

writer's mélange

Check out the new writer's mélange section!

LC Compliments Revealed

BY LEAH RUBIN '14
Staff Writer

Ever since its inception on December 14th of this past year, the infamous facebook page, Loomis Chaffee Compliments, has taken the school by storm. Touting a policy of strict confidentiality, Loomis Chaffee Compliments is a Facebook page where you can send in compliments about anyone at Loomis, and the compliments will be posted completely anonymously, although the recipient of the compliment is tagged. Everything from secret crush confessions to personal inside jokes can be and have been posted.

As expected, everyone continues to ask the question: "Who is Loomis Chaffee Compliments?" One student even posted on the page itself that she will "do everything in [her] power to figure out" who the person is. Rumors about the identity behind Loomis Chaffee Compliments, or LCC, automatically began to swirl throughout campus, and most people thought it was an underclassman because of her lack of knowledge on a past incident involving a mean-spirited LC Gossip Girl.

Some people assumed that the person in charge was a female based on the resemblance of the page to the TV show "Gossip Girl" on CW. However, the TV show aired its season finale on December 17th revealing a male behind the operation. This revelation left Loomis students still bewildered concerning the identity of this Loomis mastermind.

With the identity of the person in charge and any submitters of compliments remaining anonymous, many feared that the sweet concept behind the site would quickly turn bitter. However, the opposite has been true, and the site has maintained its benevolent roots, continuing to foster a positive message to this day. Due to the overwhelmingly generous nature of the site, people soon began to suspect the Kindness Club or a Student Council be-



SHANNON DEVENY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Boys Varsity Hockey Makes a Stunning Return

Read details about BVH's winning season!
SPORTS, P.8

Mythology Meets the Mercy Gallery

BY ANNIE FERREIRA '13
& HARRIET CHO '14
Features Editors

Joseph Saccio, a local New Haven sculptor who works primarily in wood and natural substances, has some common themes within his artwork: myth, ritual, loss, and rebirth. His new show that opened at the Mercy Gallery on January 8, titled "Memory and Transformation", deals with many of these themes. "Memory and metamorphosis," he says of what inspires this show, which primarily uses the cross section of tree trunks and large half-hollowed trunks. "Tree's branches—or their limbs—leave marks in shapes of bumps or sharp protrusions inside old tree trunks. Even when the branches are cut, those traces remain like memories. And I imagined that metamorphoses or new growth originate from those memories. I tried expressing such growths by adding limbs and thorns on the tree trunk." Saccio is familiar with

The Long Road to Success College

A Three Part Series on the various aspects of the mythical college process from those that have walked the path

First of three parts

BY MICHAEL HOROWICZ '13
Managing Editor

Ask any college student to describe the college process in one word and you will likely get a list of highly negative adjectives: terrible, rough, stressful, taxing, awful, and unfair. This list does not suggest in any way that our College Office is at fault. We seniors have come to the belief that the college process is just a rough patch that we all must go through and endure. The College Office does do a great job attempting to make the process less stressful and terrible. In comparison to the average high school senior, we Pelicans probably have a much less stressful experience. Nonetheless it is taxing even with the College Office at our disposal. We do not want to come across as overly cynical, nor do we want to intimidate any of the younger community members. The goal of this series of Log Staff Reports is to clearly recap and illustrate the entire college process from start to finish, from the students' perspective. All of what you have heard and will hear from your parents, teachers, and college counselors is valuable, but we believe that as students currently in the process and soon to be looking back on it all, we are well equipped to give you another perspective. We are aiming to layout the college process in a sort of road map. We want this series of articles to give you a heads up, and to help prepare you and your family for the life-consuming task that is getting into college.

Undoubtedly you have either begun your own college process, or have been thinking about it from time to time. If you're a freshmen reading this, keep reading, it'll give you a leg up in a couple of years. Also, don't hesitate to think about college, but don't obsess over it yet; your time will come. Sophomores still don't stress too much. Thinking about visiting some school's this summer wouldn't be a bad idea. Talk to your parents about some general areas you're interested in when it comes to school size, academic interests, or geography. Don't worry about the visits, but it can definitely get the ball rolling. Juniors get excited, start writing down some names of colleges you're interested in, or just want to know more about. I won't touch on standardized tests right now, but stay tuned. For all students in and out of the college process I have one piece of advice from you that I want you to take away from this series: you can never aim too high. As Will Smith once said, "Why be realistic?" You'll be surprised what you can do, my friends.

The best place to start this recollection of the college process is the first day of freshman year. You're at Loomis, you have your new pals, and everything is great. Good, it should be. All I can say to the freshmen is challenge yourself, get the best grades in the best classes you can, and get involved. Sign up

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In Praise of Television

A devoted T.V. junkie spills all about popular shows

BY ANNIE FERREIRA
Features Editor

Okay, I have a secret confession to make: I am a TV junkie. I am the first to admit that bad TV, the kind where all of the furniture is an ungodly teal or a burnt orange and I need the laugh track to tell me that the writers are trying to make a joke, is really bad. But, on the flip side, good TV is really good. The thing that sets TV apart from any other medium is that I welcome the

characters into my home every week and slowly get to know them that way. Movies are like a cocktail party, I am thrown in with a bunch of strangers for two hours and by the end I usually know them, and like them, well enough. But, TV is like revisiting old friends. Every time I watch a show I become a little bit more attached to that character, sharing his goals, hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This connection that viewers make with the characters

they watch is strengthened by a new phenomenon in the television and media world: binge watching. Binge watching entails watching a lot of episodes of one show in a row, usually over Netflix or other various sites, or recorded on a DVR or TiVo. This form of viewing allows us as viewers to become seriously entwined within a story and emerge ourselves in a different world. And, consumed this way, TV becomes what movies used to be for us as a culture—a means

Keeping Up With the Jones

Talented student poet talks about her inspirations

BY PAIGE MICKEL '14
Staff Writer

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing over 3 million slaves and marking a major milestone on the path to equality. Exactly 150 years later, Kassidi Jones '14 stood poised behind a podium

at the state capitol building in Hartford, preparing to address the growing crowd. Aiming to answer the question "What does freedom mean to me?", Kassidi began to recite:

"On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves/ Promised "No More Chains" but here we are, /Still shackled to an unshakable history /And just be-

cause rappers started painting them gold does not mean they lose the resonance."

The 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation inspired a statewide poetry contest, sponsored by the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission and the African American Affairs Commission. After receiving encouragement

Think Twice Before You Type

Seniors' perspective on excessive 'I-got-in' Facebook statuses

How many likes do your facebook posts receive on average? Maybe between ten and twenty for an average post, generally more for a photo. Yet there is one post you can always rely on to skyrocket your number of likes (and often your interconnected self-esteem): your college acceptance post. Rarely does a status such as "Ball So Hard University Class of 2017!!!" fall short of the legendary triple digit number of likes. The sheer volume of congratulatory

comments can crash your computer if you are foolish enough to expand all one hundred and twenty one exclamations of adulation often decorated with excessive capitalization and a frivolous usage of exclamation marks.

Stepping back from my increasingly sarcastic commentary on posting about colleges on facebook, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and well deserved pride of all those whom I appear to criticize. I myself wait for the moment

where indescribable elation may send salient shivers down my spine, or where my utter disappointment may render me dejected and hopeless as if I were looking directly into the maw of charybdis. If the stars align and my appeals to every known deity pay off, I am certain the urge to bellow "victory" from the top of Everest will well up inside me. Considering that the monstrous peak looms an ocean away and over twenty thousand feet upward,

Editor's Picks

Choice articles from each section

Keeping up with the Jones

She has spoken at the the Bushnell and won numerous roads. Read more about Kassidi Jones '14 and her accomplishments in News. page 3

A Complete 180 degrees

Find out how the Hockey Team turned over a new leaf this year and began winning games. This is for you Hockey fans out there! page 8

Winter Blues

Do you have the blues during the dreary winter months? Read this article and see how to cheer up and make this season into a winter wonderland! page 4

The Long Road to **Success** College

FOR THE ANXIOUS STUDENTS ON THE VERGE OF A ONCE IN A LIFETIME JOURNEY

COLLEGE PROCESS

The college process broken down into bite-size pieces and the bonus dark side in a three-part series.

PART ONE | TODAY

The formative years and tips on beating the big bad SAT.

PART TWO | FEBRUARY 22

How not to be eaten up alive by the Common App and supplements.

PART THREE | APRIL 26

Hair-raising tales you can't find on College Confidential, campus visits, or even your dream school's website.

for as many clubs as you have time for, and say yes to every opportunity that comes your way. The freshman experience at LC is contingent upon trying new things and pushing those middle school comfort zones. As I said before, it won't hurt to be thinking about the colleges you've heard about from your senior friends, older siblings, parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc. At this point the best, and really only, way you can help yourself is by keeping up with your work, getting good grades, and having fun. This summer, however, get involved in the community, and maybe start writing down a list of things you've accomplished and/or are proud of since the beginning of high school. Sorry, colleges don't care too much about what happened prior to the high school years.

Okay, so it's sophomore year now. Still the same advice, do well in your classes, get involved, and try more new things. We'll add one more thing: befriend freshmen. Who knows, it might serve as a good college essay topic; at the very least you'll have someone who looks up to you. Sophomore year is probably the right time to start talking about one of the most well known parts of the college process: the standardized tests.

Since the beginning of this article we've covered the college process in terms of chronology, or by year. We've done this because not else much happens during the first year or two in regards to the college process. From here on out, however, we'll be discussing the college process by topic, while making sure to keep chronology noted and clear. The first topic we'll cover is standardized testing. This will be the only topic we'll cover in the remainder of this article, as there is much to say.

For some, the standardized test prep and taking starts very early, during freshmen year. For

example, if you rocked freshmen bio, it wouldn't hurt to give the Biology SAT 2 a shot at the end of freshman year. Let's back up. Standardized tests are a great mystery when it comes to the college process. According to some people, if you don't have a certain SAT or ACT score your file won't even get looked at. We're not sure whether or not that is true, but it is not something to worry about, as it is out of our control. The best way to simplify the dilemma of standardized tests is to just do your best on them. It may seem over simplistic, but the advice is the best we can give. Study hard for them, and do your best, so that you don't have to worry about them. A wise friend once told me that she felt that doing well on standardized tests is not something you can make happen in a week, or even a month, but is something that must be a project for thirty minutes a day, almost everyday, for a year or so. She couldn't be more right. Therefore, we advise that you take some time every day, set it aside for SAT or ACT prep and just do it. Even if that thirty minutes is just doing vocab, or doing a few challenge math problems, or even looking up good books to reference in the essay portion, we advise you to do something. Practice makes perfect, and the more familiar you are with the problems asked the better off you will be.

Let's break down the standardized tests more concretely. First and foremost you have the SAT (Standardized Aptitude Test) and the ACT (American College Testing). These tests are the biggest part of your standardized test scores. The SAT is a test on math, writing, grammar, vocab, and reading comprehension, while the ACT is a test on math, writing, grammar, reading comprehension, and science. The major differences are that the SAT has vocab and no science, whereas the ACT has no vocab, but has sci-

ence. Additionally, the SAT has more shorter sections, while the ACT has fewer longer sections. We'd advise that you take both at least once before deciding whether to focus on one or the other. Also worth noting is that the writing section is optional on the ACT. The second part of the standardized testing is the SAT 2's or the SAT Subject Tests. These tests are 1 hour long, complete multiple-choice tests pertaining to one subject. These subjects range from Literature to Hebrew and everything in between. These tests are more likely to be taken earlier in the high school career, as the Math Level 2 test is best taken after finishing pre-calculus, and the biology test is best taken after biology. We'd recommend doing a few practice tests before taking any of the subject tests. Most colleges will ask that you submit either two subject tests or an ACT score with writing.

This is a lot of information to digest if you're reading it for the first time. As with anything in the college process the best way to make a seemingly insurmountable task become easy is to break the task down into small chunks that you can take care of for thirty minutes a day. Consistency is key. The stress will go out the window if you pick up an SAT book once a day for thirty minutes, and maybe 1 hour on the weekends. By the time junior spring comes around, you'll know every trick the test can possibly throw at you.

When talking about standardized tests it's hard to ignore the topic and questions surrounding tutors. Should I get a tutor? When is the right time to get a tutor? How many hours should I work with the tutor? The list of questions goes on. If you can get your hands on a quality tutor, then do so. As much as the Loomis education does a fantastic job preparing you for the SAT's and ACT's there is a cer-

tain level of insight that a tutor can offer. Tutors can give you bits and pieces of strategy on how to approach certain questions, or how to manage your time on each section. On a side note, time management during the test can make or break your score. Learning how to pace yourself, while not falling behind in any particular section is an invaluable skill to master. When it comes to tutors, they also usually have very good access to more practice tests and resources. They can access old tests and also compile resources from year to year. The more practice questions you can get through the better, and a good tutor should have a myriad of these questions. Tutors can also help with getting into a consistent habit of studying. Having a weekly scheduled appointment that requires preparation forces you to sit down and do some practice on your own, and further develops the habit of consistent studying.

When it comes to choosing a tutor there are many options out there. First, there are the brand name tutors that everybody knows about, and that cost a hefty sum per hour. On the other end of the spectrum there are plenty of graduate and undergraduate students who are looking for work that can do a lot to help in preparing for standardized tests. These students often have a more insightful look on standardized tests, provided they themselves did well on their tests back in high school. In the middle you have individuals who know the game well, but are unassociated with any major test prep company. All three of these options have pros and cons, and it is not our job to promote one or the other specifically.

Now you've been studying for your standardized tests, have a tutor, have begun thinking about potential schools you might want to attend, and areas of studies you might want to

pursue. The last thing is what to do when the test is right around the corner. Sleep, and then sleep some more. A Loomis alum wisely told me that sleep is your greatest weapon. There is nothing more valuable than going into your standardized tests well rested and on point. The night before the test review for a little while. Don't cram, but lightly brush over some things that may have been harder to grasp when studying in the past. Think confidently, and envision yourself crushing the entire test, from start to finish. Also, prepare everything the night before. Get your number 2 pencils sharpened, your new batteries in your calculator, your admission ticket printed, and your snacks out. Prepare your mode of action for the morning and then get to bed. On the morning of the test get up with plenty of time to spare, make sure everything is in order, grab a nice, not rushed breakfast. Also, do something remotely active to get your blood flowing. Maybe go for a light jog, or do a bunch of jumping jacks. Do something to wake yourself up and get the heart rate going a little, then head to the test.

I won't go into the test itself, but when you get out don't stress. You can think about what went right and what went wrong tomorrow. Give yourself some time to unwind and relax, and be proud of the work you have done. Looking at standardized tests on a bigger picture, a student can always take a test more than once. The SAT and ACT both do "Superscore." This means that they will take each of your best individual section scores and combine them to create one "superscore," which contains all of your best section scores. So, if you aren't satisfied with how you performed on your first go around, do not worry, because you can take the test again. This time try some new studying meth-

ods, or just study more. There is much improvement to be had when it comes to standardized testing.

When it comes to the significance of standardized testing scores in a college application we are as lost as you are. No college will openly admit that they have score cut offs, but it definitely is a possibility. We would recommend that you do not let your life depend on your test scores. As a Loomis Chaffee student you have much more to offer than numbers. Be confident in the scores you receive and do the best you can to bolster your application. Take standardized tests seriously, but by all means do not let them take over your life.

Okay, so now we've introduced the series, summarized where you may be in the college process, covered the first two years of your LC career (in terms of college), and discussed in great detail the entire standardized testing adventure. Clearly, the college process is daunting, complex, and time consuming. When it comes to the college process it is imperative that you do your best to stay on top of all the facets of the process. Do not let things pile up, because the pile can get high and seem insurmountable. Always stay confident and keep things in perspective. And lastly, realize that everyone has a different path in the college process. Everyone's timeline looks different, and so do not waste your time comparing yourself to every single student. Talk to your advisors, parents, and teachers to figure out what your timeline should look like. Your college process should be unique to you, and a project that you take responsibility for. When it comes to the college process, take the bull by the horns and make it happen. If you're proactive, good things will happen and everything will fall into place.

Key to the NHL Lockout Found

BY CALEB RUDNICKI '15
Staff Writer

It is never a great start to a day when you get a text at 6:07 AM (Thanks, dad!) on a Sunday morning. That is, unless it is about the National Hockey League Lockout coming to an end.

The NHL Lockout of 2012-2013 commenced at 11:59 PM on September 15, 2012. In a nutshell, the owners of the National Hockey League demanded that the free agency rules should be changed, the salary arbitration should be terminated, term limits to contracts should be applied, and, most importantly, the player's 57% share of hockey related revenue (HRR) should be lowered. To get what they wanted, or at least more than they already had, the owners shut down the league for a total of 113 days.

Many times over the four month period, the NHL (the owners) met with the NHLPA (the players) to negotiate a new agreement. After 16 continuous hours of debate, at 4:45 AM on January 6, 2013, the conflict between the opposers was resolved. Here is what was reached: HRR was agreed to be split 50-50; the CBA was signed as a 10-year contract, which either side can challenge after eight years, free agent contracts will be limited to a maximum of seven years, the salary floor will be \$44 million, and the salary cap will be

\$60 million. The exceptions being that the salary cap for this up-coming season will be \$70.2 million and for the following year, \$64.3 million. This gradual decrease will allow the teams to ease their way into the standard money range.

Yet, not all is fine with the NHL and it's fans. Many events like the Winter Classic, the All-Star Game and Competition, and 625 regular season games (51% of the season) were all cancelled. In addition, those people who work for teams, rinks, and vendors who rely on the NHL's existence were negatively affected and most likely temporarily lost their jobs because of the lockout.

The much anticipated 2013 NHL Winter Classic, announced on February 9, 2012, was going to be held at Michigan Stadium, a.k.a. "The Big House," in Ann Arbor, Michigan. As the third largest stadium in the world, the Michigan based stadium hoped to surmount the record attendance of 104,173 set three years prior. Knowing this, the NHL game between the Detroit Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs, was projected to challenge that record. Unfortunately, the venue was cut short due to the lockout. The NHL has rescheduled for this game to occur in place of the 2014 Winter Classic.

Scheduled for January 27, 2012, the NHL All-Star Game and Competition was to take

place at the Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. Many fans from all over the country waited for this weekend to see the skills and talents of the NHL's top players on one platform. Once again, the date was delayed. The 2015 NHL All Star Game and Competition will head back to Ohio (there will be no All-Star Weekend in 2014 due to the Olympics). So, despite the current drought that many NHL fans have experience in the last several months, hockey will get back into its groove in the next year.

Amidst all the rubble that was the NHL Lockout, many comments and criticisms were geared towards commissioner, Gary Bettman. USA Today published a statement of Detroit Red Wings defenseman, Ian White, confessing, "I gotta be honest: I personally think he's [Bettman] an idiot. Since he's come in, I think he's done nothing but damage the game." Obviously this is only one opinion, but it definitely represents the feeling of a large part of players. Many fans, during a charity game for Hurricane Sandy relief, expressed their opinions by chanting, "WE WANT HOCKEY! FIRE BETTMAN!" It is pretty obvious that many people are not happy with the NHL's habit of constantly getting into a financial stalemate, but look on the bright side: the NHL is back (for the next eight years at least)!

Green Fellowship Awarded

BY JOHN MACDONALD '13
News Editor

As the Environmental Proctors, Project Green, the Sustainability Committee and other groups around campus move into the new year, they are greeted by a generous gift: the Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship. The outline for the program states, "Thanks to a gift from the Wallace foundation, the Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship (GEF) program has been created. Eligible participants include all members of the Loomis Chaffee community (individual students, student groups, individual faculty, departments, and staff). Individuals and/or groups would submit proposals according to the specified timeline. A review committee in conjunction with the current Sustainability Committee would be comprised to review, sponsor and award proposals. Proposals would be focused towards initiatives that promote education in sustainability and/or fund proj-

ects that support the mission statement."

For all past initiatives, including that of the now famous chickens, funding in order to inculcate new green aspects into our school community would be granted following a presentation to the Head of School. However, no funds were explicitly set for these initiatives, making it difficult for community members to turn their ideas into a reality. The funds that the Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship offers, allow a much simpler, more direct, and more beneficial process to obtain the money required for initiatives. Loomis' Sustainability Coordinator, Jeff Dyreson, explained the specifics of the Fellowship, claiming, "The funds are set for five hundred to five thousand dollar initiatives pertaining to environmental initiatives. Really people can be creative in the spirit of environmental stewardship." Dyreson explained that projects such as the compost, chicken coop, and hoop house, are perfect exam-

ples of initiatives that could potentially gain funding through this new system.

For interested students, an application will be available. With questions such as "What benefits does your idea provide for you?" and "What is the benefit for the community?", the application allows students an opportunity to display their ideas, thought process, and commitment in a comprehensive manner, the application would then be reviewed by a committee of students, faculty, and staff. Currently the committee is accepting rolling applications; however, they have a more specific schedule set in place for upcoming years. Announcements regarding the process will be made in the upcoming weeks during faculty meetings, class meetings, and online.

The funds are very advantageous to the green incentives at our school. Dyreson said, "The committee is very thankful and excited and we anxiously await proposals."

NEWS IN BRIEF

LC welcomes special convocation speaker for MLK

For MLK week, LC welcomes the talented psychologist, actor and poet, Dr. Michael Fowlin to campus for a much anticipated performance. The program centers around race, identity, discrimination and other thought-provoking issues.

Seniors win Penny War

The results for Student Council's most recent initiative, The Penny War, are out with seniors topping the list as the victors. All \$613 raised from the competition will be donated to New Jersey's Red cross for the benefit of Hurricane Sandy's victims.

Colgate University Resolutions perform

Colgate University's coed a cappella group, The Colgate University Resolutions performed on January 14th to an audience of eager Loomis Chaffee students in the Founders chapel. Alumna Melanie Silverman '12 was also part of the ensemble.

FROM PAGE 1

LC Compliments Revealed

ing responsible, perhaps attempting to banish blues during winter term. Yet, these guesses were off mark.

I have a little confession to make: I am Loomis Chaffee Compliments. I did not create the site, but it fell into my lap very soon after its initial creation. The original creator made the site half as a joke and did not recognize the time commitment or the effort involved in maintaining the page. While I am sworn to secrecy on matters involving who actually made the page, she truly deserves credit for getting the page going and showing me the ropes.

I was shocked by the almost instantaneous success of the page. Within the first week, we were receiving nearly thirty compliments a day, and we soon had more “friends” on Facebook than there are students at Loomis. This success continued until recently, as more and more of the messages I received were either entirely backhanded “compliments” or complaints regarding inappropriate submissions. Additionally, as the pages continued to post compliments, students grew increasingly curious as to the person behind this elusive profile. Lighthearted and friendly inquiries into my identity transformed into harshly worded demands and insults. Outrageously offensive submissions, misguided comments, and obsessive complaints became daily

occurrences.

The page grew into more of a burden than a rewarding experience. My doubts concerning the page were only heightened with the creation of two very similar pages, LC Compliments and Newandimproved Loomis Chaffee Compliments, each within minutes of each other.



GRAPHIC BY ALEXANDRA BRUNSTAD '15

After brief discussions with the heads of both seemingly identical pages, it was clear to me that both were just fishing for gossip or entertainment. When other people began imitating the concept, there was no longer a benefit to the community. People began twisting the idea for their own amusement.

Around this time, the question of my identity had overwhelmed the community. Some people noticed that the Compliments page went online when I went offline, and a few even tracked my IP address. Once a few people found out and

refused to respect the secret, the news spread through to too many people for the page to maintain the trust needed for people to willingly submit compliments, which sometimes could be very personal. I expected one or two people to eventually find out (I think I might have messaged someone from the wrong account once or twice), and I thank those who kept my secret, but because so many did not, I fear the page would become unsuccessful.

I have a little confession: I was Loomis Chaffee Compliments. Because too many people began to discover my identity,

I have passed on the site to a worthy successor who will not be named. For me, this was the only way to keep the site effective in its goal, while still remaining anonymous. I thank the Loomis community for the opportunity to make this site successful, and I hope it will continue to further school spirit on campus.

Yours truly,

The former Loomis Chaffee Compliments

P.S. I'm not revealing anything I know, so don't even bother asking.

Keeping Up With the Jones

from Assistant Head of Enrollment Erby Mitchell and her adviser, Nancy Cleary, Kassidi penned her submission to the contest in just 45 minutes. Kassidi's poem, “Where Freedom Lives,” was the high school-level winner for the whole state of Connecticut, edging out over one hundred other submissions. “This poem was different for me than others because the contest required a theme. I was writing to please an audience rather than writing for only myself,” Kassidi explained. “The main idea of ‘Where Freedom Lives’ is that there is still much work to be done if we as humans ever want to achieve true freedom.”

Not exactly a stranger to performing, Kassidi has spoken at every Martin Luther King Day convocation since she was a freshman. But her experience obviously is not confined to the walls of Olcott Gymnasium. This past year, she was chosen to recite Eve Ensler's famous “I Am An Emotional Creature” at the Bushnell for the Connecticut Forum's “State of Women 2012.” Other speakers taking the stage at the Forum were feminist Gloria Steinem, actress Ashley Judd, and political analyst Michelle Bernard, a fall term convocation speaker.

When it comes to gaining inspiration for her work, Kassidi mostly draws on her everyday life. “I usually write about boys, or other people's relationships. Sometimes if there is something like a huge court case or a traumatic event going on in the news,

I'll write about it. If I have to force it, I don't bother, but if I feel that I have something important to say about it then I will.” Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, and Tony Morrison number among her poetic influences, in addition to the sonnets of Shakespeare. In fact, it was the mastermind behind Hamlet and Macbeth who led Kassidi to discover her pas-

together words is different than one might expect. While walking around, Kassidi will get the idea for a line, or even a combination of words that she likes. She writes down this fleeting thought, rescuing it from getting lost in the whirlwind that is junior year. Later, on one of the sacred nights that homework is light, Kassidi sorts through the compiled bits,

expanding on ideas she likes and discarding ones she doesn't. “My favorite thing about writing poetry is that I get to tell my own story the way I like without correction; my words are always right, and no one can tell me that my writing is not true. Also, poetry is a way to vent and keep my thoughts in order while preserving my memories. Someday I'll be able to look back on my work and be able to experience what I felt when I was sixteen all over again.”

Kassidi's next performance will be at the Wadsworth Athenaeum, right down the street from her house. “My resolution for junior year was to get really involved in my poetry and to make it more than a pastime. Working towards that feels very rewarding.” The Carter prefect, who is also a member of chamber singers and PRISM, has a lot to manage over these few terms. But with her talent and dedication, Kassidi is already on the track to fulfilling her goal.



SHANNON DEVENY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

sion for poetry. “In elementary school, we studied the sonnets in Romeo and Juliet. That was when I first realized that poetry was so neat,” she reminisced. “So that year for Mother's Day, I wrote my mom a poem. I loved doing it and I was good at it, so I decided to continue working on it.”

Over the years, Kassidi's style and subject of her poetry have changed, but her passion for it has not. Her process for weaving

Freshman Experience Common Good Seminars

BY AL FREIHOFFER
Faculty

“Whoa! What happened to that free double we used to have? It just disappeared!” lament many of the freshmen after returning from Thanksgiving break. Finding themselves with a little less free time but a lot more to think and talk about, each 9th grader now attends the Freshman Seminar in the Common Good in lieu of that nap or one of those humongously oversized (but nonetheless beloved and delectable) Snug Sandwiches. The seminars are facilitated by one of eight teachers: Mr. Laforest, Dean Donegan, Dean Hess, Dean Liscinsky, Ms. Parada, Dean Par-

sons, Dean Sasser, or Mr. Freihoffer. The discussions in these small sections can be intense, and this cohort of freshmen is trailblazing an exciting new course for all future Pelicans.

The subjects of the seminars have ranged from the qualities and attributes of successful individuals and relationships (“the best self”) to the qualities and attributes of healthy communities like Loomis Chaffee and beyond (“the common good”). Since November, the discussions have embraced abstract yet vital themes such as Community, Virtues, and Heroism as well as national issues of importance such as the tragedy at Newtown and the public conversation around and about

the Presidential Inauguration.

Each of the seminars is augmented by readings and film. Last week's topic of Heroism, for example, featured a reading by author Cynthia Ozick and excerpts from the classic Stanley Kramer film Judgment at Nuremberg. The materials and subsequent conversations pressed participants to think deeply about the roles of bystanders as well as about social norms which sometimes call for counter-cultural heroism. Earlier, the students discussed the tragedy of Newtown and asked the simple but perhaps hopelessly complex question, “Why?” One student observed that an answer to “why” might be elusive, but her own expressed resolve was to

make a difference by paying kind attention to others hungry for - and needing - real friendship. One could make the case that her particular realization and resolve is every bit as important as anything else we learn at school.

Since September, more than thirty teachers and administrators have been collaborating - and continue to work on developing - the CCG Freshman Seminar curriculum. They suggest activities to animate the discussions and future projects of the seminar groups. Student groups are contributing ideas as well; this spring, for example, the E-Proctors will facilitate seminars on sustainability, and Mr. Donegan has a super-secret

group working on a student-driven project that may well find its way to the schedule this spring.

The CCG Freshman Seminars will also unpack many of the messages and questions raised by visiting speakers. Later this year, journalist and author Chris Hedges, Loomis Chaffee '75, will return to the campus for the April Convocation. The seminars will then explore the concerns he may raise about our consuming culture, politics, media, and the environment. (Chris's recent book, Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt is a favorite of Mr. Frei's and since Mr. Frei is writing this article, he is shamelessly taking the liberty of plugging this book.)

Finally, upperclassmen will

soon be involved in the CCG Freshman Seminars as well. A future topic will call for juniors and seniors to reflect on their greatest “lessons learned” in their Island experiences; who better to share “Bucket List” ideas than the very students who are about to graduate from Loomis Chaffee?

So The Freshman Seminars in the Common Good are off and running, and those languid free periods of September are long forgotten. Freshmen may pine for that lost nap or now have to gobble up that Snug Sandwich on the fly, but the food for thought and fuel for action provided through the stuff of the CCG Seminars will hopefully last for a lifetime.

Sixteen Sides of South Africa

BY PAUL LEE '13
Managing Editor

Over winter vacation, Associate Dean of Faculty and Head of Batchelder Hall Nicholas Pukstas traveled to South Africa. “Originally, my only intent was to attend a wedding of two of my friends from college,” Pukstas, a graduate of Princeton University, explained. “Fortunately, I ended up seeing the various faces of South Africa, a country that I found captivating for its natural beauty while intriguing for the scars of apartheid still noticeable today.”

On December 17, the Monday after vacation began, Mr. Pukstas began his 16-day trip to a country with one of the greatest disparities in income between the rich and the poor. Instead of going straight to the wedding, which was held in Franschoek, a prosperous village in the wine valleys near Cape Town, Pukstas decided to first visit an area called the Eastern Cape to spend time with the wedding hosts

Steve Porter and Amy Saltzman, who work with mothers2mothers (m2m), a “nonprofit, peer-based mentorship program for pregnant women and new mothers living with HIV/AIDS.”

“Steve and Amy, who both studied medical anthropology, became involved with HIV/AIDS awareness in Africa through a program called Princeton-in-Africa. After recognizing that the transmission of the virus from a mother to her child during pregnancy was especially widespread in South Africa, they actually found that a certain ARV—an antiretroviral drug—could actually stop the transmission. However, the drugs had carried such a severe stigma that few people came to the clinics they hosted: starting on a medical level, I began to see the deep-rooted social problems of the country,” Pukstas said.

Rather than going on a safari or staying at a resort, Pukstas sought to see for himself some of the social issues that his friends

hindered by most forms of technology. “We slept in mud huts under thatched roofs—without running water, electricity, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK PUKSTAS

described. Spending three days at Bulungula Lodge, a locally sustained visitor center by the east coast of South Africa, he immersed himself in the South African wilderness without being

composting, of course. For hot showers, we had a two-minute time limit: that was how long the paraffin heater lasted” Pukstas humorously noted.

“The natural beauty of the

Eastern Cape—the animals, the shoreline, the flora and fauna—was like nothing I'd ever seen before,” marveled Pukstas. “It's easy to get taken away by [the beauty], but then you realize that apartheid, one of the most blatantly racist and discriminatory systems imaginable, existed in the country until 1994. One of the most memorable facts about apartheid I heard was that in most parts of the Eastern Cape, black Africans were not allowed to live within two kilometers of the ocean. How was it, that for so long, only a tiny percentage of the South African population—the Afrikaans—was able to live in this magnificent environment?”

The social imbalance of South Africa proved to be even more apparent in urban conditions.

***When you drive into Cape Town, the shantytowns, there's no running water, bathrooms, no power line, a mile away is an area

called Constantia—enormous mansions, high protective walls, steel gates, security cameras” so you put all of that social drama with the beautiful landscape and...perplexing! ***At times, Marlo, Pukstas's partner, noticed the vestiges of apartheid even in Cape Town, the capital of South Africa.

“This really was a happy coincidence in a lot of ways...we really tried to have a global perspective throughout the trip, I have been surprised by how close I've kept in contact with both my high school friends and my college friends. The things my college friends are doing—so many are doctors and lawyers, but they are pushing their boundaries with the kind of medicine or law they're practicing. It's really interesting because we have all the same memories together, but we have a really informed, deep perspective. People you meet now should be the deepest contacts for the rest of your life.”

Alumni Interview: Fred McNulty '11

BY HARRIET CHO '14
Features Editor

Many Loomis Chaffee Alumni are stars, brilliant in their own areas of interests. But one can rarely find anyone more unique than Frederick McNulty '11. Fred worked as both Opinions Editor and Editor in Chief for Loomis Chaffee Log. He also created and successfully ran "LC Progressives"—a politics club during his senior year (2010). Missing his presence on the Island, LC Log features section prepared for him a few questions we were curious about.

Q. When did you first become interested in politics?

A. Freshman year at Loomis. My interest in politics started off as a pretty specific-issue-based interest. When I was a freshman, people were not living in a very gay-friendly society. Things are surprisingly better now compared to how they were six years ago. But back then, Connecticut did not allow same-sex marriage, a person could be fired for being a transgender, majority of Americans opposed same-sex marriage, and a homophobic president, George W. Bush, was in office. As I began to learn more about the injustice against LGBT population, I encountered the issues of separation of church and state, women's right, etc., which eventually led me to the field of politics. Also, at that time, in year 2007, 2008 presidential election was just beginning; it was a really defining moment of our political history, which made me become even more engrossed with politics.

Q. How did your experience in Loomis foster your interest in politics?

A. I think my interest was my own creation, and what Loomis did excellently is not infringing on it. Loomis was very open to letting me do political organizing, was supportive about self-expression, and was open-minded about different points of view. This quality of environment is not something you can experience in your daily life, which is why Loomis is very extraordinary. Also, Loomis brings great convocation speakers whose speeches actually prompt your thoughts. I wouldn't say too much about what Loomis specifically did to

get me interested in certain topics, because I'm actually not sure if that is accurate, but I would say that the values Loomis supports were definitely some of the key elements that let me foster my interest and opinions.

Q. What did you think of the 2012 presidential election?

A. The result was not very surprising to me. From the electoral maps and polls from the swing states, I would say President Obama's re-election was a sure thing.

I think there is a lesson to take from this election, though: not to surround yourself with people who you always agree with. Because there is a ru-

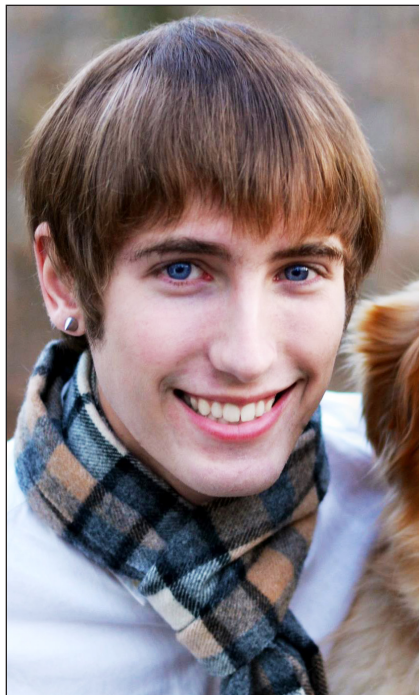


PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED MCNULTY '11

mor—so I cannot be a hundred percent sure about what actually happened—that Mitt Romney was so sure of winning the election that he did not actually write his concession speech until he saw the actual result. And I think that was because Romney surrounded himself only with his supporters who will rarely argue with him. I'm not saying this because I worked with the Democrats in Southeastern Connecticut during this election to crank votes for President Obama; a Republican happened to be the one who forgot modesty this time, but such lesson can really refer to anyone. I also think that President Obama rises with a bit of a mandate to act; he is now one of two presidents—Ronald Reagan is the other one—who were re-elected with over 50% of the vote. The Democrats should try to use upcoming decisions on the economy to achieve political

apt; otherwise, there would be a huge public disappointment for them.

Q. What is the Courtney Campaign? How did you become a part of it?

A. Joe Courtney is the representative of Connecticut's second district, which is the entire eastern part of Connecticut. I wanted to join some of the local campaigns, and thus came to help Joe Courtney with his re-election campaign. It was not the most competitive and intense campaign, so I got to work with some other local campaigns such as those of Ernest Hewett: New London's representative, and Chris Murphy: newest senator from Connecticut. The goals of the campaigns were simply having the Democrats be elected in eastern Connecticut.

Q. How was it like to be back in Loomis as a part of the political panel?

A. It was great. I'm always excited when I go back to Loomis. It was really encouraging to be a part of the panel, especially because I was by far the youngest person on it. I was proud of not only myself but of Loomis.

Q. What do you miss most about Loomis?

A. There's so much I miss about Loomis; faculties and staff members, especially. Mr. Scanlon, Mr. Donegan (by the way, congratulations for him for becoming a dean), Gale in the mailroom, etc. etc. etc.

Q. Are you working on any publications in your college?

A. Yes. My college—Connecticut College—has a college newspaper named "The College Voice". It's our college's only student-run newspaper. I just wrote my last entry for the column of the newspaper I was writing for a year; now I'm trying to move onto something different. I was also once known as the "Web Content Editor" for the newspaper. I'm really satisfied with my active level of involvement. Working as the Opinions Editor and the Editor in Chief back in Loomis Chaffee Log definitely prepared me to work in a college-level newspaper.

Q. Do you miss Log?

A. Yes of course. Being in the Log room, ordering Chinese food, talking to people about journalism... Such fond memories!

Winter Blues

BY PIM SENANARONG '13
Editor in Chief

With Christmas (and Hanukkah) far behind us, the twinkle of festive lights and the thrill of end-of-season sales nothing but mere memories, some of us can't help but sink into a lethargic period of emotional hibernation. With no New Year fireworks to look forward to, no present shopping to stress over, winter in the New England area is just a series of freezing days and chilly, boring nights. Hence most of us are familiar with the term "winter blues," (or winter doldrums, if you want to sound British). Upon further research, there seems to be a scientific correlation between the sadness and tiredness one feels during winter and winter itself. Due to our considerably lessened exposure to the sun, our bodies cease to produce Serotonin, a hormone that contributes to our feelings of happiness. In fact, SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) is actually a proper term given to the depression brought on by snow and frost of months like January and February.

Not to fear: there are several solutions to alleviating, if not entirely curing, these seasonal symptoms. Some of the more conventional ones are, of course, being around loved ones, drinking hot cocoa and sharing jokes and all of those slightly corny family movie montage type things. Sometimes an impromptu dance party in someone's dorm room (especially to really bad "I-will-never-be-caught-listening-to-this" type music that you all somehow know the lyrics to) can make the winter blues go away temporarily. However, since one of the symptoms of SAD is increased irritability and for boarders who have to spend every second with the people

you already live with 24/7 can become aggravating at times. If this is the case, try spicing it up with some solitary activities like Just Dance 4... just kidding (but not really). The key to avoiding depressing thoughts is keeping yourself busy. Whether it is going to the gym, watching a comedic movie, or online shopping (remember: January sales are a must), there are ways of combating even the worst of

depression like a true warrior. Another good dietary plan for winning the battle is to have an energy-rich breakfast to prepare you for the slow freezing school days. Take a long hot shower, go to bed a little earlier than your usual bedtime and wake up a little earlier so you'll have time to eat a nice healthy meal to help you get through the languid day.

Wear bright colors. It is scientifically proven somewhere in the vast data pool of random information, that bright colors help lighten your mood. So hold up on the classy neutrals and sober grays—winter is the only excusable time for obnoxiously lurid shades. Neon green sweater? Check. Batik scarf? Check. Turquoise pants? Check. Make those unsuspecting, black-pea-coat-sporting prim and proper visiting parents and students wonder why the campus is overrun by a bunch of neon hippies? Why not?

Don't let winter get the best of you. Remember, Valentine's Day is

just around the corner—oh wait, never mind, forget that thought. New England winters might be strong, armed with its flurry of snow and long school nights but, come on, Pelicans are stronger than that. According to folklore, the pelican mother bird rips out its own innards to feed its babies. That's the kind of strength we're talking about here. So remember that mother bird's strength next time you're feeling hopeless and down. Winter is excruciatingly long, as a resident of a tropical country I can't agree more, but remember that at the end of every winter is a spring—as cliché as that sounds. So as a last resort, think of spring with its promises of quad tanning, Frisbee playing and for seniors, the infamous senior slide. Hang in there!



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The Oscar Race Begins

BY JAMIE NEIKRIE '13
Staff Writer

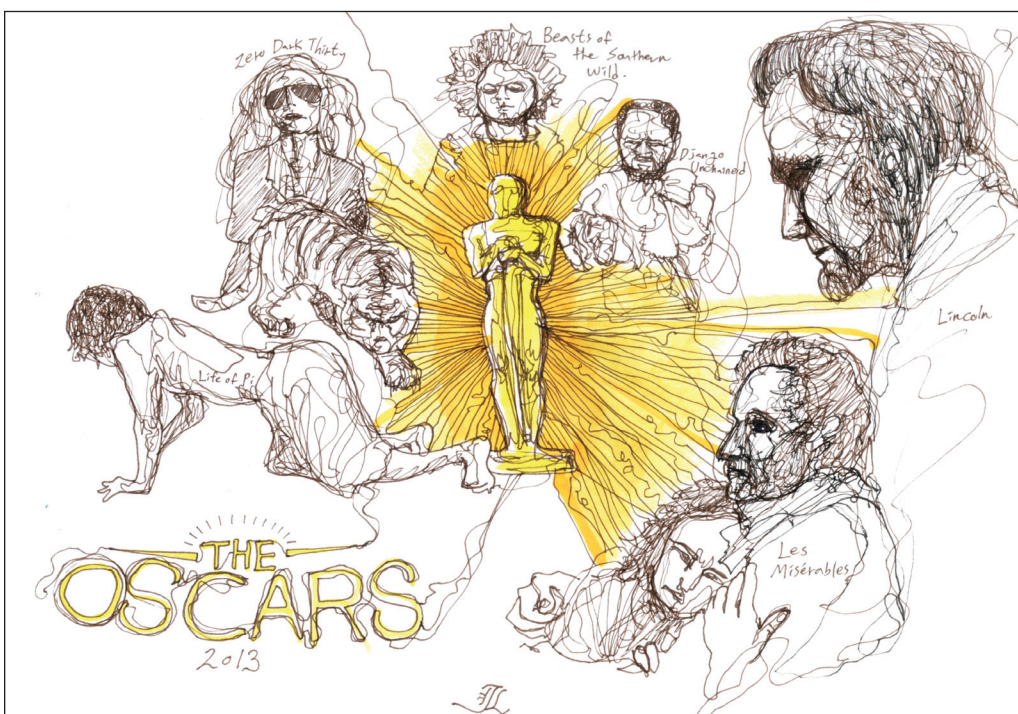
It's January again, which means that since all the good movies have left the theaters long ago and all the good television shows are on break, the only thing to talk about in entertainment news is the Oscars, the most coveted, although the most predictable and old-fashioned award in the movie industry.

The Best Picture category, which changed from five nominees to a maximum of 10 in 2009 (the number of best picture nominees depends on the number of first choice votes a movie gets and can therefore fluctuate between five and 10 depending on the year), came with few surprises. Unlike 2011, this year offered a host of great movies to choose from; Argo, Les Misérables, Amour, Zero Dark Thirty, Lincoln, Silver Linings Playbook, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Life of Pi, and Django Unchained all deservedly made into the list. Even though few critics were surprised by the Best Picture selections, some did complain that The Dark Knight Rises should have made the cut. I happen to agree with them but I'm a largely biased teenage guy who loves Batman.

The most exciting thing about this year's Oscar race, though, is that for the first time in many years, the Best Picture Category is devoid of a true front-runner. The Academy tends to like sweeping historical dramas that provide a testament to the power

with the Best Director snub of Ben Affleck, could potentially take home the big prize, especially with its surprise win at the Golden Globes.

Then again, the last time a movie won the Best Picture Oscar without a Best Director



GRAPHIC BY JAE YONG LEE '14

and importance of film, so many considered Lincoln a favorite. But Zero Dark Thirty, a movie about the hunt for Osama Bin Laden, had critics applauding when it first came out and could be a dark horse (despite its lack of Best Director nomination for Kathryn Bigelow). And Argo, a movie that went from Oscar front-runner in the fall to long-shot contender

nomination was in 1989 with Driving Miss Daisy so it could be said that the film with the best chance for upsetting Lincoln is the little-Indie-that-could Beasts of the Southern Wild. Beasts, which won the Caméra d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and the

Grand Jury Prize: Drama at the Sundance Film Festival, is the work of first time director Benh Zeitlin and follows the adventures of 6-year-old Hushpuppy (Quvenzhané Wallis) and her father Wink, both living in a fictional Louisiana bayou nicknamed the Bathub. Though some critics absolutely adored the film (like A.O. Scott

of the New York Times), others felt it was too episodic and choppy.

The biggest surprise in the Best Actor and Actress categories was the inclusion of Joaquin Phoenix for his performance in The Master. Phoenix beat out John Hawkes of The Sessions despite the fact that Phoenix did not even want a nomination. He will compete against Hugh Jackman, Bradley Cooper, Denzel Washington, and Daniel Day-Lewis, who is considered a virtual lock to win for his mesmerizing turn as the 16th President in Lincoln.

Jessica Chastain, Jennifer Lawrence, Naomi Watts, Quvenzhané Wallis, and Emmanuelle Riva will compete in the category of Best Actress. Wallis, who was only six when she filmed Beasts of the Southern Wild, is the youngest actor or actress ever to be nominated for an Academy Award, while Emmanuelle Riva of Amour is the oldest nominee at 85. Chastain, who won the Golden Globe, is considered most likely to win, though Jennifer Lawrence of the wonderful Silver Linings Playbook could pull of an upset.

Christoph Waltz took home the Golden Globe for his role in Django, but for the Best Supporting Actor category he'll have to go against Alan Arkin, Robert De Niro, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Tommy Lee

Jones. My bets are on Hoffman, though this is the most loaded category by far and any of the men could walk away with an Oscar. Amy Adams, Sally Field, Helen Hunt, and Jacki Weaver don't stand a chance against Anne Hathaway, whose heart-wrenching (but short) role of Fantine in Les Misérables stole the hearts of anyone who's ever dreamed a dream.

If there were any surprises this year, they came in the Best Director category. Michael Haneke (Amour), Benh Zeitlin (Beasts of the Southern Wild), Steven Spielberg (Lincoln), Ang Lee (Life of Pi), and David O. Russell (Silver Linings Playbook) all made the cut. Because the Academy hardly ever gives the Best Director Oscar to one movie and the Best Picture Oscar to another, many consider these five films to be the true Best Picture nominations. Because of that, the surprise snubs of Critics argue that Golden Globe winner Ben Affleck, previous Oscar winner (for The Hurt Locker in 2009) Kathryn Bigelow, and the always controversial Quentin Tarantino. Though critics like Rolling Stone's Peter Travers argue that all of these directors should be nominated, simply can't do math. I'll cut Travers some slack though because he pushed for Christopher Nolan to be nominated for The Dark Knight Rises too.

In Praise of Television

The writer explores the changes in technology and production over the last ten years that has made television the most enjoyable and innovative medium

of escaping the world for several hours at a time.

And because of a change about 10 years ago in the types of TV shows made, their plots, symbolism, and complexity is starting to mirror that of a movie. Arguably the show that started this phenomenon was *Oz*. The first scripted drama on HBO, *Oz* premiered in 1997 and was about maximum-security prison, called Oswald State Correctional Facility, and the cast of characters that were enclosed within its walls. The show featured one of the most diverse casts on television and some of the most gruesome violence seen on television at that time. Characters were constantly killing each other off in various ways (the most way, in my opinion, was when one inmate ground up glass and put it in one of his inmates food so that they got internal bleeding and died) and the creators were constantly pushing boundaries, making us like and sympathize with terrible criminals only to then make them do terrible things. *Oz* is often overlooked in the TV history pantheon, overshadowed by a much more famous HBO show, *The Sopranos*.

The *Sopranos* brought the avant-garde TV style that *Oz* pioneered to a mass audience. At the center of the show was Tony Soprano, the ultimate anti-hero, and his struggles as both a father and a mobster. We see Tony strangle men and then go pick his daughter up from a college interview. The duality of the show gave audiences some way to connect to Tony Soprano and his sessions with his therapist, Dr. Melfi, allow us into the inner psyche of a man who is simultaneously just like us and capable of things beyond our wildest imagination.

After *Oz* and *The Sopranos*, more and more shows started to mirror the long story arcs and complex characters found in those shows. 24 aired in 2002, *The Wire*, possibly the greatest television drama of all time, aired in 2002, *Dead-*

wood and *Lost* in 2004, *Friday Night Lights* in 2006, *Mad Men* in 2007, *Breaking Bad* in 2008, *Homeland* in 2011, and many, many premiering in January (*The Following*, anyone?) and in current development.

Of course the trend for complex television is not limited to dramas. Many characters in comedies, from Sheldon Cooper on *Big Bang Theory*, *Barney* in *How I Met Your Mother*, *Liz* and *Jack* on 30

Loomis Chaffee students consume television many episodes at a time over break or a weekend. Boarders tend to curl up in their rooms and share Netflix accounts or just illegally watch their favorite shows, which include *Suits*, a show on USA about a fake-lawyer Mike Ross and his boss Harvey Specter. *Suits* incorporates week-to-week lawsuits that keep the viewer interested with longer story arcs regarding Mike's se-

days and Saturdays. Sports, currently the most lucrative programming because they appeal to a large demographic and are, for the most part, watched live, are an invaluable block of programming for many networks. But, because of fractioning audiences due to an increase in niche programming, overall network viewership is down across the board (except for NBC, whose ratings have been so low in the last few years a few moderate hits, *The Voice*, *Revolution*, and *Go On* have led it to an overall viewer increase in the last few years).

Nevertheless, TV is becoming a cultural powerhouse that cannot be denied. Websites and chat rooms devoted to dissecting the details of their respective shows have flourished, and as television viewership goes up, more and more money is invested in the small screen and in shows that make you think.

For me, TV allows me to be an adventurer, to try on many different hats and live in many different worlds, without even stepping out of my own home. It allows me to live in an alternate universe but bring that universe back to my own. It's a jumping off point for me because after watching a show I get a million ideas about where the characters should go next or how they would react to a new situation.

Woody Allen once said that life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad television. But, television itself has become an art, a medium that inspires creativity, passion, and boundary pushing. But, perhaps most importantly, it inspires me to keep watching.



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Rock and almost every character on *Friends*, characters in comedies are now allowed to have backstories, reasons for their flaws, and complicated relationships. Of course comedies have a different goal than dramas—to entertain by taking some truth and exaggerating it versus to immerse into a very specific world—but due to the revolutionary dramas in the late '90s and early '00s TV episodes no longer need to function as stand alone pods for consumption. This allows for longer character arcs even within a comedy.

And these character arcs, like I said earlier, make binge-watching television even more entertaining. And I'm not the only one who thinks this, either. Most

cret. *New Girl*, a show about three male roommates, their manic-pixie-dreamgirl Zooey Deschanel and *Modern Family*, the award-winning family comedy featuring the various branches of the Pritchett family, are also popular around campus. And, of course, on the reality front, the E! classic *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* wastes countless hours of Loomis girls (me included) and the Mason girls indulge in *Buckwild*, a new MTV reality show in the vein of *Jersey Shore* that follows a group of 20something West Virginians on their mud-wrestling, truck-racing adventures.

Many boys with gather in their respective common rooms to watch sports on Fri-

own home. It allows me to live in an alternate universe but bring that universe back to my own. It's a jumping off point for me because after watching a show I get a million ideas about where the characters should go next or how they would react to a new situation.

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Champions of the Common Good

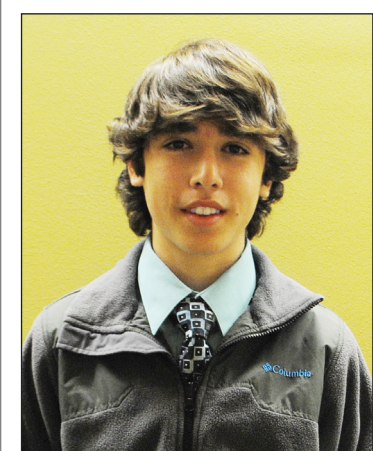
BY JOHN MACDONALD '13
News Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROWAN RICE '13

Jane Phillips

Amidst the chaos associated with teaching an AP level course, the kind and passionate Mrs. Phillips demonstrates an unending happiness towards her students and her peers. Recently made aware of the fact that the debate team would be tackling a topic pertaining to Environmental Science, Mrs. Phillips seized the opportunity to judge the competition, donating her time in order to assist them. Constantly creating an aura of euphoria within her classroom, Mrs. Phillips transforms the banal trepidation of taking an AP into a feeling of relaxed comfort while still teaching all that the course demands. (She's been known to bring hot chocolate to class when the weather gets cold!) A run-in with Mrs. Phillips in the hallway is always sure to bring a smile to my face, as she grants a generous welcome. Cheery,



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passionate, and understanding, Mrs. Phillips is truly worthy of this nomination.

BY ED POND
Faculty

Caleb Rudnicki

He might be a bit small of stature, but sophomore Caleb Rudnicki is certainly big

of heart. With an easy smile and keen perceptiveness for the needs of those around him, Caleb's small gestures of kindness make a positive impact on our community. Last year as a freshman in Kravis, Caleb and his dorm-mate Charlie Kenney motivated each other and the dorm with their daily "push up" program. This winter, Caleb, a hockey goalie for the boys JV team, volunteered to join the shorthanded girls varsity team twice a week to make their practices more effective and efficient. Whether he is working



SARA GERSHMAN '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

in a group or looking out for a friend, Caleb's good nature and sincerity always bolster the common good.

BY ELLIOT BECK
Faculty

Joe Billera

Anyone who has played sports, gotten workout clothes, or even had certain workjobs has come into contact with Joe Billera in the cage. Mr. Billera is the embodiment of the good spirit so prized by we Pelicans. Mr. Billera helps students with a smile, invites people behind the counter when they need something, and always improves someone's mood. He manages such a vast array of gear, laundry and merchandise that it is a wonder he has the energy left to deal with anxious athletes, hurrying to get their stuff. But help he does, day in and day out, and in doing so he always puts a smile on the faces of those around him. The Pledge Committee would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Billera for all that he does to support the Loomis community and to thank him.

MYTHOLOGY MEETS THE MERCY GALLERY

death and the scars it can leave. When one of his close friends died in his 40s, Saccio "brought twigs and chunks of a tree in his garden that people brought down after his death and kept it for 30 years, thinking about what I could do. I could not just throw them away. And I finally used them on one of the big pieces on the wall. It's called *Colloquy For Clint: The Barn Door, His Oak And The Laurel*."

Saccio has two other pieces that hang on the walls of the Mercy Gallery, one paying homage to Robert Motherwell, a painter, and his series *Elegies to the Spanish Republic*. These pieces overlook the three 6 foot high hollowed out trunks that stand vertically on the floor of Mercy Gallery.

These split-trunks are three-quarters of the way open and have large thorns

going through them, signifying the pain that can come with regrowth and reunifica-



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tion. All three of the sculptures came from the same 20 foot black oak that stood at about 4 feet wide. Saccio hopes that "A person can actually walk into the inner space of the tree and imagine the force and struggle of living, dying and regeneration into another form." The use of tree trunks allows for the irregularity of tree bark to naturally stand in contrast to the smooth inner trunk, a duality Saccio uses to underline the struggle between living and dying and to reinforce the idea of myth in his artwork. Saccio also arranged his three tree trunks in a circular formation in order to create a connection myth as well as immerse the viewer. "Mythology often inspires me," says Saccio, "I grew up with it. This is one of the reasons why I am

fascinated with the theme of metamorphosis."

Because his chosen material, wood, is automatically associated with nature, it makes his messages about life, pain, and loss all the more poignant. Additionally, his work stands in contrast to the contemporary style of sculpture, which uses more synthetic and artificially colored materials. Another trait that sets Saccio's sculpture apart from others is its scale. "I like working in big scale," he says, "once, I cut down a 20ft tree and used it in one of my pieces. I'm also interested in heroism and big, strong characteristics it implies. One of my works is an homage to the Laocoon (a greek mythology)."

Saccio has previously shown his artwork in the Kehler Liddell Gallery and the Parachute Factory in New Haven as well as the Silvermine Art Center in New Canaan. But he is very excited about exhibiting his show at the Mercy Gallery, especially because the "gallery is museum-quality; it is my first time exhibiting three massive pieces on one wall."

Loomis Chaffee Log

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ABOUT

The Loomis Chaffee Log is Loomis Chaffee's official student newspaper. We can be found online at www.lclog.org and we can be contacted via e-mail at log@loomis.org. Letters to the editor and op-ed piece submissions are welcomed via email. The Log reserves the right to edit all letters and pieces for brevity and content. The views expressed in the Log do not necessarily reflect those of The Loomis Chaffee School. Unsigned editorials represent the collective views of the Editorial Board.

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OP-ED

HARRIS FISCHER '13

Think Twice Before You Type

A senior's personal look at college acceptance posts on social networking media

the more immediate medium will suffice.

A post on facebook, reaching every corner of your friend lists, may appear to mimic shouting that phrase of pure joy from an icy summit. However, the two are entirely incomparable. The small blinking cursor in the update status bar calls out to you like a lighthouse, and you reply as a moth to the tantalizing glow of the illuminated bulb. Your computer screen remains serenely indifferent like the view from Mount Everest as you type each proud letter to spell out the college validating your existence. However, you are not proclaiming your euphoria from distant peaks. In fact, you are telling each and every one of your "friends" personally.

For the same reason, the same apparent impersonality, cyber bullying has thrived as the offenders openly bash another's confidence and self esteem from a safely removed fortress of detachment via the internet. I am not indicating that professing your college acceptances is a form of cyber bullying; I merely wish to express the contrasting perceptions of one's message from the sending to the receiving end. With an awareness of the irony (and potentially even the hypocrisy of my own words), I recognize that I write

this article through the isolated facade of only my computer staring blankly back at me instead of the mutable and personal facial expressions of a reader.

I have never entirely embraced the liberty with which some elect to jettison every feeling across social media. Perhaps I oppose rising impersonal dislocation wrought unto society by social technologies such as Facebook, and Twitter. Or yet, perhaps I'm just prematurely an old man railing against technology, waiting eagerly to bore young whippersnappers with wistful "back in my day" speeches—when I was your age, Pluto was a planet.

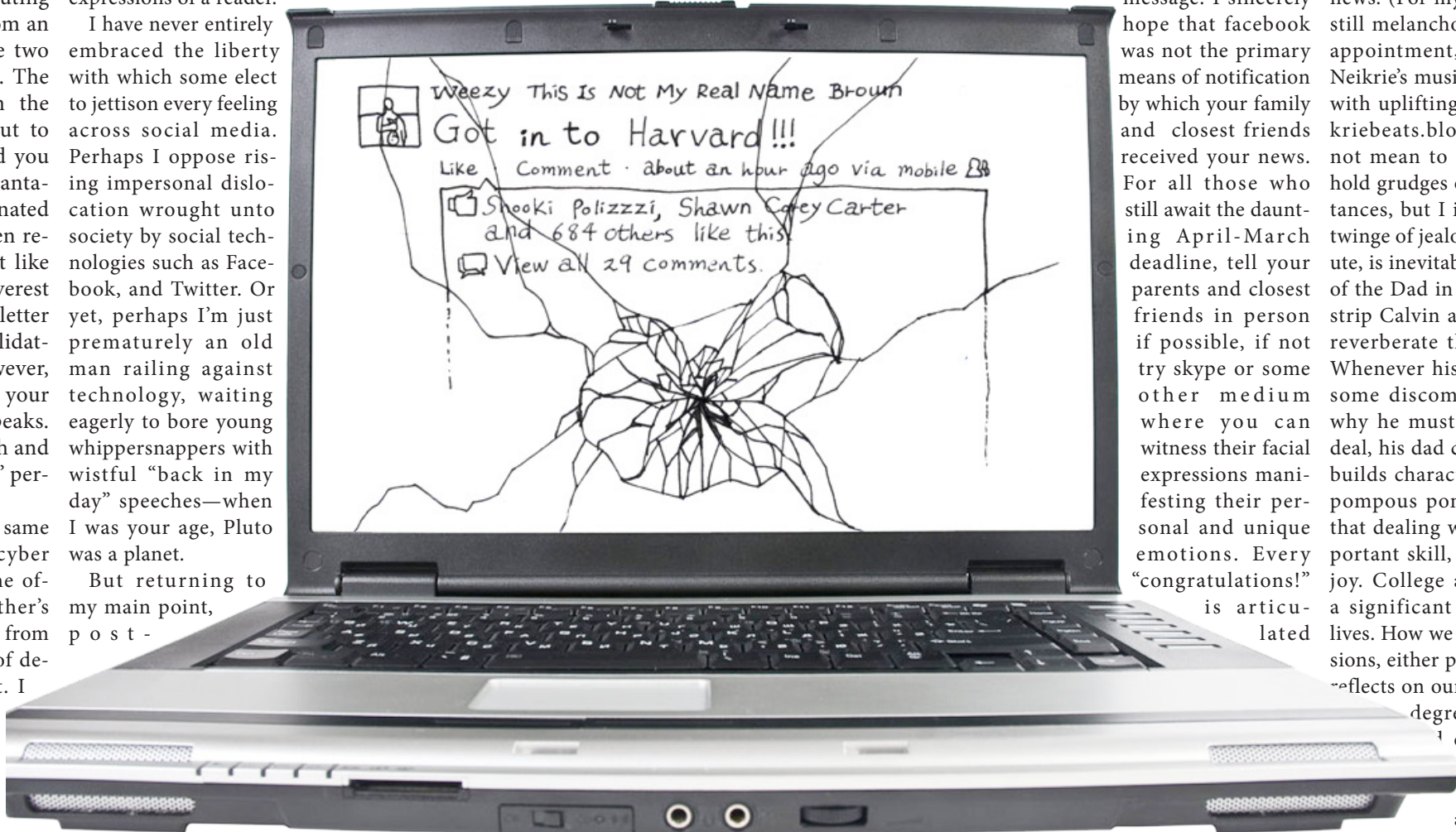
But returning to my main point, p o s t -

one of your acquaintances linked to you through Facebook. Would you go up to each one of your Facebook friends in person and

echelon of "friend." I find that excessive expression voids the poignancy of said emotion. If I had typed this entire

trived accentuation. Informing everyone in the same manner of your college acceptance degrades the accented importance of your message. I sincerely hope that facebook was not the primary means of notification by which your family and closest friends received your news. For all those who still await the daunting April-March deadline, tell your parents and closest friends in person if possible, if not try skype or some other medium where you can witness their facial expressions manifesting their personal and unique emotions. Every "congratulations!" is articulated

would not discuss your college acceptance with every passerby for the additional reason that not everyone received joyous news. (For my fellow classmates still melancholic about any disappointment, check out Jamie Neikrie's music blog post replete with uplifting songs: <http://neikriebeats.blogspot.com>). I do not mean to imply that people hold grudges over college acceptances, but I imagine that some twinge of jealousy, however minute, is inevitable. The sage words of the Dad in my favorite comic strip Calvin and Hobbes always reverberate through my mind. Whenever his son complains of some discomfort or questions why he must endure some ordeal, his dad coolly responds, "it builds character." At the risk of pompous pontification, I offer that dealing with pain is an important skill, as is dealing with joy. College acceptance marks a significant milestone in our lives. How we deal with the decisions, either positive or negative, reflects on our personalities, our degree of self-control, our awareness of others. No one has to tiptoe around others, never breathing a word of personal satisfaction, but remember that every action, however apparently insignificant, impacts others.



GRAPHIC BY JAE YONG LEE '14

ing on facebook can appear as a means to tell a faceless entity or a general population about your success. Nevertheless, your bulletin resounds individually to each

restate your elated articulation of college acceptance? Through the magic of Facebook, that person with whom you exchange a mere nod during passing rises to the

article with caps lock, or ended every single sentence with an exclamation mark, any emphasis would be neutralized by the effect of jading the reader to my con-

differently in each of your Facebook friends' minds, yet they all read the same on your computer screen. As a tangential issue, you

TERRY ROH '15

The Mind of the Gun

An afterthought on the Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting; what does America really need to do?

I was coming back from my last class before winter break when I saw a group of faculty and students huddling around the television, their faces darkened. The headline blared: 20 children and 6 adults massacred in Newtown, Connecticut. We watched solemnly; no one could form coherent sentences, as no words seemed apt for the unprecedented tragedy. I walked upstairs to my room, opened my laptop, and Google-mapped "Newtown to Windsor." 61 minutes - the time it took for me to visit my middle school, give hugs to my friends, and shed a tear of joy for our reunion. 61 minutes - the time for the shooter to arrive at our school, if fate had changed. I felt closest to death than I've ever felt.

On December 14, 2012, eleven days before Christmas, Adam Lanza entered Sandy Hook Elementary School at 9:35 a.m. He had already shot his mother straight in the head while she slept. Gunshots, screams, and bloody floors were inevitable once he entered the building. Many begged and begged for mercy, only to be silenced for eternity at the tip of a gun. Teachers died for their pupils and children died along with their future. At around 10:00 a.m., after he had completed the murders, Lanza took his own life with a handgun.

After the incident, my Face-

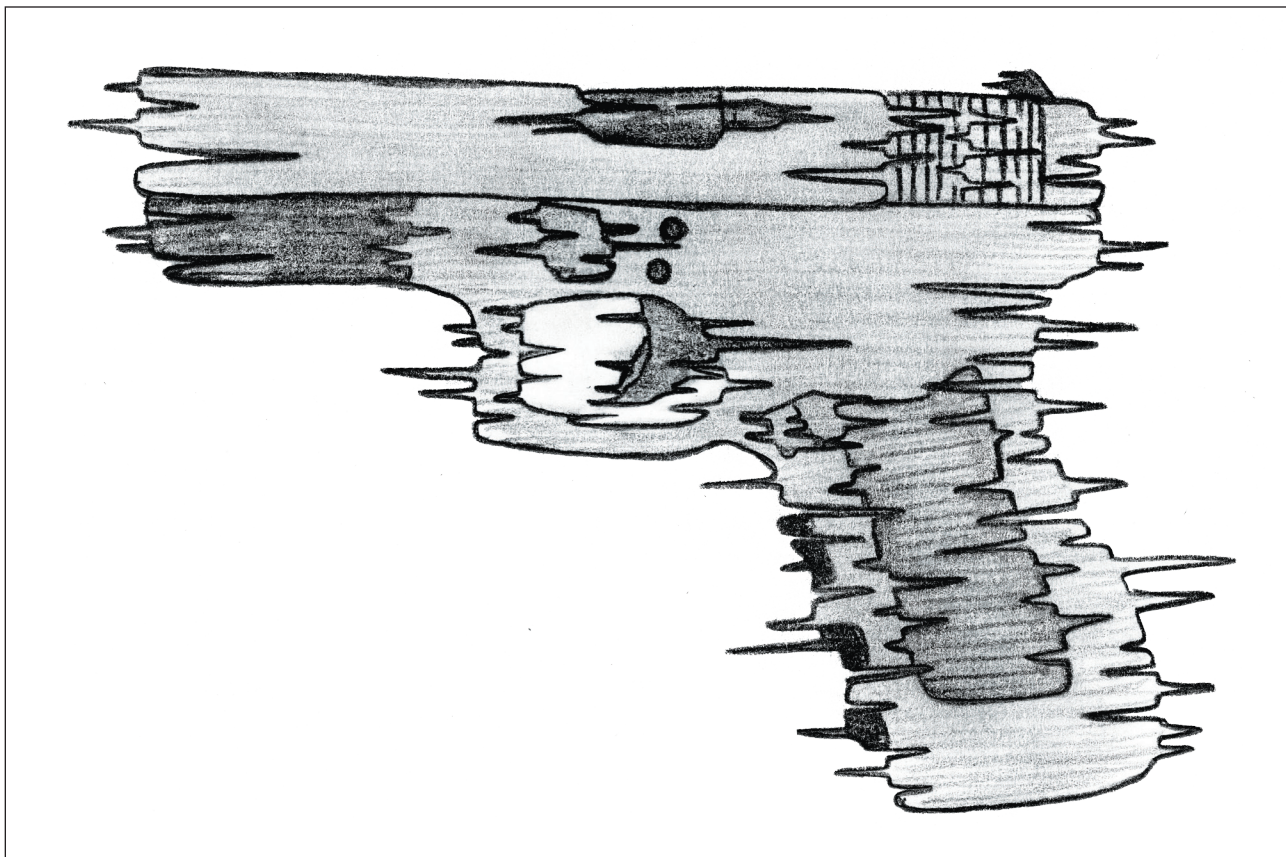
book wall filled with remorse and irrepressible anger. Many expressed their sincere condolences to one another, while others furiously criticized the current gun distribution and licensing system

and an immediate ban of commercial assault rifles. The country demands reform - a reform for a utopian society where one can live free from the fear of getting his or her body pummeled

and tightening gun-control legislations will help prevent myriads of homicides and mass murders. It's simple logic; with fewer weapons around available for killing, the less resulting victims. How-

Unsurprisingly, reports have shown that Lanza, diagnosed with the Asperger syndrome, failed to form normal relationships in his society. In Marcia Angell's controversial essay "The Crazy State of Psychiatry," she quotes, "A large survey of randomly selected adults, sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, found that an astonishing 46 percent met criteria established by the American Psychiatric Association for having had at least one mental illness within four broad categories at some time in their lives." Moreover, more children are diagnosed with mental disabilities than with physical defects like the

Doctors avidly recommend that one go through a full-body check-up at least once a year. Of course, the full-body checkup involves everything from x-rays to colonoscopies, but never do they pay heed to mental health. There are currently no recommendations for a "mental" check-up in the United States. Even when a person desires psychiatric consultation with a professional, the financial burden (most insurances don't cover mental therapy) leaves no choice but to live with it and move on. With the dwindling availability of mental health care for common people, it is no surprise that more and more of the population live with mental illnesses or instability. Today, numerous petitions signed by millions of people champion the general consensus: guns require stricter regulations. However blaming solely guns as the cause of such deaths like Sandy Hook's seems analogous to blaming tall buildings as the cause of the rising suicide rates. The ultimate solution lies in our society's proactive preventions and treatments for mental health, not just relying on changing the weapon legislations. Through promoting the well-being of the mind, the root of evil will cease to exist.



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in the United States. Citizens from all around the country actively began to champion stricter federal and state gun-control leg-

by a Bushmaster XM-15. But what about those that are not considered "normal"?

Yes, I do believe that reinforcing

ever, almost all documented massacres are accompanied with another repeated problem: the killer is mentally unstable.

Down syndrome. It is absolutely manifest that "reform" should first focus on psychiatry and mental care before gun-control.

OP-ED

BOBBY TURNER '14

Sitting Alone: "Does He Even Go Here?"

We've all heard the cliché "step outside your comfort zone", or the classic maxim, "do something different". These omnipresent sayings emerge at a seemingly incalculable amount of convocations, talks, and meetings. Some Loomis students take these words to heart, applying them to life on the Island and reaping the benefits for their efforts. Some disregard such sayings completely, and forget about them as soon as they hand their attendance slip to the deans. However, no matter what, and no matter what time of day, these popular phrases are never applied to either of the two dining halls at Loomis.

Even I can attest to the utter awkwardness that is the dining experience at Loomis Chaffee, especially as a new junior. The first day of school I casually walked into the underclassman side, only to realize after receiving some bizarre smirks and comical facial expressions that I was, after all, on the wrong side. I scurried, crimson face and all, to the upperclassmen dining hall only to find nowhere to sit. It seemed as if everyone in the room was engaged in mid-conversation, hoping that I would not sit in on their highly exclusive table. I caught a few glances, none of them carrying the appearance of polite openness

or acceptance. "What was this, Hogwarts?" I thought to myself. When I finally sat down at the table with as much nonchalance as I could muster, I received, for a split second, a look of surprise quickly followed by glares of sullen agony. I managed to produce a weak smile, only to make things more awkward. In fact, I never sat with those same people

again.

Of course, my initial understanding of social circles within the dining hall is a complete exaggeration in comparison to the typical first experience, as I'm sure many Loomis students did not have the same heart-wrenching exposure to which I was victim. However, the phenomena of social circles raises some interesting questions. Should a selec-

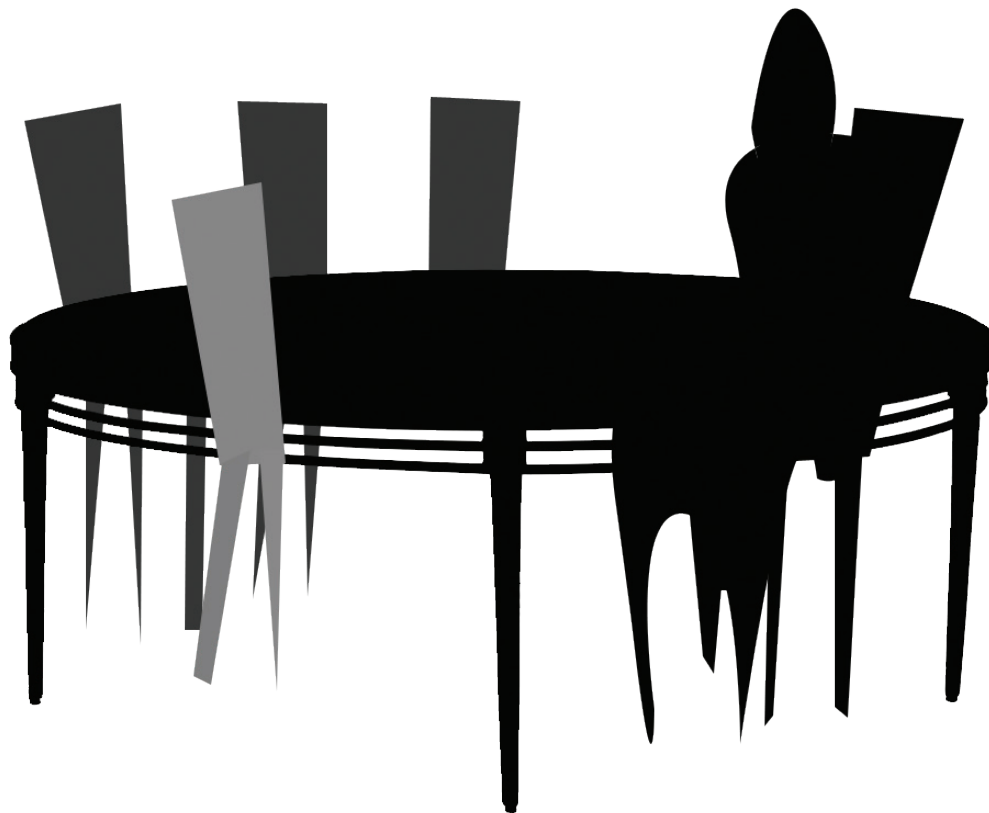
iPhone, it is the ability to avoid looking like a complete loser when sitting alone. On the rare occasion when I sit by myself, I always calmly pull out my phone and start entering random search entries onto Google in order to seem as if I am at least mildly occupied. In reality, I am watching cats play the piano.)

Perhaps the atmosphere of the dining hall evokes a sense of

(mon) occasion when a group's usual table is full, sitting with a throng of strangers is incredibly awkward. In situations like these, even the food tastes slightly worse. The combination of an unfamiliar group of upperclassmen with not-so-great tasting chicken fajitas probably is not a coincidence. There is always someone, (usually me) who sits at a full table for the entire meal without saying a word, and then leaves just as surreptitiously as he or she arrived.

I think that the social implication and almost melodramatic connotation that emerge in the dining hall have been blown out of proportion a bit too far. To be perfectly honest, I do not think that it is acceptable for students to purposely and blatantly exclude their fellow peers from sitting at a certain table. On the other hand, the school should not take drastic action to encourage a more "inclusive" feel in the dining hall. Perhaps

the two congregational halls are the best places to open up to new opportunities, break out of a comfort shell, and try something new as a sort of microcosm for the greater Loomis Chaffee experience. So for the next meal at school, challenge yourself; sit with people you have never even met, even if you have to talk about piano-playing cats to break the ice.



JUNWON JUN '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

ive boarding school like Loomis Chaffee become more vigilant of these dining hall occurrences? Is there something to be done about this issue, perhaps an attempt to encourage more inclusion? What about the one or two students who sit alone even after their first day? Should something be done for them? (Note: If there is one good use for an

comfort, security, and even relaxation while enjoying a meal with friends. Usually when having a meal, students share some sort of enjoyable experience. Isn't that what culinary cuisine is all about? Therefore, maybe eating and a comforting atmosphere go hand in hand. Students rarely, if never, sit with people they do not know. And on the rare (or com-

FELICIA WORON '13

Sweatpants, Problem Sets, and Warm Weather: Final Exams and AP Courses

Should LC students be obliged to take spring finals after finishing AP exams?

An experienced LC senior offers her picture of the last few weeks of spring term

Whether you've experienced one or not, you've probably heard nightmarish tales concerning AP courses: rigorous course loads that keep students up until early morning hours, fast-paced curriculums that leave students stranded in the dust, and of course, the dreaded two weeks in May when students helplessly cram a year's worth of material into their minds instead of enjoying the balmy spring sunshine, and then barely getting a reprieve before being slammed by year-end final exams.

Of course, AP classes aren't always like this: all LC classes require a great deal of work, time, and effort, but indubitably AP classes do have a strict curriculum to follow in a certain time frame. Some APs, like those involving history, science, and math, have set material that must be learned by April; others, like foreign languages and English, are more concerned with mastering sets of skills. Having taken two AP classes junior year (Spanish language and Calculus BC) plus the AP English Language exam, and currently in AP English Literature, I have certainly done more than dip my toes in the realm of APs, not to mention having friends and classmates who have gone through the ordeals of AP Euro or US History and AP French and AP Physics. And one major complaint, as students drag themselves out of Erickson clad

in typical testing attire of sweat-shirts and athletic shorts with calloused fingers and exhausted brains, is do we really have to do this again in three weeks? And although there is generally some kind of reprieve post-AP-testing, whether that be watching movies or as I've heard, reading a play in physics, or as I've experienced, being tested on each of the AP long-answer calculus problems when I'd rather never think about them ever again and slamming my face into a desk when I realize the stupid mistakes I made on test day.

But even in Junior English seminar, a non-AP course in which most students take the AP language exam, one question that coursed through the classes last year was if a final is really necessary. In other AP courses brimming with seniors, the juniors and sophomores cluster in minute groups in a corner of Olcott on exam day, wondering if it's really essential for them to be there.

Of course, there are valid reasons for AP students to take final exams (well, at least probably according to teachers.) First of all, the AP doesn't count for a grade - the results aren't even published until July. Therefore, how can teachers accurately measure how students performed in their class when much of spring term is spent reviewing for an exam that teachers won't know how

students performed on until mid-summer when all notions of Latin and calculus are forgotten? And the final exam still remains an opportunity for students to improve their grades, mandatory for even seniors with lower than a B+. Additionally, what would even be the purpose of attending the last three weeks of an AP course if there were to be no further assessments?

However, there are various counter-arguments: much of spring term is spent reviewing material learned over the entire year in preparation for the AP, and a final exam submitted for a grade should not include material from the whole year. Also, various other assessments are usually given throughout the term, involving practice APs. In order to resolve this problem, a majority of teachers design their own unrelated-to-the-AP curriculum in the last three weeks of school, and give an abbreviated sort of final on this material: in AP Spanish, we read stories based on magical realism and had an essay for the final. Similarly, I have heard of US History classes having essays. But in other classes, an actual final exam is given, or even a practice AP exam, which in addition to the question of whether this accomplishes anything when the AP is solidly (and gladly) finished, forces students to remember a year's worth of material for

three more weeks - a more difficult challenge than it may appear in days of eighty degree sunshine.

In my opinion, when the AP is over, it's over. We've worked hard all year, writing weekly AP-style essays in Spanish and heading to the Language Learning Lab during our doubles to practice speaking and listening skills, we've pored over our chemistry and history books and lost our sanities over physics problems sets. We've crammed seven months of material in our minds ever since March break ended - or during the evening before the APs. I can understand discussing the AP questions in class, but there is no use being tested on AP material three weeks later. While I'm not opposed to the option of having no final exam whatsoever, I think the best option for both teachers and students alike is learning or simply exploring a bit of new material, finally relieved from the pressure of having to complete a curriculum before an exam, and having some sort of low-key, low-stress assessment on that fresh material. Whether that involves watching related films or reading short stories or going a bit more in-depth to a topic that was cursorily dipped, the last three weeks of AP courses will not be a waste and will also be enjoyable, finally learning for the sake of learning and not for an exam.

MICHELLE CHOI '16

I Just Need Some Body To Love- Why Not Mine?

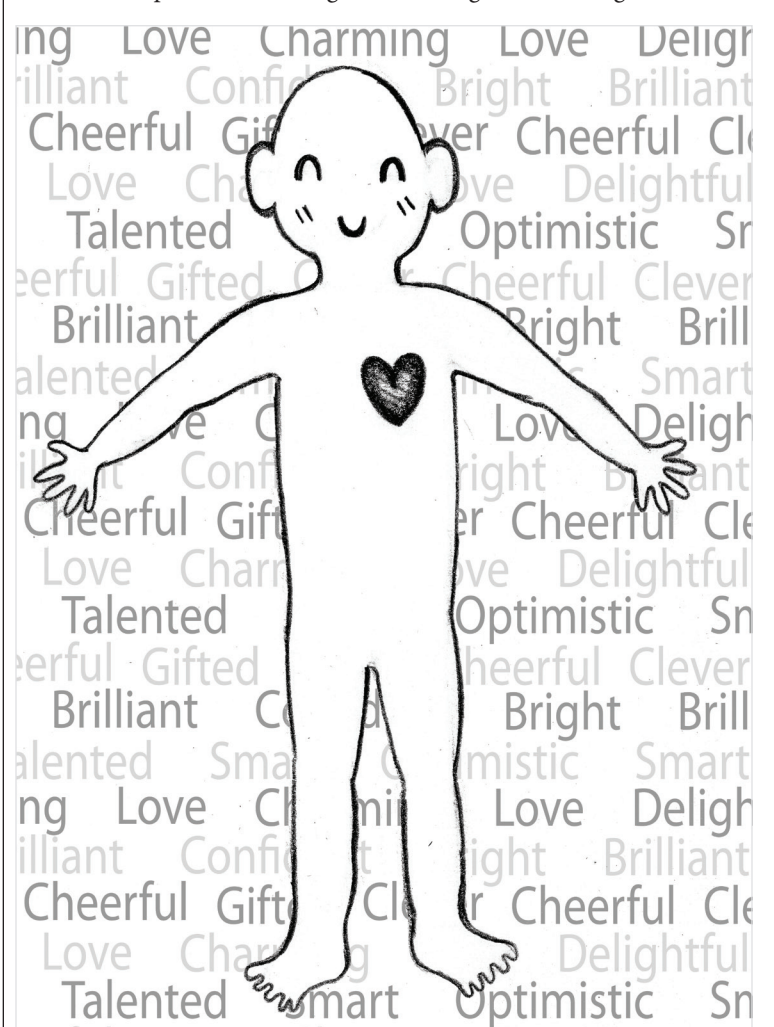
A freshman gives her perspective on "Love Your Body Workshop", LC'S initiative to promote mindfulness over our bodies

In many ways, we attend a school unique from most others; your math teacher can double as your soccer coach, robotics is a legitimate sport, and chickens freely invade the dorms. However, Loomis definitely shares an extensive list of commonalities with not only fellow preparatory academies, but also all high schools in general. The largest aspect that we share with other schools is that the girls are conscious of, if not obsessed with, body image.

The issue of body image and weight emerges in everyday conversations, from the quickest question of "do these cords make me look fat?" to the crafting of detailed diet plans. At lunch, girls

to the hour and a half we were required to dedicate to this project.

However, the workshop proved itself to be valuable, and even enjoyable. Yes there were still corny projects, and overused advice was, once again, shared, but this time, words were not simply a series of letters strung together. They became phrases, sentences, and ideas. Sharing and listening to the stories of when we were insecure, embarrassed, and confident helped us realize that we were not alone in our insecurities, but shared them with others. Listening to the seniors talk about how they felt when they were a freshman compared to in the height of their high school ca-



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swarm the salad bar, only to sit down with a couple of carrots and a piece of lettuce. I often catch girls touching their stomachs, perhaps subconsciously, as if the act of willing them to shrink will be enough to fulfill their weight loss goal. These girls do not even stop to think when they walk up to a mirror, drawn in part by their reflection but mostly by the ghostly imperfections only they seem to see.

Teenage girls paint self-portraits of themselves in their minds, exaggerating their flaws to "motivate" themselves to improve them. What I believe this ultimately does is embed that overstressed image into their minds until they are so used to their imperfections being present, they cannot realize that these minor physical flaws are so miniscule that others are not able to "see" them. The result? Your average self-conscious teenager

This lack of confidence is what the Love Your Body workshop aims to control. The girls were split into separate sections with two upperclassmen leaders who led discussions and activities. At first glance, the workshop seemed like another excuse the adults used to build up our self-esteem and to tell us that our bodies were sacred temples in the most cliché way possible. Phrases like, "love your body," "respect yourself," and "you are beautiful, work it!" have been heard over and over again, and like inflated currency, words lose value. Assuming that this would just be yet another reiteration, no one looked forward

reer gave us hope that we would be able to, one day, attain the level of self-confidence they had. In my opinion, one of the aspects that made the workshop a success was the small, individual group setting that helped the members feel safe to share their real, honest experiences. Also, there was a mixture of funny and serious conversation, ranging from giving the compliment, "the back of yo head is ridiculous" to anecdotal warnings against the dangers of bulimia and anorexia that kept the group interested. Lastly, to use the colloquial expression, the leaders kept it real. Though they told us that they were confident in themselves and their image, they also admitted to the insecurities they felt or still feel today. The stories, activities, and advice helped a lot of the participants, along with myself, reflect on the way we view and treat our bodies. It got me thinking, since it's a known fact that people feel comfortable and safe with what they're familiar with so can it be that we, growing teenagers, are self-conscious because we are strangers to our constantly changing bodies? If that's true, then it must only be a matter of time before I settle into my own skin and come to be comfortable. I came to an understanding that I'm probably not going to wake up tomorrow morning head over heels in love with my body, but I do have to take care of myself and be healthy until I learn to love it.

LOGSPORTS



“Pelicans of the Mountain”: LC’s Ski Team

BY ELISE BROWCHUK '14
Staff Writer

Basketball. Hockey. Swimming. Wrestling. Squash. Those are the Island's most talked-about winter sports, but people tend to forget about one of the most exciting teams on campus, the LC Ski Team. If you can't find the ski team around campus, it's probably because they're out shredding the slopes of Ski Sundown in New Hartford, Connecticut. Coached by the famous James Montana, (commonly referred to as Monti) captains Theo Cohen '12 and Tucker Santoro '15 lead the teams on the slopes for the BSL Slalom and BSL Giant Slalom events. Faced with a different practice course each day, each individual skier is videotaped, allowing them to learn from any potential mistakes. Getting about four to five runs in per practice, the team trains to beat schools in the Class B division of the New England Prep School Alpine Ski League, including long time rivals, Taft and Suffield Academy.

Joining the ski team her sophomore year, captain Theo Cohen '12 had never raced a day in

on the intensity of the program, Theo admits, “The ski team is a big time-commitment, but it is

Varsity teams. The team's top eight racers (based on competition performance and current

and Tucker Santoro '15, who currently hold the team's number one spot for girls and boys, respectively. However, the ranks are not set in stone as the ladder could change at any point during the term.

So far, congratulations are in order for a third place finish at the Berkshire Ski League race. The Pelicans can be easily spotted whipping past the red and blue gates on Ski Sundown courses sporting skin-tight red GS suits eager to set the top time, which averages at a mere forty-two seconds. Theo states, “Competitions are like one big social event, everyone is friendly, but we all want to win too!”

With upcoming races including the NEPSAC tournament and the BSL Carl Williams Championships we wish the LC Ski Team good luck for the rest of the season!



SHANNON DEVENY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

From a Club B Veteran

BY STEPHANIE YIU '14
Staff Writer

One of the island's most well known club sports, “Club B” Basketball, is usually a club filled with those who need a sport to fulfill their sports credit or people who want to just have fun and learn a new sport. I would know, since I participated in Club B Basketball as a freshman and a sophomore. However, Club sports on the island are never perceived as “actual” sports. As a matter of fact, most people affectionately (yet unfairly) call them “scrub sports.” Some of the highlights of my time in Club B were getting to know new people while also socializing with my current friends, but without a doubt the best part of the experience is playing some intense basketball with people like Austin Jubrey '13.

It was not easy finding Club B's practice site, since the ‘sprinkler incident’ in Erickson Gym (Club B's normal home) caused the school to temporarily close down the gym. Varsity and JV Basketball were forced to share the much larger Olcott Center, while Club B was left with nothing. After searching for days, I finally found Club B and its coach, Mr. Neary. Surprisingly, there are only nine students signed up for Club B, a shocking decrease from last year's amount of twenty-eight students. Raj Singh '15 encourages that, “more people should join.” While I spent some time with the team, I learned more about what they think about the sport. While Jack Phillips '15 jokingly stated that club basketball is, “the most enriching part of my life,” other members actually find the sport completely enthralling. Brenna Jubrey '16 describes Club B with a just simple, yet well-fitting description: “awesome.”

“So,” you might ask, “how can they play basketball without a gym?” Well, to answer your question, the team drives to a nearby gym every few days, departing at around 5 PM and returning at around 6 PM. At the gym, the team practices its lay-ups and foul shots to improve their skills, and following the drills, they play an intra-squad scrimmage. When I asked them what they did for practice, Brenna Jubrey responded, “I scream at people to drop the ball and then I shoot the ball and win.” With only nine people signed up and one on medical leave, scrimmaging is a hard thing to do with teams of four. The teams differ for every scrimmage, but the one constant factor is Mr. Neary's teasing of Jack for being abnormally tall. While I could only spend a few moments with the team, I heard some very interesting stories, such as one member believing that “dolphins would eventually evolve and grow wheels.” Spending time with the team certainly made me reminisce about my fun times in Club B. Whether you have never played basketball before, or if you want to improve your basic skills, I suggest joining Club B. It's a blast. I enjoyed it, and I am sure you would, too.

her life. Reflecting on her current position as captain, it seems surreal to Theo that it is already her time to lead the team she joined only a short two years ago. “You always want to come back!”, says Theo. Commenting

a great way to meet a variety of different people and there is a universal respect.”

Though many may think that the LC Ski Team is one solid unit, the team is actually separated into Junior Varsity and

OT loss to Loomis in the Avon Christmas Tournament, LC tamed the Lions yet again. Led by sophomore Alex Esposito, (who scored a hat-trick) Loomis resoundingly defeated Kent by a score of 4-1.

After their win vs. Kent, Loomis Chaffee Hockey garnered its first ever ranking in the prestigious U.S.H.R. poll, coming in as the #10 ranked team in NE Prep Hockey. Refusing to give in to complacency, the Pelicans travelled to Deerfield, where they stomped the Green Doors by a score of 4-1. Despite an unfortunate loss at Hotchkiss (which caused LC to fall out of the U.S.H.R. rankings) the team, with its 10-5 record and tireless work ethic, has no doubt established itself among New England's elite this year.

The team's successes this year are primarily attributed to the infusion of new hockey talent, with players hailing from places like California and Quebec. EJ Culhane spoke about the new players saying, “the goal scoring of Matty O, Marsy, Espo, Swifty and Sharf has given the team an offensive presence that we've lacked in the past.” The new winning mentality has occurred in confluence with the leadership of returning players such as Danny Tirone, EJ Culhane, Stephen Picard, Matt

Bytalan, Henry Tobin, Donny Thompson, Jamey Cox, Nick Kamm, Nick Miceli, and Seth McCormick. Each of the veterans have acted as a great core of players for the new guys to mold around. Defenseman Matt Bytalan said, “The new blue-liners, Collin, Zach, Max and Matty O, along with EJ and I have made D one of our strengths, giving us a great rotation of capable D.”

The team's upcoming schedule is highlighted by two games each against New England powerhouses Avon Old Farms, Westminster and Salisbury, so the team still must maintain its tireless work ethic if it wishes to finish over .500. This season has certainly flipped a new page for LC Boys Hockey, giving the team a winning mentality that should establish Loomis Chaffee Boys Hockey as a force to be reckoned with in the Prep Hockey World.

Finally, Coaches Zavisza, Murphy and Novodor should be highly commended for the discipline they've instilled into the team, along with their excellent job of recruiting the talented and well-rounded players who have rejuvenated the LC Hockey Program.

Have a twitter? Follow @LCBoysHockey for live updates during all games this season.

“A Complete 180”

The Resurgence of Loomis Chaffee's Boys Varsity Hockey Team

BY DAN KEOGH '13
Staff Writer

At the end of the 2011-2012 season, the Loomis Chaffee Boys Varsity Hockey team held only two wins to their name, in comparison to the total of 23 losses. While LC Boys Hockey hasn't been very successful in recent memory, the lowly 2-23 record called for some much-needed change, and this year, the change has most certainly come.

This winter, Loomis welcomed fourteen new hockey players, each and every one of them possessing the mentality and skills to help elevate the program to the top of New England prep hockey. The talented team, led by captains Danny Tirone, EJ Culhane and Stephen Picard, looked to shock the High School hockey world.

Before most students returned from Thanksgiving vacation, the hockey team ventured up to New Hampshire to play in the prestigious St. Paul's Tournament, eagerly anticipating the chance to showcase their talents to the rest of New England Prep Hockey. At the tournament, the team managed to tie both St. Paul's and Canterbury, and in their final game of the tournament, they defeated Tabor Academy by a score of 1-0. While only the

win against Tabor counted towards the team's overall record, LC's strong play definitely help set a positive tone for the upcoming season. U.S. Hockey Report, the most popular scouting website for New England Prep Hockey, praised the Pelicans for their performance calling them, “the most surprising team of the tournament.”

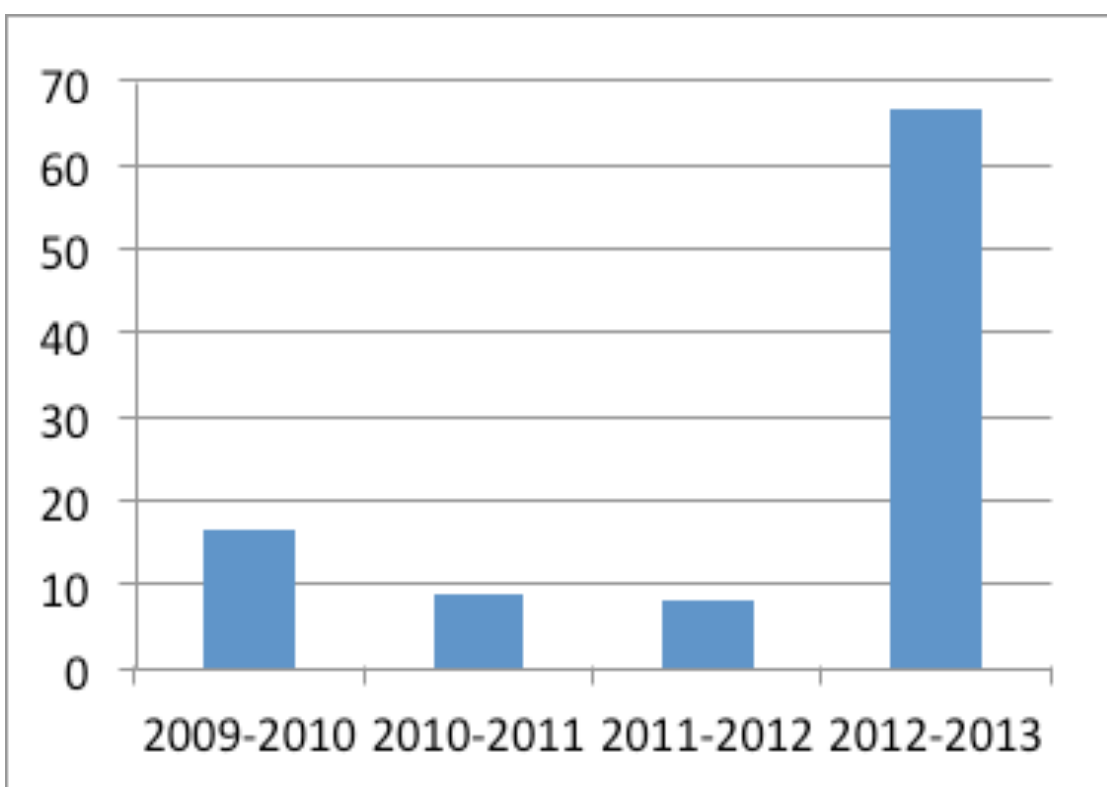
Only two days after returning from the St. Paul's tournament, Loomis faced off against the third-ranked team in New England, the Knights of Salisbury. The boys certainly held their own, jumping out to a 2-0 lead before eventually succumbing to the Knights by a score of 4-3. The boys rode the momentum from their strong showing against Salisbury to back-to-back wins, defeating Trinity-Pawling by a score of 4-1 and 5-1, respectively. However, LC's momentum quickly came to a halt as Canterbury and Chote handed the team two straight losses. As the all-important Avon Christmas Tournament loomed large on the horizon, Loomis found themselves in a poor run of form.

On the first night at the Avon tournament, Loomis found themselves in a tooth-and-nail battle with Kent, eventually emerging with a shootout win, thanks in part to three huge

shootout saves by goalie Danny Tirone. This thrilling shootout win against Kent (which counted as a tie in league play), set the tone for the tournament. In their next match against St. Paul's, junior Cory Swift scored the game-winning goal with 43 seconds left, handing LC its second win of the tournament. Later that day, Loomis faced off against Gunnery, unfortunately losing to the Highlanders by a score of 3-2. An unfortunate (and rather unfair) series of tie-breakers meant Loomis placed behind both Kent and Gunnery in their group, preventing LC from challenging for the tournament championship. However, Loomis did play in the third-place game against a familiar foe, the “Pride” of Trinity-Pawling. Loomis did not take this game lightly, beating T-P handily by a score of 4-1, a win highlighted by junior defenseman Matt O'Donnell's three goals in the game. After the tournament, captain Danny Tirone said, “The tournament was a great confidence booster, showing us that we could play against anyone.”

After a well-deserved Christmas vacation, the Pelicans jumped right back into action on Saturday, January 5 against the rival Kent Lions. While Kent came out fired up, eager to redeem themselves after their

Winning % of LC BV Hockey (Since '09-'10)



“Score Box” (as of 1/19)

WINTER VARSITY SPORTS SCORES	
SKIING	3RD @ BSL SLALOM
BOYS BASKETBALL	7-4
GIRLS BASKETBALL	8-4
BOYS HOCKEY	10-5
GIRLS HOCKEY	7-4-1
BOYS SQUASH	5-5
BOYS SWIMMING	4-1
GIRLS SWIMMING	2-3
WRESTLING	4 WINS @ NMH INVITATIONAL