

# Loomis Chaffee Log

OCTOBER 21, 2011

www.lclog.org

## COLLEGE FAIRS DRAW MIXED REVIEWS

The length of lines and 'speed-shopping' nature of the fairs have drawn fire from some students.

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## IN THE NEO, AN AQUATIC SET

For the fall play *Metamorphoses*, an actual pool of water is being constructed on the NEO stage.

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## TAKING DOWN THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

Jamie Neikrie '13 on why the law is not only immoral, but financially irresponsible.

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## VARSITY WATER POLO GAINS STRENGTH

Boys' varsity water polo seeks a spot in end-of-season tournament play for the first time in years.

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## Task force takes 'AIM' at diversity

BY LINDSAY GABOW '12  
Managing Editor

At a convocation on Friday, October 14, Loomis Chaffee welcomed the Board of Trustees, along with Mrs. Parada, director of multicultural affairs, to unveil the school's new diversity task force. Christopher Norton '76, chairman of the Board, assembled a committee consisting of Pauline Chen '82, trustee and chair of the Task Force; Betsy Conger, science teacher; Al Freihofer '69, trustee; Jim Jubrey, foreman in maintenance; Mary Liscinsky, dean of student life and senior girls; Erby Mitchell, associate head for enrollment and Reginald Paige Sr., parent and trustee.

The task force announced its intention to take 'AIM' -- an assessment of inclusivity and multiculturalism -- at LC in order to better understand how diversity affects LC. Chen noted that the people of Loomis have always made decisions exercising "the

intangible values of courage, love, mercy and kindness to others." According to the task force, student diversity is key to fueling these decisions.

The task force emphasized the notion that diversity appears in aspects other than race. Gender, religion, political views, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability and disability, and age must all be taken into account. Mrs. Parada emphasized that experiencing a diverse environment allows all individuals to learn outside the classroom, especially since exposure to backgrounds is one of the highlights of the experiences offered by boarding schools. Creating an environment in which students encounter as many of these cultures as possible is one of several goals of the diversity task force.

The diversity task force is taking much of its inspiration from the Loomis Chaffee's mission

AIM, PAGE 3



Loomis Chaffee varsity quarterback Stephan Turner '12 evades Deerfield players at Homecoming.

JAHEWAN KIM '13 / LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

HOMECOMING 2011 | LOOMIS 27 / DEERFIELD 21

## Football program rises from the ashes

### Wins over Andover, Hotchkiss, Exeter, Deerfield

BY SIOBHAN REID '12  
Opinion Editor

Four score and sixteen years ago, Head of School Nathaniel Horton Batchelder brought forth on this Island a football team conceived in determination and dedicated to the pursuit of interscholastic athletic dominance. The fierce team averaged less than 140 lb. on the line, but through sheer tenacity and, as Charles Pratt '24 put it, "quite a strategist"

for a coach, the players began a tradition of excellence, accomplishing a perfect record in 1918.

In the second half of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first, the Loomis Chaffee football program struggled. 1960 marks the last time the Pelicans boasted an undefeated record. From 1979 to 2011, Loomis failed to begin any season with three consecutive wins. But, this year is different. This year

the record currently stands at 4-0-0 and the future looks bright for the Maroon, having already defeated Andover Academy, the Hotchkiss School, Exeter Academy, and Deerfield Academy. Almost 100 years later, Loomis Chaffee football is still living up to Nathaniel Horton Batchelder's vision for the team.

Our current squad of Pelicans arrived for preseason on August 30 and promptly began

FOOTBALL, PAGE 3

## StuCo proposal would split student body into 'houses'

BY ALEX SHIRLEY '12  
Staff Writer

To facilitate school spirit and to bridge the perceived gap between boarders and day students, Loomis Chaffee is considering the concept of a housing system. The proposed model has been likened by students to the housing system mentioned in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, because both feature four competing groups into which new students will be divided. Throughout the year, house-sponsored events and interschool competitions would ideally encourage students who would not ordinarily interact to work together and bond with one another.

Student opinions regarding the house system vary, with sentiments of approval and disapproval being expressed in equal quantities. Skeptics worry that competitions between houses, intended to encourage bonding within the groups, would ultimately divide the student body as a whole by escalating into feuds. Some students also expressed concern that house system could potentially dilute the bonds formed within dormitories, and that events organized by the various houses could become mandatory and add further stress to busy schedules.

Proponents of the house system, however, are undaunted by these concerns.

HOUSE SYSTEM, PAGE 2



IZZY KORNBLOTT '12 / LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

A goodbye party was held for Jim Yocius, the longtime head of LC's physical plant engineering shop, who left LC last week.

A FOND FAREWELL

## Honor code proposed in StuCo

LOG STAFF REPORT

A new student honor code has been proposed in the Student Council. The latest draft of the code is brief and concise:

"As a Loomis Chaffee student, I pledge to:

(L)ead with integrity and honor

(C)hampion a community built upon respect for others and myself"

The goal of the honor code, its proponents say, is to promote the values of honesty, integrity, community and respect. "We expect that the honor code will add some implicit expectations by which to live on the Island," said Student Council president Lindsay Gabow '12.

The idea for the code origi-

nally came from Caitlin Farrell '14, who thought of it during preseason this year. It has since been championed by a number of StuCo representatives, including president Gabow.

The current wording of the code is not expected to change significantly, as it has already received the support of much of the Council. Its length, in particular, has earned it praise. "We really want something that echoes in the minds of members of the community. It is very challenging to remember a 10 line honor code; such a code would most likely be very superficial, excessive and redundant," said Gabow.

Though no date is set in stone for a StuCo vote, the code is likely to pass on to the deans without issues.

## School web site gets a new look

BY ALEX SMITH '14  
Staff Writer

On Monday, October 17, a large-scale redesign of the Loomis Chaffee web site was officially launched in an effort to further display the school's culture online in a modern, streamlined manner. The new modifications were made in the hopes of improving the user interface of the site, while still retaining its basic structure.

Storyboarding of the new web site began in July and Mary Forrester, director of public information, along with the help of graphic designer, has been working since then to create the best web site possible. "In some ways, redesigns are harder than building a web site from scratch. Changes can't be made in the new layout because we still have to publish things in the old one. It's like living in a house that's being renovated," she said.

The challenges, the new design incorpo-



The new home page

PHOTO COURTESY LOOMIS CHAFFEE

rates new components such as a thumbnail feature that allows viewers to scan through the various pictures on the home page. Ms.

Forrester explained, "We got great feedback on the rotating pictures on the home

WEB REDESIGN, PAGE 2



## Housing system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The question of ‘Will we just create a new divide?’ arises often,” said Alyssa Reamy ‘13, who, along with Rekha Kennedy ‘13, is spearheading the committee to create the house system. “Lawrenceville and other schools have assured us that, if dealt with properly, the house system can be great thing for school pride, tradition, and relationships of the Island. A person has the choice to have fun and act sportsmanlike, or to become

Inspiration for this system has been found mostly in British primary schools, with some American schools also making the list. The big difference between this traditional model and Loomis Chaffee’s proposed system is the day student factor. “We’re actually looking to strengthen the relationship between boarders and day students. It’s one of the many reasons we don’t want to affiliate the houses with specific dorms.

“The goal is not to demol-

*“A little bit of friendly competition can be a good thing -- look how things like Kent Day bring us all closer together.” -- Alyssa Reamy ‘13*

more extreme. But I’m confident that students at LC are more than capable of dealing with competition maturely,” she said.

The committee also hopes that the house system will instill a sense of school pride, a sentiment they hope to nurture with the addition of a point system as well.

“A point system, in which each house can gain points based on academic excellence, artistic pursuits, community service and even fundraising, could be a friendly way to boost the enthusiasm and drive of the students,” she said. Points would not be deducted, and the house with the most points would win a ‘house cup’ of sorts. “A little bit of friendly competition can be a good thing - look how things like Kent Day bring us all closer together,” said Reamy.

The houses would compete in a number of friendly competitions. Among these events would be a school-wide field day of small contests, which would replace classes on one spring Friday and challenge the houses to raise points and have fun.

ish dorm pride, per say, but just to bring out a new way to connect on campus,” said Reamy. To do this, the allocation of students to the four different houses, each with about 165 members, would be random. Day students would be involved alongside their boarding peers, a feature the proposal’s proponents say would create well-rounded houses and school pride.

The proposal takes much inspiration from LC history. “Loomis itself used to have a housing system, and we’re looking to trace back to our old roots,” said Reamy. There were in fact two house systems, both of which date back before the merging of the Loomis Institute and the Chaffee School in 1970. The Loomis Institute had three houses (Ludlow, Wolcott and Allyn), while the smaller Chaffee School down the road had two (the Greyhounds and the Pelicans). When the two schools united, they formally abolished both sets of houses, though it seems that today, more than forty years later, the tradition may yet rise again.

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## Cat Connection helps cats, engages students

BY HARRIET CHO ‘14

Layout Editor

Starting this term, Loomis Chaffee is offering a new community service activity at the Connecticut Cat Connection in Windsor. For two hours every Monday, Pelican volunteers help feed, nurse and attend to approximately 80 cats who have been rescued from various dangers and are currently under the protection of this small organization.

For cats that are not fit for family life due to age or physical handicap, the Cat Connection provides shelter, medical treatment and special care. Many of the cats that are brought to the shelter require both medical attention and a period of social adjustment before they can be available for adoption. The organization also contributes to Connecticut safety by promoting spaying and neutering to help control cat overpopulation, and by encouraging owners to buy microchips for their pets, making it possible for owners to track the

location of their pet.

A number of these felines have entered the homes of Loomis Chaffee faculty members. Physical trainer Jean Sapula recently adopted one such cat, August, from the Connection. “He is such a sweetheart,” she said. “Whenever he does something funny, that just makes my day!” On weekends, Ms. Sapula also provides

location of their pet. “He is such a sweetheart,” she said. “Whenever he does something funny, that just makes my day!” On weekends, Ms. Sapula also provides

do thought that we ought to get LC students involved as well,” she noted. Most of these cats were abandoned, neglected, or abused prior to joining the shelter. The Cat Connection takes in as many cats as possible and provides them shelter, medical treatment, vaccinations, spay/neutering, and, most importantly, attention. Furthermore,

the Cat Connection is the only no-kill shelter in the area, which means that it does not euthanize the animals in its care unless it is medically necessary.

“Since [learning about the Cat Connection], I started paying attention to the organization,” Ms. Mager said, and the LC Community Service Organization encourages students to do the same.

Volunteer opportunities with Cat Connection range from basic animal care (cleaning cages, feeding, etc.) to providing nonphysical

care, such as playing with felines and providing attention for kittens. Students generally volunteer once weekly.

If you are interested in supporting the Cat Connection, contact Ms. Sapula (Jean\_Sapula@loomis.org).



Cats lounge in front of a large window at the Connecticut Cat Connection on Poquonock Avenue in Windsor. PHOTO COURTESY HARTFORD COURANT

transportation for students who are interested in the CT Cat Connection, but are too busy during school days.

English teacher Erinrose Mager is another faculty member who supports this organization. “Ms. Sapula had mentioned the Cat Connection in passing last year, and Ms. Lombar-

## Web redesign

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

page but a lot of people didn’t know they could actually scroll through the pictures so we wanted to fix that.”

Changes were also made to capture the attention of users with even the shortest of attention spans. “With web sites, there’s a thirty second rule, you have thirty seconds to grab a viewer’s attention. In thirty seconds they should know who you are, what you do, what you want them to do, and allow them to be able to find what they want easily,” said Ms. Forrester.

A new tab has been added to the home page site to allow clubs, activities and teams to be able to quickly advertise their programs and allow their messages to reach people. “It’s

‘open real-estate’ for people to promote whatever they want,” Ms. Forrester said.

Beyond the new features, the latest version of the web site has also made changes to improve the efficacy of the old features. A ‘log on’ button has been added to the top of the home page to make it easier for students and faculty to get into the site.

The new site, which launched on Monday, October 17, debuted to a generally positive reaction from both students and faculty.

“For some people the web site is a person’s first look at the school, it really is our front door,” said Ms. Forrester. “And the thing that’s so powerful about it is that you can flip through and really just see kids being kids.”

## CAMPUS LENS



A wide-angle perspective on the Grubbs Quadrangle

IZZY KORNBLATT ‘12 / LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

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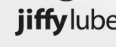
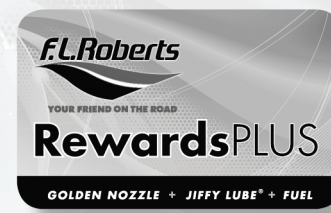
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Science department makes new acquisition

Students can expect to see a new piece of machinery in one of Clark Center for Science and Mathematics's laboratories. Space previously used to house a skeleton will be replaced with a BSL-2 hood, a special chamber designed to create a sterile work environment for science projects.

The current set of hoods in the science center are basic fume hoods, tools used primarily for chemistry. They operate by creating negative pressure within the compartment, pulling away

dangerous chemicals. The new hood, however, creates positive pressure within the compartment, pushing air out and creating a sterile environment within the hood.

The BSL-2 hood cost \$3,500 and was purchased from a used science equipment retailer.

The purchase comes just two years after the entire center underwent a \$15 million renovation, largely an effort to upgrade outdated technology.

## Trustees convene for fall meetings

The Loomis Chaffee trustees visited the Island from October 14 to October 15 to convene for their fall meetings. The general session occurred on Saturday, where LC representatives of all major facets of Loomis life updated the trustees on changes occurring on campus, and trustees representing their own committees updated everyone else on external changes.

The trustees were very pleased about changes made in avenues like student life, like the initiative to reassess the dress code, the new faculty council

members, and changes in the college office. Several older Loomis alumni on the board were pleased about the Student Council's 'house system' ideas, as this system was used at the Loomis Institute and the Chaffee School.

Overall, LC's budget is in very good shape, given the state of the economy as a whole. Several of the trustees hope to allocate some money to a new dormitory. This is part of the initiative to alter the proportion of boarding students to day students.

## CORRECTIONS

## September 30 Issue

In "Meet the new faculty" (page 5), Issa Shimamoto, a new member of the math department, was incorrectly referred to with the pronoun "his."

In "For many Asian students, a race for better academic performance" (pages 3) the quotation "[Current Asian parents] didn't have all the freedom and options the younger generation has today; their only path to success was the books," was not properly attributed to Dan Chan '12.

In "LC to reconsider dress code, homework policy" (page 1), a member of the new dress code committee was misidentified. The sixth student member is Dionna Rivers '13, not Julia Campbell '13.

Ever notice a factual error in the Log? Tell us about it! E-mail [log@loomis.org](mailto:log@loomis.org). You can also find corrections at [www.lclog.org/corrections](http://www.lclog.org/corrections).

## College fairs draw mixed reviews

BY GRACE DENNY '13

ALEX LAFRANCE '12

Staff Writer & News Editor

Consisting of 150 colleges spread across two nights, and upwards of 350 students attending, the annual Loomis Chaffee college fair is the handiwork of the school's College Guidance Office. This event, along with individual visits from approximately 30 other institutions, is designed to inform and edify students about options for secondary education past high school; however, the effectiveness of these events is subject to dispute in the student body.

Upperclassmen have expressed much frustration toward these events, citing how college fairs often encroach on time that could otherwise be used for homework.

Spreading the college fair across two nights has also perplexed a number of students. "I feel like college nights...don't feature enough colleges. I feel like if we just had one big night with tons of colleges in both [Erickson and Olcott] gyms, it would be easier to really talk to and get a feel for the college reps," said Dakota Hunter '13.

Other students, like Elizabeth Freeman '13, feel oppositely, saying that sheer number of colleges can seem daunting. "I often find myself a bit overwhelmed...blindly navigating a sea of possibilities," she said. "Filling out cards is easy, but having a conversation with the college representative can be quite challenging, [and] it's an intimidating process."

Even Hunter admitted that the college nights "feel a little like speed dating, as we have to gather as much information about colleges as we can in one to two minutes."

Victoria Yang '12 also expressed dissatisfaction with the length of lines, saying that the duration of the wait did not justify the information gleaned from speaking with a college representative.

The types of schools present have also caused disgruntlement among students. Liberal arts colleges are a popular choice for Loomis graduates, and the majority of colleges exhibited at the college fair fit into this category; however, a number of LC scholars would like to see more large universities featured. "I want to see some big state schools. I'm talking more around 20,000 [students], and...more science/engineering schools," said Payge Kerman '13.

These complaints have all been vocally expressed by the student body, though a number of students do favor the college nights. "The college fair is great for two types of people- the person who already has a rough idea of where they would like to apply and the person who cannot differentiate between Yale University and Occidental College," Alyssa Reamy '13 said.

Catherine Dunlavey '13 said that the events "are a great opportunity to begin to understand the options that we have," and Elizabeth Freeman noted that in spite of the nights' drawbacks, the college fair "has a lot of potential."

A number of seniors who have attended the college nights two years in a row have called these events useful. As Zach Breen '12 said, "[Y]ou can gain valuable information which in some cases may be make-or-break for a college you've heard little or nothing about."

Many seniors who are already immersed in the college admissions process contend that the college nights provide an opportunity for demonstrated interest as well, although Kayla Coley '12 did note that the college fair, while a worthwhile endeavor, would do well to include more schools that track such interest.

Based on the quantity of student grievances, a number of opportunities for positive change exist for the college fair; however, these grievances aside, the college nights are generally well received, and are considered by many to be well worth the time.

## Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two-a-day practices. Not yielding to the adversity of the physical labor, the sweltering heat or the nagging mosquitoes, the boys proved their mettle and formed a cohesive unit. "The leadership and dedication of this year's upperclassmen and postgraduates is incredible," said Head Coach Chuck Reid. "I've never seen a team bond as quickly as this one did."

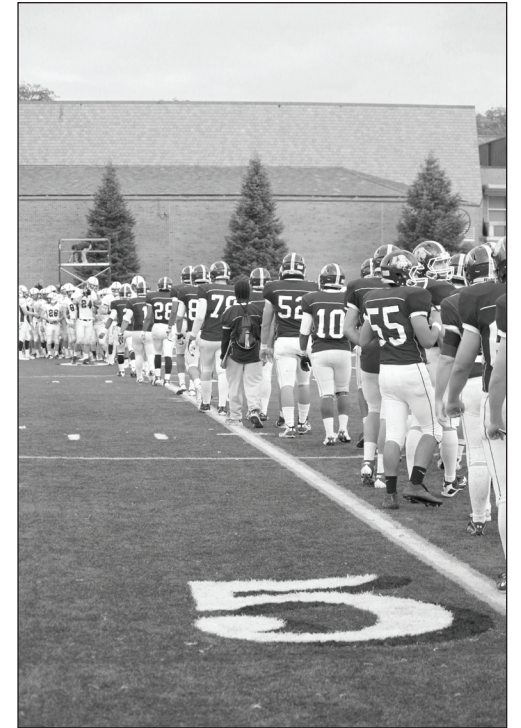
Having raced each other to push weighted sled or flip tires down-field, competitions at evening practices has facilitated the squad's solidarity and fueled resolve. "Playing for LC Football is one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done. It's a great day to be a Pelican," said Daniel Wade '13.

After the debut 1915 season, when the Loomis Institute maintained a respectable 3-4-1 record, Mr. Batchelder attributed the young and inexperienced team's successes to "a fine team spirit that [he had] seldom seen equaled" and predicted that "it will be many a day before we see better spirit and comradeship than that of the Loomis 1915 team." The 2011 Loomis Chaffee football team definitely embodies Mr. Batchelder's vision of accord, manifested through the new motto and mind-set, "big team, little me." Players are expected to maintain high grades, to demonstrate polite manners, such as removing one's hat in the dining hall, and to involve themselves in the Loomis Chaffee community. Selfish behaviors and personal irresponsibility, both on and off the turf, have no place on the team. The program has certainly taken this year's theme, "doing the right thing," to heart. As new coach Elliott Dial remarked, experienced players "are setting an example for younger players."

Innovation, repetition and hard work have also served the Pelicans well. Creative, gutsy

plays such as the 'lonesome polecat' surprise opponents and challenge their ability to adapt. Practicing basic yet crucial plays like 'iso' can often take entire practices, but the results become evident on Saturdays. Managers, coaches and players dedicate hours upon hours to film digitalization and review, strength and agility work, practice and game planning. All this effort will help Loomis football in its coming contests with Avon Old Farms School, Trinity-Pawling School, Choate Rosemary Hall School, and, finally, Kent School.

Giddy up.



JAEHWAN KIM '13 / LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Loomis Chaffee football shakes hands with the Deerfield team after winning 27-21 at Homecoming



ALEXANDRA MUCHURA

Fans bow down to the glory of LC football at Homecoming

## AIM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

statement. "The acceptance and affirmation of the value of diversity within our community reflects our mission statement's call to foster both our best selves and the common good. We become better people when we learn from and embrace others around us who have different experiences and perspectives from our own," said Mrs. Parada. "Not only

can we as students learn more from each other, but we can grow and mature in the process."

Mrs. Parada said that AIM, the task force's initiative, is comprised of two parts: school self-assessment and school climate survey. Both of these have

already been implemented this year, not only at Loomis, but at several other independent schools throughout New England. The AIM system was developed by the National Association

*"We become better people when we learn from and embrace others around us who have different perspectives and experiences from our own." - Elizabeth Parada*

of Independent Schools.

The task force promises to conduct self-assessment, the first part of the initiative, through avenues like student life, school publications, parent and alumni involvement on campus, school leadership, teaching and learn-

ing, and general school statistics. The survey, the second part of AIM, will be conducted via the web, and will be administered throughout seven distinct constituencies — students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, parents, and alumni. The intended schedule involves discovery meetings and the Climate Survey occurring during the fall and winter of this academic year, a review and an analysis

of findings, the preparation of the report, during the spring of this academic year, and, finally, a presentation of the report to the trustees and to the LC community in the summer and fall of 2012.



## The inspiration of the moment

BY JI HEE YOON '13  
Staff Writer

Walking down the hallways of the Richmond Art Center, one is likely to gape at the student artwork displayed on the walls. Near the end of the hallway, next to the drawing studio, one suddenly becomes mesmerized by the three pieces composed solely of lines varying in thickness and concavity that come together to form a whole image. Immediately searching for the creator of these unique pieces of art, one comes across

### FEATURED ARTIST NICOLE CHO '12 DRAWING

a post-it-sized paper below the pieces that reads: Nicole Cho, class of 2012.

Looking at Nicole's works, one begins to wonder where she gets her source of creativity. Despite the fact that finding new ideas often can be a problem for artists, Nicole says her inspirations come from everyday life. "I absorb the emotions of daily life and try to observe little details that everyone seems to overlook. I gain inspiration from those hidden clues." Ranging from simple pen drawings of people's movements to vivid charcoal pieces portraying still life, her pieces certainly do depict everyday normal life in a colorful and captivating way.

Yet Nicole also finds inspiration for her work from within herself. "The biggest influence on my artwork would be my personality. Obviously, as I grow and learn more, my pieces will undoubtedly change in ways I do not know yet. As for now, I would say that my impulses and sporadic nature pretty much dominate most of my artwork." Continuing with her notion of uncertainty, Nicole asserts that art is a limitless subject that can be produced by anyone who wishes to express his or her thoughts and emotions. "I feel the strongest relations with the pieces I produce spontaneously, especially when I feel incredibly happy, upset, angry, calm, and so on," she said.

The piece of artwork that best represents Nicole's description of her style is a simple black and white still life charcoal drawing of her wallet and bag. "The objects represent the things I carry with me everywhere I go. They are casually thrown onto the table, about to fall off. This piece illustrates my exhaustion towards the end of a tiring day as I carelessly hurl my bag and wallet aside," she said. Although a drawing of commonplace objects could be easily

overlooked, she explains that the objects in the drawing encompass and symbolize the emotions she felt that day: "All day, the bag and the wallet acted as a reminder to my busy day, but they were at once abandoned as soon as I sought for a different object: the bed. So to describe the contrast between my business and my laziness, I gave a big contrast to the drawing as a whole [by using only the colors black and white]."

Nicole plunged into the field of art fairly recently, during the summer before her sophomore year. Despite spending two short years in art, Nicole quickly rose as a superstar in the Loomis Chaffee art program. Her peers and teachers characterize her as a "brilliant artist" and speak highly of her masterful creations.

Acknowledging Nicole's illustrious pieces, junior Molly Johnson gushed about Nicole's artwork after viewing this year's Emerging Artists Exhibition: "I love Nicole! Having taken Drawing I last year, I truly appreciate and admire her amazing talent. I'm sure if she had drawn on her wall as a kid, no one would have gotten mad at her because it would've probably been a masterpiece."

As a student who wishes to continue her artistic career, Nicole plans to pursue her passion for art in college. But while here at Loomis Chaffee, her works inspired by spontaneity and ordinary life will continue to dazzle viewers and elicit creative responses in viewers' discovering of the meanings behind each of her pieces. Loomis Chaffee's all-star artist is not the pointillist Cezanne, the post-impressionist Van Gogh, or the Cubist Picasso, but is the spontaneity-loving Nicole Cho.



GRAPHIC COURTESY NICOLE CHO

A charcoal drawing by featured artist Nicole Cho '12

## In the NEO, an aquatic set

BY ELIZABETH FREEMAN '13  
Staff Writer

Of all the costumes, backdrops, props and furniture that have been incorporated in the NEO's vast, varied history, nothing is as unique and unexpected as the most recent installment: a pool.

On the NEO stage, a rough wooden frame currently stands with a hole measuring seven by twelve feet and eight inches deep in the center of the stage. This is the rough set up, for what is soon to become a pool with actual water, and an interesting aspect for the fall play, *Metamorphoses*, premiering in the NEO on October 25.

Everyone in the theatre, from the technical staff to the ac-

mension of the stage. I think that this set really makes the best of the deepness of the NEO stage, and it provides a lot of room for creativity."

Steve Mountzoures, the technical designer for the set, described the making and future use of the pool as "a creative process." He and a few other students are currently building the set and manufacturing the workings of the pool. He said that the process heavily relies on "communication, strategy and, most importantly, safety."

Not only is the pool a challenge to make, but it also proves challenging for the actors since wet clothing from entering the pool affects their movement on stage. Schoen, however, is confident about the actors' abilities to overcome this obstacle.

"I think all of the actors will have acclimated to the pool by the time opening night comes around, and I am looking



The set under construction in the NEO

LAURA PADDOCK '14

tors, is buzzing with excitement about the installment.

"It adds a special element to the play, and is sure to prove fun and exciting to work with," said Abigail Adams '12, who described the pool and the entire process as having "a life of its own."

"The pool will add a stunning visual image for the audience, as well as create a more mythological world and provide a brilliant addition to all the scenes," muses actor Quinn Schoen '14. "During most of the scenes in the play, the actors will use the pool, so this enthusiasm is a very good thing!" added Schoen, who is optimistic about the pool's contributions towards the play.

The literal depiction of a pool and its involvement in the performance opens a door for creativity on both the actors' and technical directors' part. Kaara Vasquez '12 gushes, "I love the set so far. It has a lot of levels, which add to the di-

forward to the addition," said Schoen.

Behind the scene, the backstage will be whirling with activities as keeping the play running amidst the dripping wet clothes and soaked actors is no easy task. A duplicate of each costume will be kept backstage in case the original costumes endure water damages. With this project's complexity, the technical staff will be kept on its toes without any shortage on backstage jobs.

To create this set, the NEO had to expand its resources. The usually tight-knit theatre group has expanded its preparation process by involving the physical plant with the mechanics, physics and construction of the pool. In most years, the theater usually only calls upon the dance teacher for the winter musical. However, with the potential obstacles that the pool poses, the dance teacher is already on set helping actors enhance their movement on stage for each scene.

Although the pool definitely steals the spotlight, the rest of the set is also definitely worth mentioning. As Adams puts it, "the pool, while a focal point of the set, is not the only interesting aspect." The set also boasts a glorious sky-drop background, dotted with meticulously hand-painted clouds, and an upper level on stage that symbolizes heaven. Even a fake pool will be included in one of the scenes, when the regular sized pool is not big enough for all the actors to fit in.

Although everyone fully acknowledges that the pool does set a high standard for the performance, they are positive of the cast meeting and even surpassing expectations.



Students work on the *Metamorphoses* set

LAURA PADDOCK '14



# Brushing up the library

## New head librarian Eric Styles has big plans for Brush

BY ANNA PEARCE '13  
Staff Writer

Meet Eric Styles, the new head librarian of the Katharine Brush Library. Since moving into an apartment in Carter over the summer, Mr. Styles has been hard at work in the library. Previously a librarian at Hotchkiss, Mr. Styles now finds himself in a new leadership role. After the retirement of head librarian Elaine DeVoss last year, there were big shoes to fill, but Mr. Styles has adjusted to his new job with great ease. "Managing an entire department has been a major adjustment," said Mr. Styles, "but if I didn't have any prior dorm experience it would have been a big shock."

Just a mere few months after starting his job here, Mr. Styles has already drafted a plan to modify the library. One major change that has already been implemented is the addition of new staff. "We hired four new staff members this year, a librarian and some entirely new positions. Plus myself!" said Mr. Styles. Another more recent change to the library is the atmosphere, a major topic of concern to Mr. Styles and the library staff. "Before, the space was kind of sterile. Now we're trying to

make the library more of a friendly environment than in the years past. We want students to feel like they can approach the librarians. [There will be] less shushing and telling them what they can't do." The library staff has also started to focus on the second floor. In previous years, the second floor was infamous for being exceptionally strict and uptight. To fix this perception while still maintaining an environment conducive to homework, the stairs leading to the second floor are no longer being roped off in the afternoon, making the second floor more inviting and available.

However, much more is in store for the future of Brush. Mr. Styles and his fellow librarians are working towards the goal of modernizing the library through updated furniture and carpets, new study locations, and a new layout to refresh the library environment. The drab furniture and outdated carpeting has set the

library behind other contemporary buildings on campus such as the Clark Center for Science and Mathematics, so it is important to the librarians to update the interior design. In addition to the new furniture, a new layout may be seen sometime in the future. "I feel like [the library] has been kind of set as a study space," said Mr. Styles, "but I think we can make it into a space where students can hang out or just read a book." By re-arranging the library, the staff hopes to increase students' comfort level and maximize group study space. Currently, there are only a handful of small rooms available for group work, but the future objective is to provide students with multiple spaces for working together. From his observations of the library, Mr. Styles sensed a disconnect between the first and second floors, and now hopes to unify the two floors to make the library more cohesive.

As for larger-scale renovations, the Brush library is on the Loomis master plan for major renovations in the foreseeable future. The refurbishing of the library would modernize and update the building, while still keeping some of the original architecture and character. "I think [the second floor] is really pretty, architecturally, [because of] the way it faces the meadows," said Mr. Styles. Some other future changes will include integrating more technology into everyday use in the library. "The goal... would be to make the library a state-of-the-art space in the realm of technology and the delivery of information." The plan is not to eliminate all books; however, the amount of physical books in the library would decrease and the "vehicle" of information would be primarily on technology. "In the end, the library space will be used less as a repository for books and more as a space for the delivery of information, research assistance, and a comfortable study space," said Mr. Styles.

Overall, the Katharine Brush Library, under the new management of Styles, is in for some big changes. Most of these changes will include altering the formally stiff environment, modernizing the library layout and renovating the entire building to make the library a more technologically advanced space.

Mr. Styles in the library



JAEHWAN KIM '13

# Staff spotlight: Carol Blaise

BY KAARA VASQUEZ '12  
Staff Writer

Bustling about the dining hall, exhibiting both precision and diligence, Carol Blaise, the production manager of the dining hall, boasts more than just agility and culinary skills; she also harbors a rich life story. In addition to working at LC, Ms. Blaise also single-handedly upholds the duties of a mother of two. Both her daughter and son, Carrie, 34, and Donald, 31, have served in the marines for four years, following in their father's footsteps. Donald, the first of her children to enter the marines, was stationed in Hawaii on September 10, 2001. Just one day after entering the marines, Donald awoke the next morning to the startling news of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"This was his first time away from home,"

When prompted about the interesting moments in her life, she laughs and said with humility, "I don't know what to say! I'm not a very interesting person." A modest statement, but an inaccurate one.

In addition to her children's service in the marines, Ms. Blaise had to cope with the death of her husband in 2002. Although the death of her husband and her children's absence filled her with grief, she viewed the experiences as an opportunities to grow and better herself. Ms. Blaise said, "I had to tell myself: 'you're on your own. He's gone, they're gone, and you've gotta take care of yourself.'" During her husband's illness, she saw an ad in the newspaper that offered an open job position at Loomis. Due to Loomis's conveniently close location, she seized the opportunity to live closer to home in order to care for her husband more attentively. "I was able to get back here for a reason," she

*Donald, the first of Ms. Blaise's children and a marine, was stationed in Hawaii on September 10, 2001. Just one day after entering the marines, he awoke to news of the September 11 terrorist attacks.*

Ms. Blaise said. "He intended to go in for training and discipline. To go in and find out the next day that we're at war? It was ... wow." A heavy sigh escapes the ever-energetic Ms. Blaise as she recalls her experience of having her children in the marines. She said that "[the experience] was tough and stressful. My kids could call me periodically, but not that often. I mean, you watch the news and you worry about their safety and... I guess you could say that I lived by the telephone."

As a youth, Ms. Blaise attended culinary school and subsequently worked in several restaurants in Hartford. "I was always in the kitchen cooking something," she said. However, she reflects that restaurants were not always compatible to her schedule as a mother. After all, restaurant hours are demanding and are often at inconvenient times. So in addition, her work repertoire also includes working as a food production manager both at the University of Hartford (2000) and Wesleyan University (2002). When asked about the differences between Loomis and college, she responds with certainty, "College kids are different... Here, it's a close-knit community. Everyone knows each other, the faculty are close, and it is kind of like being with my own kids."

said.

A family-oriented person, Ms. Blaise hopes to be a grandmother and to keep up with family traditions, which she believes strongly in. She also believes that getting her kids into sports was among the best decisions she's ever made. "You knew coaches, you knew the kids, and you knew the kid's parents. Because high schools require you to keep a certain G.P.A. to play sports, my children's involvement in sports kept them busy, motivated and out of trouble," she said.

A reminiscent smile floating complacently on her face, she said, "You have to realize and appreciate who's around you. Every family has its ins and outs. Think about it because when things change and they're gone, you'll always think of woulda-coulda-shoulda's."

Her son Donald is currently and is expecting his first child. Meanwhile, Ms. Blaise's daughter, Carrie, who has served as a softball coach at Loomis, is now currently getting her fiscal education degree.. After their suspenseful lives in the marines, they are both ready to resume normal lives, much to the pleasure and relief of their mother. "Parenting is the best," Ms. Blaise concluded. "I wouldn't change it for the world."

# Phage club brings virology research to campus

BY XIN WEN '14  
Staff Writer

Walking into a seemingly empty Clark Center for Science and Mathematics on a Friday evening or a Sunday morning, one will be surprised to find a group of dedicated students working on experiments in Room 115, or "Nerdville," as they jokingly call it. Known as the Pelican Phage Hunters, this group is Loomis's very own student researchers.

Phage, short for Bacteriophage, is a virus that only infects bacteria, and is the object of study for the Phage Hunters. "We are looking for phages that are new to science," explained Simon Holdaway, the biology teacher who founded the group, "that have never been characterized by anyone, anywhere, before us." This genetic research project was originally created by Professor Graham Hatfull at the University of Pittsburg to familiarize his undergraduate students with laboratory research. After learning of this, Mr. Holdaway thought, "If college students can do that, why can't high school students?" So two years ago, he recruited passionate biology students from the Biology Advanced classes, including current co-presidents Erin Currey '12, Krishna Ragunathan '12, Alexander Lafrance '12 and Abigail Adams '12, to

start this research.

The procedure for their research is a long and complex process. They first obtain soil samples from a wide variety of locations; backyards, the cross country course, the cow pond, beaches of the Caribbean, Japanese riverbanks and anywhere else where samples can be obtained. From there, they screen the soil samples for phages by trying to infect bacteria. If infection does occur and phages are found, they use molecular techniques to clone the phage DNA and send it to Yale University for sequencing. By comparing the DNA sequence to an existing database, they can determine whether or not the virus they isolated is a new, undiscovered phage. "If it is, we get to come up with a Latin, binomial name for the phage and send it to a national phage data bank," stated Mr. Holdaway, "and imagine being able to fill out your college application and casually dropping the fact that you have a bacteriophage named after yourself."

However, being a genetic researcher is not always as exciting as it seems. The Phage Hunters had to overcome various obstacles during the past year two years. Chief among the problems was money since Loomis does not provide a budget for the group. Fortunately, the science department generously let them use the project room in Clark 115 and procured all the necessary solutions and equipment. In addition, the Phage Hunters managed to fit research time into their busy schedules

by using every moment they had free periods, club meetings, all school frees and even some weekends to do the necessary work.

But despite all the extra time and hard work they spend on this project, they have yet to discover any new phages. Furthermore, after nearly two years of testing, a total of only three viruses have been isolated. Mr. Holdaway noted that real science attempts to find out and explain the unknown and requires numerous trials and errors, whereas the labs performed in science class have desired results that are predetermined - students are simply repeating the work of other people. The Pelican Phage Hunters get a chance to conduct real laboratory research as well as experience real science.

Regardless of the results of their work, the Phage Hunters view the research they do as a chance to learn and grow. Their motivation simply lies in the enjoyment of pursuing something new and undiscovered. "We day students need to drive back to campus Sunday morning. We got to love this!" said Lafrance. Finding the new phage is no longer the sole reason these students spend their Friday evenings and Sunday mornings in the project room as they perfectly illustrate one of the most important lessons at Loomis: follow your passions. And who knows? Perhaps a bacteriophage discovery is just around the corner in the next batch of soil samples.



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### STAFF EDITORIAL

## The new schedule – lunch woes

In all of the talk in recent years of big changes, reorganization and modernization at LC, one important but relatively minor point has been left out: lunch time.

The new schedules introduced last year and this year have successively cut down lunch time to now a meager 30 minutes, including passing time on both ends, on all days except Wednesdays and Saturdays. Certainly we recognize the need for a more consistent schedule, better organized community time and a later start to the school day, but those needs not come at the expense of time for eating.

The problem has been further exacerbated that the vast majority of students have lunch A, which means long lines all around and sometimes little more than five to ten minutes of actual eating time. Lunch B, on the other hand, is virtually empty.

The movement of all-school frees to directly before lunch A does little to ameliorate the problem. Most students, busy during the free with all-school events or other meetings, still end up eating lunch during their brief designated time. And having sandwiches out for grabs in the main server might ease congestion a bit, but similarly has little effect on the problem at hand.

Extending lunch by as little as five or ten minutes would give students actual time to eat and relax – time for socializing and relaxing, trivial as it may seem to some, is highly important – as well to finish an entire meal and get to class on time. An even more innocuous fix would entail switching more classes to meet first and eat lunch B.

Two years ago, Dr. James Maas, a leading sleep researching and professor of psychology at Cornell University, spoke to the entire school about the need for more sleep and a later start to the school day. Now, classes start 20 minutes later.

We don't need a food researcher to tell us that having time to eat is important. It's just common sense.

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### OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR | PAT DUNN '12

## Occupiers of Wall Street: ineffective, lacking unified goals

Revolution seems like it may be the zeitgeist of our generation. Whether it's Libya, Egypt or Tibet, rebellion is everywhere.

### WALL STREET PROTESTS

According to the Occupy Wall Street movement, this spirit of revolution has found a home on American soil. We must ask ourselves, though: is this truly the spirit of revolution, one of the tenets America was built on, or is it simply a surfeit of excess and debauchery masquerading as a civil minded cause?

Reports about Occupy Wall Street have varied wildly. On the one hand, we have the optimistic young people who make up "the 99%" and people who believe that what they are doing will truly spark economic and social reform in our country.

On the other hand, we have men like Dave, an unemployed 24-year-old with a previous arrest record, who bragged to the *New York Post*, "I got warrants, I'm running from the law. I've been smoking and drinking up here for eight days now. Every day, I wake up, and I'm [expletive] up. I need some more methadone," or girls like Sarah, a 19-year-old from the Upper West Side, quoted as saying, "It kind of makes me think of what Woodstock must have been like." It seems that for every truly devoted agent of change

there are five or more clueless individuals without even the most basic understanding of personal fiscal responsibility, not to mention government economics and capitalism. It seems that their only real goal at the Occupy Wall Street rallies is to party and have a good time.

Was this movement, with its

speech being impinged upon? Do we really have it that bad when we compare ourselves to the rest of the world? The answer to all of these questions is no.

America is going through a time of turmoil, but a true uprising requires a catalyst of a much greater magnitude than what we are currently facing.

change this perception I feel that the protestors are predestined for failure.

Finally, the lack of a unified goal for this movement is disturbing and is one further sign of its imminent failure. In my research I have yet to find one unified goal for the protestors. It seems like the protests themselves are simply a confluence of scattered ideas and an outlet for the aimless anger of all different types of people. Without a succinct and focused mission statement the chances of success for OWS are slim to none.

With all of these factors in mind I've come to see the Occupy Wall Street movement as a group of immature children who, despite their noble intentions, have no practical understanding of the institution they're trying to change. The current economic climate is not a problem to be solved by the idealistic, but by the pragmatic.

It will take hard work by the people who have been trained in the intricacies of our economy to engender any noticeable change. While some of the ideals of the movement are admirable, they remain just that, ideals. If we, the people, want change it must be brought about through the proper channels and we cannot rely on an aimless group of protestors to save us.



Protestors take to the streets in New York

PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

apparently noble intentions, doomed to failure from the start? If so, why?

Part of the problem with this attempted social coup is the current environment in America. Sure, there is an inordinate amount of people without jobs and yes, there is a feeling of dissatisfaction with the US government, but are we really facing problems worthy of revolution? Are there people being killed by the government for expressing alternative ideas? Is our freedom of

At this point the general population sees the movement as a fun diversion instead of an actual force for political change.

The perception of the average protestor certainly isn't helping the cause either. I, and most of the people I've talked to, see the protestors, even the ones who believe in the movement, as hipster-types who have been complaining about the economy and lack of jobs while sitting around not working and not looking for a job. Unless the movement is able to

### OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR | JAMIE NEIKRIE '13

## Defense of Marriage Act is financially irresponsible, outdated

On June 24, the New York state legislature passed the Marriage Equality Act by a vote of 33-29, officially legalizing same-sex marriage in New York.

### NATIONAL POLITICS

Now, New York will join the other six states and districts in the United States that allow same-sex marriage: Connecticut, Washington D.C., Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. With New York's legislation will come, no doubt, a renewed effort to introduce similar laws in the remaining states. It is clear that the gay rights movement has made considerable strides over the past decade.

Notwithstanding the issues of civil rights, the movement has other legitimate reasons relating to the necessity of gay marriage.

For starters, gay marriage can bring financial gain to state and local governments, an advantage many have overlooked when considering the issue. Revenue from marriage licenses, higher income taxes and decreases in costs for state benefit programs will save the government millions of dollars. In fact, the comptroller for New York City found that legalizing gay marriage would bring \$142 million to the city's economy and \$184 million to the state's economy over three years. In addition, legalizing same-sex marriage will increase the number of adoptions drastically, a great need considering the 100,000 children in the U.S. waiting for a family.

Finally, laws allowing gay marriage can actually minimize divorce rates. Massachusetts, which became the first state to legalize gay marriage in 2004, had the lowest divorce rate in the country in 2008. Its divorce rate

declined by 21% between 2003 and 2008. Alaska, the first state to alter its constitution to prohibit gay marriage in 1998, saw a 17.2% increase in its divorce rate. The seven states with the highest divorce rates between 2003 and 2008 all prohibited gay marriage. This apparent correlation strengthens the argument for proponents of gay marriage, especially in this time of fiscal anxiety and economic disrepair. Legalizing same-sex marriage comes with scores of other benefits, benefits that many forget to take into account when debating gay marriage.

Despite these obvious advantages, the gay rights movement has a long way to go before same-sex couples can marry in every state in the country. This is why many proponents of same-sex marriage are pushing federal action to achieve national marriage equality. Currently, federal legislature regarding gay marriage is prohibited by the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a law enacted in 1996 defining marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman. Yet the law also stipulates that states can legalize gay marriage if they see fit. Although repeated attempts to get the law repealed have failed, the number of Americans living in states that allow same-sex marriage doubled with New York's legislature, making a much more convincing argument for same-sex marriage to be a federally regulated issue, not that of the states. Besides the seven states that have legalized same-sex marriage, another twelve states recognize civil unions, which means that 42% of Americans live in states with some recognition of unions of gay and lesbian couples. The bolstered movement for gay marriage has managed to persuade some very influential figures, including New

York State Senator Mark Grisanti, whose vote gave the bill the majority it needed to become a law. Grisanti, who ran on a platform of banning same-sex marriage, said this upon voting in the affirmative: "As a Catholic, I was raised to believe that marriage was between a man and a woman. I cannot legally come up with an argument against same-sex marriage. Who am I to say that someone does not have the same rights that I have with my wife?"

Even President Obama weighed in on the debate, saying, "I have long believed that the so-called Defense of Marriage Act [DOMA] ought to be repealed." However, he later went on to say that his opposition stemmed from his belief that same-sex marriage should be a state-regulated right.

The obvious benefits that come with legalizing gay marriage are perpetually overlooked in favor of moral and spiritual ideology that dictates that marriage should be between a man and a woman. In this modern age, these archaic ideals must be abandoned in favor of a more logical and democratic approach, one that recognizes all people's right to spend the rest of their lives with whomever they want. Religion cannot dictate legal rights.

Unfortunately, this equality is blocked by an outdated law. Since 1996, society has evolved, growing more and more accepting of same-sex couples. When DOMA was passed, gay marriage wasn't strictly prohibited in every state. Now, 19 states have implemented laws legalizing civil unions, and the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy has been abolished in the military. Finally, DOMA clearly oversteps the government's purpose. What right does the federal government have to define marriage, or, more importantly, people's lifestyles?



OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR | IZZY KORNBLATT '12

# In the health care debate, a false conception of rights

A common complaint among Republicans regarding President Obama's health insurance law has been that the individual mandate is unconstitutional, and a gross violation

## NATIONAL POLITICS

of our rights. And on the surface it would appear to be so: why should the government determine what we buy? Don't we know best what it is that we need?

But a more in-depth, sophisticated analysis of the issue reveals that such a simplistic view of rights – common in Republican stands on such issues as abortion and gun ownership – is not only short-sighted but in fact actively threatening to the progress of the nation.

When a person exercises his or her "right" not to buy health insurance, hospitals and other medical institutions end up footing the bill. This free-care pool, as it is known, then

drives up the costs of care for everyone else. In 2008, hospitals provided roughly \$36 billion in uncompensated care to patients. Don't those people who do buy health insurance have a right to buy care at a reasonable price? For a number of reasons – not just the growing profit margins of health insurers – the price of health care has skyrocketed in the past ten years. It is the responsibility of the government to make sure that the highest possible number of people receive health care – a human right as undeniable as safety from criminals or basic education.

(It should also be noted that the individual mandate does not force anyone to pay out of his or her pocket for care. Various programs ensure that everyone can afford care.)

But many conservatives, entrenched in the view that any sort of restriction of individual freedoms is a threat to the constitution and America, see only the word "mandate" and balk. They would do well to understand that on a larger level, the mandate does more to guarantee rights than virtually any other law of recent years.

It is largely for this same reason that the Congressional Budget Office projects that the law will save the United States more than \$1 trillion over the next two decades. Naturally these figures have been questioned, but multiple non-partisan analyses have found them to be accurate, and even possibly conservative.

The argument that the law is simply unconstitutional and beyond Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce is entirely unjustified. The free-care pool very clearly affects interstate commerce in serious, literally life-altering ways. Constitutionality, particularly defined in terms of the founders' intent ("The founders wouldn't have wanted a health care mandate"), is just a conservative shibboleth used to batter any sort of expansion of the

federal government, even those that clearly follow the spirit of the Constitution.

A serious health care plan, like the one passed by the Obama administration, must

be based on a holistic and thoughtful view of rights that takes into account not just individual liberties but also their impact on the rights of others, both in the short-term and the long-term. It is vital that good health care be provided to Americans twenty or fifty years down the road, and in order to do that we have to tackle health care head-on, focusing on the real root issues without seeking to slash benefits.

This is an approach many Republicans have advocated in rhetoric, but when it comes time to propose real policy, what emerges are frighteningly simple-minded and indifferent plans, like Representative Paul D. Ryan's (R-WI) plan to turn Medicare into a voucher system.

To really tackle health care head-on, we must first tackle the issue of the meaning of rights. And to do that, we must understand where such simplistic views of rights originate.

It is not hard to figure out: America's identity in the world has long been the nation of freedom, where anyone can work hard and make it to the top. The glories of a free-market system and a

hands-off government were blessings to anyone arriving from repressive regimes, whether western European monarchies or, later, communist dictatorships.

And Americans have long embraced this identity with too much enthusiasm and not enough thought, often when they feel most threatened. The frightening rise of McCarthyism in the 1950s is a perfect example. With a new military superpower on the rise, and the threat of a nuclear war on the horizon, people took refuge in simplifying America to a land of pure freedom and vilifying anyone else-perceived communists.

Freedom is, of course, in principle, a fantastic thing, and America's heritage as a free country should be a source of pride. What is concerning is when we take that freedom to mean only individual liberties, and ignore the validity of other social ideas. Communism has proved a failure, but its proponents did have legitimate criticisms of a society of social classes, and they certainly did not deserve to be ruthlessly pursued and punished.

McCarthyism is a particularly egregious example of this sort of close-minded thought, but other instances of it, if less overtly alarming, are still dangerous and damaging.

In 2011, with a weak economy, doubts lingering after a recent bout of failed foreign policies and the steady rise of industry in countries like China all on the minds of Americans, such simplistic thinking about rights gives people a sort of safe haven for their need to think of America as unique and better than the rest of the world. Often this leads to a preternatural fear of any expansion of government, however reasonable.

But what has really set America apart is its com-

mitment not just to individual freedoms but to a federal government with the power to help people. The 21st century identity of America should be as a nation with thoughtful policies that guarantee rights not simplistically but holistically. The 'American Dream' is all about hard work leading to success; yet without a federal government committed to helping those at the bottom of the ladder, the dream is virtually impossible to realize.

There are, of course, some liberties that should never be abrogated: our free speech rights, for instance, or our right not to ever endure torture. Ironically, it is often liberals who defend these rights more staunchly through organizations like the ACLU. (This is not to say that the ACLU itself isn't ever guilty of simplifying the meaning of rights, just that it generally takes a better approach.)

About a month ago a federal appeals court that struck down the individual mandate (different courts have ruled differently – the issue is likely to move on to the Supreme Court) used the phrasing "breathtaking in its scope" to justify its declaring the mandate unconstitutional. It suggested that the ruling might lead to a future where the government has the power to force us to eat certain foods or make us buy certain products, suggestions tinged with a McCarthy-esque fear of communism – suggestions that reflect a fundamental misunderstanding of the law.

The truth is that a mandate that uses the federal government to guarantee reasonably priced health care to all Americans is not just some arbitrary mandate intended to abrogate our rights. Health insurance is a right – making sure every American can afford it is a far cry from an absurd and unjustified government intervention in everyday life.

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR | LINDSAY GABOW '12

## Mitt Romney: potential president, not priest

In the midst of the bipartisan excitement consuming the final weeks leading up to the GOP primaries, it seems as though many are resorting to vicious ad hominem attacks rather than legitimate criti-

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cisms. Is this truly the method by which we wish to go about weeding out the weak in preparation for 2012?

Take Republican front-runner, former governor of Massachusetts and CEO Mitt Romney.

Romney and fellow candidate Rick Perry, governor of Texas, have consistently lead most GOP polls. Romney, a fiscal conservative and social moderate, naturally appeals to the Republican establishment and to dissatisfied independents. Perry, a grassroots far-right conservative, appeals to the religious right and the Tea Party.

Based on common sense, we can safely assume that

Mitt Romney has a considerably higher chance of defeating current president Barack Obama in the 2012 elections than Rick Perry. Romney is reasonable, has business and political experience, and has already selected a group of highly qualified individuals to serve on his foreign policy team. Rick Perry has offered not much more than repetitive anti-Romney rhetoric and God-fearing assertions.

Many Perry and Obama supporters alike insist on condemning Mitt Romney's religion.

Yes, Mitt Romney is Mormon. No, he does not have multiple wives.

Mitt Romney has dedicated his campaign almost completely to the economy. His jobs plan includes tax cuts, advocates for reduced regulation, and stresses free trade.

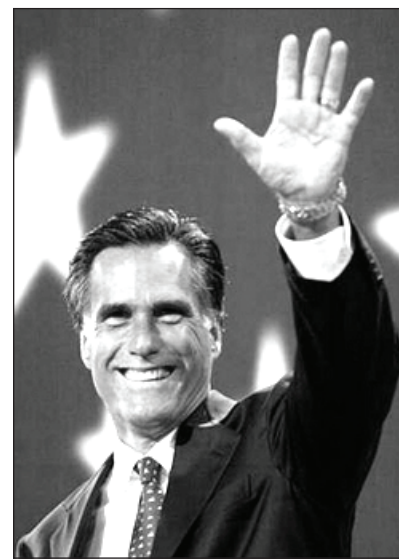


PHOTO COURTESY CELEBRITY HOUSE GOSSIP  
Mitt Romney

No doubt Romney wants to create jobs. He does not want to be your pastor.

Here is one fact we can all agree on, regardless of political viewpoint: if elected, Mitt Romney would become the United States president. Not the pope. Not the bishop. The president. The Commander-in-Chief. So why do people insist on attacking his religion? Romney has confirmed that he believes in evolution. No doubt

he believes in the concept of separation of church and state. On the other hand, Rick Perry and other GOP candidates like Michele Bachmann have devoted their campaigns to potentially offensive religious diatribes geared against gays and, to some extent, nonbelievers.

Let's face the facts for a moment. The Tea-Party oriented religious right does not comprise the majority of the country. The religious right also does not comprise the majority of eligible voters. The group of people who will sway the 2012 presidential election in either direction is the independents, who constitute 30% of all Americans. Based on the latest polls, Romney has an advantage over Obama among independents. A Pew Research Center poll featured on CNN suggests that 54% of independents would support Romney while only 41% would support Obama.

Do the math.

Mitt Romney is undeniably a very strong candidate, and the only candidate out of all GOP hopefuls who has any possibility of defeating Obama in 2012. Attacking his religion is both foolish and unwarranted. His Mormonism is of no consequence to his stances, just as former president John F. Kennedy's Catholicism was of no consequence to his, and it does not in any way detract from his vast political and business experience.

## What would Spiderman do?

I admit I was initially skeptical of this year's theme. Doing the right thing? Don't we already do the right thing? Isn't Loomis based on the concept of doing the right thing, as exempli-

### OP-ED COLUMN JEESUE LEE '12

fied by our motto? Why would we need to dedicate a whole year to doing what is right when we are already taught that from a young age? This was outrageous.

However, being the forward thinker (and opinionated writer) I am, I knew I would have to reassess my notions. A few weeks ago, a friend of mine, Loomis Joe (name has been changed), was severely reprimanded by a girl. Sounds bad? It gets worse. Not only was Loomis Joe being gentlemanly and courteous, he was also doing the right thing by opening a door for her. Yet, his good deeds were punished, and instead of getting a "thank you," he was told by the girl that she could hold the door herself. Ouch! So, clearly, in addition to *doing* the right thing, we need to remember to *recognize* the right thing. Loomis Joe had been right to open the door; it was the nice and polite thing to do. In return, the girl needed to thank him. As much as individuals

may perform kindhearted deeds, people need to remember that gratitude must be returned. After all, I personally think Loomis Joe will now think twice about opening a door for anyone, especially for a girl. Be grateful that people on campus are willing and happy to extend a helping hand.

On the same note, doing the right thing can ask anyone to test loyalties and boundaries. I am a huge fan of comic books and have always enjoyed the superhero genre. Geeky, I know. However, one of the major arcs of any good superhero, the X-Men included, is how far the character is willing to go for the betterment of mankind and for the betterment of themselves. A popular example would be Marvel's *Spiderman*, as Peter Parker must battle the forces of evil in New York City, trying to preserve his home while also trying to be a regular teenager. What is a mutant boy to do? At times, it seems easier for Peter Parker to just let everyone get eaten and destroyed. No one really seems to appreciate what he is doing, thanks to the 'Daily Bugle' – a fictional tabloid newspaper for any of you nonbelievers and non-readers, and when he is mentioned, it's under the name Spiderman, not Peter Parker. Yet, because he was

destined to receive great responsibility, Peter Parker must conquer evil and remain the martyr he is. Don't believe me? Apply the same to Buffy. The poor girl has to fight vampires all day (take that, Bella) and gets no compensation whatsoever. Not even a lousy paycheck. We are all going to face some sort of wall when it comes to this 'doing right' business. Yet, the overall good will always compensate for the hardship. Peter Parker does save New York City every time, as does Buffy for Sunnydale. We can only outweigh the immediate troubles for a better and brighter future.

Finally, even if we are trying to do what is right, it may seem like we are awfully alone and no one likes being the lone person out. Heck, I despise being the only person at an empty table; how exactly am I supposed to do the right thing when no one is agreeing with me? Just remember, to borrow a phrase from *High School Musical*, "we are all in this together." (Yes, I went there.) We are a community, and if one person will stand up to do what is right, many more will follow.

So yes, the theme seems heinous, but it is legitimate. Make a difference and the world will be all the better for it.





# LOGSPORTS

## LCXC: fly and believe

BY MICHAEL HOROWICZ '13 AND  
RACHEL ROSENBLATT '12  
Staff Writer & Sports Editor

The Pelicans of the Loomis Chaffee boys' and girls' cross country teams have come out their gates flying this fall. The boys' team, lead by senior tri-captains Ben Hiskes, Andrew Shichman and David Balise, has started its season undefeated. Edging Deerfield Academy by 11 points at the Caterbury Invitational, the boys earned 1st place out of 14 teams at the competitive meet. Continuing their winning streak, boys' XC took 1st place at the Northfield Mount Hermon Invitational. The girls' team, also off to a tremendous start, lead by senior co-captains Rachel Rosenblatt and Brianna Malanga, earned 3rd place at the Canterbury Invitational, and 1st at the Northfield Invitational.

This past weekend, both teams hosted the Hotchkiss Bearcats, NMH Hoggers, and Taft Rhinos for an exciting quad meet. Both the boys' and girls' sides emerged victoriously, sweeping the competition and bringing home three wins each. Malanga finished the course in 19:00 minutes, shattering her personal best and placing her as the second fastest girl to ever run the Loomis Chaffee Course. Following close behind, new cross country runner Lindsay Gabow '12 finished with a time of 19:35. There were many per-

sonal best times, as the XC Pelicans ran hard and ran smart.

Needless to say the combined 100 Pelicans are extremely excited for the rest of the season. Sharing these optimistic sentiments, Coach Sally Knight of the boys' team proudly noted, "We've got a team of not just cross country runners [but] of guys who enjoy not just the Loomis Chaffee cross country experience, but who actually enjoy getting out there and running for themselves." She added, "this is the first time I've seen so many of our returning athletes land on campus in amazingly good shape with many, many miles on their legs." Based on the results this season, the training that the Pelicans partook in this past summer has already begun to pay off. When asked about the team's goals for the season Coach Knight responded, "The team's goal year after year is to win the Founders League, and that's not an easy thing to do." The competition for a Founders title is undoubtedly tough, with the Hotchkiss team quickly gaining strength and Choate always a challenging opponent. This year's runners surely have a season of hard work ahead of them.

With 43 girls on the roster, the girls team has great depth, speed and potential. Dennis Robbins, one of the team's coaches, excitedly remarks, "The team looks great! The atti-



Boys' and girls' cross country pose after their last home meet of the season

tude of the team across the spectrum of ability and experience is tough and ambitious. We're running to win." The girls' determined and ambitious attitude is catapulting them ahead of the competition.

With all the hard work, both teams have their fair share of fun too. Reminiscing on a recent pool workout, Coach Knight recalled, "The harriers crooned bubbly top-40 tunes during their water workout." Watch out, Ac-

capelicans!

In addition to vocal talents, short shorts and neon running gear are essentials on both teams. With high spirits and higher abilities, the harriers of the boys' and girls' cross country teams present themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the Founders League and New England League, and no doubt remain some of the most spirited and devoted Pelicans on the island.

## Meet the new coaches

BY MONICA HE '12 AND  
KELSEY ADAMSON '12  
Staff Writers

An introduction to some of the Island's new coaches.

Field Hockey Coach **Marley Aloe**, known by many as a friendly and energetic person, played varsity field hockey at Wesleyan University and coached at Kingswood-Oxford before joining the athletic department here at Loomis Chaffee this fall. Joining an already strong field hockey program led by head Coach Moran, Ms. Aloe has begun to lead an enthusiastic group of girls through a nail-biting season. Coach Moran and Coach Aloe have set several goals for the varsity squad, including effective communication and constant effort during both practice and games. In addition to coaching field hockey, Ms. Aloe will also coach girls' JV lacrosse in the spring.

Coach **Elliot Dial**, previously a football player at Dartmouth College and football coach at a high school in Texas, is definitely an expert in the beloved American sport. Coach Dial will serve as the new lineman coach, providing new skills and innovation to a promising program. Although new to the Island, many of the veteran players have already commended Coach Dial's coaching skills and improvements to this year's team.

**Carey O'Brien**, the new girls' varsity soccer coach, is certainly not new to the game of soccer or to coaching. She played both college and professional soccer, and also coached at the University of Connecticut. Fortunately for Loomis Chaffee athletics, Coach O'Brien has brought her impressive resume, and herself, to the island. Players are quickly finding her to be an energetic and extremely knowledgeable presence, who leads through encouraging words and sharp demonstrations. Coach O'Brien is a splendid score for LC soccer. Welcome, Coach O'Brien!

The Loomis Chaffee community as a whole is extremely excited to see what lies in store for LC athletics this year. Go Pelicans!

## Polo Pelicans shoot for success

BY CLAIRE HARD '13 AND  
TYLER REHOR '13  
Staff Writers

This fall, the Loomis Chaffee boys' varsity water polo team began its strongest season in years. After beating Hopkins (12-6) and losing a close game against Andover (4-3), one of its biggest competitors, the team's spirits rode high. In addition, the team recently conquered Deerfield, the previous New England champions, despite being down by four points after the first quarter. The team currently holds a 4-5 record. Assistant Coach Seebeck commends the boys on "a record that is cause for great optimism."

The Pelicans managed to dig themselves out of the rut of previous years, despite the loss of 17 seniors on the varsity and JV teams after last year's graduation. The JV team successfully recovered from this deficit and started the season off with an undefeated record. In the same dogged fashion, the captains of the varsity team, William Bogle '12, Samuel Broda '12, Jamil Hashmi '12 and Addison

Wright '12, have stepped up and helped the team overcome the temporary loss of two starters. All four have also worked extremely hard to condition such a young team in preparation for an exhausting season line-up. Bogle and Wright command the hole-set position, and both have garnered the league-wide reputation of being among the best. Newcomer Jeff Greenberg '14 also stepped up to play

goalie for both the varsity and JV teams while the varsity goalie, Ryan Shelby '13, was out due to injury.

"Even though we lost a couple of players to some injuries for a while, I still feel good about the team this season," said Greenberg.

Alongside the fundamental skill-based instruction of the coaches, the captains serve as role models for the team as they

demonstrate tenacity and self-improvements as players.

"The work ethic of the team has been fantastic this year, as has the leadership of our senior captains," observed Mr. Pond, the varsity head coach. These leaders represent the true values of Loomis Chaffee as their persistent hard work and focus in practice inspire other players to excel and reach their best possible selves. The team carries this diligence to their games, making them a force to be reckoned with.

Since the beginning of the program in the 1970s, the Loomis Chaffee water polo team has developed novice players into varsity athletes who often continue the sport in their college years. With the help of this year's captains, the coaches hope to create and develop a team that will rekindle the fire and might that once represented LC boys' polo. And of course, they all aspire towards their ultimate goal: qualifying for the New England tournament with a .500 league record. This feat, although daunting, can be accomplished by LC's fierce water polo players.



Goalie Ryan Shelby '13 makes a save during varsity water polo practice.

## It's not always sunny in Philadelphia

BY JEFF BURKE '12  
Staff Writer

This year, Major League Baseball's regular season consistently surprised its audience, and its 2011 postseason has been no different. At the beginning of the year, no

### BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

experts could have possibly picked this year's 'Elite' Eight.

First off, one of the perennial American League powers, the Boston Red Sox, was picked by many to win the World Series and be the team celebrating with the trophy after the last game. Unfortunately, a few of the

Red Sox players could not wait for the party, and instead, brought it to the locker room in September. As a result, the team can join the fans in watching the playoffs on Fox.

Second, the returning champions, the San Francisco Giants, also missed the playoffs.

The final eight was set: New York Yankees, Detroit Tigers, Texas Rangers, Tampa Bay Rays, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals, Milwaukee Brewers, and the Cinderella-story Arizona Diamondbacks. MLB analysts picked the star-studded New York Yankees as the American League favorite, and the Phillies, led by an unbeatable pitching rotation (Roy Halladay, Roy

Oswalt, Cole Hamels and Vance Worley), as the National League favorite.

However, both teams sputtered. The Yankees ruined, or made, many New Englanders' days when they were defeated in a series count of 3-2 by the Detroit Tigers. The Phillies also lost a series 3-2 in the first round, losing to the Albert Pujols-lead St. Louis Cardinals.

In the other two series, the Rangers eliminated the Rays, while the Brewers knocked out the Diamondbacks who had risen from last place in the final stretch of the season.

The Final Four in the Championship series now has the Rangers playing the Tigers and the Cardinals facing the Brewers. As a

baseball fan, I would love to see the Rangers win, because they have one of the most inspirational players in the sport of baseball - Josh Hamilton. Hamilton, once down and out, overcame addictions and tragedy to become one of the premier players in baseball. Overall, the Rangers have the pitching and the hitting to win it all. I hope to see them square off against Nyjer Morgan and the rest of the Brewers team in the World Series. Prince Fielder is making his last stand as a Brewer, so emotions will be at an all time high. One could easily expect more twists and turns, so for now, I will simply be sitting in the common room watching everything unfold.