit for Loomis Chaffee’s open, accepting community. Long before his article was published, LC was strongly against homophobia, well ahead of the social curve. “I let the school live up to what it already wanted to be,” said Mr. Watson.

Mr. Watson likes to say that the article didn’t change him, but rather changed how much other people knew about him; being gay was as much part of his identity as any other essential characteristic with which we associate him. His article did, however, help the community to identify on a personal level with a gay person. “It’s easy to hate groups but harder to hate [individual] people,” Mr. Watson explained. He gave

the community that individual person, and helped elucidate the meaning of homosexuality in the face of society’s pervasive cloud of homophobia. He helped make the general question of homophobia specific, and helped identify a concept into a concrete person. He did this again nearly 20 years later during Senior Meditations this fall, telling the school his story of coming out, and explaining the effect seemingly harmless words can have on people. Mr. Watson asked ten percent of the student body, all Student Council



Mr. Watson.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

(StuCo) representatives, resident assistants (RAs) and prefects to stand up, and pointed out that “surely everyone knows and loves someone who is gay or lesbian, whether they know it or not.” While, of course, not all StuCo representatives, RAs or prefects are gay, a good ten percent of the LC student body probably is. And whether we notice it or not, those students are strongly affected by our actions and our words.

Mr. Watson believes that homophobia today, particularly at LC, generally “isn’t driven by nastiness, but is away to connect with people against a common theme.” He thinks that a huge chunk of casual homophobia isn’t intended to insult or offend, but regardless of how it is intended, it still does those very things. He understands the importance of having a phrase like “that’s stupid,” particularly for 675 grumbling teenagers, but believes that using the term “that’s gay” only deeply hurts and affects a

good portion of the gay and straight school community, alike. As an alternative, Mr. Watson coined a different term, “that’s so Kent,” to raucous laughter and widespread applause.

When asked how much change he has seen since his article was published, Mr. Watson is quick to point out that Loomis Chaffee was always against homophobia. There was even a movement before he came out among many LC faculty members to pave a road towards greater acceptance. Mr. Watson accepts and believes that he isn’t the sole cause of the change but rather a part of the bigger scheme. The historic article, in Mr. Watson’s words, was a “scared article” with a somewhat pessimistic tone that did not reflect LC’s actual attitude towards its writer. “Loomis takes you for who you are,” Mr. Watson proudly stated. John Amaechi’s recent convocation further extended the theme of the power of words; Mr. Watson particularly enjoyed how Amaechi initially entertained the audience, and subsequently challenged them to change their ways for the better of the people around them.

Mr. Watson feels proud to be part of a school that accepts people for who they are and was “founded to admit students who wouldn’t be admitted elsewhere,” because of finances or various biases. Mr. Watson’s article may have simply been a stepping stone down a path to greater acceptance, but it is an amazing and memorable stepping stone nonetheless. “Maybe – and here is my great hope – maybe you also know a little bit more about yourself than you did ten minutes ago. Maybe you will reconsider things you have felt and done. Maybe it will help to know that gay people are just people, like me.” To the LC community, however, Mr. Watson is more than just a person. He’s a fantastic teacher, and a bold harbinger of social change, as much through his article in 1993 as through his inspiring speech a few months ago. An incredible person is more like it.

Promising Changes to Food Service

by Ashlee Burris

ARAMARK, Loomis Chaffee’s Dining Services provider, often gets a bad rap among students for allegedly producing subpar meals. But few students know how many changes ARAMARK has made to its offerings as a result of several surveys over the past year or so.

When asked for the reason behind some of the changes in the dining program, Erin Dwyer, Location and Catering Manager for ARAMARK, commented, “[We] took it upon ourselves to make sure the students have healthier meals at lunch. We want to meet the needs of the students and educate the student body.” ARAMARK now works with a school nutritionist who comes to the school three times a term and provides information and lessons on ways to eat healthy, control portions, and improve nutrition for athletes.

There is also a suggestions

box in the lobby of the dining hall where students can request changes and additions to breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For example, students requested more chicken at the salad bar during lunch and dinner, and ARAMARK immediately listened to the recommendation and made the change. Now the salad bar contains chicken at least once a week.

ARAMARK has also made many changes to the program by incorporating new, previously unavailable, foods and drinks. As Carol Blais, Food Program Manager of ARAMARK noted, “At Sunday brunch there is a smoothie station and freshly squeezed orange juice. We also serve exotic fruits that aren’t traditionally there during the week like dragon fruit and kiwi.”

Snacks, another new addition to the meal program, such as muffins, oranges, and bananas

are served in the dining hall lobby each morning for students eager for a snack between classes. Another recent change to the lunch program is the addition of a pasta station every Tuesday and Thursday in the Loomis Dining Hall. The station also includes several kinds of pasta sauce, bread, and salad.

The dining service also tries hard to integrate special lunches and dinners for the various multicultural campus organizations, like PRISM and the Chinese Club. ARAMARK coordinated with Elizabeth Parada, Director of Multicultural Affairs and Spanish instructor, for these special dinners and lunches. On Martin Luther King Day, Dining Services served soul food, traditional, southern, African-American cuisine, in honor of the holiday. “We have been working with Ms. Parada these last five years in order to have the Mar-

tin Luther King Day lunch program,” explained Ms. Dwyer.

ARAMARK not only tries to meet the taste and nutritional interests of the LC community, but also tries to meet the medical needs of students with allergies. Dining Services coordinates with the health center in order to make sure the allergic concerns of certain students are properly addressed. ARAMARK has also recently begun making use of food products produced locally. “We try to use local vendors as much as possible for our fruits and vegetables. We want to be involved with the community as much as possible,” stated Ms. Blais. While many grumble at Loomis Chaffee’s Dining Services, the reality is that student input and collaboration with ARAMARK have improved, and will continue to improve, our dining experience immensely.

The VOICE: The Good Person

by Dru Sanders

So a white, lacrosse-playing, senior boy went to the gym -- for the sake of this story lets call him John Doe. After his two-hour workout, he walked back to his dorm and grabbed for his ID card only to find that he didn’t have pockets in his gym shorts. He stood outside of his dorm shivering, hoping that one of his shivers would walk by to let him in.

The first person that walked by was an underclassman, day-student girl. When he asked her if she had her ID card, she said no and scurried away, tightly holding the books that would not fit into her overstuffed backpack to her chest. The truth of the matter was that she indeed had her ID card, but because this intimidating upperclassman boy seemed to be in overt opposition to the dress code, she refused to aid him. “Everyone should be in dress code,” thought she. “Everyone.”

The next person that walked by was a nerdy, boarding senior who held his instrument case at his side. John Doe asked this boy if he had an ID card, but because John Doe had made fun of him freshman year, the musician said “no” and scurried off to his music lesson.

John Doe was losing hope and body heat. He was now bouncing back and forth and rubbing his arms to keep warm. The sweat from his work out seemed to be freezing on his body. From across the quad, he saw a figure walking, and he thought that it might be one of his friends. A small flicker of hope emerged, warming him slightly. Soon he saw, however, that it was the shy, junior, African-American girl with whom he had taken Existentialism. John Doe assumed that she didn’t like him at all and refrained from asking her if she had her ID, but through an act of kindness, the shy, junior, African-American girl asked him if he needed help and let him into his dorm.

Ok. That was a 337-word story.

So one person forgot his ID one day and was locked out of his dorm. He asked two people if they had theirs, but they both said no. Then another person walked up and let him into his dorm.

Ok. 39 words.

See how much more complicated things become when we qualify everything and give everyone excessive adjectives? Why do we need to be obsessively concerned with differentiating ourselves from each other with words? Why can’t we just be Good People regardless of how we see each other?

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

The *LOG* now has a web site!

www.loomischaffee.org/LOG

Interested in writing for us? E-mail any of the editors listed on page 2.

Letters to the editor can be sent via snail-mail c/o The Loomis Chaffee School, 4 Batchelder Rd., Windsor, CT 06095.

Featured Athlete: Phil Vermiglio

by Laura McConney

Though most hockey fanatics value pure speed, quick hands, and unbelievable moves, smarts, the decisions that a player makes, are often overlooked. However, the choice between a pass and a shot can lead to a goal or a turnover. Phil Vermiglio '11, a co-captain for the boys' varsity hockey team, displays incredible hockey intellect. Stopping opponents, breaking up two on one rushes, and making perfect breakout passes, Vermiglio does it all with poise, confidence, and swagger.

With help from senior co-captain Michael Blair '11, Vermiglio leads his team by example. Noting Vermiglio's leadership style, Jake Gorman '11 said, "Phil is one of the most dedicated players I've ever played with. In the gym, he works the hardest; on the ice, he constantly battles; and in the locker room, he provides encouragement." Usually the first one on the ice and the last one off the ice for practice, Vermiglio demonstrates his passion for the games each and every day. Exhibited by his competitiveness, Vermiglio's love of the game has, no doubt, contributed to his strong play throughout the season.

Vermiglio maintains this intensity in games by playing solid defense. His notoriously clean breakout passes and consistent hits make him instrumental to the team and help his younger teammates learn what it means to play Loomis hockey. Appreciated especially by goaltender and close friend Steve Michalek '11, Vermiglio's play speaks for itself and has caught the attention of his teammates, the fans, and college scouts.

However, Vermiglio's offensive contributions should not be overlooked. A member of a highly effective power play unit, Vermiglio uses his incredible vision of the ice to overpower opponents. A member of the girls' varsity team and a dedicated observer said, "Phil's shot and hockey IQ really help the team. At times, the boys struggle, but once Phil starts playing to his potential, the team's intensity rises astronomically." Though Vermiglio may not appear on the top scorers list, he contributes to almost every goal, either by initiating the breakout or keeping a puck inside the offensive zone.

Characteristic of his Italian background, Phil's on-ice demeanor,

casually referred to as *shopa*, reflects a considerable amount of confidence and style. Adding to his swagger, Vermiglio and teammate Steve Michalek '11 share a signature handshake prior to each opening puck drop. Inspired by a classic film, the handshake is an elaborate mixture of vertical motions, high fives, and interpretive movements. This display, which is more of a pre-game spectacle rather than a tradition, attracts fans and urges them to arrive to the boys' games before the puck drops. It also exemplifies the work Vermiglio puts into the team every day.

A valued teammate, Vermiglio gives himself to the team. Highlighting his dedication, Vermiglio said, "I would willingly sit on the bench if it was best for the team. I just want to win and see my teammates succeed, regardless of the cost." Vermiglio's unselfishness and competitiveness raise the bar for his teammates; he holds them to a higher standard so that the team can fulfill its potential. Be sure to come to the rink this winter to see him in action as Loomis looks to finish their already solid season well.

The Squash Family

by Alexis Ditomassi

Sometimes the members of a varsity team - made up of a combination of seniors, juniors, and sophomores - tend to segregate themselves. However, this is not the case with the Boys' Varsity Squash Team. The whole squad is able to bond during each and every exhausting practice, forming many friendships between all the players, regardless of age. With a strong record of 8-3 so far this season, the close-knit squash team has matched quality results with incredible chemistry.

The members of the team have even created several fun-loving and comical nicknames for fellow teammates. Returning senior, John Megas '11 is known as "Mango" on the squash court, and junior, Scott Casher '12, is otherwise known as, "TGuy" or "DJScotty". Mike Delalio '11 claims, "Scotty brings the music to the courts and gets everyone pumped up." The players act with strong care and commitment about the team as a whole; everyone contributes something unique to this year's team. While watching an intense challenge match between two seniors, Teddy Black '11 and Delalio, it was evident that they were very competitive, while maintaining the proper court etiquette and a friendly atmosphere Black later says, "Our team has good chemistry; there's always bantering going back and forth to keep practices fun and we have a good amount of competitiveness on the team, so we push each other every day to get better." This attribute can be hard to find in many teams and showcases the valuable bonds that have been formed throughout the season. To further sum the team up in the few words, John Stein '11 said, "We're all good friends and we just chill together". Yet, how does the team manage to sustain such a solid

record while everyone keeps a jocular tone to practice off of the court? As one of their practices was observed, the mature and serious behavior from the team was a shocking discovery, compared to their laughter and jokes preceding and after the practice. The team truly knows how to turn on the intensity once practice begins. After the session, many of the day students have even made a ritual of extending the bonding time over dinner at school. Taking team bonding to a whole new level outside of practice, the athletes have found tangible results from their dedication.

When the new Boys' Varsity Squash coach, Elliot Beck, new this season, was interviewed, he stated, "Squash tends to be a sport that creates close-knit teams and it's good to see the seniors give support and create good relationships with the younger players. The Loomis team this year is unique in its universal acceptance of team and individual benefits." Mr. Beck has done a great job in encouraging team unity and the squash fans will remain eager to see how the rest of the season goes. Not only is the winning record of the Boys' Varsity Squash team exceptional, but their academic records are remarkable, as well. At the end of fall term, six out of the eight varsity players achieved high honor roll, proving that they can play squash while meeting a very demanding academic career off the court. Leading multi-faceted lives, the team has found a way to succeed in both integral areas of life.

In squash it really comes down to who is willing to put in the most effort and spend endless hours perfecting that one shot. The mental intensity that requires a player to win that 5-set match is grueling, and the Boys' Varsity Squash

Team this year has clearly proven themselves in their devotion to the sport and ability to win those five-setters. Megas says, "Being a part of such a close team, makes me want to play hard and live up to my potential during every single match in honor of the team."

If every team at Loomis could create such distinctive bonds, there would be endless winning seasons. Close relationships with fellow teammates allow players to reach an intensity that goes well beyond the basics of squash, teaching them the principle of unity and just what it entails. The balance achieved between joking around off the court and staying competitive on the court allows the team to improve each player's individual game, while simultaneously working toward the success of the team as a whole.

With such solid chemistry amidst dedicated individuals, The Loomis Chaffee Boys' Squash Team optimizes its individual talent for the good of the team. The dedication to each other, along with the solid coaching, allows the team to succeed in the always challenging Founders League. The veterans on the team bring a pivotal experience to the team, allowing them to succeed in a multitude of its close matches this season. Led by senior captains Black and Delalio, the team has pulled out many close matches this season, and has proven to be a very competitive team in a strong league with a new coach. When the new changes were made last year, the team looked to have continuity into the season, and the best way to accomplish this is through team chemistry. The squash has embodied that the sum of the parts is not greater than the whole, by welcoming everyone.

Hot Shots on the Island



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Maria Pylypiv '11



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Jack Russo '11



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO

Donny Thompson '14



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG

Brianna Malanga '12

SPORTS TRIVIA

1. In which year was the first baseball game played in America?

- A: 1821 B: 1830
- C: 1839 D: 1903

2. In which year did James Neismith invent basketball?

- A: 1835 B: 1891
- C: 1903 D: 1904

3. In which year was the first World Cup played?

- A: 1922 B: 1926
- C: 1930 D: 1934

4. In which year was the NFL formed?

- A: 1920 B: 1925
- C: 1931 D: 1946

5. In which year was the PGA Tour founded?

- A: 1916 B: 1994
- C: 1925 D: 1899

6. In which year was the first Yacht race?

- A: 1598 B: 1640
- C: 1661 D: 1700

7. In which year was the first Wimbledon tennis championship held?

- A: 1877 B: 1899
- C: 1903 D: 1921

8. In which year did Babe Ruth leave Boston?

- A: 1920 B: 1919
- C: 1918 D: 2004

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Answers to this issues questions:

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

Night Games on The Island: A Popular New Phenomena

by Charlie Dorison

Lately on the Island, students have flocked to the Pelicans' Hockey games at the rink. As raucous crowds supported our teams, many may have wondered what has changed recently to spur such massive numbers of students to support the teams. Has the success changed? Has the rink suddenly moved to somewhere convenient? While neither may have changed dramatically, the true answer can be found in the logistics: the games, quite simply put, are played at night. Without the conflicts of other games, students are able to move as a collective unit to a sole game in order to dramatically increase the energy in the atmosphere. The night games have inspired students to support each other in athletics, and can hopefully inspire students to take this energy to other facets of student life, as well.

So what makes night games so special? Obviously the rarity of such games makes them unique and exciting, but the atmosphere seems to transform as well once the sun goes down and the temperature drops. Whereas on most game days each team has its own separate competition, there is solely one game going on at night. Every student, whether he or she is a varsity athlete, club all-star, or just a fan, is able to attend the game. Without the scheduling conflicts or competition from other games, students are able to congregate at one game in order to create a special atmosphere. It is not each individual's enthusiasm that is different at night games (although this too seems to change when the moon comes out), but the sheer number of students willing to support their peers.

Given such an opportunity to support their peers, the Loomis Chaffee students have responded in resounding numbers. For the most recent night hockey game against Westminster, students filled the bleachers in the rink, creating an energized atmosphere more often found at

schools doubling Loomis's size. Despite the fact that the team eventually lost a heart-breaker in overtime, the experience proved exciting for both players and fans. As any athlete will tell you, the level of game play and intensity truly increases with the decibel level of the crowd. The night games provide a construction environment for students to support their friends' athletic interests. The games are meant not for one group of students, but for the entire student body (along with faculty and parents as well). Simply put, the games bring the student body together in one location in order to cheer on students.

During the fall term, the Loomis Chaffee football team played a game under the lights, inspiring a majority of the student body to come to the game. With a resurrected football team and an energized student body, the game turned into an event for the community as a whole. The festivities included food from the Barbeque Club, along with prizes and hot chocolate. With the night games comes a new dynamic to life on the Island. Despite a loss by the football team, the chilly game showed the students how much fun it's possible to have while supporting your fellow students. The first game under the lights set the stage for students to support the hockey teams in greater numbers this winter, and the energy found at that first game has definitely carried over to different athletic endeavors this winter on the Island.

In the spring term, many teams hope to be blessed with night games under the lights. With an extremely strong lacrosse program here on the Island, Loomis would truly benefit from a game on the turf under the lights. That's not to say that other teams are not worthy of night games, however, the turf, in reality, is the most accessible place for a night game during the spring term. A night game, along with the in-

creasingly warm weather, would provide a great way for students to support each other. Because a huge number of students participate in interscholastic athletics, they are unable to watch each other's games because of scheduling conflicts. Although the administration has been a great job improving the scheduling so that students can watch each other's games, there is always room for improvement here on the Island.

So what can we take from this overwhelming display of support? How do we interpret the resounding number of students who frequent night games on the Island? We observe that students will turn out for games when given the opportunity. We realize that there truly is a deeper sense of community than first meets the eye at "normal" sporting events. We learn athletics holds a dear spot in the hearts of many Loomis Chaffee students. With the chance to support each other without scheduling conflicts, students will come through. The night games not only give a great atmosphere for the athletes on the field, court, or ice, but also provide a great event for students wishing to support the teams.

As our student-athletes prepare for collegiate athletics and bigger universities, the crowds here on the Island prepare them for the raucous, college atmosphere as well. From veteran seniors to inexperienced, yet skilled, freshmen, every athlete at Loomis can learn from the experience of playing in front of a filled arena, rink, or stadium. Night games on the Island give athletes the opportunity to play in front of large crowds and to compete in a truly electric atmosphere, while simultaneously giving sports fans - students, teachers, and families - a chance to go to a single game together in order to create an exciting event on campus. The fans on campus have finally made Loomis' home fields, rinks, and courts a place other schools fear to go.

FEATURED PHOTO



Senior swimmers celebrate the last home meet of their Loomis Chaffee careers.

PHOTO BY FRED SEEBECK

Pelicans Serve As Ambassadors of Kindness

by Rachel Rosenblatt, Elise Petracca, and Katie Shea



PHOTO BY JUSTIN ZHENG
Riker Jones '11

Riker Jones '11 epitomizes the term "kindness ambassador." He greets everyone he passes in hopes of brightening that person's day, always pausing to ask, "How are you?" He agreed that kindness does have a noticeable presence on campus, something so undeniable that it was part of the reason he chose to attend Loomis Chaffee. He said, "One thing that stood out about Loomis Chaffee when I toured here was the amount of people who stopped to say a quick hello to my tour guide." In his transition to the Island from New Canaan Country School, the friendly and welcoming community and incredible support system that LC offers impressed him. He cherishes the friendships he has created and maintained for the past three years and feels lucky to have had an "opportunity to make friends from across the world." Jones spends a lot of his time participating in the Winter and Spring Back Country Programs, where he and other students hike, snowshoe, canoe, and camp. He does this all with a smile on his face, and this spring will leave Loomis Chaffee after having inspired his peers to be kind and help the community.



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO
Mia Scanlon '14

Mia Scanlon '14, raised on the Island, graces the LC community with her enthusiasm and kindness everyday. Growing up in Taylor Dorm, Scanlon has watched Loomis evolve, witnessing the construction of new buildings, welcoming new students and faculty members, and observing the ever-changing campus dynamics. Those lucky enough to know Scanlon have watched her mature into an intellectual and altruistic high school student. Scanlon recalls "talking about the noisy students in the dorms" when she was a 'fac brat'; however, now Scanlon proudly remarks that she gets to be one of those students. Her transition from 'fac brat' to pelican has been seamless as she has already fostered "friendships that will last a long time" and engulfed herself in extracurricular activities on campus, such as the Kindness Club. During the cross country season this fall, Scanlon became an accomplished runner and finished the season with a 5K time of about 26 minutes! Scanlon surprised herself with her improvement and dedication. In addition to her newfound love of running, Scanlon enjoys spending time with friends and "talking about life." Scanlon, however, also loves to discuss deeper topics and learn about others' different



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHO
Monica He '12

upbringings and outlooks. Her radiating and contagious smile has lit up the campus, even in the cold winter months.

Monica He '12, always adorned with a bow and a bright smile, truly loves being a Pelican and has embraced all opportunities presented to her. For example, He challenged herself by trying out for lacrosse for the first time last year, and by stepping outside her comfort zone, she developed a newfound strength and confidence. He remarks that "at the end of the season I could throw and catch and be a pretty good defender. Coach Bobbi Moran surely knows how to inspire you to do your best and encourage you when you make progress." In addition to lacrosse, He plays squash and takes pride in her recent win against Taft, where she persevered through five difficult matches for the win. Through her involvement with the math team, Model United Nations, and Foreign Policy Association, He continues to welcome new hurdles.

If you notice anyone completing especially kind acts on campus or want to nominate someone to be featured, please contact Kindness Club presidents Rachel Rosenblatt, Elise Petracca, and Katie Shea.

Love,
The Kindness Club.

YMUN 2011

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Other committees included DISEC, represented by Sarah Patrick '11, Kelsey Champagne '11, Teddy Black '11, and Jaime Neikrie '13; the World Bank, represented by Cally Moran '12; SPECPOL, represented by John Patrick '15 and Fred Mun '15; and the United Nations Environmental Program, represented by Mae Stover '12 and Sara Kase '12, who debated deforestation and poverty in forest-dependent places.

Yale Day was an amazing opportunity for students to explore the campus. Monica He '12, representing the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, said, it "was great...because I got the chance to walk around the campus, attend a biology class, and eat lunch in the Yale dining hall."

And Loomis Chaffee was certainly well-represented, with five students winning awards at the conference's conclusion: Dao, Jackie Mishol '11, Shapir, Taggart, and Jo Wang '13.

All returning delegates look forward to next year's conference. In the words of Neikrie: "It felt good to feel like you're solving real world problems...it was a great experience."

LC Debate Tournament

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portance and to get them to reflect on the hierarchy of values that underlie the various positions," explained tournament organizer and LC debate coach Curt Robison. "Thinking long and hard about the health, environmental and sustainability impacts of various diet choices is essential to preparing effective arguments and this sort of thinking is precisely what I wanted to encourage." The tournament is the last from which debaters in the DANEIS (Debating Association of New England Independent Schools) can qualify for the World Debating Championships, to be held in Australia this year. Christa Choy, of Phillips Andover, won the top advanced speaker prize and qualified this year.

Loomis Chaffee invited the group of schools that compete in the CDA (Connecticut Debate Association) to the tournament. In September, the LC team, interested in finding new debate opportunities, joined the CDA, a group comprised almost entirely of public schools. CDA powerhouse Joel Barlow High School, of Redding, CT, attended the LC tournament. "We love DANEIS and the Loomis tour-

ney," wrote Joel Barlow to coach Randall Smith in an e-mail to The LOG. "Thanks to having an announced topic, the arguments are more based in reality unlike Parli (the common extemporaneous, or non-prepared style of debate) which ends up being a contest of charm in support of baseless assertions."

Mark Oppenheimer '92, a Yale professor, journalist, and former LC debater, spoke to a large audience at the tournament, entertaining his listeners with stories of how the league has changed in the past 20 years and giving earnest advice to aspiring debaters. Oppenheimer recently released the memoir *Wisenheim: A Childhood Subject to Debate*, detailing his debate experiences in middle school, at LC, and at Yale. The book is dedicated to Robison. "The tournament was very exciting-I have many fond memories of debating in the chapel," he said.

As a part of the newly formed after-school debate program, debaters prepared for this tournament by writing speeches, compiling packets, and practicing speaking. Robison sees this as largely the reason for Loomis Chaffee's success at the tourna-

ment. "It was very important for our success that the school enabled students to have the time to do the preparation and research," he said. "We were able to meet regularly and test out ideas and coordinate teams of research for the topic."

Loomis Chaffee, once a league powerhouse, has been in a rebuilding phase since Robison's sabbatical. The team has seen significant growth in the past year, with Lee earning first place at the annual Yale Osterweis tournament last spring and the Kornblatt-Lee duo coming in fifth place of all advanced teams at the particularly large Hotchkiss tournament in December. The team has seen a large upsurge in interest in debate this year, and has more than doubled in size since last year. In order to keep pace with the growth, the team added new officer positions. Shaw-Faber and Han now serve as vice presidents while Lee and Kornblatt serve as co-presidents. With the advent of the afternoon debate program, debaters look forward to more success in upcoming tournaments. *Email Isaac_Kornblatt-Stier@loomis.org or YeDam_Lee@loomis.org for more info.*

Guitarists in Hubbard

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songs about a young woman waiting for marriage. Levesque again altered Western scales to lend the piece an Asian flavor, since the piece would have originally been played on Chinese instruments

such as the liuqin.

The duo's performance opened the Western-trained ears of the audience to world music encompassing the bagpipes of Ireland, to the rhythms of Cape Verde, to

the unique tonalities of China. The Loomis Chaffee Music Department looks forward to the rest of the 2010-2011 Guest Musician Series, which will continue in February.

John Amaechi

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'13.

Three days later, Loomis Chaffee welcomed psychologist, former NBA star, and motivational speaker John Amaechi, who discussed the importance of language, the necessity of overcoming stereotypes, and the need for every individual to become "full time people of principle." Amaechi used his wit both to lighten the mood of the weighty topics and to further support his assertions, often through anecdotes. One prominent example explicated Amaechi's choice to major in psychology, a decision attributed to his mother, a physician who could calm even the most agitated patient. Her ability to guide others positively made her a "Jedi" in the eyes of her *Star Wars*-obsessed seven-year-old son. Some vignettes contained much sadder details but supported Amaechi's points just as effectively. The psychologist's memories of how the cruel words of his peers about his large body when he was in high school affected him even when, 10 years later, he was a physically fit NBA star, served as a somber reminder of the power of perjorative language.

In fact, early on in the convocation, Amaechi added another dimension to the potency of words by explaining the anti-locution, or "bad mouth," scale. Starting with insults and pejorative language directed at a certain group of people, progressing to avoidance of the group in question, followed by discrimination, then subtle aggression, and finally extermination of the group, this progression of reactions has held true in multiple situations throughout history,

including the era of the Jim Crow laws and the Holocaust. With this said, Amaechi emphasized the need to focus on the words we ourselves use, citing the often unnecessarily crude language he heard while playing for the NBA and numerous other examples from his life.

In addition to his aphorism that words are "footprints in wet cement," Amaechi also emphasized the importance of the assertion of Dr. King that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," expounding the need to fight all prejudices, not just the popular "cause du jour." He advocated living the life of a "full-time person of principle", and not only provided insight into the implications of this but also included methods for fulfilling this goal. Some strategies involved changing one's overall outlook, like treating the world as though it were made of something fragile, like cardboard. Others involved less drastic measures, such as using social referencing, brief facial expressions of disapproval, to dissuade peers from using derogatory slurs.

The question and answer session following Amaechi's presentation served as a fitting conclusion to Amaechi's convocation; as he answered questions, he tied together and reinforced many of his prior assertions. Details about his experiences as an openly gay male in a society brimming with stereotypes further brought to light the need for more care in social interactions, and fully revealed the inherent necessity for us all to strive to be full-time people of principle.